

February 2012

Principal Point of View

The “Principal Point of View” is a new addition to school news and communication. In this writing I hope to inform St. Mary School families of current and future school changes, trends in education, information about our Catholic faith and what we may be able to do to strengthen and deepen our faith within the family and in the school. There may also be some reflection material for parents that is worth sharing. My goal is that you find this new section of communication helpful and informative. Publication of these articles will be limited to the school website after this month at www.stmaryschoolvermilion.org

New Ohio Academic State Standards, St. Mary School and the Toledo Diocese

In case families are not aware, the State of Ohio has implemented a new set of Academic Standards in education, commonly known as the “Core Standards” which have been adopted by many other states in the country. Anyone wondering what these standards may look like can visit the ODE website. The first subject areas to be implemented by 2013 are the Reading/Language Arts and Social Studies.

The Toledo Diocese has adopted these standards and is in the process of weaving our Catholicity with each core subject area. *“The standards are grounded in evidence, including the best work of states and high-performing nations, frameworks developed for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), academic research, curriculum surveys, assessment data on college- and career-ready performance, and input from educators at all levels and from a variety of subjects.” Ohio Department of Education*

The new standards require teachers to re-examine current teaching practices and consider those that support the new standards. Project-based learning and the application of technology in the classroom are integral components for implementing the new standards. At St Mary’s, we have been and continue to use current technology resources such as computers in the classrooms, SMART boards and by the fall of 2012, provide iPad II’s for teachers and students in grades 4, 5, and 6. By the fall of 2013, we hope to continue providing lower grades with technological devices such as iPad II’s or iPods. While in this transition phase, the school will continue to use the current course of study for religion and continue to incorporate our faith throughout all subject areas.

The new standards help prepare students for a 21st century workforce while also improving their learning overall. Best practices and research based strategies are encouraged in teaching for higher learning performance. This transition will take a few years as all teachers become familiar with the new standards and curriculum model.

God bless,

Barb Bialko