



Saint Francis Catholic School

September 18, 2007

Dear Parents,

Last week I attended a diocesan principals' 3-day workshop. All the principals of our Catholic schools participated. After attending these types of events, I always come back "home" to St. Francis with a greater appreciation of all the blessings we have received. I return even more committed to our mission - "To nurture students' spiritual and intellectual growth in an authentically Catholic community committed to academic excellence." The following elements of an authentic Catholic school and a quality elementary school give us benchmarks related to living out that mission. Our school should be:

1. inspired by a supernatural vision
2. founded on Christian anthropology
3. animated by communion and community
4. imbued with a Catholic worldview throughout its curriculum
5. sustained by gospel witness

And have the following elements:

1. strong instructional leadership
2. high expectations for student achievement
3. well-defined goals
4. a strong, basic curriculum
5. local administrative control over the daily school activities and programs
6. a safe, orderly environment
7. a cohesive approach to discipline
8. a system of monitoring student progress and achievement
9. regular student attendance
10. students who provide consistent effort

Thank you for all you do in helping St. Francis live out and advance our mission!

- **HANDBOOKS** – If you have not done so, please purchase your handbook for \$15.00, read your handbook, and fill out, sign, and hand in the "Statement of Agreement" on the last page.
- **CAR WASH** – Volleyball Team Car Wash at school - 3:00 – 5:00 PM on Wednesday, September 19th.
- **Capitol Campaign/Construction Question of the Week** – "It is obvious why a school parent should help with the campaign. Why should a parishioner do so? The Fine Arts Center is just the first step in adding facilities to the Campus of St. Francis School and THE PARISH COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. Many of our church ministries, not just the students at the school, will benefit directly from the additional space the new facility will allow. Our church ministries will have the opportunity to expand and enhance their programs and services. New programs can be developed to meet the needs of our growing parish. Cultural and enrichment events can be held in the additional facility.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mike Rockers, Ed.D.