



# MOUNT SAINT MARY ACADEMY

*Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy*

*Kate Segal, Principal*

*Amy True, Ministry Director*

*March 2018 Principal's Board Report*

*Mission Statement: Mount Saint Mary Academy, a private Catholic elementary school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, furthers the mission of Catherine McAuley. Mount Saint Mary Academy is committed to academic excellence and the Gospel values of peace and justice. Our school instills in its students leadership skills and promotes the values of compassion and reverence for the community and environment.*

## **Mission Integration and Catholic Identity**

Throughout the year, as a school community we learn, reflect and share the history, mission, and life of Catherine McAuley. In September we prepare for Mercy Day. Our student and faculty join in prayer, song, research, speeches, and reflection for a family performance which honors the life and mission of Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy. In September, we also have our Family Open House which begins in prayer with a white table ceremony led by Sister Regina Fahey. In October, we begin our monthly Mercy classes, taught by Amy True, our Mount Saint Mary Academy Ministry Director and an Associate member of the Sisters of Mercy. Mercy classes are for all students, age 3 to six grade. During this time, students are provided lessons on the foundation of mercy, the history of our school and the lives of both Catherine McAuley and Francis Warde. After morning announcements, by student leaders, each classroom has religion for a half an hour. Classes rotate using their classrooms and the school chapel for prayer and reflection. The door of the chapel is decorated with beautiful student artwork, portraying the many open doors of the Sisters of Mercy.

In addition to Mercy Day, our faculty and staff prepare religious programs for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our students recite Gospel and quotes from Catherine McAuley. They perform religious skits, sing, and play a variety of instruments which include tin whistles, keyboard, guitar, boom pipes, drums, flute, clarinet, and other horn instruments. We have a band director as well as a music teacher who embed the Gospel, theater and music into all of our student performances. In January we celebrate Catholic Schools' week, inviting special guests to pray with the students each morning, and to committing our self to others in the community and our environment through Service Learning and Community Service Projects. In the winter our older students prepare, practice, and present a theater performance in our school auditorium for the other students, parents, and guests. As a community we celebrate and pray, focusing on Ash Wednesday, the .....season and Easter, committing ourselves as Catholics. In the spring, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders visit the gravesite of Francis Warde, reflect on the history of Mount Saint Mary Academy and the Sisters of Mercy.

## **Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment**

We are pleased to report that we have completed our winter K-2 reading benchmarks using Fountas and Pinnell. In grades K-2 92% of our students are at or above expected reading levels. We will continue to progress monitor our students using Fountas and Pinnell and will have June NWEA Measurements of Academic Progress in grades K-6 in both reading and math. A copy of *Reading Connection, Tips for Reading Success* will be sent home next week to all students in preschool through second grade.

We have also completed NWEA Winter Measurements of Academic Progress in grades 3-6 in both reading and math. 80% of our students are at grade level or above in math and 87% are at or above grade level reading expectations, even more students proficient and above, loving to read and reading to learn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Segal, Mount Saint Mary Academy Principal