

October 24, 2011

Hello Eighth Grade Parents!

I'm sorry; I did not have time to write to you last week. It was a very busy week for me. As you may know I have taken on some additional volunteer responsibility at the church. I have joined the St. Mary's St. Vincent DePaul group. I'm working with organizing, purchasing, and delivery of food at our parish. I will also be able to utilize the eighth grade class in organizing our pantry. This will be a very good opportunity to get some community service done without leaving the school.

Remember, Tuesday is our Olympic Park meeting. At 6:30 in the eighth grade classroom we will discuss our trip, fundraising, and scheduling. We will also have time to answer any questions you may have. I hope to see all of you there.

### **OPI News:**

You should be working on fund-raising ideas as we have only to January to raise the tuition and transportation costs. We will have to raise the goal this year as we have seen an increase in transportation and tuition. I will let you know as soon as I get an estimate from our charter company, but I believe this year's total cost will be \$415 per student. I will have some information and will be speaking to you about OPI at back to school night.

### **Some Dates:**

10/25: Olympic Park meeting: 6:30pm  
10/29: Halloween Carnival 3-5pm  
10/31: Halloween free dress (orange & black)  
11/1: After school Christmas play tryouts

### **Religion:**

This week we will decorate pumpkins with our pre-school buddies.

The rest of the week will be spent looking at the commissioning of Peter. We will also look at and memorize the Corporal Works of Mercy.

This year in religion, I will be sharing each Sunday's readings with the students on Fridays. This will be a much more powerful lesson if you could please make an effort to take your sons and daughters to Mass on Saturday night or Sunday. I know how busy weekends can get, but as Catholics, the Liturgy is such an important part of who we are as people. We need to give this love of the Eucharist to our children.



## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade History**

We are reading about the colonization of Virginia. We will also look at the first Catholics that arrived in Maryland on the “Dove” and the “Arc”. The students are writing all of their definitions on note cards. We did this for our last test and we did quite well.

## **8th Grade Algebra**

We are into chapter 3 now. This chapter may provide some memories for you as it is filled with some fun classic Algebra problems (if a train leaves Pittsburgh at 3:15...) The students continue to be attentive and thorough and I can see a very mature approach to their work ethic. The test for this chapter will happen next week.

Please encourage students to take their time and work on understanding as they practice at home.

Algebra class will require daily attention at home. Our students have been very successful on the Prep placement exams because of the willingness of our students and their families to work so hard at their studies. Algebra will be challenging, but I am committed assist each student in reaching her or his goals.