



Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School
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Welcome Back Principal's Newsletter August 1, 2019

Dear Parents,

On behalf of Monsignor Marine, Father Mike, our School Board, and the entire faculty and staff of Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School, I am excited to **welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year!**

As your principal, I want to assure you that the faculty, staff, and I are working together to continue to provide a Christ-centered, challenging, and positive academic environment for your child. Our teachers have been preparing all summer for the upcoming school year and are very excited to teach your children. They have been reviewing curriculum, attending professional development courses and graduate studies, and meeting with grade partners to set professional goals and standards. You should feel confident that we will be addressing all of your child's learning needs. Our school community is blessed by our teachers' ministry and dedication.

Our summer has been busy. Many thanks to **Mr. Richard Bergan and the custodial staff of Extreme Clean** who have been working hard in preparing the school building for the upcoming school year.

- Every classroom in our school building has had the **carpet removed and replaced with tile.**
- The interior of our school building has been **freshly painted.**
- **New water fountains** have been installed throughout the school building which include touchless, sensor activation bottle filler designed for easy use and a green ticker which informs users of number of 20 oz. plastic water bottles saved from waste.
- **New LED lighting** has been installed in all the classrooms and throughout the school building. This type of lighting provides light that will assist our students in building their concentration during classes and help them focus more effectively on their work.

The 2019-2020 school year will be another **exciting and productive school year** with many memorable experiences and happenings:

- We look forward to the start of our **SKD Forensics Team** which will help our students become better communicators and critical thinkers, skills which are necessary in society today.
- We look forward to our Performing Arts Club's performance of **Lion King Junior**. Our performing arts students will develop and experiment with a variety of theatrical and 21st Century skills.
- **New ELA books** have been ordered for Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2. With the right combination of demanding materials and individualized instruction, the new series *Journeys* will offer our young students the types of challenges needed to mold them into stronger readers.
- **New Smart Boards** will be installed across various grade levels as our teachers are trained in the most up-to-date interactive technology which will now be compatible with our students' chromebooks.
- We look forward to hosting a **school-wide Grandparent / Special Person Day**.
- Once again, we will host a **High School Night** for upper grade students and their parents.

Each year brings positive change. I wish to **extend a special word of welcome to those families who have just joined our SKD School Family**. We are delighted that you have chosen a Catholic education for your children and even more pleased that you have decided to partner with SKD in this endeavor. Again, welcome to our SKD Family.

Also, we are proud to welcome several new teachers to our faculty: **Mrs. Mary Flatley** who will join our 6th grade team, **Mrs. Rosalie Curran** who will join our fourth grade team, and **Senora Debora Kellander** who will teach Spanish. Please be sure to visit our school website to learn more about our new teachers. Their bio's will be posted soon.

I am also happy to announce that **Mrs. Sandi McDevitt** will serve voluntarily as our Vice Principal. Mrs. McDevitt has done this in the past with no formal title. She will also continue to teach Honors Math.

SKD will open its doors for students in **Grades 1-8 on Wednesday, September 4th. School begins promptly at 8:15am each day.** Your child will receive a special welcome back note from his or her teacher before this day.

Please know that a great deal of time, effort, and thought has gone into the process of student placement for the 2019-2020 school year. Careful consideration was given to input from staff and families as well as student learning styles. Classrooms have been balanced academically and socially. Our class lists are structured to provide equitable class sizes at each grade level. All of our teachers work hard to make school a positive experience for all of our students. Please understand that it can take a few weeks for your child to acclimate to a new grade, peer group, and teacher.

I certainly look forward to seeing all of you! Enjoy these remaining days of summer as we eagerly anticipate another fulfilling year! As always, I thank you for your commitment to Catholic education, Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School, and our mission!

God's blessings,

Ms. Clark

The Mission of St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School is to form Catholic leaders through academic excellence, personal discipline, and Christian service.