

Greeting from the Principal!

It is Homecoming week and a wonderful time to reflect on the first six weeks of the school year....

On August 16, we welcomed 178 freshman and their families into the St. Patrick community. I have been impressed by their enthusiasm and willingness to immerse themselves in all that the school has to offer. Of course I was most proud of their ability to perform the school fight song in the school auditorium and look forward to future performances!

While the outcome of the game wasn't what we had hoped, the experience of playing at Soldier Field on August 31 for our football players, coaches, students, alumni, and others was truly memorable. When I was the varsity basketball coach at Carmel, we were fortunate enough to play at the United Center for two consecutive seasons. It was an experience that our players, coaches, students, and families will never forget.

We had an excellent turn out for our Parent Tour Night and I was overwhelmed by the graciousness and support of our parents. Many parents introduced themselves and welcomed me to the St. Patrick family. It is a night of optimism, hope, and celebration to the start of the new school year. I would like to reiterate what I said when we began the evening in the gym and that is, "my first impression and comment to you the parents is what a wonderful job you have done in raising your sons. During my initial interactions with them in the hallway, lunchroom, or classroom, they have been polite, respectful, and friendly. You should be proud of your work."

The Mass of the Holy Spirit and Freshman Mass and Breakfast the weekend of September 13-15 marked a reminder of the greater purpose and reason that we are called to be part of a Catholic school. Celebrating masses together provide some of the most important and memorable events that our students and faculty participates in.

This past Sunday, my wife and I, plus another 270 guests had the opportunity to take part in the Run for the Shamrock at Arlington International Racetrack which has helped to raise money for our students that receive financial aid. Senior Nathan Handwerker gave a wonderful speech about how St. Patrick has impacted his life in various ways and conveyed his appreciation for all those that participate in donating money to our financial aid program. Simply put, Nathan's words reminded us how powerful opportunities are for our students in need.

One of my goals this year is to be as active and visible in the classroom as possible to help provide instructional support for teachers. I believe it is the most important thing you do as a principal and or administrator for that matter. I have had the opportunity to formally and informally observe about 30 of our teachers so far this school year. I have been impressed by their ability to integrate the iPad into their classroom and the curriculum. Undoubtedly, this is a tool that will enhance our student's ability to be successful in the classroom and beyond. I look forward to reflecting next year as to the further progress we have made as a school with the integration of this powerful technology.

We are in the process of formulating a strategic plan that will help guide the school over the next 5 years as to how we improve our academics, financial position, facilities, and strengthen our Catholic identity. The goal is to be able to share this plan with our community by the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

Homecoming week is a traditional celebration in high school and college settings. It marks a week of spirit and fun capped off with the traditional football game and homecoming dance. It is a time to reconnect with family and friends and recollect memories of the past. Enjoy the opportunities that this week provides for you and your families.

God bless.