



July 23, 2019

Dear Parents,

As we prepare for the beginning of the 2019-2020 academic year we are looking forward to welcoming both new and familiar faces. We are delighted that you have chosen our parish school founded by the Sisters of Notre Dame 107 years ago for the education of your children. Since the foundation of our parish our school has been one of our prime ministries as a faith community.

The first priority for all Catholic schools is to share God's love and goodness through the precious gift of faith and Christ's gospel teachings. For that reason, we strive each day to make Jesus the center of our school in all that we do.

Our Catholic model of a "Christ Centered Education" takes root and grows in the lives of our children when a strong partnership is established between the parents as the first educators of your children, our school faculty and the pastoral staff. We grow in our love for God when we all work together to make Christ's love present in our homes, and in our school.

To foster this unity many new experiences have been built into the calendar this coming school year:

- **Back to School Night**
(August 12 from 6pm to 8pm)
Families are strongly encouraged to attend.
- **First Day of School Backpack Blessing (Grades 1-8)**
(August 19, please arrive between 7:25am and 7:45am)
Students and parents are asked to gather in the Parish Center (gym).
- **Small community building in the context of the classroom setting**
- **"What You Do Matters" Middle School Retreat with Tom Sparough**
(Tuesday, August 27)

- **Elementary Grade Specific Retreats**
(Centered in the gospel and integrated into the Character Counts Model)
- **Bullyproofing Presentation with Jim Bisenius**
(Tuesday, September 10)
As an experienced child and adolescent therapist Jim will cover a tool box of knowledge-teaching youth how to respond to bullying. Later that evening, faculty and parents will be given the opportunity to learn helpful techniques in addressing bullying as well.
- **Peer service opportunities in the school environment.**
- **School Wide Service Day with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful**
(Wednesday, April 22, 2020-Earth Day)
- **Fernside Grief Counseling**

We have chosen as our prayer theme for this school year the beautiful passage from sacred scripture: "I have called you by name...you are precious to me" (Isaiah 43:1-4). May that powerful message from the Lord set the tone for what we want to teach, learn and strive for during this 2019-2020 school term-namely: "to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with God."

God's Blessings,

Fr. Terry

Fr. Terence J. Hamilton
Pastor

Laurie Huff

Laurie Huff
**Director of
Religious Education**

Jason Fightmaster

Jason Fightmaster
Principal