

## Principal's Corner January 2020

Happy New Year to all our students and families! It is great to see everyone back ready to start the second semester of this school year.

During winter break, we completed the renovation of a sensory room and added a sensory path to the lower hall. A special thanks to Mrs. Catherine Parrino and Mrs. Heather Clink from Julie Billiard School who tremendously helped us with this project and offered professional development to our teachers and staff, as well as the Ohio Catholic Credit Union for selecting this project as worthy of a higher-level grant. The sensory room and path combine a range of stimuli to help individuals develop and engage their senses. It ultimately improves the development of thought, increases concentration and focus attention.



During the next weeks, students in grades K-8 will take the winter MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment and will be tested in the areas of reading, math, and language arts. The results are individualized and include benchmarks, as well as reveal academic skills and concepts your child has acquired and what he/she is ready to learn. You will be able to compare your child's fall scores to the current ones. The last MAP assessment will be taken in May.

Our junior high students truly enjoy the various flexible seating options thanks to the donated desks from NDCL.



We are looking forward to our upcoming Catholic Schools week from January 26<sup>th</sup> –31<sup>st</sup>. PTU will be hosting the annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> after the 8 am & the 10 am Mass followed by our Open House. This is a great time to stop by and visit St. Mary School!

Our school will be visited by an external validation team in January. This two-day visit is an imperative part of the accreditation process and is mandatory by the State of Ohio for each non-public chartered school every six years. We are proud to share our new academic and Catholic identity goals for the next accreditation cycle and the many updates we made in the past year to incorporate best practices through STEM and 21<sup>st</sup> century learning to foster lifelong learners.

Looking ahead, we are planning on offering various summer camps for our students and the parish youth community. Please watch for more information on the school website and weekly bulletins.

A special thanks to our parents and parish community for all your support and help to our school. We are blessed by your generosity and commitment to make St. Mary's a special place for our students. Spread the word!

God Bless,

Friederike Wintersteller - Principal

