



Saint Francis Catholic School

September 25, 2007

Dear Parents,

We are in the middle of our Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) testing. The ITBS is a nationally normed achievement test. Why do we administer these tests to our 1st, 3rd – 8th Grade Students? Some basic reasons include:

- It is mandated by the Diocese.
- It is one additional way of measuring our students' academic ability.
- It provides a vehicle for reviewing our school's real scope and sequence.
- It can, at times, provide a "red flag" when a student scores much higher or lower than we would expect through observation and review of his/her daily work.
- It provides practice in taking normed tests and bubbling in on answer sheets.

The best way to "prepare" your child for these tests is to make sure they are well rested and have a good breakfast. Our scores are typically 25 – 35 percentile points higher than the national norms! Go wolves!

Here is this week's information:

- **Thank you!** The Volleyball Team Car Wash was a success and lots of fun. Volleyball team, extra helpers, Mr. Pope, Angela Wyman, John Anderson and all who helped with soap, buckets, etc. – great job.
- **LUNCHROOM FACTS** – Individuals, including parents, neighbors, grandparents, uncles, etc. may not just "drop by" to eat lunch with students. Experience has shown that this can be a disruption for the child, for other students, and the school. Thank you for your understanding. Also, remember there is no microwave use in the cafeteria. **LUNCH ORDERS ARE DUE BY 9:00 am TOMORROW!**
- **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE** – The 4th Annual St. Francis Catholic School Geographic Bee will be held on Wednesday, December 12th at 1:30 PM in our cafeteria. Anyone in 4th – 8th Grade who would like to prepare for this event can access the National Geographic website at www.nationalgeographic.com/geographicbee. This source provides games and a study corner. Contestants for our school-wide bee will qualify based on the results of classroom bees which will be held the first week of December. Please contact Wendy Johnson at 681-6501 ext. 244 if you have any questions.
- **SCISA ACTIVITIES – FYI** On the reverse side of this letter is a summary of this year's major co-curricular events. Most are SCISA-sponsored activities. Specifics regarding each event will be provided as needed. Co-curricular events and major extra-curricular events such as our athletic events will be on our web-page school calendar beginning October 14th.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mike Rockers, Ed.D.