

# The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School  
September 2019

The 2019-2020 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 *The Courage to be a Saint*, inspired by Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. Our theme will help all of us to understand that saints can be regular people, too—people who smile and do regular things! We will learn that like Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, we too can have the courage to help others and be a saint. Our quarterly Courage award will be given to a student from each class who exemplifies the traits of courage and especially helps others in need and stays true to the values of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. We look forward to watching our St. Hilary students and families grow in their faith this year!



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. We also look forward to seeing you at our Curriculum Nights this 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 27. Progress for students in grades 1-8 can be checked daily on Gradelink. Interim progress can be found there. Paper reports will be sent home for kindergarten students. Gradelink 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 Gradelink, 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 technology in the way of new Promethean Boards and new teacher laptops in all of our K-5 classrooms. Most noticeably, though, as you enter the school, will be the fresh look our school entrance has! We now have a more welcoming, modern entrance that not only ties in with our recent Multi-Purpose Room facelift, but also shares key attributes of our school at a glance. All of these upgrades 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. We look forward to seeing your children in our beautiful new hallway and using our new Promethean Boards 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 a minor infraction notification if they are not in proper school dress code. **We will be permitting the "Sunshine" plaid skirts, skorts and jumpers to be worn until the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Please plan ahead as this plaid will be phased out at the end of the current school year.** All plaid items must be of the 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, grey, (or red - girls). **Cloth, plastic, and canvas shoes are not permitted. Vans are not permitted unless they are all black leather with a black sole.**

No metallic finishes or sparkles are permitted on shoes. 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; however, the sole must be the traditional thin "boat shoe" style sole, not a thick white sole resembling Vans. **Socks** must be black, white or navy, solid in color, 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 school website. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Alexander, Assistant Principal, at [dalexander@st-hilary.org](mailto:dalexander@st-hilary.org). Uniforms can be purchased at [wearnumberone.weebly.com](http://wearnumberone.weebly.com) or by contacting Marie-France Londa at [wearnumberone@gmail.com](mailto:wearnumberone@gmail.com). Gently used uniform items are available by contacting Debbie Yarcheck at [ardvark309@outlook.com](mailto:ardvark309@outlook.com) or Jen Warmus at [jenwarmus@gmail.com](mailto:jenwarmus@gmail.com).



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 24. Students in grades 3-8 may run for representative. Applications will be available beginning September 4 in the school office. Applications must be turned in to the school office by 3:00 p.m. on September 13. Students running for representative may dress up for the elections on September 24. 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 2019-2020 will take place at the school Mass on October 25.

Please note several important dates during the next few weeks. School pictures will be taken on September 4, and students should dress up. Please remember that on dress-up days, jeans, T-shirts, crop/tank tops, sandals, clogs, and tennis shoes (except kindergarteners) are not permitted. Please review the out-of-uniform standards in the school handbook regarding dress-up days. Our first round of MAP testing for students in grades K-8 will take place September 9-27. Our fifth graders will participate in the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center's outdoor education program September 18-20. Our Parents' Association will hold its first general meeting on October 4 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.



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. Woodman and Mrs. Alexander*