



Introduction From St. Joseph Catholic School's New Principal—Deb Dewar

Dear St. Joseph Families,

My name is Deb Dewar, and I am honored to take the principal position this year at St. Joseph Catholic School. I've spent the past twenty years teaching for the Archdiocese of Portland, and look forward to joining St. Joseph's vast and diverse parish culture.



My background is with middle school science and math, though I have also taught math and writing through Rogue Community College. There have been many opportunities through the years to work with a number of other academic and elective groups, including student council, National Junior Honor Society, the winter musical, the Talent Show, Greek mythology, robotics, and stop-motion animation to name a few. I have taken a lead role in four different accreditation studies for Sacred Heart School in Medford, and am looking forward to leading our faculty through this year's self study at St. Joseph.

Personally, I grew up in Sacramento, California, attending a Catholic K-8 school as well as an all-girls Catholic high school. I met my husband, Jake, while I was attending college, and we were married soon after I graduated. Together, we have two beautiful daughters, both in their early twenties.

This summer is filled with lots of details and many new faces. Please feel free to stop by the school this August to say hello. I look forward to getting to know the wonderful families of St. Joseph.

Many Blessings,

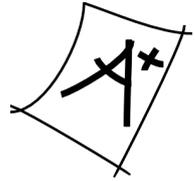
Mrs. Deb Dewar, Principal

School Accreditation Update

This is St. Joseph's year of self-study. Accreditation is an ongoing process of school improvement. Our ultimate goal is the highest achievement for our students, and we want to always be on the road to improvement. As the school prepares for our accreditation year, we want to share the process with you as we proceed. Fall schedules are being set up now to help drive our study. Once school gets underway, we will be spending much of our staff meeting time diving into academic and behavioral details. It's a lengthy process, but one that generates a lot of discussion and growth. Check back to this spot for periodic updates.

Online Grading Portal

Our faculty will be spending part of our fall term getting comfortable with SchoolSpeak, our new grade book program. On it, we can track and communicate classroom grades, behavior notes, teacher announcements, school-wide information, and so much more to all of our families! We hope to roll it out to parents for our second term, so stay tuned!



2017-18 Faculty

Most of our new principal's afternoons are spent in interviews, trying to find the perfect fit for our students. There are some promising people that we're currently working with. We're hoping to be able to introduce them to you in our next newsletter.

Curriculum Focus



Part of our accreditation process involves an in-depth look at our core curriculum areas. First, math will be mapped out building-wide, which gives us a close-up look at how each grade flows into the next. We will be looking at textbooks for the middle school that continue the excellent standards set by Envisions K-5. We will also be setting aside some dedicated ELA analysis time for teams of teachers, so that reading and writing intervention and enrichment become a regular part of whole faculty discussions.

2018 Benefit Gala and Auction

Our annual benefit gala and auction will take place this coming year on Saturday, April 28, 2018. This year's theme will be a masquerade ball. It is never too early to get started on procuring items for both our silent and oral auction items, as well as sponsorship. Our goal in sponsorship money is \$10,000.00. There are many perks to sponsoring our school auction. All auction information has been updated on the school website, along with forms. If you have any questions in regards to items to procure for the auction, please contact Teri Martinez at (503) 581-2147.



FaceBook Friends?



Are you friends with us on FaceBook? Follow us today to stay abreast of current news and activities all year long!

August/September Happenings

AUGUST

- 28-1 Teacher in-service days
- 31 New families orientation—5:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Pre-K/K/1st grade visitation 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- 4 Labor Day, No School
- 5 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**
- 5-8 Kindergarten—half/day
- 11-29 STAR testing window
- 14-17 Oktoberfest, Mt. Angel
- 21 Back-to-school BBQ and Open House—5:30 p.m.