



PRAIRIE CATHOLIC WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

November 29, 2018

From the Principal

Dear families,

This past September we completed the benchmark testing that is required by the Response to Intervention (RtI) program using our universal screening tool, STAR Enterprise in ELA and Math. This assessment is designed to identify whether your child is ready to read or apply math skills at grade level (Tier 1) or whether your child needs additional and/or more intensive reading or math instruction (Tier 2 or Tier 3). With our tool we can also identify who is working above benchmark and utilize enrichment activities. All students in the school will have the opportunity to have their skills meet during WIN time. WIN is a 25-30 minute block of time daily that is used to meet your child needs. For each student that could mean something different for their learning needs. Mrs. Steimke our interventionist may work with your child in conjunction with their classroom teacher on more targeted skill areas in ELA. All students receive instruction at their skill group in Tier 1, 2, or 3. Since, the time of our benchmark testing in September, the students have also completed progress monitoring assessments during their computer lab time with Mr. Wallace. The progress monitoring assessment is a shorter version of the benchmark assessment and could possibly be given every 2 weeks in the area of ELA or math depending on your child's needs. We track the student's progress in those areas to assist in making the correct instructional planning. Through the assessment process the following results in data may occur for your child:

Benchmark testing indicate that your child would benefit from placement in:

- Tier 1: REGULAR CURRICULUM + enrichment activities
- Tier 2: REGULAR CURRICULUM + additional instruction
- Tier 3: REGULAR CURRICULUM + additional, more intensive support

This includes knowing the names and sounds of letters, understanding rhyming, and recognition of the beginning sounds in words. These skills are important because they are necessary before children can learn to read.

- Decoding: This means being able to recognize and sound out words. This is important because it is the foundation of reading.
- Fluency: This means reading quickly with few mistakes. This skill is important because students need to be able to read fluently to help them understand what they read.
- Comprehension: This means understanding what was read. This skill is important because the main purpose of reading is to comprehend.
- Enrichment Activities: This means activities that enhance the regular curriculum and expand on information and skills already mastered. This is important for students who have met grade-level goals so that they continue to improve and learn.

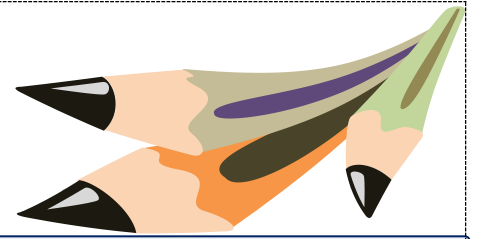
During the school year the staff will continue to monitor the progress of your child. This program model is new to our school and a large learning curve for our teachers. Now, that we have a few months of data from progress monitoring, we can discuss and analyze how to best meet your child's needs.

Teachers continue to have professional development with the tools available in the STAR Enterprise. We will continue to improve our communication with you and discuss your child's progress. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

If you have any questions about this assessment or the recommendation, kindly contact me. Thank you for your continued interest in your child's school success.

With peace~

Mary Henry, Principal



Christmas Mass Sign-up – Help is still needed for the Christmas Eve Children’s Mass and servers for other Christmas Masses. Coming home today is the sign-up sheet. Please consider participating.

Colder Weather – We may not have wanted it, but the weather has turned cold. With that, please send your student to school prepared to be outside in the morning and for recess. Coats, hats and gloves are needed!

Illness - We ask that your child remain at home if he/she has diarrhea, a sore throat, earache, a skin rash, an eye infection, vomiting, or an elevated temperature. Often a day at home and bed rest will prevent more serious illness, encourage more rapid recovery and diminish the opportunity of the disease spreading among your child's classmates.

Christmas Program – This year’s Prairie Catholic Christmas Program will be Wednesday, December 12th, at 6:30 pm in the School Cafeteria The make-up date will be the following Wednesday, December 19th.

Thanksgiving Food Drive – The PCS Student Council is sponsoring a Food and Personal Items Drive. The class that brings in the most food items will win an ice cream surprise! The items can be brought in to your child’s homeroom teacher by Monday, December 17th. Please remember to think of others during this holiday season. Thank you!

Calendar Sweepstakes – **On sale now:** *Prairie Catholic Sweepstakes Calendars*. We are off to a great start! The first drawing will be held Sunday, February 3, 2018. This fundraiser could raise as much as \$16,000.00 for the support of Prairie Catholic Schools. We need everyone’s help for this fundraiser to be successful. More calendars are available in the school office. Please turn in sold slips and money to office. Good luck & keep selling!

Coming Home Today

Below is the information coming home this week. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

- Newsletter
- Weekly Church Bulletin
- December Menu & Event Calendar
- Scrip Order Form & Flyer
- Christmas Mass Sign-up sheet
- Prairie Catholic Saints gear order form
- Middle School Retreat Permission Slip
- Amazon Smile Flyer
- Holiday Train Flyer
- Scrip Schedule

Upcoming Events

November 30th - Mid Term 2

December 3rd - Ribbon Cutting for School Store

December 6th - Progress Reports going home

December 6th - K - Polar Express

December 10th - K - Cookie Decorating

December 10th - 14th - Student Council - Change Challenge

December 12th - Math Counts Competition

December 12th - Christmas Program 6:30pm

December 13th - Academic Eligibility

December 14th - Middle School Retreat @ Richland Center

December 17th - End of Food & Personal Item Drive

December 17th - Grades 3, 4, 7, & 8 Nursing Home Caroling

December 21st - Ugly Sweater Contest Christmas

December 24th – January 1st - Christmas Break

January 2nd - First day back!

