



Lake Michigan Catholic Schools

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Dear Laker Parents:

If you have not had an opportunity to see our marching band in action, please do. They have performed wonderfully at our last two home football games. These kids are working hard and Mr. Jarvie has them marching in step and sounding great! Great job everyone!

We are now well into our first trimester and the initial eligibility list has been published. Early indications are that the new system developed by Mr. Stefanich is working well. While we are never happy to see anyone on the academic ineligibility list, we feel the system is in place to provide students with the greatest opportunity for success.

Please be on the lookout for a meeting for our high school parents (date TBA) concerning our Laker Life Skills Policy. This issue is high on my priority list and I want to hold this meeting to get a better feeling on where parents stand on this important issue. As you look over the policy in your handbook you will note that the primary purpose of random drug testing is to serve as a deterrent for our students. The policy is designed to be a positive influence on our students, not something to be feared or used as an instrument of intimidation. The meeting will most likely occur in the month of October.

All new teachers in our system recently completed their first of three inservice dates with the Diocese of Kalamazoo. These dates provide an opportunity for our teachers to become acquainted with diocesan policies and personnel in the Office of Schools.

On September 22nd, the Diocese of Kalamazoo audited the Middle-High School Religion Department. This optional audit will help us identify areas of strength as well as areas to work on in this important part of our school mission. When given the opportunity to have the audit now or in the spring, Mr. Stefanich and I opted for the earlier date to allow us an opportunity to implement needed changes for the 2006-2007 school year. In addition to the religion audit, we have agreed to perform a policy compliance audit as well.

Many thanks to our parents and your children for their unselfish giving on Friday September 16th's Laker Pride Day. The combined donation from both buildings totaled \$2,500. This will be forwarded to Catholic Charities USA immediately. You can be certain that those suffering through the devastation appreciate your generosity.

During the first week of October, Mrs. Maher, Mrs. Payovich and I will be attending the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools (MANS) fall conference; it offers an opportunity for us to interact with our peers from around the state. I am hopeful to come home with many new ideas for possible consideration.

One of my goals for the year is the creation and execution of a comprehensive marketing plan for the schools. A committee has been recruited and will hold their first meeting later this month. I will keep you all apprised of our progress as this important initiative develops.

Thanks again for all you do for our schools.

God Bless,

John Berlin
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