

Friday Notes

COVID Update

Per our school administrator call this morning with Four Corners Health Department: Our region is still in **yellow**, so their recommendation remains yellow for our school. Detailed information available at fourcorners.ne.gov.

No big changes this week. **Our overall risk number has decreased.** All of our protocols for sanitizing, masking, and distancing remain in place.



Upcoming Events:

Wed., Sept. 16—School

Pictures: students may wear dressy clothes. No thin straps, wear shorts under skirts, skirts or shorts must go past finger tips. Students still need PE shoes.

Fri., Sept. 18—Mid-Qtr

ends, progress reports home next week. - **Aquinas seniors** visit Kindergarteners.

***If you are attending any sporting events, the teams ask for children to stay with their parents. Please do not bring balls to throw around at the games. Masks are recommended when you cannot distance.**

www.aquinas-catholic.com

Assessments are under way

We chose to give students a few weeks for prior knowledge to be refreshed before starting testing this fall since we had been apart for so long. Now it is time to get some baseline tests recorded.

Schools are expected to assess students at least 3 times per year in reading and math. In the past, we had used DIBELS for part of that data. This year, the NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) company had offered a discount to schools to try their MAP Growth testing following the losses from COVID. They have been helping schools with assessment for over 40 years. We are taking advantage of their discount and trying out their assessments this year, replacing the DIBELS testing. This MAP assessment program has several benefits including:

- **immediate results,** student scores are ready as soon as they finish—class level when the class is done—grade level when the school is done
- **Adaptive testing**—the questions get harder and easier based on student responses.
- **More specific results:** students can test up or down several grade levels.
- **Less labor intensive:** we can test whole classes at once without an individual test administrator; we don't have to grade or record scores either!
- **Less time testing, more time learning!**
- Can be taken on iPads or desktops

Please help your child **get good rest and eat a good breakfast if possible** (before their hour of fasting for Mass). We will use

their scores to **help guide our instruction, break them into groups, and get them additional help or challenge if needed.** We have used this type of data for many years to direct our work and will continue to do so. MAP includes **progress monitoring help for students who struggle** so that we can more closely monitor their growth as we have done before.

Thank you for your support and encouragement that students give their best effort on their tests. We expect to use some time each day for the **next week to 10 days** to assess their current status.

You can read more at <https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/family-toolkit/>

-God Bless, Mrs. Zook

Treats: You may send birthday treats with your child, please have them pre-packaged as they will travel home after school.

Lunch: You may come have lunch with your child. We will use our visitor policy, which is **mask** (except when eating), **sanitize,** and **temp check.**
Lunch times are now: 11:10-11:40 (K-1); 11:40-12:10 (2-3); and 12:10-12:40 (4-5). Adult meal cost is \$3.85.



We are happy to be able to offer **free counseling services at St. Mary's** again this year. Our counselor, Amy Masek, has done a great job of discreetly working with students on a range of issues from **work ethic and self-control to anger management, sensory difficulties, grief, anxiety, and more.**

She can help families struggling during this time of COVID as well. She provides support and advice to the parents and/or teachers as requested so that we may provide consistent help to the child and in accord with your parenting methods. If you would like your child to participate, please **request the paperwork from the office.** Amy will begin offering services weekly as soon as the paperwork is returned.

Pictures from this week

Mrs. Smith's 4th Grade was our trial testing class on the MAP Growth assessment.

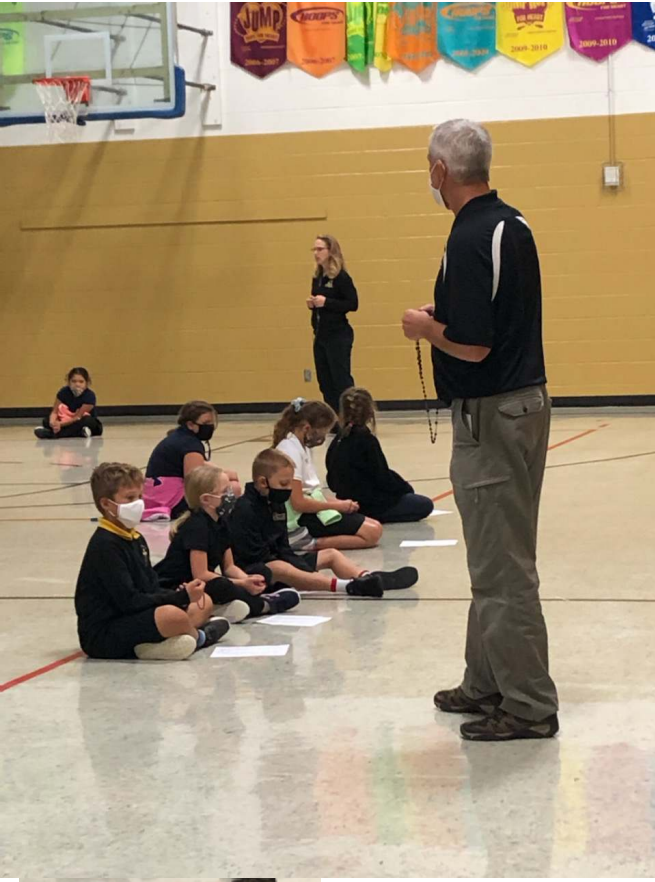


Students pray a rosary to give the gift of prayer to the Blessed Mother in honor of her birthday on Friday.



The first group had to stay inside for the rosary and ice cream.





The second group got to try a walking rosary before their ice cream.