

Thank you to those that participated in our Coffee with the Principal event on January 20 held in our LaSallian lounge! A special thank you goes out to Patti Fabrizio for helping to promote and coordinate the event.

The forum presented an opportunity for parents of the Saint Patrick community to learn more about current and future doings from the principal's prospective. In addition, families were given an opportunity to ask questions and further discuss other issues that needed clarification or additional explanation.

Below is a brief summary of the agenda items:

- Results of test day

While the actual number of students tested was not shared, we discussed the number of test takers was down from the previous year. In addition, the number of test takers throughout the archdiocesan high schools was down as well. We discussed the make-up test on Saturday January 24 as well. I thanked the parents for all their help and asked for their continued support as we try to solidify the student's commitment to Saint Patrick High School.

- Update on building projects—Lasallian Garden & Wellness Center

On November 17, we opened the Lasallian Garden and kicked off our Strategic Plan. While the garden is a wonderful enhancement of campus, the true beauty will be seen come spring! The wellness center is projected to be complete sometime in March. We are anxious to unveil the state of the art facility to our faculty, staff, students, and community.

Through a generous donation, the school has recently added three keyless, secured entries at various entries around the campus. The goal will be to add keyless entries throughout the campus thus improving the overall security of the building. In addition, we have added nine security cameras which allow us to monitor activity remotely.

- Lunch with the Seniors

Last week, Dr. Schmidt and myself began meeting with our seniors during their lunch and homeroom periods. We meet with 6-8 seniors at a time, twice a week. The purpose is to share lunch and allow the students to reflect a bit on their experience here at Saint Patrick High School. Most importantly, it gives us a chance to get to know the students a bit more before they leave us in May!

- University partnership & Virtual Academy

We are currently working with Triton College to be able to provide dual credit courses here at Saint Patrick High School for the 2015-2016 school year. This partnership would allow our

College Prep or Phoenix students to obtain college credit to encourage their pursuit of a college degree. Further details will follow once we have finalized how the credits will ultimately be obtained. In addition, we will be partnering in with the Virtual Academy (offered through the Archdiocese) for the upcoming school year to provide additional courses for our students that are currently unavailable. As example, we will look to offer various AP courses that will increase our students chances of obtaining additional college credit that is not offered through our PACC program. Again further details will follow.

- Emergency Day Make-Up & Calendar for the 15-16 school year

Much has been discussed with regards to whether or not we will have to make up school day for the weather related day we took earlier this year. The state of Illinois requires that we have 176 school days or 880 school hours. We are well over the allotted hours and days (we have 183 scheduled) for the school year and therefore will not have make up for any of the snow/cold days. The difference between public schools and private schools with regards to making up school days correlates with state funding. St. Patrick is not provided state funding and therefore (like most archdiocese schools) uses the school hours rule. Furthermore, the state rule asks for an average of 5 hours a day in school where we are in session for 6 hours and 40 minutes a day. In addition, this year we required that all teachers provide some form of online instruction for the students while physically being out of the building that day. The 2015-2016 school calendar is in its final stages and will be shared with the larger community upon its completion.

- Summer School

As implemented last year, summer school will be offered over 2, 4 week sessions, Monday – Thursday and Fridays will be off. Each class will be an additional 45 minutes in length to make up for the classes not offered on Fridays. This will be a cost savings to the school as well as provide a long weekend for all those involved in the sessions. Athletic and activity camps may choose to go on Fridays, but summer school will not be in session and the main office will be closed on Fridays beginning June 5 – July 31.

Our next coffee with the principal will be March 20, 2014 at 7 AM in the LaSallian Lounge. We would love to see more of our families participate!