

St. Peter's School Commission
High School and Junior High Report
Tuesday, August 10, 2010

1. Enrollment. For the past five years, high school enrollment has held steady at a number between 195 and 205. At this moment, current enrollment for grades 9 – 12 is 200. Current enrollment for grades 7 and 8 is 80. Things will change between now and the first day of school. They always do. Let's just work and pray that the change is positive! I have meeting appointments with three new families for Friday. If you know of others with interest, please send them my way.
2. You probably know that the EdChoice program had to put their lottery program into effect because, for the first time, they received more applications than they had scholarships to award. Fortunately, every applicant for grades 7 – 12 was awarded. This group includes students who attended St. Peter's School in the past and had to leave for financial reasons. Preliminary interviews and testing show these applicants to be good candidates. Interviews were conducted by Mr. Straub and me. The new form I created last year which collected feedback from the applicants' teachers was most helpful.
3. Staffing for the new school year is as predicted last spring with one change. In addition to those teachers to whom we said farewell in June (Mrs. Nielsen, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Leaf, and Mrs. Nearhood*), Mrs. Jessica Clark has taken a full time position at Pioneer. Mrs. Groshong's schedule has been adjusted so that she can teach chemistry. *Mrs. Nearhood will be with us for one section of Latin 2. We felt we owed it to last year's Latin 1 students to provide a traditional Latin 2 class. Those who wish to go further in Latin will have the opportunity to do so via Moodle.
4. New student orientation for all 7th graders, all 9th graders, and any other new students is Thursday, August 19, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Brenda Schuck will provide a lunch. The day will be staffed by St. Peter's High School and Junior High faculty and staff and student councils. In addition to students new to St. Peter's High School and Junior High, any eighth grader who would like to attend is welcome. Those eighth graders who are taking high school classes for the first time might like to attend and get familiar with the high school. Attendance for those eighth graders is optional.
5. We have five students in the Pioneer theater program. I received an email yesterday explaining that this program has moved out of the Richland Academy building and into a new location at 25 and 27 E. 4th St., just past Buckeye Bakery. Mod Togs was the previous lessee for 25. They have 2 floors and basement at 25 and 1 floor and basement at 27. They will not have to share space and will have total control of use. They also have talked to our very own Beth and Audrey at PB and Jelly Beans about providing lunches. They seem very interested in doing this and are giving program director Mr. John Evans prices and sample menus. He will see if we can work something out with them. If PB&J doesn't work out Mr. Evans will see if St. Peter's Cafeteria is still interested. The new site is only 1 1/2 blocks from Richland Academy. They plan an open house for parents and new students before their school year starts on Aug. 30.

6. The summer work crew has emptied and cleaned all the classrooms, stripping and re-waxing floors. Among the bigger projects this summer was removing the wall between the art classroom and art storage room. Mr. Daniell now has two sinks instead of one and much more space for teaching and storing art and supplies.
7. We have an amazing group of teachers and staff who have stepped up to the challenges of our new master schedule. By accepting additional teaching preps and bigger course loads, they are maintaining the course offerings to which our families have become accustomed. The only classes we have taken out of the schedules are those with enrollment too low to offer. I want to be on the lookout at all times for ways to support my teachers and boost morale. It's going to be a different kind of a school year for them but we are ready, willing, and able to give it our best.
8. Individual student schedules will be made available to them via ProgressBook. That was our plan last year as well but the technology we were working with would not support what we were trying to do. I made it clear to our service provider, NCOCC, that the opportunity to make these schedules available via ProgressBook was an expectation of ours and they took steps to make it possible. Target date to make schedules viewable is Wednesday, August 18. Paper copies will be supplied to all who attend orientation on Thursday, August 19. Returning students who cannot access ProgressBook will be given hard copies on the first day of school or they can pick them up once we notify that they are ready.
9. CreditFlex. As often happens when new programs get rolled out, there have been multiple changes in the CreditFlex plan. Where we felt in the beginning that it was the school's responsibility to help create flexed credit opportunities, it is now clear that the responsibility lies with the student who, with guidance from the school, will create a plan to submit for acceptance. Many helpful guidelines are a part of the plan. I will bring draft copies of our plan to the meeting. They are not yet for distribution because our advisory committee has not yet approved them. We already participate in several CreditFlex options: A.P. classes, postsecondary, and Moodle. We have a small number of students ready to submit plans for flexed credit classes. We will begin with this small group and adapt our program as needed.
10. I will discuss the attachment about the diocesan school council workshop under New Business on our agenda. My proposal is that we exchange our scheduled September 7 meeting for the September 21 workshop.