



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. No positive cases in children 0-12. All of our protocols for sanitizing, masking, and distancing remain in place.



Upcoming Events:
Mon., Sept. 7 NO SCHOOL – Labor Day

Tue., Sept. 8 – Feast of the Birth of Mary (to be observed on Fri.) rosary and a treat ☺

Wed., Sept. 16— School Pictures

***If you are attending any sporting events, please watch the Aquinas web site for rules related to fans. Some affect children staying with their parents or wearing masks. Each venue writes their own rules.**

www.aquinas-catholic.com



Homework Notes

As students' classes are now well under way, you are probably falling into a rhythm of school and homework. Each grade level has a little bit different set of homework expectations based on the developmental needs of that age and the extra practice required for that grade level. As kids all develop at different rates and content comes easily for some and not others, some years are easy and some are harder. With all of these considerations in mind, we still do not want homework to become too heavy of a burden on families. We do appreciate the time you spend with your child each night, but need to know if your child is struggling excessively. We can make adjustments and find extra assistance as needed. For students on level or advanced, we want to keep them

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.**

Welcome to **baby Millie** to parents **Brian and Bri Birkel** and sibling **Emersyn (PK)**.

moving forward and engaged in the learning, so we don't want it to be too easy either. As with all of education, we are constantly balancing the needs of all students and providing small group and individual help as much as possible to meet their levels. We rely on your feedback related to homework and student abilities at home so that we don't miss an opportunity to help out. Prompt communication with parents is important to us, so don't ever feel like you are burdening the office or the teachers by asking questions or sharing concerns. We are all here to help and guide your children in the best way possible.

As you practice, these are 2 things you can always do, even if they get their other work done in class:



- ✓ **read 15-30 minutes** together (practice sight words, phonograms, or read)
- ✓ **practice 5-10 minutes on math facts** (flash cards, math games or apps, or fact worksheets/books)

Our general guideline is 10 minutes of homework per grade level per night. (10 minutes for K-1, 20 minutes for 2nd, and so on) Some nights will take more, some nights less. If it is **averaging a lot more than that**, please communicate with your child's teacher. **Together we can maximize this learning opportunity God has given us.**

-God Bless, Mrs. Zook

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 **complete the attached paperwork and return to Mrs. Zook**. Amy will begin offering services weekly as soon as the paperwork is returned.

Spiritual Note for the Week:

2 beautiful Marian Feasts this week: Tue, Sept. 8, The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Sat., Sept. 12, the Most Holy Name of Mary

- Whatever you do, enjoy it with your kids and don't stress about it. ☺

From CatholicCulture.com:

On the feasts of our Lady's *Nativity* we celebrate her earthly birthday, which was different from ours in that she was born without original sin. I know a home where the smaller children decorate the family shrine (which bears Mary's statue on this day) with flowers and evergreens after breakfast, and then sing "Happy Birthday" in her honor. In some places the school children start a novena in the home on this day, to pray for our Lady's blessing and help in the coming school year. High school and college students could easily make a similar novena on their own.



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Pictures from this week

Baptism Mass pictures from today. Go to the school's Facebook page or email for a link to a short clip of the video, too!





New Music curriculum (Quaver online). Keeps students tapping out rhythms and learning music all day!



Heated game of Battleship in their free time in Mrs. Tvrdy's class.





And it's all rainbows in Mr. Weiss's room on a Friday before a long break!

Happy Labor Day Weekend everyone!