



Growing leaders who turn  
FAITH into ACTION.

## FEBRUARY, 2018

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Jan 28-Feb 3- Celebrate Catholic Schools Week
- Jan 29- Family Night Out at Chipotle in the Village from 4-8pm
- Feb 3- Ignite the Night Auction at St. Ignatius
- Feb 8- Parent Coffee Hour 8:30-10:00 at Holy Apostles in the Dining Room
- Feb 13- Mardi Gras/Valentine's Day Celebrations
- Feb 14- Ash Wednesday/Mass Day
- Feb 16 & 19- No school
- Feb 17- Gray Wolf Night w/ Idaho Steelheads
- Feb 21- Info Meeting & Tour for Prospective Families- 10am & 5:30pm in Commons. Spread the word!

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear St. Ignatius Catholic School Community,

*Magis* is a term used by St. Ignatius of Loyola frequently in his writings and teachings. The definition is somewhat complicated (try Googling it), but most will agree that it means “the greater” or “the more”. Other interpretations eloquently explain the *magis* as “a restless desire for greater things”. Closely linked to the term is always the notion that all that we do should be pointed towards God.

At St. Ignatius Catholic School, *magis* means that we are striving for the greater—greater skills, greater compassion, greater expectations of ourselves, greater love for others. Focusing on *magis* means that we learn to embrace discomfort and challenge, because this brings about growth. We are pushed to never be satisfied with where we are because there is always something greater to be sought.

This month our students took the winter MAP test. This mid-year assessment was optional, but we chose to seek out what more we could do now to inform instruction and facilitate student growth. And while we were pleased to see great academic growth among our students since their fall testing, that does not mean we sit back and relax. Our teachers analyzed data and identified what *more* they can do to continue to push students towards a higher goal. Our students, in turn, know that they must seek the *magis* in their own learning, not settling for anything less than their highest potential.

Our student leadership team demonstrated the *magis* During Catholic Schools Week (a fun and joy-filled celebration of Catholic education in our country). This group of 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, known as the Sentinels, planned and executed school-wide activities for each day of the week. Their passion for this celebration resulted in a fantastic execution of ideas- bringing together our school and building community across our grade levels. Their commitment demonstrated a true desire for greater things.

But most of all, we seek the *magis* in our faith. In the deepest meaning of *magis*, our “restless desire for greater things” is actually our restless desire for God. From this desire comes every pure action of the heart—every dream and every achievement. From this comes wisdom and grace and of course, love. As our students, and all of us, mature in our spiritual formation, we watch this natural desire for God take shape.

We are building a culture of *magis* at St. Ignatius—a place where stagnancy is discouraged and growth is constant. We are building a culture where we look up and climb higher. We seek not an end, but a state of being that always seeks something more. And ultimately, we seek the greatest of all good, which is God.

Andi Kane, Principal, St. Ignatius Catholic School

Academic Excellence • Faith Formation • Social Justice • Service • Strength of Community

**Faculty:** Marianne Corn

**Hometown:** Emmett, ID

**Background:** Mrs. Corn graduated from Emmett High school in 2013. She started college at Boise State University but transferred to Northwest Nazarene University graduating with a degree in K-12 Art Education.

**Family:** Mrs. Corn is married to her middle school sweetheart, Tyler. Their family includes 2 hunting dogs- Maggie and June, and a white cat named Fleetwood.

## FOCUS ON FACULTY MEET MARIANNE CORN, ART/DANCE

**What do you love about working in a school?** *"I love walking down the hallway and receiving hugs and sweet hellos from our loving students and hearing all about what makes them excited or happy. It's hard not to love being an art teacher."*

**Why did you become a teacher?** *"I became a teacher because I feel like God gave me a special artistic talent and it was my mission to share it with children. I come from a family of teachers and we share the same passion for teaching. I know the impact a good teacher can have on kids and there isn't a more fulfilling job out there."*

**What part of education are you most passionate about?** *"I am most passionate about building relationships with my students and inspiring them to want to pursue the creative life. I love giving them a challenge and seeing what fascinating things they come up with. Kids are absolutely the most creative people I've ever been around and they constantly inspire me as an artist."*

**How do you help students reach their highest potential?** *"I help students reach their highest potential by always asking for more! I love to challenge them and don't put a time limit on their creativity. I always ask students what decision they could make to make their work better and encourage them to collaborate with their peers."*

Dear St. Ignatius Families,

I know we are all eagerly anticipating our premier fundraiser *Ignite the Night*, how exciting it is almost here! I want to thank all of you who have supported this event either by donation, volunteering, purchasing tickets or all of the above! We truly have so many generous and supportive families in our school community and I can't thank you enough. I also want to thank our fearless event leaders Mary Adcox and Audrey Dalley. These ladies have put their heart and soul into this event. I have every confidence that all of their hard work will deliver a most magical evening, supporting our school and building our community. My deepest appreciation to them both. Please keep an eye out for the March Howl to learn about all of the successes from the evening.

St. Augustine was quoted to say "God provides the wind, but man must raise the sails". Every year in March the HSA will hold nominations for the elected HSA Board offices that will be vacated for the following school year. This year, we will be accepting nominations for the offices of President-elect and Secretary. In early March, every family will receive a solicitation for nominations. Families may self-nominate or designate other nominees. The incoming HSA President will also appoint a Volunteer Coordinator and Fundraising Coordinator both of whom will be officers of the Board. I bring this up now so that every family has time to prayerfully consider what role they want to play in supporting our school and community in the next school year. The HSA plays a fundamental part in both your experience as a parent at St. Ignatius as well as that of your children. We depend on the leadership and commitment of passionate parents who want to raise their sails and make a difference in our school and community as an officer of the HSA.

If you are considering taking on such a role with the Association next school year, I strongly encourage you attend our February general meeting which will be held on Tuesday February 13<sup>th</sup> in the School Commons at 7:00pm. As always, all are welcome to attend our monthly meetings.

If you are curious to know more about the upcoming HSA officer vacancies or if you have any other questions at all please don't hesitate to contact me.

Brightest Blessings,

Hillary Smith,  
St. Ignatius HSA President  
[hsa@stignatiusmeridian.org](mailto:hsa@stignatiusmeridian.org)

## SUPPORT SERVICES SEGMENT

### A message from Mrs. Z:

I was listening to a speech given by Dr. Wendy Mogel, author of *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* and *The Blessing of a B-*. She is full of insightful reflections on how to raise resilient, self-reliant children. One idea in particular that she discussed struck me. In general, she commented on how parents today are filled with so much anxiety about our parenting choices and put so much pressure on ourselves to ensure that our children's childhoods are perfect in every way. We then pass that anxiety onto our children. One way we do this is by "interviewing our children for pain". This is such an important concept!

Think for a minute; when you pick your children up from school, what questions do you ask? We often underestimate the power of the tone and content of our questions during those first minutes. Are you asking things like, "Did you sit all alone at lunch again today?", "Do you think you got a good grade on your science test?", "Was anyone mean to you today?", "Did you get in trouble today?" These kinds of questions have a negative tone and can set an expectation that our children should be looking for things to go wrong throughout their day. Negative questions also tend to cause our children to disengage from conversation.

My challenge for parents (myself included!) is to pay attention to the questions we ask after school. If you find yourself leaning negative, or even just asking yes/no questions that do not yield rich conversations with your children, remember the following:

- The absolute most important thing we can give our children is our full and complete attention. We need to put down the phone or other device, model good eye contact, and listen, listen, listen.
- While we are listening, we need to resist the urge to jump in too soon to offer advice. Although well-intentioned, advice often sounds like judgement or a lack of confidence in our children's ability to solve their own problems.
- Invest time in listening to our children talk about matters that seem insignificant. This gives them confidence that we will be there to listen to them when something more serious comes up.
- Ask positive, open-ended questions that cannot be answered with one word, such as:
  - What was the most fun/most interesting/your favorite part of the day today?
  - Tell me about something you learned today.
  - Which specials did you have today and what did you get to do?
  - What games did you play at recess today? Or for older students, what did you talk about at break?
  - What was the most interesting thing your teacher said today?
  - Who sat at your table at lunch?
  - Tell me the funniest thing someone said today.
  - Tell me where you saw God today.

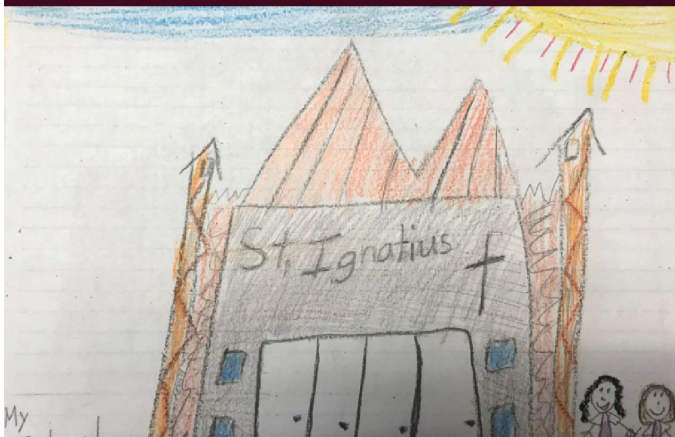
Remember, our goal is to keep the lines of communication open with our children and show them that we are interested in and care about what they have to say and how they feel. This will help children understand that we are here to advocate for them and support them when necessary, but that we have confidence in their ability to navigate and withstand the ups and downs of everyday life.



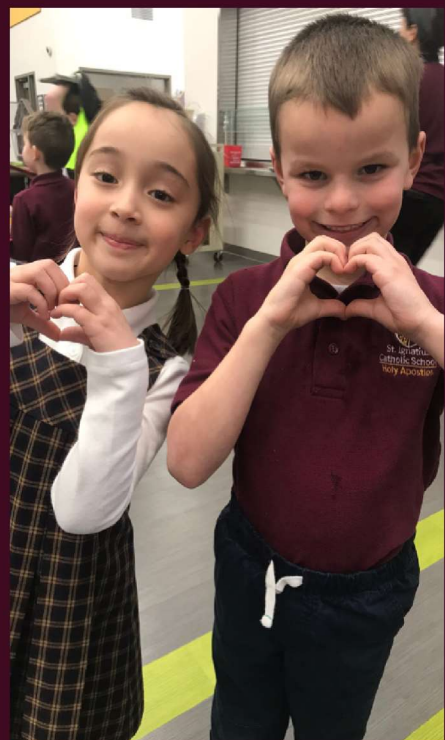
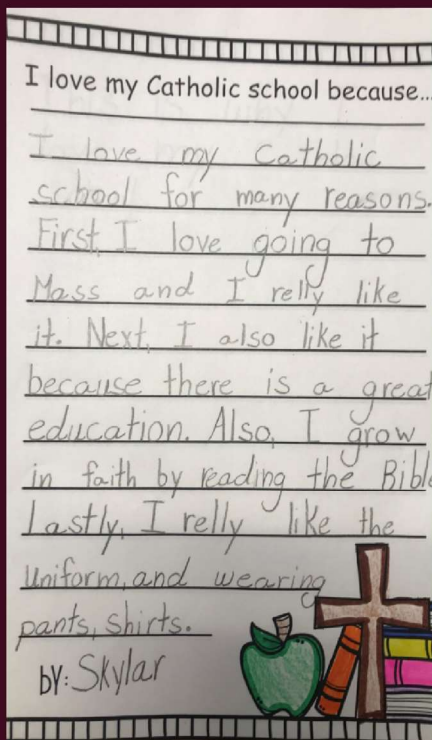
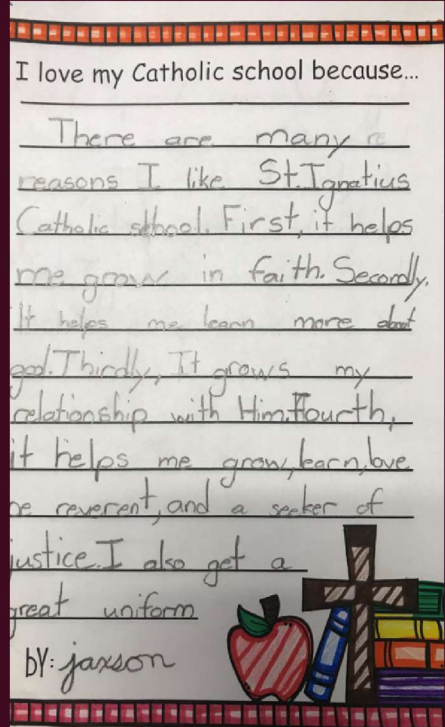
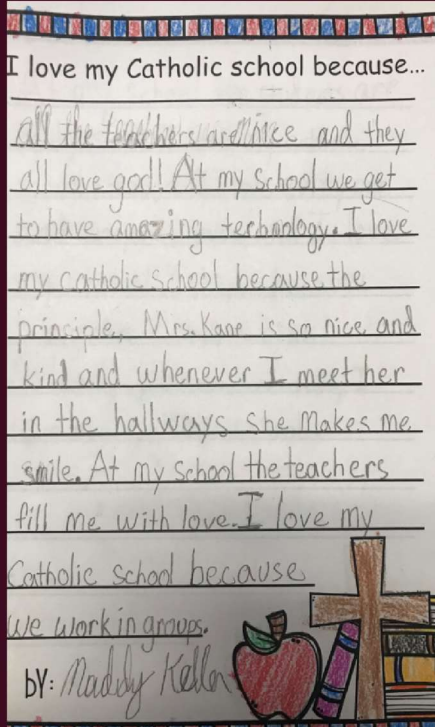
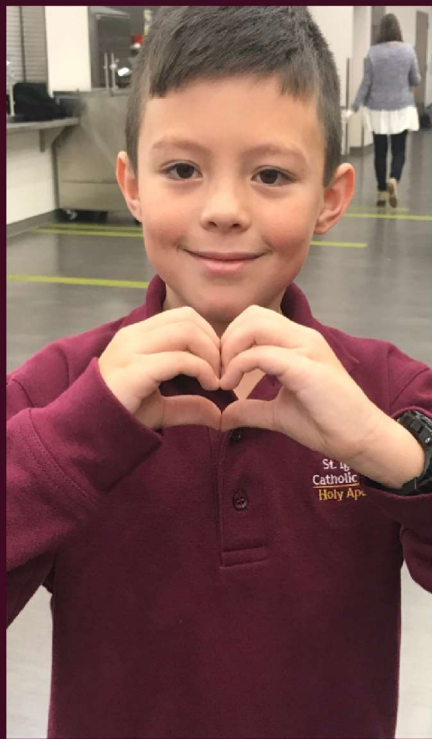
Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

# CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

We ♥ St. Ignatius  
Catholic School







Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

## CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

St. Ignatius Catholic  
School

Catholic Schools Week is such a wonderful time of year for students and staff. It gives each of us an opportunity to stop and reflect on what makes Catholic education so unique and wonderful. It also gives us chance to express our gratitude for the opportunity to be part of Catholic education. THANK YOU for all YOU do to help support St. Ignatius Catholic School and Catholic education!

Our students are growing, learning, and thriving, and we are proud to be growing leaders who turn FAITH into ACTION. We want to share with all of you some of the many reasons our students tell us they love St. Ignatius Catholic School.....

Along with personally living my faith comes practicing and sharing Catholicism with others. Not only do I belong to something greater than a school, family, or sports team, I belong to God *with* my family, school family and parish family. At a Catholic school, we celebrate our faith together as members of the Body of Christ with all others baptized into our faith. We *all* belong to this community. I am very proud to be a Catholic student, and to be in the first graduating class of St. Ignatius Catholic School. I know that my class, and all those that follow will truly set the world on fire. -Anneliese, 8<sup>th</sup>

Going weekly to Mass keeps us aware of God's love and presence. Listening to the Homily and receiving the Eucharist bring me closer to God and helps me reflect on my actions from the previous week. -Rio, 8<sup>th</sup>

The staff is great at St. Ignatius because I feel that they really listen to what you have to say. They want you to succeed as much as you do. They push you when you need to be pushed. They adjust their lesson plans for the individual learner as much the class. The communication between teachers and students is seamless. -Mason 8<sup>th</sup>

I am very impressed with the education at St. Ignatius and I will keep on learning new things at this school until I leave. Every day at St. Ignatius, the whole student body and staff pray together every morning. Only at Catholic schools can you experience the praise of God together as a community. --Noah, 8<sup>th</sup>

Even though I am not Catholic, I still like going to a Catholic school because I get to see how others go about praising God especially at mass. Even at that I still get to worship Him. -Susanna 8<sup>th</sup>

We are very lucky to have catholic schools around. We would like to thank all of those who made this school possible. St. Ignatius shows love and care that no other school does and all of the students are very grateful. -Gabriela, 8<sup>th</sup>

I am so thankful to be an eighth-grader at Saint Ignatius Catholic school...I am so thankful for everyone who donated money to help build this school. - Tyler, 7<sup>th</sup>

I am very glad I chose this school and would never regret it in a million years. This is my favorite catholic school out of the three that I have attended and by far the most caring and respectful one. -Carter 7<sup>th</sup>

I love St. Ignatius. From the teachers, to staff, and to my peers everyone is treated equally and are respected. We are one big family, and I really enjoy that. Compared to public school, Catholic schools are driven to help you be a better version of yourself with Christ by your side. Everyone's talents are magnified and put on display, and that helps us push ourselves even more. I have been going to public schools my whole life, and I have never been treated nicer than I am here. The Path, flex learning, and the kind surrounding/role models help me to really strive in ways I could never have imagined a year ago. I like my Catholic School because it fits me perfectly and I could never ask for a more perfect school-life. -Katherine 8<sup>th</sup>

I feel like St. Ignatius is a second home to me all us here are family and stick together. - Joelle 7<sup>th</sup>

One of my favorite things about St. Ignatius is the people here. They are so kind, generous, and selfless. They truly care about everyone around them and themselves. They have shown me amazing kindness and compassion when I have been down. I think the students and teachers here are some of the best around. -Andrew 7<sup>th</sup>

Whatever level a student is at, they can learn at their own pace and be supported by all the teachers and staff along their journey. The teachers make sure that I am strong in all subjects and academically challenge me as well. I feel like I have been given a perfect balance. -Brinley 8<sup>th</sup>





## FAMILIES ON FIRE

At Holy Apostles Catholic Church and St. Ignatius Catholic School, we are constantly reminding our students and children that God is all around us- in everything we do and in all we celebrate. We remind our students and youth to look for God in all things, and find ways to see and encounter God in both special and common ways. We would like to start partnering with families to offer ideas that might help you infuse faith into more aspects of your daily lives, routines, and celebrations.

## REFLECTION: FEBRUARY- CHARITY

Charity is not a word we use in our everyday language, but this month we can change that! Charity is a very important foundation for the Church. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.” CCC 1822. In other words, our connection with God is so, so deep that we reflect His love onto others. This is why Jesus Christ Himself made Charity the Greatest Commandment. February is a perfect season to refocus our attention towards acts of Charity-big and small! As a family, take time to find ways Charity is mentioned in the Bible. Then come together and discuss what they mean in our daily lives. Here are a few examples to help us practice our faith at home.

1. Story Time: February 11<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. What a blessing to revisit this hopeful apparition as a family! Read and/or watch the story of when Our Lady appeared 18 times to St. Bernadette in France in 1858. We can see how St. Bernadette lived out her Charity. As a bonus, make or buy some Blueberry Muffins (blue represents Mary) to have as a snack!
2. Prayer Time: On February 2<sup>nd</sup> we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord as a community. The Feast Day is also known as Candlemas. We remember when Infant Jesus, the light of the world, was brought to the Temple by Mother Mary and St. Joseph. Decorate a candle together with stickers, holy cards, prayers, pictures. This candle can be used for on-going family prayer time.
3. Simple Reminders: The Season of Lent begins on February 14<sup>th</sup> this year. Receiving our Ashes on Ash Wednesday is a humbling visual experience. The liturgical color is purple. Place a purple cloth/linen on the prayer table and/or dining table. Make or purchase a family Lenten calendar which emphasizes on fasting, praying, and almsgiving. We can set goals to live out our Charity as a family and schedule them in.
4. Friends in High Places: February 14<sup>th</sup> is also the Feast of St. Valentine. Also known as the holiday of love! His heroic acts of Charity are extremely inspiring. He continues to remind us of the power of love centered on God. On top of making and giving Valentine cards/treats for our family and friends, we can also make one for Jesus! We can even make it in the shape of a heart and take it to Adoration in front of the Lord. What a special Valentine that would be!

*“To pray for one another is an act of Charity”  
-St. Thomas Aquinas*

## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to our ever supportive community who donated so generously to our 2017 Gray Wolves Giving Annual Appeal.

This money, along with funds earned during our fundraising events throughout the year, goes directly into the school's operating budget to help offset the cost of educating students at St. Ignatius (which cost is substantially more than our income from student tuition). These generous donations from our community enable us to maintain affordable tuition for all, and financial assistance to those who need it—making a St. Ignatius education accessible to as many families as possible. This first year of the campaign was a great success!

Every student that attends St. Ignatius benefits from your generosity. Your financial gifts “bridge the gap” between the actual cost to educate a student at St. Ignatius and the amount of tuition paid for each student.

Thank you all for your contributions and for helping give the gift of a Catholic education to over 400 students in our community!

**St. Ignatius Catholic School**  
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Meridian ID 83646  
208-888-4759

[www.stignatiusmeridian.org](http://www.stignatiusmeridian.org)

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## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Strength of community is one of the cornerstone philosophies of St. Ignatius Catholic School community! A vibrant community gives children strong roots to grow and develop. We encourage all families to participate in our many social, service and volunteer endeavors to help us build and strengthen the St. Ignatius family.

### MONTHLY PARENT COFFEE HOUR

Our awesome HSA will begin hosting a coffee hour for parents from 8:30-10:00 in the Holy Apostles Dining Room on February 8. Join us for this social hour and then join the entire student body for Mass at 10:15.

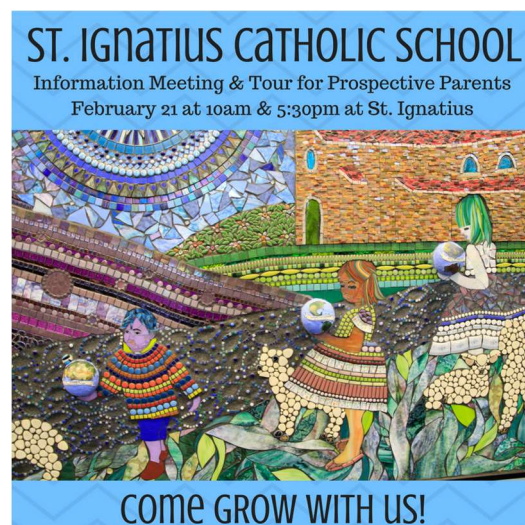
### FAMILY NIGHT OUT

Our Welcoming/Hospitality Team is hosting TWO Nights out with The Idaho Steelheads. There are 2 dates to choose from **Feb 17th** and **March 10th**, both Saturdays. It will be a fun night to meet up with other Gray Wolf families. See the Events page of our website for information on how to purchase tickets!

### OPEN HOUSE/ENROLLMENT

Enrollment for the 2018-2019 academic year will be here before you know it! Returning students will be re-enrolling in March. After re-enrollment of our existing students, we will begin enrollment of new students in April. If you are a parishioner who is interested in enrolling a new student or a current school family that plans to be adding a new student to our school, please make sure that you have submitted a pre-registration form for your new student **BEFORE** April 1<sup>st</sup> in order to receive priority on our waiting list.

This month, please take some time to spread the good word about St. Ignatius Catholic School! If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about our program, please join us for an Open House on Feb 21 at 10am or 5:30pm at St. Ignatius. Or visit our website to schedule a school tour. We are so proud of our school and can't wait to share the good news with others! Come learn more about how we are helping kids grow, learn, love, and become reverent seekers of justice!



#### *St. Ignatius School Mission*

*St. Ignatius is a Christ-centered Catholic school committed to the Ignatian traditions of academic excellence and teaching students to live their Catholic faith through service and the promotion of justice. Our community - school, families, parish - seeks to inspire students to reach their potential, to act with initiative and integrity, and to engage the world as a place where God can be found in all things.*