



"The Lord has loved me so much: we must love everyone and be compassionate!"
-St. Josephine Bakhita, 2017-18 School Theme

Dear Parents and Guardians,

August 15, 2017



This year the St. Anthony community will learn about the life of St. Josephine Bakhita of Sudan and reflect upon her words, "The Lord has loved me so much: we must love everyone and be compassionate!" This former slave, convert to Christianity, religious, and eventually a saint led a remarkable life. As we continue to work for peace and justice in our city, country, and world, it is only fitting to turn to saints like St. Josephine Bakhita for strength and wisdom. Jesus's message was one of love and compassion and it is our obligation to instill these virtues in our children. Next time you're in the front office take a look at the stunning portrait of St. Josephine painted by our very own, Mr. Frank Washington.

Two returning faculty members' duties have changed slightly. I am happy to share that Mrs. Teresa Fitzgerald will now teach 6th grade English, 7th grade English and Reading, and 8th grade English and Reading. She will also be the homeroom teacher for half of the sixth grade class. Sr. Elise Fox, O.P. will now teach middle school math, 8th grade religion and serve as the 8th grade homeroom teacher. Mrs. Fitzgerald and Sr. Elise are highly effective teachers and will no doubt do quite well in their positions.

I am pleased to welcome our newest faculty members to the St. Anthony community.

Mr. Michael Simms	Grade 3
Ms. Caroline Lawler	Grade 4
Sr. Mary Olivia Shirley, O.P.	Grade 5
Mr. Brandon Huston	Grade 6/ Middle School Social Studies
Sr. Maria Sarradet, O.P.	Grade 6 Religion
Mr. Blair Matthews	Grade 7/ Middle School Science



In the coming weeks I will introduce these fine educators in greater depth. Until then, be confident that the best applicants were chosen to teach your children. Our new teachers hold the education-related degrees, possess certification or are in the process of obtaining licensure, participated in Archdiocesan new teacher orientation, and are receiving formal support from our faculty and administration. Please join me in welcoming them to our school community.

One-on-Ones... All new and returning parents are required to attend their scheduled one-on-one parent/ teacher meeting. These fifteen minute meetings are designed for parent(s)/ guardians(s) to get to know their child's teacher and to establish the very important partnership of educating your child. If you need to re-schedule your appointment please contact the office ASAP. Please make every effort to arrive on time.

New School Hours... Doors will once again open at 7:45 AM and students will trickle in as they arrive to campus. **The start time will remain at 8:00 AM; however, we will dismiss at 3:00 PM with approximately one 12:30 PM dismissal per month.** The purpose of this two-year pilot dismissal is to allow students more time after school to engage in social and extra-curricular activities, complete homework, and ultimately have a more balanced day. Teachers will also have more time to collaborate with colleagues, plan lessons, grade, and serve students after school. In recent years we have noticed less productivity in the afternoon. It is our hope that students and teachers will benefit from the slightly shorter school day. We have the utmost confidence that your child's St. Anthony experience will only be enhanced with the revised schedule. I ask that you approach these pilot years with an open-mind and the assurance that your students' best interest is at heart. Before care will remain 7:00-7:45 AM and aftercare will be now operate 3:00-6:00 PM.



First Day of School... We look forward to welcoming our K-8 students, in their academic uniforms, on Tuesday, August 28th.

Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 students will return to school on their scheduled day.

On the first day of school students may come on to the school parking lot at 7:45 AM. Teachers will escort the students into the building at 7:55 AM. Students entering after 8:00 AM must use the 12th Street entrance and will be marked tardy.

Before-care (7:00-7:45 AM) begins on the second day of school. After-care (dismissal-6:00 PM) begins on the first day of school. Starting on the second day students will enter the building beginning at 7:45 AM. Students arriving prior to 7:45 AM will be directed to before-care and families will be charged.

Dismissal on the first three days of school will be at 3:00 PM. Friday, September 4th is a 12:30 dismissal day. There will be after-care until 6:00 PM.

Uniform Policy... A neat and clean appearance is expected of all students. Extreme hairstyles (including mohawks and faux-hawks), jewelry, colored hair, and non-uniform clothing items are not permitted during school hours. Female students may wear posts/ studs but no hoops or dangling earrings. Boys may not wear earrings. Colored nail polish is not permitted. All students are to wear their uniform every school day beginning All items must be purchased at Flynn & O'Hara. The specific uniform policy is enclosed.

Proudly celebrating our 95th year!

Get Involved... Your presence and participation will be needed throughout the school year. Archdiocesan policy requires parents/ guardians to complete the entire child protection/ background check process prior to beginning their service at the school. No one may volunteer before the process is complete. Step by step instructions and the volunteer application are available in the office. Please begin this process as soon as possible. Please contact Ms. Neslyn Moore, our Child Protection Coordinator, with any questions.

Handbook & Calendar... The 2017-2018 Parent/ Student Handbook and calendar are available on our website. A hard copy of the handbook and calendar will also be distributed by the first day of school.

Technology Upgrade... Thanks to the generosity of “Meals on Wheels” and proceeds from our summer program we were able to purchase two mobile carts of Chrome Books. One cart will be primarily used by grades 1-3 and Spanish (South Building, third floor) and the other will be used by grades 6-8 (North Building). All students will still be able to use classroom iPads and the computer lab. Over time teachers will be trained to best utilize Google Classroom programs. Technology is expensive to purchase and maintain, but investments are being made to ensure our academic program and resources are top notch.

Summer Program... Please join me in congratulating Ms. Juliette Randolph, Ms. Sarah Kane, and Mrs. Barbara Andercheck on leading a fabulous summer program. Over thirty enthusiastic campers enjoyed the engaging six-week program. The program profited \$30,000. These dollars were used for maintenance, physical improvements, and classroom purchases.

Summer Projects... Our school building is used all of June and July which leaves us the month of August to clean, upgrade, etc. Here’s what we’ve done so far.

- The 12th Street Yard had drainage and erosion issues. (Rain often brought a mudslide to our Lawrence Street entrance.) Work was done to catch and redirect the water, the soil was re-graded, and sod was laid. It looks great and hopefully these problems are solved. No one may walk or play on the grass for 3-5 weeks.
- The middle school stairwell’s walls, risers, and railings were painted. Banisters were restored to their natural beauty. All metal doors in the North Building were scraped and painted. Restoring the doors was no easy or quick project, but it was surely worth it.
- Smaller jobs such as scraping and painting ceilings, scraping and painting radiators, repairing bathroom partitions, and updating plumbing were also completed.
- Our biggest project was completely renovating our girls and boy’s cafeteria bathrooms and converting the gender-neutral bathroom in Margot Hall to two separate bathrooms (male and female) and a mop closet. This work is in its final stages and should be completed in the next week or so.



Please “pardon the dust” as we complete our summer projects. Some of our projects were ambitious and cost more and took longer than expected. Your patience is appreciated.

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Future Projects... Our building is 96 years old and is therefore always in need of a repair or replacement. It can be challenging, but we do our best to keep our physical plant safe, cheerful, and inviting. The next major project is renovating our church and school parking lot. We are investigating more eco-friendly alternatives—permeable surfacing, rain gardens, tree planting, etc. If you wish to be on the planning committee please contact me.

Please accept my apology for receiving this note and other school news a bit later than usual. In early August my sister passed away unexpectedly and thus much of my work was delayed. However, we are blessed with a supportive administrative team and staff and together we made our school ready for day one. I ask for your prayers during this difficult time for me and my family.

I am entering my 18th year at St. Anthony and I am always excited to start a new school year. We have a superb faculty and staff who work hard each and every day. With your support and active participation we will be able to accomplish great things for our children. Together we can make our 96th year our best one yet. Again, I look forward to welcoming you and our students back to school on Tuesday, August 28th.

Yours in Christ,

Michael Thomasian
Principal

— WELCOME —
BACK TO SCHOOL

Proudly celebrating our 95th year!