

The mission of St. Martin Catholic School is to teach a life of Prayer, Leadership, Love, Service and Kindness through Catholic Education.

August 19, 2020



Dear Jaguar Families,

We'rrrre Baaaack! **Today was an amazing day!!!** It has been 5 long months since we have all been together and it felt good to see the students parade into school, walk among them, feel their excitement, and share in their overall joy of being together. This one day, this one moment, shared with these children of God, made all the hard work, planning, decision making, and time spent this summer worth every second. I know that we are in for a year full of surprises, ups and downs, but as long as we keep our eyes on the cross and don't forget the promises it holds for us, we will persevere and our FAITH will overcome our fears.

As we were evaluating the reopening of school, we knew we wanted to create a space where your child's spiritual, social and emotional needs were nurtured as well as their academics. Last year we began our Virtue-Based Restorative Discipline program. Through this program we began to help the children build a foundation of self-discipline rooted in the virtues of their faith. They began to understand that living a life of virtue was practicing a "holy habit" which leads to a balanced life of grace and beauty. This year as a school we have chosen the virtue of FAITH to guide us. Our motto: *Faith over Fear* reminds us that believing in God and all that he reveals, helps us overcome those things that bring us down. To help us develop a deeper understanding of FAITH, each month we will concentrate on a particular virtue which helps support our understanding? During the month the children will explore how the two virtues support each other, they will be given opportunities to learn about the virtue and do activities to expand their understanding. We loved our monthly FAITH FAMILY SERVICE program last year. Although we will not be able to travel, to places to do our service, we have incorporated time in our monthly schedule to make things to honor community helpers and others. We chose to honor various groups throughout the community who showcase a particular virtue by the way they live and the service they provide. Each class will also learn about saints whose lives exemplified the virtue of the month.

This year will be a year like no other as we pray, play and practice being the best that we can be. There will be many opportunities for us to practice living virtue, we will have fun and play along the way and even if we stumble or have the best day, we will always remember to pray to our heavenly Father.

Happy 2020-2021 School Year!

FAITH OVER FEAR

"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of sound mind"
2Tim 1:7

COLOSSIANS PRAYER ... Our Daily Morning Prayer

We are your chosen ones, holy and beloved. Help us to grow in heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. So **We** may bear with one another and be forgiving. If **We** have a grievance against another, may **We** be as forgiving as you have been with us. And over all these virtues may **We** put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. Let your perfect peace control our hearts, the peace that calls us into one body. **We** are thankful, in your holy name. AMEN

PICTURE RETAKE DAY

School picture retake will happen on Sept. 21st. If your child will need to have their picture retaken or if they were not able to come to Open House please let the office know so that we can add them to the photographers schedule for the day.

If your child took pictures at Open House, you should have received an email from the picture company to view and order school pictures. You can also visit their website at www.inter-state.com/our school code 50002FB.

AIR PURIFIERS FOR THE CLASSROOM

This year we have had several parents offer to donate money towards an air purifier for the children's classroom. After researching them and after consultations with a health official we have decided to purchase one for each classroom. If you would like to contribute toward this please use the donation portal in the FACTS system. Please email the office and let us know that you made a donation towards these. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

SCHOLASTIC BOOKFAIR

Our Scholastic Bookfair will be online this year. We are looking for a volunteer or a team of volunteers to help organize this. If you are able to help, please contact the office at school@stmartinjrc.org. Thank you!

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

Thank you for your patience today. Although it seemed that the wait time was endless, I was pleased with how well it went considering it was our first day and the students are brand new to the process. I have high hopes that we will only get faster and that both processes will become more streamlined.

On the off chance that someone different will be picking up your student please email or send a written note to the office to communicate the change. It is all right if you include the teacher in the email, but it is important that the office is notified. Thank you.

JAGUAR CLUB

We are looking for parents, grandparents, and parishioners to help with ARRIVAL time. We have found that having extra hands available when the students arrive is a blessing. With the need to direct traffic, open car doors, take temperatures and sanitize hands, there is a need for extra volunteers. Arrival time is from 7:00-7:30. We would need you to be here at 6:55 and you would be finished no later than 7:40. Maybe you could get a group of your friends and all of you sign up for one morning, that's what the dads who do Thursday did. Please use the provided link to sign-up for a shift. Thank you for helping! <https://signup.com/go/gLPGydB>

AFTER SCHOOL CARE ENROLLMENT

We are trying to make staffing decisions in regards to After School Care. If your child(ren) will not be attending After School Care please email the school office. Also, "drop-ins" may be limited this year because of the need to place our students in stable groups.

WELCOME ABOARD

We want to welcome Mr. Terry Boeckman to our staff. Mr. Boeckman will be our part-time custodian during the day. We have also expanded the nightly cleaning crew in order to thoroughly disinfect and sanitize our high traffic areas.

WE HOLD IN PRAYER

Please pray for Jeff Brondel, a dedicated, beloved volunteer. He has been diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer. Jeff is in charge of the Jaguar Club and also has donated his time in so many ways for the school and parish over the years.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Fridays are Jaguar Spirit Days: Students may wear spirit shirts on Fridays with uniform bottoms. Blast-off shirts may be worn on Fridays.

No School: September 7

Grandparents Day: Sept. 11 at Niekamp Park at 1:30

Early Dismissal: Sept. 24

No School-Teachers' Inservice Day: Sept. 25

Working together through Christ,
God Bless

Mrs. Julie Clingman
Principal