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## SACRAMENTS   SERVICE   SAINTS   SPIRIT   SCHOLARSHIP

January 7, 2026

Dear St. Anne's families:

At St. Anne's School, as we help your children grow in their faith, in their love of Jesus and the Sacraments, we also pride ourselves on providing our students with a rigorous, skills-based education that prepares them for high school, and for the rest of their lives. Our teachers demonstrate such unique care and commitment to the social, emotional growth of their students as well as to their academic development. From nursery through eighth grade, our focus is on the foundational skills necessary to succeed across every discipline. Primary among these are the skills of literacy.

The tools for reading, writing and speaking are so critical to the growth and success of our young people. We are seeing now that achievement even in mathematics and science is dependent upon strong literacy skills. I am very excited to share with you now several significant initiatives that we have begun here at St. Anne's to support and strengthen our overall literacy instruction, and the ways in which we will further support and strengthen the skills of our students.

Dr. Francine Guastello, who recently retired after teaching 25 years at St. John's University, having served 10 years as the Chair of the Literacy Department, and who incidentally served on my doctoral dissertation committee back in 2007, has begun working closely with our faculty and with our students. She is also a certified Orton-Gillingham Fellow. Dr. Guastello will be providing training and professional development in a structured, multi-sensory approach to teaching reading, spelling and writing, that will supplement and enhance our current curricula and instructional methodology. In fact, ***twelve of our faculty members will be working toward their “classroom educator” or “associate level” Orton-Gillingham certification*** under her supervision. This will be transformational for our faculty as we continue to collaborate across every grade level to build and strengthen the literacy skills of every student.

We will also be implementing a ***Summer Literacy Enrichment Program*** here on the campus of St. Anne's this upcoming Summer. Our teachers will be designing activities and opportunities for students to not only strengthen their literacy skills, but to enhance their love of reading, writing and public speaking. You will be hearing more about this in the weeks to come.

We always stress that the education of your children in their Faith and in their academics is a partnership between the home, and our school. As I think of our St. Anne's Broadcasting Club, and the over seventy students in grades 3 through 8 who signed up and who enjoy building their public speaking skills delivering our morning prayer, the Pledge to our Flag, and our daily announcements, and now with these additional initiatives, our continued focus on building and strengthening the literacy skills of all students further demonstrates our commitment to you and your children.

As always, we greatly appreciate your support, and we look forward to the continued growth and strengthening of all that we do with and for your children here at St. Anne's School.

Respectfully,

Dr. Thomas J. Fasano  
Principal