

## **Catholic School Council Teacher Report: November 23, 2021**

### **Teacher Communication with Parents**

Parents are reminded that communication between teachers, parents, and students continues during our Quadmester and 44 or 45-day cycle model of classes. In each phase of learning, teachers provide multiple assessment opportunities to students – assessments for learning, assessments as learning, and assessments of learning. Students are receiving regular and timely feedback on their progress, even though the number of days in each cycle are far fewer than in a “regular” semester. As always, parents are encouraged to contact any teacher of their child(ren) with any questions about programming, assessment or evaluation.

In addition, parents can now access information about their child(ren)’s progress towards a pathway destination through the Niagara Catholic Maplewood Parent Portal. This portal provides parents/guardians with access to student achievement and other information. Secondary parents/guardians have access to additional information such as student timetables, Markbook summaries, Community involvement/Christian Community Service and a transcript summary.

Parents of Grade 12 potential Graduates should note that the Ministry of Education has adjusted the number of Community Service hours necessary for Graduation for the 2021-2022 school year, from the usual 40 hours to 20 hours. This adjustment reflects the difficulty that some students were facing in finding Community Service opportunities in the community, when social distancing is crucial for the safety and well-being of all.

### **Saint Francis Breakfast Program – “Grab and Go” Format**

At the start of this school year, we were able to resume our Breakfast Program at Saint Francis. In order to follow safety protocols, the program this year involves a “Grab and Go” format. Those providing the food to our students follow all safety measures when serving our breakfast items. In addition, items are in pre-packaged format so that student safety is placed at the forefront while students receive a nutritious start to their day. As in past years, our Breakfast program is subsidized by Niagara Nutrition Partners, an organization that supports student nutrition throughout the Niagara region each year.

## **Co-Curricular Teams and Clubs Have Resumed!**

Students and staff members of Saint Francis are thrilled that co-curricular activities have resumed at our school. Seasons for sports such as football, volleyball, basketball, golf, tennis, cross-country and hockey have occurred or are occurring, and dry-land training for rowing has just begun. Most recently, our Senior Boys' Volleyball Team won the NCAA championship and our Senior Girls' Volleyball also won the NCAA title. In addition, many clubs and teams are underway, including Choir and School Reach – and several other clubs are set to resume. This year holds much excitement for our Phoenix since the opportunity to participate in co-curricular events was eliminated all of last year and much of the previous school year.

## **Pilgrimage 2021**

This year's Pilgrimage took place on Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Its format was different from the format last year, but safety protocols still dictated that our students participated in smaller groupings, rather than as one school body. Our students participated in a walk around the school environment by grade level on the morning of the Pilgrimage. This was the 26<sup>th</sup> year of Saint Francis' participation in Pilgrimage, and our students raised a significant amount of money for students in Haiti and Guatemala, as well as for other local charities of the Niagara region. Our students had an opportunity to hear from the Doppelberg family, who run the Centre for Hope in Guatemala and provided funds to our "sister school", Mary Immaculate Grammar School in Cap Haitian, Haiti. The money we raise for The Centre for Hope in Guatemala provides funding for students who have special needs and require special services and programs. The money we raise for Mary Immaculate Grammar School helps to provide books and supplies for students, as well as contributing to a nutritious meal at lunch time. This year's Pilgrimage raised more than \$20 000 for all the organizations our school supports.

## **EQAO Assessments – Literacy and Numeracy**

This year, there will be EQAO assessments for both literacy and numeracy during the fall and the spring. Our Math EQAO assessment for Grade 9 took place in early November for those students who have had their math class already this year. Our fall session of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) will take place beginning this week and into the first week of December. Almost all Grade 11 students will write in this sessions since they did not have the opportunity to participate in the OSSLT last year due to the pandemic. Grade 10 students who had English in Quad 1 or have English in their timetable during this Quad will also write the OSSLT during this session. Of particular note to parents and students is the fact that if a student writes the OSSLT in the fall of 2021, he or she has an opportunity to participate in the OSSLT again in the spring session of 2022 if that student is unsuccessful on the test this fall. Also of note is the fact that EQAO has provided students with the option of deciding to go directly to the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course next year without writing the OSSLT if they feel that this is a better option than participating in the OSSLT in the 2021-2022 school year.

## **Student Services NCVLE Platforms**

Our Student Services Department has set up two sites for students to access to gain information about pathway options, school deadlines and general information that our Student Services Department provides to students. There is one NCVLE platform for all students in Grades 9-11 and Returning Grade 12 students. All students in these grades have been invited to this platform and should check it regularly for updates about course offerings, deadlines for course selections, etc.

In addition, students who are in a position to graduate in June of 2022 have been invited to a Grade 12 Student Services NCVLE. This platform provides information to potential graduates about such items as the deadline for applications to College or University, scholarship opportunities, specific College and University “virtual” information sessions and information about Grad photos, and our potential Graduation Ceremonies and Prom in June of 2022.

It is advisable that students of all grades check these Student Services NCVLE platforms regularly to ensure that they stay informed about opportunities available to them both within and outside of Saint Francis.