



SAINT ANNE'S SCHOOL

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Dr. Thomas J. Fasano, Principal
Ann-Marie Zino, Assistant Principal

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Dear Parents:

This year at St. Anne's, a critical focus of our collaborative work as a faculty continues to be the means by which we not only provide academic support for learners who may struggle with a particular skill or area of content, but to also provide academic enrichment opportunities for those who can benefit. As teachers, our goal is to effectively diagnose the learning strengths and challenges of each student so that we can identify themes and patterns among them, and subsequently provide the appropriate support and / or enrichment. This ideally is done within the classroom setting rather than the child being pulled from regular classroom instruction. Our goal is to minimize "pull-outs."

There are times, for example music lessons, or for IEP-driven mandated service, when it is necessary for a child to be pulled from class. We need to ensure though, in the case of service providers, that there is coordination between the provider and the classroom teacher regarding not only scheduling logistics, but more importantly *collaboration that ensures that the service being provided is measurably benefitting the student*. Every academic-based pull-out session should be directly correlated to a specific skill or lesson being taught within the classroom. Therefore, I will be working with each service provider to formalize this expectation of collaboration on behalf of the students to whom this applies.

As Ms. Julianna Sandman, who had previously assisted with academic intervention services has now assumed a 3rd grade classroom teaching position, we have hired Ms. Arianna Anteri. Ms. Anteri's role will be to specifically plan and collaborate with each of the grade-level teacher teams (K-4), providing **push-in instructional support** to facilitate differentiated instruction to support struggling learners as well as to provide enrichment opportunities. The goal is to strengthen and enhance student skills across the content areas in these early elementary grades without having them miss any classroom instruction. Teachers on the Middle School level as well will continue to work to minimize pull-outs as they provide support and enrichment opportunities within their instruction. Our teachers, particularly at the middle school level also provide extra-help sessions during and after school, which students are encouraged to attend.

While I share with you our vision and plan to support our students and to enrich their learning, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of consistent daily student attendance. Nothing can take the place of classroom instruction. The communication between parents and teachers is also essential as we work together to foster good study habits and a love of learning. Assessment is an important component of that learning.

As you know, we utilize iReady as but one diagnostic tool. It is designed to foster growth in the development and mastering of skills in mathematics and English Language Arts that are measured over the course of the entire school year. What matters most is that students demonstrate growth and progress from September to June. Beyond iReady, across all content areas, our teachers are continually assessing their students in a variety of ways, and using their assessments to inform their daily instruction.

I feel it is important for you to have an understanding of our approach to academic intervention services and how as a faculty we are seeking to minimize pull-outs while effectively meeting the needs of each learner. I also encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher(s) at any time should you have any questions or concerns regarding the best way for you as parents to support your child's academic growth. Similarly, your child's teacher may reach out to you regarding learning issues that at times may require further evaluation and intervention. Our mutual goals are always to provide your children with the best opportunities and learning experiences possible utilizing all resources at our disposal.

As an aside, as always, I invite you to access SAS Weekly Events and Notices, published and emailed each week, to keep up with all of the wonderful news, events and activities here at St. Anne's. We greatly appreciate your support and collaboration as we work towards academic growth and success for your child as well as a greater awareness of their faith and all that they, and we have to be grateful for.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Fasano", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Thomas J. Fasano
Principal