

NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SCHOOL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2011



Nativity Catholic School recognizes each student as a unique child of God, and provides a learning environment that develops each student's spiritual, intellectual, social, physical and emotional gifts.

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Dear Nativity Catholic School Parents,

We are delighted to welcome you to the 2011-2012 academic year here at Nativity Catholic School. Your commitment to Catholic School education is a precious gift that will continue to enrich your child's personal and spiritual growth for a lifetime.

We begin our new school year on a note of gratitude. We are happy and grateful to welcome our Principal, Dr. Kunnen, back on campus as we begin this new school year. Dr. Kunnen has begun the gradual transition back into her role here at Nativity. Look to see her more often in the weeks to come as her recovery continues.

In anticipation of this new school year, our administration, faculty and staff enjoyed a Professional Development week here on campus, August 12th—August 19th. During that week, we participated in seminars and workshops on the philosophical aspects of education, best practices in differentiated instruction to meet students' varied learning needs, and discussions on methods of developing positive student interactions through the affirmation of exemplary Christian behavior. We also made special plans for incorporating our annual scripture theme into daily life on our campus. This year's scripture theme is "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) As Nativity's commitment is first and foremost to nurture your child's growth in faith and holiness, we have planned activities that will continue to nourish the prayerfulness St. Paul describes in his letter to the Thessalonians.

A special event to anticipate this year is the upcoming 50th anniversary of Nativity Catholic School on September 14, 2011. Watch our website for details on how we will celebrate this joyous occasion here on campus!

Another great piece of news is that we are just days from beginning the renovation process on our school playgrounds. Once begun, it will take only a matter of weeks for them to be completed. The new playground surface will be safe, durable, and attractive. Specific details about the new surface will follow as installation begins. Thank you to the many generous families who contributed in making this playground renovation possible.

We look forward to seeing you at one or both of our Back to School Nights this year:

Thursday, August 25th at 6:30 PM in Social Hall A- parents of students in grades 5-8

Monday, August 29th at 6:30 PM in Social Hall A- parents of students in EC3 through grade 4

Please remember throughout the school year to review our website frequently, as this is a key method of communication used to distribute information related to events here at Nativity. In addition watch for monthly calendars, notes from your child's teacher on *Edline*, your child's posted grades, and regular updates of other breaking news here on our campus.

May the Lord bless this new school year and all those who are part of our great Nativity Catholic School family!

Blessings,

Bernadette Kunnen, Ed.D

Principal

Marie Clark

Assistant Principal

As you know, good schools are living organisms. They grow and change each year as the school constantly seeks to provide excellence. We are happy to share the following administration, faculty and staff positions for the new school year:

Pastor:		Fr. Proulx
Principal:		Dr. Bernadette Kunnen
Assistant Principal:		Mrs. Marie Clark
Director of School Affairs:		Mrs. Therese Alonso
Director of Stewardship & Advancement:		Mrs. Tina Sullivan
Director of Enrollment:		Mrs. Karen Heitzmann
Director of Finance:		Mr. Rob Martin
Director of Facilities:		Mr. Henry McCloud
Director of Technology:		Mrs. Carol Lukes
Director of Extended Day:		Mrs. Pat Carpenter
School Counselor:		Mr. Ron Merrill
Finance Office Staff:		Mrs. Kathy Damico Mrs. Susan Fogarty Mrs. Mary O'Daniels
School Counselor Assistant:		Mrs. Andrea Cseh
School Receptionist:		Mrs. Dhalma Zeno
Stewardship and Development Assistants:		Mrs. Rosalind Moffett Mrs. Lisette Moore
Technology Assistant & Volunteers		Mrs. Rebecca Hall
EC3-A/B/C:	Teacher :	Mrs. DeDe Waldron
	Instructional Assistant:	Mrs. Janice Garry
EC4-A/C:	Teacher :	Mrs. Denise Pantelis
	AM Instructional Assistant:	Mrs. Krista Reifschneider
	PM Instructional Assistant:	Ms. Amy Alonso
EC4-B:	Teacher :	Mrs. Bradlea Lowman
	Instructional Assistant:	Mrs. Julie Sprinkle
KA:	Teacher :	Mrs. Mary Haslam
	Instructional Assistant:	Mrs. Margaret Davis
KB:	Teacher :	Mrs. Tasha Pierce
	Instructional Assistant:	Mrs. Maria Barba
KC:	Teacher :	Mrs. Robin Griffin
	Instructional Assistant:	Mrs. Ann Brazinski
1A:	Teacher :	Mrs. Cecelia Springer
	Instructional Assistant:	Mrs. Rose Kraus
1B:	Teacher :	Mrs. Yvette Garateix

	Instructional Assistant:	Mrs. Vicki Hingle
2A:	Teacher :	Mrs. Michele Montanez
	Instructional Assistant:	Mrs. Cathy Sherrier
2B:	Teacher :	Mrs. Elaine Gromak
	Instructional Assistant:	Mrs. Char Lerch
3A:	Teacher :	Mrs. Andrea Kennedy
	Instructional Assistant:	Mrs. Denise Smith
3B:	Teacher :	Mrs. Lyndsey Dittebrand
	Instructional Assistant:	Mrs. Reina Garcia
4A:	Teacher :	Ms. Christina Stout
	Instructional Assistant:	Mr. Jed Hohlfeld
4B:	Teacher :	Mrs. Kathy Power
	Instructional Assistant:	Mr. Jed Hohlfeld
5A:	Teacher :	Mrs. Suzanne Crawford
5B:	Teacher :	Mrs. Molly Brady
6A:	Teacher :	Mrs. Debbie Price
6B:	Teacher :	Mr. Bill Amrhein
7A:	Teacher :	Mrs. Sheila Galvis
7B:	Teacher :	Mrs. Karla Dunnigan
8A:	Teacher :	Mrs. Kathy Kambach
8B:	Teacher :	Mrs. Toni Tarsi
Middle School Spanish Teacher:		Senora Dina Rodriguez
Elementary Spanish Teacher:		Senora Kathy Ramirez
Technology Center Teacher:		Mrs. Pam Ravins
Art Center Teacher:		Mrs. Linda Plesko
Physical Education Teachers:		Mr. Patrick Callaghan Mrs. Pam Lundy
Music & Performing Arts Teacher:		Ms. Kelly Kirst
Media Center Specialist:		Mrs. Sue Winter
Media Center Assistants:		Mrs. Debbie Brauneker Mrs. Sue Reffert

Success Center Director:	Mrs. Stacey Mulrenin
Success Center Teacher #2:	Mrs. Patti LetoBarone
Title 1 Teacher:	Mrs. Heather Baggs
Speech Teacher:	Ms. Caroline Schabacher
School Registered Nurse:	Mrs. Marlene Pescatore
Extended Day Staff:	Alexandra Cuellar Mrs. Flora Espinet Mrs. Mary Fritz Mrs. Fanny Hansen Mr. Jed Hohlfeld Margarita Lefebvre Mr. Mike Power
Cafeteria Director:	Mrs. Nancy Miller
Cafeteria Staff:	Mrs. Cassie Rolfson Mrs. Teri Burkholder
Facilities Staff:	Mr. Wazir Bakash Mr. Pete Hernandez Mr. Jose Rodriguez Mr. Carlos Valenzuela

We strive to provide great communication between our staff and our school parents. Please use the list above for reference to share your ideas, questions, needs with the appropriate employee. We ask that you first contact the employee closest to any situation before having further conversations with other employees. This is a professional courtesy, a signal of respect to all personnel, and the most efficient and effective way to work toward the on-going growth of our wonderful children and school.

School Hours

The school day begins at 7:45 AM and ends at 2:50 PM. Students arriving before 7:30 AM are to report to the Extended Day Program and will be charged for this service. Students arriving after 7:30 AM should go directly to their classrooms. Students should arrive early enough to allow time for putting away books and lunches before morning prayer, which will begin at 7:55 AM.



EDLINE

Please visit your child's homeroom *Edline* page routinely. You'll find lots of great information weekly!

EC3



Welcome to our EC3 Family! We have many fun things planned to do with you and your new friends in EC3. We can't wait to take you on a Ginger Bread Boy Hunt as we tour our school and gymnasium.

UNDER THE SEA IN EC4

Welcome to EC4! **JUMP IN! SPLASH!** Explore with us as we welcome our EC4 families on an exciting journey UNDER the sea. As we surface ABOVE the water line you'll hear, "AARRGGGH" as our inner pirates dance and sing. Bring your smiles, giggles, and sense of adventure and join us as we DIVE into EC4!



Kindergarten

The Kindergarten teachers have been counting down the days until they can meet their new students. All summer long we have been planning and preparing for a wonderful year. So many new adventures await the Kindergarten boys and girls: wearing school uniforms, eating lunch in the cafeteria, and checking out books in the Media Center!

Just like Mrs. Bindergarten, we are ready for Kindergarten! The books are all lined up, the rooms filled with cheer, the crayons are ready, we just need children here!

With Love and Anticipation,
Mrs. Haslam
Mrs. Pierce
Mrs. Griffin



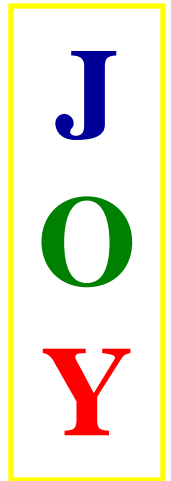
FIRST GRADE NEWS

Welcome to First Grade! We have been very busy getting classrooms ready and can't wait to see you on Sunday, August 21st. We are so excited to begin the school year with your precious children. We are truly blessed to have you share them with us. We know we will have an AWESOME year!

Mrs. Springer & Mrs. Garateix

Second Grade News

We may be second grade but we will be experiencing many "firsts" this year! Our most important upcoming firsts are, of course: First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. The second graders follow the rule of "JOY", Jesus is first, then Others, and lastly, Yourself. Following this rule is a wonderful way to prepare ourselves to receive these two sacraments. Please keep us in your prayers and we will certainly keep you in ours.



Blessings,
The Second Grade Team

Third Grade

Third Grade is so excited to start the 2011-2012 school year! We are looking forward to many new beginnings since this will be the first year these students will have their classrooms upstairs.

This year's scripture theme is "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. We will incorporate this theme into our Third Graders daily lives. When students see each other rejoicing, praying, giving thanks and acting the way Jesus would towards each other, they will have the opportunity to acknowledge each other and chart these wonderful acts of kindness on our scripture bulletin board.

We are looking forward to a "Marvelous and Magnificent" Year! Stay tuned for many more wonderful activities to come.

Fourth Grade

Our Fourth Grade students and teachers are very excited to begin a new school year! Students are sharing their summer adventures and looking forward to a new adventure in fourth grade.

Our spiritual theme for the year is from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. It states, “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” Students will be rejoicing, praying and thanking God all year for their many blessings.

We will start off the year with a Disciple Project. Students are to choose someone who they feel is a good example of a disciple, a person who is a follower of Jesus. Students will write an essay on why they think their person is a disciple of Jesus. The best part is the sharing of essays is that we discover we are all disciples of Jesus.

Fifth Grade

The new fifth grade class began serving as safety patrols for our school, a service provided each year by students. They assist students in getting from the parking lot safely into the school building. At the end of the day, the safety patrols then walk the younger students to Extended Care and to the parking lot for dismissal. This responsibility is one they look forward to, as well as the celebration at the end of the year--thanking them for their months of service to the school.



Sixth Grade

Welcome to Sixth Grade, and a special welcome to our new students and their families! During the first months of school, sixth graders will be “decorating” and becoming adjusted to the use of their lockers and the transition to the middle-school environment.

This year’s scripture theme from 1 Thessalonians will be evident as prayer is incorporated throughout our day. The sixth grade class will also be coming together as a Christian community through various team-building experiences.



Throughout the year, sixth graders will have opportunities to work on our class ministries: helping our local community migrant workers, participating in activities with our Kindergarten prayer partners, and getting more involved with the many extracurricular activities available to Middle School.

We look forward to a blessed year!

Seventh and Eighth Grade

Welcome to seventh grade! We are going to have an awesome year! We will start off the year looking at the beautiful relationships between science and faith! We will study Aristotle's five "proofs" for God's existence. We will read about the incredibly holy woman, Mother Theresa, who would have been 101 years old this month.



In Language Arts, the seventh graders will bring their summer readings into the classroom for several extended activities. The students will receive independent response packets, participate in enriched mini lessons, and share their creativity in cooperative learning groups. The seventh graders read the book **Flush** – a fun reading experience that connects with the environment.

In Science, we are going to have a fantastic year as we explore the world of Earth science and work on more in-depth science fair experiments. Students will be thinking like a scientist the first day of class!

We will be problem-solvers this year in Math class. We will be going through many pre-algebra concepts and applications to prepare for high school algebra next year. I am looking forward to having the chance to get to know a new class and hearing the many different ways students use to get to the one right answer.

Welcome to 7th grade Social Studies! This year we will be studying world geography. We will start in North America and travel around the world learning about different countries and how the peoples of those countries live. We will also be studying current events and the students will have opportunities to bring in articles on those topics that interest them. We are going to have a wonderful year!

Welcome to the Nativity Catholic School Class of 2012! In Religion, we will begin with the importance of leadership. We will continue with Covey's book, *The Seven Habits for Effective Teens*. It will be a joy to observe our new leaders this year!

The eighth grade read the classic novel *Johnny Tremain*. They will study the history of the Revolutionary War in Social Studies class. They will also discuss the themes of the book and reach a better understanding of the books content.

Welcome to 8th grade Social Studies! This year we will be studying American History. Starting with the 13 Colonies and the Revolutionary War, we will tie this into the wonderful novel *Johnny Tremain* that was read over the summer. Like the seventh grade, we will also be learning current events and the students will have opportunities to bring in articles on those that interest them.



We are going to have an amazing year in science class as we explore the wonderful world of physical science; chemistry and physics! The first week we will review safety; it is always important to start the year off this way, especially with the experiments the eighth grade will do this year. It will be an exciting year!

In Algebra, we will plunge in right away with the language and properties of the subject. The first unit has some review topics, so we will move quickly through them, but the second unit gets us into the heart of Algebra! I'm looking forward to exploring with you!

¡Bienvenidos!

Welcome Back!

Hope you had a fantastic summer vacation and are energized to begin the new academic year!

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages recommends that "language educators and their students use the target language as exclusively as possible at all levels of instruction during instructional time and, when feasible, beyond the classroom." Therefore, this year I have established a goal for my 7th and 8th grade students: we will use Spanish to communicate with each other 90% (40 minutes) of our class time.

During our first days of school we will focus on teaching the Spanish language skills that students will need for classroom activities (i.e. greetings, requests, procedures, partner and group work, how to express that they don't understand).

Are you ready for this challenge?

Hispanic Heritage Month is fast approaching. An All School Bilingual Mass will mark the beginning of this great celebration on Wednesday, September 14. This year, we are happy to announce, we will have a performance from the *Hispanic Flamenco Ballet*! It will take place in our Gymnasium on Tuesday, September 20.



Welcome from the Success Center!

It is the third year that we open our doors to the redesigned resource center at Nativity Catholic School - The Success Center. We appreciate the support that our parent community has given us during this time of growth and change, and will continue to ask for your prayers. During the first few weeks of this year, we'll be updating student support plans, observing in the classrooms and meeting with teachers to determine how we can best support students in need. We will also be overseeing the development of the new schedules for speech/language therapy services as well as Title I services, both of which are provided to Nativity by Hillsborough County Schools.

If your son or daughter has a Student Support Plan on file, he/she is entitled to receive the accommodations that are documented on it. Student Support Plans are created for children who have a diagnosed condition that inhibits successful learning. We will be monitoring those students who do not have support plans, but still visited the Success Center last year for small group instruction in academics or organizational skills. Should the new classroom teachers of these students believe they require additional support from us, we will contact those parents and arrange a meeting where we can discuss how we can best serve them.

Please feel free to contact us with questions about our program. May God bless you and your children this year!

Mrs. Stacey Mulrenin (successdir@nativitycatholicsschool.org)

Mrs. Patti LetoBarone (successteacher@nativitycatholicsschool.org)

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Art at Nativity Catholic School

With Art Teacher, Mrs. Plesko



I am looking forward to working with all the Art students in grades K-8 who will be sharing their gift of creativity as well as artistic ability in the months ahead. As you can see in the photos, there is plenty to do in the art room, whether it is designing with dominoes, painting, drawing, or ceramics, God is ever present in our creativity.





Extreme Makeover: NCS Music Class Edition



The Music Classroom received a wonderful makeover this summer! The maintenance staff and Miss Kelly worked diligently this summer to transform the music room into a new, fun environment for students. The project included changing the floors, the ceiling tiles, cabinetry, paint and decorations. Feel free to stop by and see the new changes for yourself.

New Classroom, Same Exciting Performances

Please mark your calendar now for this year's performances listed below.

"Two for the Show" Talent Show - October 25th 12:30 PM



Holiday Band Concert - December 5th 7:00 PM

Christmas Program - December 13th 7:00 PM

Musical - May 8th & 9th 7:00 PM



Welcome to Media Center News!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer, and that it included reading many great new books. Over the summer, our school Media Center experienced some exciting new transformations and it looks fantastic. New tables, new books, and an enlarged NCS Morning News Studio too!

Reading Counts will begin the first full week of school for grades 2 through 5, and the language arts teachers have already set their student goals. First grade also participates in this educational reading program, however they start in September. Seventh grade Core Class will be writing the NCS school newspaper, and 8th grade Core will be working on personal budgeting skills in preparation of their upcoming Finance Park field trip.

We begin this year with a "bookmark contest" for the students to participate in and prizes will be awarded to the winners. It's going to be a great year and I can't wait to see you all again and begin our new school year.

