



September 12, 2016

Principal's Report

Fall Update- Archbishop Bergan Catholic School is three distinct programs considered as one school. Those programs are the Early Childhood Education Center, Elementary School, and Middle/High School. We are a ministry of Saint Patrick's Parish and would not exist if it were not for the generations of Saint Patrick's parishioners and Fremont residents that have supported their Catholic school with their Time, Talent and Treasure. More importantly generations of parishioners and residents that have decided to make the financial sacrifice to send their children to Archbishop Bergan Catholic School. For this we are eternally grateful and honored.

We are doing some great things here at Archbishop Bergan Catholic School and it truly is a collective effort. Please know how proud I am of the staff at Archbishop Bergan Catholic School. They are wonderful, talented, faith filled individuals who do what is best for their students. We are experiencing growth as we have 398 students enrolled in grades K-12. The new Early Childhood Center is serving 60 students in child care and 21 students in their Preschool. The new Pre-Kindergarten program at Bergan Elementary is serving 37 students.

There are two challenges that we will be experiencing in the near future. The first challenge is that we are running out of classroom space at Bergan Elementary school and will need more rooms for the 2017-2018 school year. We may have to come up with some creative options to assist the students appropriately. The other challenge for our school is increasing Latino enrollment. We are engaging in a new Latino Enrollment Initiative to minister to the Latino population that is extremely active in Saint Patrick's Parish. We need to be sure that we have the resources available at our school so that all Catholics feel that Archbishop Bergan Catholic School is accessible, affordable and attainable for their students.

Activities- Labor Day has come and gone, so that means that at Archbishop Bergan Catholic School Fall Activities are under way! Attending a small school doesn't mean that you do not have a lot of options. At Bergan we have a multitude of activities to participate in. Here are some of the activities taking place this fall at Bergan... Instrumental Music (Band), Vocal Music (Chorus), One Act Play, Student Council, Campus Ministry, Cheer Leading, Dance Team, Key Club, Chess Club, Walking Club, Bank in School, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Football, Volleyball, Cross Country, Girls Golf, and Service Projects. As you can see there are a lot of options that fit individual students' interests. Archbishop Bergan is a small school with big possibilities.



Early Childhood Education Center
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Service Day- Recently our 7-12 grade students completed the Fall Day of Service. Students assisted many non-profit agencies in Fremont and Omaha both. The students are led to service with the hope that a life of service is etched on their hearts. Some of the non-profit agencies we assisted were... Open Door Mission, Rebuilding together, Habitat for Humanity, Uniquely Yours Stability Support, Care Corps, Lutheran Family Services, Joseph's Coat, Washing County Food Pantry, Saint Patrick's Parish and the Jefferson House. This is a great day and students actually have a lot of fun helping others. We as a school always look forward to our Service Days.

Recent Events- There were two big events this past month that were successful community building efforts. The first is the Bergan Family Mass that was held on Wednesday August 24. The second was the Color-a-Thon Run that was held on the morning of Saturday August 27. I look forward to these events again next school year.

ARCHDIOCESAN CURRICULUM WEBSITE- The Archdiocese of Omaha Catholic Schools Office has worked to establish a curriculum website. This site will provide you with a look into the standards based curriculum as a Google website. <http://curriculum.archomaha.org/>

Early Childhood Education Center- We have officially opened the Early Childhood Education Center this past month. The was a Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting conducted on August 26. The Center is up and running since the first day of school on August 15. We have been working out all of the bugs with daily process and procedures so that we can operate the Center at optimal efficiency. We are truly blessed to have to opportunity to minister to these children and their families.

School Beacon- Sign up for school Beacon. If you have signed up for School Beacon in the past, please go to the website <http://www.schoolbeacon.com> and attempt to log in. Double check to be sure that your information is correct by reviewing your phone number and email contact information.

If you have not yet signed up for School Beacon the process is simple. Go to the website <http://www.schoolbeacon.com> and click on "register new account." The next step is to select Archbishop Bergan from the list of schools and then type in your contact information.

By completing these steps you will be informed of unplanned school closings, school delays/ early dismissals, or adjustments in activities schedules.



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Sycamore- Got this little notification from Sycamore in my Inbox recently....

Hello All:

We're doing a "silent" rollout our Student and Family apps and I wanted to pass along that you'll be able to search "Sycamore School" in either app marketplace (Android or Apple) to find these new releases.

On Tuesday, we'll publish a Leaf Note with this information, but we wanted our power users to know a little sooner so that you could pass it along to your respective audiences.

In the next couple weeks, we will release the employee version of the app so that staff can send/receive Pass-Notes, take attendance, and so much more from their mobile device.

--Sycamore Education

September 30 School Visits- One of the most beneficial practices for me as an educator has been to visit other schools, classrooms, and teachers to view the positive practices taking place. In the education community, we are such a close knit group of professionals who are willing to share as well as beg, borrow, and steal ideas from others. Instead of reinventing the wheel, we often can gain knowledge, skills, and positive practices from others. We are asking our teacher to go out and make a visit to another Catholic School and take notes. On September 30 our staff is going to go into these visits with the mindset that they want to find something that will not only impact their classrooms, but our school in general. I will be asking that they share their findings at our In service on October 17. We will hopefully gain an enormous amount of information that we can apply to our mission of instilling a passion, as exemplified by Christ, for faith, knowledge and service.

Latino Enrollment Initiative- On Tuesday August 16, 2016 we met with Hispanic Families that send their children to Bergan. We explained the Latino Enrollment Initiative to them and they were very excited about the possibilities. They shared our areas of strength as well as areas that we can improve upon. The last step was to brainstorm ideas in which would have a direct impact on Latino enrollment. We developed these ideas...

1. Hire a person that can interpret for Spanish speaking families. Many of them can speak English but can not always understand what is being spoken to them. This person would be responsible for translating all documents that are sent home into Spanish.
2. Break down the misconceptions about Bergan being only for white children and being too expensive for Hispanic families to afford.
3. Use the group of parents that attended this meeting as a driving force over the next school year to increase Latino enrollment at Bergan

A.M.D.G.,

Dan Koenig



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Archbishop Bergan Catholic School Prayer

Jesus, Good Shepherd,

Teach us through your Spirit,

to walk your way of light, to live your way of truth

and in all things to act with love and compassion.

Help us to come to the Father

by knowing you, loving you

and serving you in each other.

May Archbishop Bergan Catholic School be a place of wonder,

learning and peace where the lessons of today

prepare us for the challenges of tomorrow.

May your Mother, Mary

guide our footsteps as she guided yours

to a life of service for others.

This prayer we make in faith.

St. Patrick pray for us.

Amen



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