

Greetings from the Principal....

With first semester winding down next week, I wanted to take a moment to recognize some of the great things that have highlighted a successful first semester.

- We are happy to report that our ACT scores are the highest they have been in over 10 years! This is an increase of over 5% in our composite scores from the previous school year. The senior class, their teachers, and parents should celebrate this outstanding achievement.
- The number of students that attended our two open houses was the highest since 2008, with the total reaching 395 prospective students. Clearly the work of our admissions team along with the support from the greater Saint Patrick community continues to create a positive energy about the school.
- The strategic planning process successfully kicked off last Saturday, December 7. The participating members celebrated mass together and then moved into our work session. The initial process involved looking at outside influences, events, etc. that may impact Saint Patrick moving forward over the next five years and beyond. Our next session will involve looking internally at Saint Patrick and how the outside factors might impact our plan design. As previously mentioned, the goal will be to share the plan with the larger St. Patrick community in the fall of 2014.
- At our Thanksgiving mass, we recognized 10 seniors who had received various college scholarship offers from around the country. Of course, we know this is just the beginning and that many more will be recognized for their efforts as the year progresses.
- Our football team won 5 games in a row to make the IHSA state playoffs and then successfully made it to the second round of the playoffs before graciously bowing out to Schaumburg. Eight of our players were named to the ESCC all-conference team. Congratulations to Coach Galante and the rest of the football staff.
- Senior Donnie Rollins advanced to the boy's sectional in golf.
- Kudos to all our students involved in the various art programs. Their work was on display for all to see on November 14 prior to our Jazz concert. It was a diverse collection of work which showcased our student's unique talents and insights into art.
- Our theater department put on two successful plays this semester—Dracula and Black Comedy. Their efforts were outstanding and we look forward to the spring musical in March, Jesus Christ Superstar.

We look forward to adding to our list of accomplishments as the year continues to progress. As you can see, we have much to be proud of and thankful for.

Our next coffee with the principal will be January 10, 2014 at 7 AM in the LaSallian Lounge. We invite you to participate in our meeting and discussion.

Before we break next week for Christmas, let me leave you with this prayer:

“Wise men traveled for miles to bring you the first Christmas presents. So may we, too, remember with thankful hearts the love that comes with each present we open. We also thank you for the amazing love you have for each of us, and we thank you for the many gifts that you give us.”

Thank you for the gift of your trust in leading our young men. May God bless you and your family this upcoming holiday season.

Jon Baffico