

July 13, 2018

Dear St. Eugene parents and families,

I hope each of you has had a wonderful and adventurous summer thus far. The temperatures have kept things pretty hot, but we were blessed with a few cool days in June. I have officially been at St. Eugene since Monday, July 2nd. I am moved into my office and busy tackling the summer to-dos!

TRANSITION TEAM: It is my mission to learn about every aspect of the school, to assess how things work, and to reflect on the knowledge gained. I cannot do that alone. I put together a transition team (a few staff and parents) to support me in learning about our school and how it functions. We have met this summer and will continue throughout the year.

HIRING HIGHLIGHTS: I'm delighted to announce three new energetic staff members who will be joining our St. Eugene team this year.

- **Mrs. Jean Price** is coming back home to us this year! She will be leading our **preschool team**. Mrs. Price has 20+ years experience in Early Childhood Education, including her years teaching kindergarten here at St. Eugene. We welcome back Mrs. Price!
- **Mrs. Charlotte Long** will be joining our team as a **3rd grade** teacher. Mrs. Long completed her degree in Early Childhood Education. Mrs. Long is a graduate of Bishop McGuinness High School, and we are thrilled she chose Catholic education to begin her career in teaching!
- **Ms. Katie Hall** will be joining our team as a **1st grade** teacher. Ms. Hall completed her degree in Elementary Education this past December. She spent the spring semester subbing including a long term maternity sub-position at John Rex. We are excited that she chose St. Eugene to begin her teaching journey!

We do have a few more positions to fill. I have some exciting leads and am conducting interviews. If you have any connections or leads, please email me and I will follow up. Completing our team with quality teachers that bring great talent to St. Eugene is my number one priority this summer!

TERRIFIC TECH NEWS! I would like to celebrate the wonderful opportunity coming our way! About a year in the making, our technology committee's plan is going live!

- wifi infrastructure throughout the school,
- 120 chromebooks with 4 portable secure charging/housing carts
- 10 TVs with chromecast (middle schools and possibly upper elementary)
- high-tech security cameras
- Secure wifi access through web-filtering *GoGuardian*

Our middle school students will have one-to-one access, infusing technology into the instruction of core subject areas and beyond! We will also offer our upper elementary grade

teachers opportunities to check out sets of chromebooks to use with their classes. There are many layers to the implementation of this exciting new opportunity. Matt Hughes and the SAC tech committee will be working in the next few weeks to oversee the necessary wiring, and we will communicate next steps as progress warrants.

NEW SCHOOL HOURS: Purposeful Change for Promising Growth!

Did you know that teachers spend 98% of their week teaching and 2% prepping? Any professional development--*continuing education*--they receive is often known as “drive-by”: a few times in the year with minimal follow-up or impact.

At St. Eugene, we are at a prime time to assess and enrich our instructional design and practices. Ensuring regular, high-quality professional development for our teachers will in turn provide opportunities **for each child to grow in faith in knowledge**, ensuring we are truly fulfilling our mission as a Catholic school. It is a critical piece of enhancing student learning outcomes as well as teacher recruitment and retention. By investing in our teachers and their ongoing formation, we will bring success for all!

Having carefully considered school priorities and impact on families, and with the input and support of the School Advisory Council and Fr. Wolf, **I would like to announce our *new school hours*** designed to meet the needs of professional growth and maximize student learning at St. Eugene. **We will implement a student dismissal time of 2:00pm every Tuesday for the school year and 3:15pm every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday**. See the chart for PK3 - Kindergarten dismissal times. (Extending the remaining 4 days by 15 minutes makes up for the hour on early release Tuesdays.)

CSSE SCHOOL HOURS 2018-2019

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
PK3-Kinder	8:00 - 3:05	8:00 - 1:50	8:00 - 3:05	8:00 - 3:05	8:00 - 3:05
1st - 8th	8:00 - 3:15	8:00 - 2:00	8:00 - 3:15	8:00 - 3:15	8:00 - 3:15

-What will staff do after dismissal duty on Tuesdays?

Actively participate in continuing education such as:

- Training in Responsive Classroom (approach to social-emotional learning tied to academic success)
- Differentiation of teaching and learning to maximize potential for all students
- Customized training in instructional technology (perfect given the tech news above!)
- Catapult Learning Instructional Core and Self-study (part of our ongoing Accreditation)

-What options are there for our students whose parents cannot arrange pick-up?

While the switch to Early Release Tuesdays has many benefits, we realize that any change in the school day may create challenges for families. Mrs. Blevins will begin Extended School Care at dismissal time each day (2:00pm on Tuesdays and 3:15pm other days) for those who need it. More details to come.

-How do you know this will be beneficial?

Many schools across the country have successfully implemented job-embedded professional development through early release or late-start schedules. I am fortunate to have worked in two such environments, both as a teacher and school leader. The amount of purposeful professional growth I received in one year with that model far exceeded the total of my previous 4 years in a more traditional “drive-by” model. Regular, purposeful time together as a staff ensures a unity of vision and engages all staff in teaching practices and approaches to strengthen the whole school.

Please pray for our St. Eugene community, for our teachers, our leaders and our students. This is going to be a great year!

In Christ,

Molly Goldsworthy

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