

Cougar Tracks

2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

EDITION 1—AUGUST 16, 2017

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent,

Happily, things have been running smooth for the first days of school. As expected, there have been some small miscommunications and glitches. Oh, if only all of us were part of a perfect world! As I write that, if it were a perfect world, I just do not believe we would be as happy. As we tell the students, we learn so much from our mistakes and failures. Mistakes and failures are the avenues for developing the GRIT we all need to persevere through life.

For those new to our school, GRIT has been a part of the St. Cyril vocabulary for almost three years. We believe that sometimes tasks can be difficult and the ability to work through the failures makes for a stronger student. Here is a great YouTube video to learn about grit, which inspired St. Cyril School to embrace the concept:

https://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_grit_the_power_of_passion_and_perseverance

Students and parents have done a fabulous job of implementing the new shorts and pants requirements. Remember, no cargo pants and shorts, and girls shorts should not be snug around the legs. Belts are required for students in grades 3-8. Some have asked about socks. They should be solid color, black, blue, white and gray. If there are stripes or "swishes" on the sock, they, too, should be black, blue, white or gray. Thank you in advance for helping your student walk out of the house in the morning with the appropriate dress code.

Traffic wise we are struggling a bit more. If you are having other individuals drop your students off..grandparents, babysitters etc..., please make them aware of the rules. If you are dropping off or picking up in the parking lot just north of the parish center, please, please do not use the driveway between the church and parish center. This area is saved for those having business with the parish center or going to mass. All school traffic should enter the 2nd driveway north of Pima on Swan and pull through to the end of the orange cones for drop off. While we are struggling a bit on the northwest parking lot, we are close to losing our privileges on the Mountain View side of the school. The speeding on Mountain View and side streets MUST stop. The speed limit is 25MPH, we are having parents go 30-35MPH down side streets and on Mountain View. Please be a good neighbor and follow the rules. If you are not aware of the signs, there are signs on Mountain View that say it is illegal to park on the eastside of Mountain View from 7:00-4:00PM. Please do not park on that side of the street; it makes it too difficult for cars to pass through going two ways. Finally, the rectory parking lot. Please only park in lined parking spaces. There is a reason that we line spaces. For those who park in spaces they like to create, it is not respectful to our school community. All this is fixable, if parents think beyond themselves and follow the rules. As you know, one of our Discipline with Purpose skills is to understand "Reasons for Rules." Let's be the best role models for students that we can be!

The first days of school always include various tests for students to allow teachers to gain data for meeting the needs of students. One of the tests implemented is the NWEA MAP growth test. This is a test given three times a year to measure the amount of growth your student is making. MAP testing for all K-8 students will begin the week of the 21st. For grades in 3, 5 and 7, we will again implement the IOWA standardized tests in the latter part of September. This test gives the school a percentile score for those students. Again, another data point for us to meet the needs of your students. Finally, our 8th graders will take the High School Placement Test (HSPT) in November for placement at our Catholic Schools. Whether a student is going to a Catholic high school, or not all will take the test. This test gives the school the ability to evaluate our entire program, and how well our students are prepared for high school. As with any business, the more data collected only helps an organization be the best it can be.

(continued on page 2)

Preparing our students spiritually,
academically & socially to take
personal responsibility for a lifetime of
faith, learning, leadership & service.



Calendar Reminders:

Thursday, Aug. 17 Lunch Ordering Opens

Monday, Aug. 21 School Board Mtg. (7 p.m.)

Sports Begin

Tuesday, Aug. 22 Advanced Intermediate Department Meeting (3:20 p.m.)

Thursday, Aug. 24 Back to School Night
Lunch Ordering Closes

Fruit of the Month:

(Fruit of the Spirit)

August: Faithfulness



Word of the Week:

Faith

Then Jesus said to [the woman] in reply, "O woman, great is your **faith!** Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that hour.

Matthew 15:28



Welcome to a

New School Year!

COUGAR ATHLETICS

First Season sports start August 21, with girls' volleyball and boys' basketball. For new athletes, be sure to complete a Athletic form (found in the office), an up-to-date physical, and sports fee completed and turned into the office to start practicing.



At practice, athletes must wear proper athletic t-shirts, shorts, and athletic shoes. Girls, NO short-shorts will be permitted for practice. Shorts must go past finger tips, and shirts must have sleeves. Volleyball players may use knee pads if they choose (solid black/white color).

Any other questions please ask Coach Schwab (Eric@stcyril.com). Let's Go Cougars!



Prayer of the Week

Father, we boldly ask that you would set apart our children as lights in a dark world. Make them shine like a city on a hill. Make them like the good Samaritan, who took pity on the injured and offered help. Make our children willing and eager to serve. Cause them to seek out the lonely child on the playground, the hurting and wandering soul. You are the Father of compassion, the God of all comfort - help our children to emulate Your character in all that they say and do. Clothe them with "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Lord, we've asked You for many things. We're a needy people. Yet we bring You this final request, humbly and on our knees: Help us, as parents, to **trust You with our children**. And even in that, Lord, we say "our children," knowing full well that really - they're Yours.

Taken from: <http://www.ibelieve.com/motherhood/5-essential-back-to-school-prayers-for-your-children.html>

FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONTINUED...

This Friday we will be meeting with the students in grades 4-8 who are interested in our new Leadership Program. We will meet in Nicholson Hall at 12:15PM the 18th. During this meeting we will explain exactly what the program is and eligibility requirements. Students will be given an application that must be completed and turned in by August 23, 2017, at 3:00PM. All students, if interested, MUST attend this meeting. The meeting will last no more than 45 minutes. Please plan to pick your student up at 1:00PM. Once applications are received, our administrative team will determine those students selected for this program. We will inform students by August 30, 2017, if accepted. We hope this leadership program will be a valuable asset to our school. If you have questions, please direct them to me.

Our first School Board meeting of the year will take place on the 21st. Are any of you interested in being a part of this advisory board? This board advises school administration and the pastor on crucial school decisions. If you are not interested, but know someone who might be, please let us know.

The 24th of August, I am so excited to be able to greet all parents to our Back to School/Grit night. This year the entire school will be meeting on this evening. We will begin the evening in Nicholson Hall and then head to departmental meetings. We will have 3 departmental meetings with the same information shared so all parents can learn about their students' department this year. Hopefully, this change is a positive one for all. Again, we listened to your concerns and suggestions. Let us know about this format to determine if this was a better avenue.

In the coming weeks, we will be replacing the kindergarten playground equipment. Thank you to the PALS Board and our St. Cyril Parent and Alumni Foundation for financing this project. The new playground equipment, rubberized padding and synthetic grass comes at a cost of \$67,000. With Father's blessings, he is allowing us to add a shade structure, which we had not planned to do and not included in the \$67,000 initial price. This shade structure will cost \$14,500. When getting permission from Father Ron for this addition, he was excited about being able to "shade" our little ones. If anyone is interested in helping to offset the cost of the shade structure, please let me know.

Speaking of shade, the school has purchased for ALL students some "cool eclipse shades." On the 21st, the solar eclipse will be taking place during the school day. The students will be studying about it, and with the shades on, be able to see it. The teachers are taking all precautions that we can to keep your children safe during this exciting event. I would ask that you, too, speak with them about the eclipse and the importance of keeping the solar glasses on.

This letter from me is not the norm for Cougar Tracks. Usually, I try to have just a paragraph or two. In the future, I will work hard to have a much shorter message. With that said, I, again, want to thank you for being a part of our blessed community. My door is open to all to continue to mold our community into a great piece of art!

Go Cougars!

Dr. Zeches

WHEN TO CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Are you picking your child up early? Are you going to bring your child to school late? Is your child going to miss school? If any of this is true...contact the school office first! We will pass any information to your child's teachers.

HELP THE SCHOOL BY PURCHAING SCRIP!

Included in this week's School Express is a SCRIP Update flyer. Check out Benefit Mobile! Also, we have many cards in stock, and can order a multitude more! Please see Martha in the office for questions.



AFTER SCHOOL PICK-UP

The After School program is located in Wetzel Hall each day after school. Hours of operation are 3:15—6:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 12:30—6:00 on Fridays. The gates onto Cougar Court will be closed at 5:00 p.m.; if you are picking your child up from After School *after* 5:00PM, **please use the Wetzel Hall doors off of Pima Street**. You can park behind the church on Pima Street if needed for After School pickup. For more AfterSchool info, visit www.stcyril.com/AfterSchool.html.