

January 25, 2019

Dear Parents,

Happy Friday! Short weeks are always the longest in my opinion and this was no exception. It may have also felt that way because today we had our accreditation site visit to follow up on our school's overall progress. As you would expect, we did great! I am always proud of our talented and dedicated faculty so today gave me the opportunity to boast and preen a bit. We had two main areas to report on based on feedback from our last visit: Teacher Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and Marketing/Enrollment. Both areas were discussed and appropriate documentation submitted that showed the excellent work our teachers have done since August.

The Archdiocesan Review Team (ART) was impressed at how our teachers have embraced their specific PLC as well as the quantity and quality of data being gathered. To review, all teachers were placed in one of three PLC groups: primary math curriculum, student engagement, or Catholic Identity. They have been meeting each month to review, refine, devise and analyze various data and practices. At one point an ART team member exclaimed, "Even the Catholic Identity team is collecting data and tracking progress on Mass participation!" Yes, sir! If you haven't heard about the weekly Mass reflection, ask your student about it. We are making a conscious effort to hold high expectations both in the classroom as well as in (prayerful) practice. Another point the ART team commented on was how the teachers have really taken this process and ran with it on their own merit. As you can imagine, not all school groups function as cohesively as ours. Our teachers continue to lead the way!

We were also praised for the work our marketing/enrollment committee and school board has done this year. I've posted meeting minutes and hope you've had a chance to keep up with our progress. Currently, we are making headway on a completely new school website that we hope to unveil after spring break. This committee, along with the school board, has also contributed to new marketing initiatives, forming a sub-committee to investigate bus transportation, and will soon move into revising the school technology plan. Whew! No wonder the ART team was impressed! While we're on the topic of school board and committees, start mulling over your opportunities to join us. There will be three spots open on the school board next year. We are looking for parents to serve on the bus committee now as we hash out our options. Finally, the technology committee will begin meetings on Tuesday, February 12 at 6:00pm. If you'd like more information on any of these opportunities, please let me know.

The last piece of the ART visit involved classroom observations. Four ART team members visited 16 classrooms to see our school in action. While I don't have final scores yet, the team did tell me that compared to our last visit, we increased/improved in two key areas: setting high expectations and monitoring student progress. I'm very happy with these results and look forward to the more detailed report that should arrive in a few weeks. In the meantime, switch gears and look forward to all the fun we have in store for Catholic Schools Week starting on Monday. As usual, our blessings abound at St. Aloysius!

Enjoy your weekend and stay warm,

*Mrs. Hayslip*