

**St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica School
Weekly Newsletter
May 15, 2014**



Dear Parents, Staff, Students, and Friends,

St. Anthony wishes to thank all the families who responded to the annual parent satisfaction survey. We heard from 60% of you and 100% stated that they would recommend St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica School to other families. That is so awesome. We thank you for your input.

We have completed an analysis of the results and have shared this information with teachers and with the school board. We would like to share these results with you and address particular concerns identified in the surveys.

In response to the question asked about student service hours, we are proud to report that the St. Anthony students earned 3890 hours this year. “Way to go, Bulldogs!”

We are also very proud of our website communication improvements. The site looks good and is generating a lot of activity. Coach Edwards has earned for us the social media award from Catholic School Management for a very active and successful internet communication site. Thank you Coach, for your support in helping us spread the good news of St. Anthony via social media.



There were some concerns about the cafeteria program. We must understand that our school doesn't operate its own cafeteria. We contract with a private vendor—Novroskys. The prices and the menu are set by the vendor. Mr. Bill Carden is the person in charge. He's always open to suggestions for improving the program. We've seen some changes in menu items this year. Send us your ideas and we will get them to Mr. Carden.

Because of some very constructive feedback from you, St. Anthony held its first “Step-Up” day. Students from PK3-7 were able to spend three

hours with their next years' teacher. Eighth grade students served as ambassadors in each classroom and shared their St. Anthony experiences with the students. It was a fantastic event.

Major plans are already being launched to improve technology at St. Anthony. The \$56,000 technology grant received from the Rachal Foundation is being used to complete the acquisition of Promethean boards, document cameras in all classrooms. These funds will also allow us to purchase a set of thirty IPADS to be used in the middle school in the areas of science and social studies. We are so thankful for this wonderful donation and all that it will accomplish for our technology program.



Some of you expressed concern for student safety. We share these concerns. A needs assessment of our campus will be conducted by the Beaumont Police Department to determine what needs to be done to improve student safety at our school. Plans to add outside cameras; a buzz-in system to the aftercare program; and a taller and more secure

gate leading to the cafeteria are several actions to be implemented immediately.



There were some suggestions that a more vigorous curriculum be offered and we agree. We will be working with the superintendent this summer in a diocesan-wide curriculum-writing effort. The goal is to develop a curriculum scope and sequence in all subject areas for all the Catholic schools. This will greatly improve upon what we are doing now and move us away from a textbook-driven curriculum. We will be better able to meet the needs of students with learning disabilities as well as offering a challenge to those students who are above the normal learning curve.

The Rowland Press Superkids Reading/Language Arts program will be implemented in kindergarten, first, and second grades next school year. This program is used in all the Catholic schools of the diocese, and we are so excited to finally be able to implement it at St. Anthony.

Last, but not the least of your concerns had to do with making our facility look better. You will be pleased to know that we have been working with

contractors and getting bids to do just that. Funds have been budgeted to repair and replace all outside doors; repair the computer lab; and do extensive painting. We think that this will greatly improve the appearance of our facility.

We will continue to urge you to become involved in the multitude of activities that go on at this school. Every parent can do one small thing with great love. To quote Mother Theresa, "There are no great things, just small things done with great love." We need these small things. We need your great love.

May God always bless you and your families, and may He keep you at St. Anthony. We need you.

Yours in Christ,

**Phyllis Walters
Your Principal**