

St. Peter's Parish School Commission
Tuesday, September 7, 2010
High School and Junior High Report

1. We have enjoyed a very smooth beginning to the 2010-2011 school year. Several teachers have made it a point to tell me how well things are going and how much they like working with their students.
2. We have two students for whom English is not their first language and they, understandably, are struggling. Their teachers and our tutors are giving them special assistance.
3. Every freshman was paired with a sophomore buddy to help ease the transition into high school. We have given them two opportunities to get together and will provide at least one more. The idea is to give our new students at least one more familiar face to smile at them in the hallways; just one more person available to answer questions and be a friend. I offered to organize some similar opportunities for our seventh graders to have buddies but their teachers felt that it was not necessary at this point. They really do seem to be settling in well.
4. Representatives from the U.S. Army met with Ms. Kanczak, Mr. Straub, and me to explain several services they have to offer to high school students. While they do recruit those students who express interest, they also make it possible for a student to decline contact with a recruiter and still take advantage of their services. The program we found particularly interesting was an online ACT/SAT prep course. After a few of the teachers and I take the course ourselves, I plan to make it available to all our students and their parents. The program is called March2Success.
5. Our faculty work on CreditFlex has gone from full group to committee. We plan to have a detailed document ready to submit to the rest of the faculty for our September 29 meeting. School Commission will receive this document with the report for the October meeting.
6. Meet the Teachers Night went well. I would like to have had a bigger crowd but it was one of those very hot days and I suspect the steamy weather kept some people away.
7. The annual magazine sale begins next Monday, September 13. While we have a parent chairperson, Cheryl Meier, for the high school, we are still seeking a parent chair person for the junior high.

8. With thanks to the School Commission for their contribution last month, we have reversed the direction of the traffic flow in the Franciscan Activity Center parking lot after school. Having explained it with a PowerPoint presentation to the student body and having tried it for a few days, we added an additional change. We are employing the suggestion to make Distl Street the entrance to the lot after school and Kraus Street the exit. If, however, students are parked down the hill, we feel it's best for them to exit *behind* the Franciscan Activity Center on the Distl Street side. That prevents traffic from going in two directions to get to the Kraus exit. Once we get the bugs out and are certain that this is the safest course, we will order signs and put the whole procedure in writing for newsletters and the policy book. Mr. Straub did project and explain the procedure at Meet the Teachers Night. The next day's dismissal procedure went noticeably smoother.

9. Communication. You may have noticed that our recent U.S. mail communications have been large postcards and there has been only one email so far this year. This is due to some computer issues that occurred when our Technology Team, together with NCOCC, made some necessary changes. Specifically, we have a new server. When the adjustments that affect our email were made, my previously received email messages and my school parent email addresses were dumped. Fortunately, Mr. Chamberlin was able to restore my previously received messages. Unfortunately, the address lists could not be restored. We are in the process of re-keying the grades 7 – 12 parent emails so that I can send parent newsletters via email again soon. In the meantime, I have used U.S. mail to send postcards because my experience with mailed letters is that they get read by only a small number of school families. At least with a postcard, it might get read during the trip from the mailbox to the front door!

10. Enrollment. We are close to the numbers we predicted in August. Our 5th Day Enrollment Report is attached.

11. Congratulations! St. Peter's High School and Junior High has been awarded the Governor's Award for Excellence in Science Education. Special thanks to Mr. Bob Neumann whose Junior High Science Fair helped us meet the criteria for this recognition.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tressa Reith