

Marinette Campus
Catholic Central High School & Holy Family Middle School
1200 Main Street, Marinette, Wisconsin 54143
(715) 735-7481

Peshtigo Campus
St. Mary Elementary School
141 South Wood Avenue, Peshtigo, WI 54157
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September 18, 2009

St. Joseph Cupertino
(Patron of Test Taking and Students)

Dear Students and Parents,

Praise be Jesus Christ for the beginning of another school year! We have already completed our third week of school. Everyone has adjusted well. Today's saint is St. Joseph Cupertino. He is the patron of test taking and students. He is sometimes called the flying saint because his prayers lifted him to heaven. It is good to contemplate his life and the fullness of his love of God. He struggled in school and could barely pass a test. However, God desired greater things of him and eventually after many attempts, he became a Franciscan Friar and priest. St. Joseph Cupertino overcame many obstacles with the help of God. He is an example of perseverance and trust in Divine Providence.

Thank you to all of those who have devoted their time, talent and treasure to our school during this past summer and who continue even now. Many have assisted with the moving of classrooms during the consolidation process and painters have devoted time to each campus with refreshing coats of paint. Our Marinette campus sports new paint in the gym, coach's office, health classroom (viewing room) and the hallways. The gold and green stripes in the hallways are simply striking! The middle school is enjoying freshly painted classrooms as well. Our Peshtigo campus has a bright office and hallway. Some of the classrooms were painted too. Thank you to those who have sacrificed their time and continue to beautify our campuses. The flower gardens are still holding up despite the lack of rain. In addition, we have replaced the lockers on the third floor of the Marinette campus and will be completing the second floor this weekend. Anyone who can assist, please join us Saturday, September 19th at 8:30 a.m. It is hard work but "many hands make light work." The playground equipment is in the process of being moved to the Peshtigo campus. This too is a big job. The students will be so happy to see it arrive!

Our Wilson program, "Foundations" is underway at the elementary school. You may check out their web-site at <http://www.foundations.com/> for more information. It is an exciting time for reading. We are completing the addition of Accelerated Reader for the Middle School. Initial funds were made possible by the Order of Catholic Foresters. However, our funding ran short and if anyone would like to assist please let me know. We were told that we needed an additional license to operate at another campus even though we are a part of one academy. Consequently, it costs more. Any help is appreciated. This program provides our students the opportunity to enjoy reading and test their comprehension. "Math-U-See" is being introduced through our Supportive Consultant program. The success of its implementation will continue to be assessed throughout the school year. You may check out their web-site at <http://www.mathusee.com/> for more information. This program was funded through our summer school program. We received another grant from the M&M Foundation through the KMF Fund. These monies will be used for SmartBoards. More funding is needed to purchase an additional LCD projector. Yes, the computers are coming. Now that the dust has settled, our order can be processed. This project was made possible with last year's grant from the M&M Foundation through the KMF Fund as well. Thank you to the special donor who gave us DELL computers for the high school. They are up and running.

Mr. Davis is back again with our band program. This year the program became an extra-curricular event. I am happy to know that most are taking advantage of this opportunity. He is available at each campus during specified days. Anyone interested in lessons, please make contact through the office. This year our academy opened high school Pre-algebra, Algebra I and Spanish I to the middle school students. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students. Menominee Catholic Central is sending their 8th grade students over for Spanish I as well. Multi-age classes have been implemented in the 7th and 8th grade for certain classes. Our 8th grade science course was separated from 9th grade Physical Science. Our 8th graders now enjoy Earth Science with Ms. Motkowski. We have taken advantage of shop at the Marinette High School this year and I continue to explore opportunities to increase our college credit program. I am currently exploring college credits in psychology. Finally, I am working with others to increase our internet use to make our site available for virtual learning. More funding is necessary but Divine Providence is abundant.

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The start of this new school year has been challenging because of the transition issues regarding our consolidation. Nevertheless our students, faculty and staff are now in a routine. I would like to take this time to welcome our new staff members: Ms. Motkowski has joined us as our new high school Science teacher. She is responsible for high school Biology, Anatomy, Environmental Science and middle school Earth Science. She is also our new assistant junior varsity volleyball coach joining Mrs. Chilcote as the head coach of high school varsity volleyball. Ms. Sonnenberg has joined us as our new high school English teacher. She is responsible for high school English I, II, III, and IV and middle school English 8, Reading and Student Council Advisor. Ms. Sonnenberg is also an avid runner and has launched a running club. They meet again on Saturday and are preparing for community long distance runs. Look for our group in the upcoming Peshtigo run. Ms. Withbroe has joined our high school team as well as our Social Studies teacher. She is responsible for American History, Geography, Government, and middle school 7/8 Social Studies. Mr. James Aldrich has joined our staff retaining his position in Theology but also accepting the Lead Teacher role. Mrs. Lacey Borths has joined our elementary school as our Pre-K 3 year old teacher. Mrs. Gustman has moved into the middle school. In addition to her Supportive Consultant role, she is now teaching math and reading. Mrs. Pecor has also moved to the middle school to teach 6th grade Science and Social Studies. As you all know, our teachers are licensed and 31% of them hold a Master's Degree. This year I am preparing a "teacher wall" at each campus so that parents and visitors can view the biographies of our outstanding faculty. This will also be uploaded to our web-site.

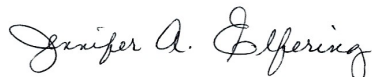
We are preparing for our annual Oktoberfest. It has been scheduled for October 10th. We need help chairing individual committees. For example, we need someone to supervise student workers during the event, and the set-up and clean-up committees. Please check-in at the office for a sign-up sheet or contact Mrs. Brenda Miller. This is an important event and helps to provide third source funding for our school. Help us make it another successful year!

Following Oktoberfest is our Homecoming Game and Dance. I realize that many of our students are already looking for dance apparel. I would like to take this opportunity to remind students and parents to review the handbook for proper attire. Any student arriving in violation of the dance dress code will have their parents notified to pick their child up. Respectfully, the philosophy of a policy regarding dress code is present to promote our Catholic values. Please remember this while shopping.

Finally, it is no secret that our school needs to raise money. It is the nature of a small private Catholic School. The economic times have not helped. The Board of Trustees sent out a letter for help over the summer to help raise money to assist our "cash crunch". We have met 81% of that goal. However, we still need to raise additional funds. Our subsidies have been decreasing over that last six years and expenses have increased. Our recent consolidation and restructuring helped us to reduce our expenses by about \$200,000 annually. However, medical benefits did increase. It is also necessary to continue our school improvement plan and expand our academic product. As our Chairman, Mr. Thomas Schwaba, indicated last fall, Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy is poised for growth. This is becoming a reality for us. Our new goal for this year's annual giving campaign is \$300,000. That may seem like a lot but in today's world it is comparable to the early 1950's when our school needed to raise \$150,000. We succeeded then. Bishop Ricken is very supportive of our efforts and has prepared a prayer for our faculty and student body to recite daily with their families during night prayer. Please see the enclosed. God continues to bless our school and has given us an enrollment increase of 15 amounting to a 9% increase. I remain confident in the Divine Providence of God and look forward to a year full of wonderful memories.

I remain yours

Joyful in the service of Christ



Mrs. Elfering

President of Systems