

The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School
September 2016

The 2016-2017 school year is underway, and it is hard to believe we are already into the month of September! Our school year is off to a great start! We would like to welcome back all of our returning students and their families, and extend a special welcome to the many new students who have joined us in kindergarten through grade eight. Thanks to all of you for choosing a Catholic education at St. Hilary School!

It was wonderful to see so many of you join us for our opening ceremony on the first morning of school. Our theme for this year is *Do Small Things With Great Love*, inspired by Mother Teresa, who will be canonized as a saint this Sunday, September 4. Our theme emphasizes one of Mother Teresa's favorite and most famous quotes. Mother Teresa is a model of showing mercy to others in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, and an example of a servant leader. Inspired by her, we will focus on small things that make a big difference this year, such as good manners, smiling often, kindness, respect, and care for those who are less fortunate. Our quarterly Mother Teresa award will be given to a student from each class who exemplifies servant leadership and is a model of good manners and kindness, especially to the less fortunate. Mother Teresa was also a well-known public speaker, and we will also be giving students more opportunities to speak and perform in public this year. Some of the ways we are going to be growing in our



***In this life we cannot do great things.
We can only do small things with great love.***
- Mother Teresa

understanding of our Catholic faith will be learning more about missions, as Mother Teresa will be the patron saint of missions, and the vocation of religious sisters. We will also start a Rosary Club, inviting students to pray the Rosary together and learn to make Rosaries that will be given to the missions. We look forward to watching

our St. Hilary families grow in their faith this year by doing small things with great love!

We are grateful for the support so many parents showed by attending our Back-to-School Night. We hope it was a worthwhile event for you. This year's event featured a revamped format designed to better serve our school families, especially our newest families, as everyone transitions to a new school year. As we always strive to improve, we welcome your feedback on this new format. We also enjoyed seeing so many of you at our Curriculum Nights last week. Your attendance at these events shows your child and his or her teachers the importance you place upon an excellent educational experience. Please continue to reinforce at home what your child is taught in school. Academic success truly begins at home and we appreciate your involvement.

Interim reports will be available on September 23. Progress for students in grades 1-8 can be checked daily on ASCEND. Interim progress can be found there. Paper reports will be sent home for kindergarten students. ASCEND also has the capability to send parents email notifications of missed assignments, low grades and other stumbling blocks to student success. Please monitor your child's progress and help him or her set goals to make this a productive year. Establishing good study habits and organizational skills now will help your child achieve success throughout the school year. If you have problems using ASCEND, please contact Mrs. Smith in the school office for assistance.

As many of you know, over the summer we made some significant upgrades to our school Multi-Purpose Room. This room served as the original church when St. Hilary Parish was established nearly 60 years ago, and was in need of a renovation to make it a brighter, more welcoming space for our students who use the room daily. New flooring was installed, lunch tables were replaced, and the ceiling and walls were revitalized with new paint and décor. This upgrade would not have been possible without the support and funding of our Parents' Association through your generosity. The addition of important enhancements such as these underscore our commitment to provide a well-maintained facility and a top-notch environment in which your children can learn and grow each day.

As a reminder, the school dress code was emailed to returning families last spring and was provided to new families with their acceptance materials. This code, contained in our school handbook, will be enforced during the school year, so please be sure you are familiar with clothing, shoes and accessories that are permitted and not permitted. Students will be issued dress code violation slips if they are not in proper school dress code. Due to the recent change in school uniform suppliers, we understand that there is an issue with availability of certain skirt styles. To address this, the following adjustment has been made to the school dress code: Either skirt style, front flap or pleated, sold by either Schoolbelles or Sunshine is acceptable for girls in grades 1-8 to wear, provided it is St. Hilary plaid and appropriate length - not to exceed 4" above the knee when measured from a kneeling position. Please pay particular attention to **shoes**, which must be leather, low cut, brown/tan, black, navy, (or red - girls). **Cloth, plastic, and canvas shoes are not permitted.** No metallic finishes or sparkles are permitted. If boys choose to wear athletic shoes, they must be low cut with no contrasting logos, labels or stitching. Sperry style shoes are the only shoes permitted to have a contrasting/white sole. **Socks** must be black, white or navy, solid in color, with **no logos**, crew or low cut (or knee socks - girls). As for **hair**, St. Hilary School does not permit haircuts that are fad or trend in nature. No shaved lines, tails or bi-level cuts are permitted. Students' hair must remain natural in color. Boys' hair may not cover more than half the ear and must be and off the collar. Hair must not obstruct vision. No facial hair is permitted. Complete dress code guidelines can be found on our website under Parent Resources. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Woodman at jwoodman@st-hilary.org or Mrs. Stamets at tstamets@st-hilary.org. Thank you for your support.



To add to your child's school experience, we are pleased to offer a variety of extracurricular activities in which students may participate. Clubs and groups will begin in the coming weeks, so be sure to watch for more information. Please encourage your child to listen carefully to the daily announcements for information on activities of interest to him or her. Of special note, we will hold our elections for Student Council home room representatives on September 20. Students in grades 3-8 may run for representative. Applications will be available beginning September 6 in the school office. Applications must be turned in to the school office by 3:00 p.m. on September 15. Students running for representative may dress up for the elections on September 20. Posters may be hung in home rooms or the walls immediately outside the home rooms. *Students are asked not to bring candy or other treats as voting incentives.* The induction of Student Council officers and home room representatives for 2016-2017 will take place at the school Mass on October 21.



Please note several important dates during the month of September. School pictures will be taken on September 7, and students should dress up. Please remember that on dress-up days, jeans, T-shirts, crop/tank tops, sandals, clogs, and tennis shoes (except kindergartners) are not permitted. Our annual magazine sale fundraiser will continue through September 21. Our Parents' Association will hold its first general meeting on September 23 at 8:45 a.m. in the Spiritual Center. All parents are invited to attend and learn more about our Parents' Association and the events planned for this school year. Hot coffee will be served!

Our fifth graders will participate in the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center's outdoor education program September 28-30.

We would like to thank all of the parent volunteers who have already helped with events and activities to begin this school year, and thank in advance the many who will donate their time and talent to help in the months ahead. Your contributions are a vital part of what makes St. Hilary such an excellent school, and we truly appreciate everything you do!

Best wishes for a successful school year! Please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you have any questions or concerns. We want to work with you to make your child's experience at St. Hilary School the best it can be!

Mrs. Arnone

Mrs. Woodman