



September 12, 2016

“Everything on earth has its own time and its own season.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE PLAY HAS STARTED

Congratulations to the A and B girls' volleyball teams on their victories in their first week of play in the league. The A team plays at home on Monday, September 12. The B team plays at home on Wednesday, September 14. Both teams start at 4:15 PM. We wish you continued good luck!

If you are a parent of a volleyball player, please remember to bring your donations for the concessions stand!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following parents are your representatives on the Education Committee: Mayra Angel, Kathryn Heimerl, Janet Vosberg, Bernie O'Rourke Patterson, Donna Pittz, Bruce Hying, Rob Aurit, Kelly Komplin, and Autume Gollon. Our first meeting of the school year is Monday, September 12 at 6:00 PM. Mrs. McGraw and Mrs. Graber are the advisors for the Education Committee.

RAINFOREST ASSEMBLY

Our Rainforest Assembly is tomorrow, September 13, at 1:00 PM in the gym. We are excited to see what will be presented so we can learn more about the rainforest. Please join us if you are available.

EYE SCREENING

The Lions Club will do eye screening for PreK4 – Second Grade on Monday, September 19. They will be here on either Tuesday, September 20, or Thursday, September 22 for PreK3. They would also do older students if requested by their parents. So, if you want your older child to have their eyes screened, please let the office know by Friday, September 16.

STAR TESTING

We will no longer be doing Iowa Basic for our achievement testing. The Diocese of Madison now requires that we do Star 360 testing. Students in grades 3 – 8 will be given these tests in the next two weeks. There are two tests – Math and Reading. They each take about 20 minutes and are done on the computers or chromebooks. These tests will be done at least three times per year as required by the Diocese of Madison.

Following is the information from the Family Handbook about Achievement Testing:

Achievement Testing: Beginning with students in the third grade, achievement testing will be completed several times a year. Students in grades three through eight will begin taking the Star 360 test in the 2016-17 school year. STAR 360 is a comprehensive K12 assessment solution, allowing educators to screen and group students for targeted instruction, measure student growth and monitor achievement on Common Core State and/or Dioceses Standards. This testing is mandated by the Diocese of Madison.

Following is a letter from Dr. Michael Flanagan, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Madison:

On behalf of the Office of Catholic Schools at the Diocese of Madison, I would like to welcome you to the 2016-2017 school year! Whether your children are attending Catholic Education for the first time, or if they are returning for another exciting year, our prayers and full support are with you in your journey as parents.

As a father with three young children at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Beloit, I can personally attest to the value of Catholic Education in our family life. I have witnessed first-hand how our children grow to excel in knowledge and possess a strong Catholic Identity that we see both in word and deed.

This year all of our elementary schools in the Diocese will be administering the STAR360 assessment, which now replaces the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. The STAR360 assessment is a computer-adaptive assessment that is based on a response to learning model; meaning, the assessment immediately and accurately informs the teacher of what the child knows and what the child is ready to learn. There are two short assessments in Reading and Math that students will complete in approximately 20 minutes each. The assessments will be repeated twice (winter and spring) to show growth and mastery. A small number of our schools piloted this assessment last year, and we couldn't be more pleased with how the information positively impacted teaching and learning in the classroom. For many of our schools, this assessment will begin next week while for others it will begin closer to the end of the month. More information on the STAR360 tool will be coming from your building Principal and/or classroom teacher. The Office of Catholic Schools may also be sending out periodic updates, as appropriate.

As we enter into the school year, please continue to pray for your children's teachers and administrators. We have a fantastic group of over six hundred dedicated teachers and fifty administrators in our Diocese, with whom we have the privilege of working. They work tirelessly to ensure that our children have a great Catholic Education that, with your parental support, will have lasting effects throughout their lives.

Again, welcome to the start of a new school year, and thank you for making the sacrifice for Catholic Education for your children.

Blessings,

Mike

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Dr. Michael Flanagan
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Madison
Madison, WI 53719
phone: 608-821-3000
email: michael.flanagan@madisondiocese.org

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NOON SUPERVISION

M – Pack (Grandmother); T – Esch; W – Busch; Th – Busch; F – Esch; M - Stumpf