

Thursday Thoughts
October 1, 2009
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Principal

During the month of October we will have two three day weeks (the weeks of October 5th for OCEA Convention in Cincinnati for our teachers and 12th for the Fairfield County Fair) and Terra Nova Testing for grades 2 – 8 the week of October 19th. Usually our two fair days coincide with the OCEA Convention, but such was not the case this year.

I can not emphasize enough the importance of the Terra Nova Achievement Tests which will be given the week of October 19th to students in grades 2 – 8. These give us an indication of student progress from one year to the next and also help identify students who may need remediation or acceleration in certain subject areas. Teachers tell me that too often students don't always take these tests seriously, rushing through to get finished and don't take time to go over their answers if they have the time to do so. Please make sure that your child gets a good night's sleep during this week of testing and that he/she eats a good breakfast. Usually testing is done during the morning with regular classes being taught during the afternoon. Results of the testing should be sent to the school in early December at which time we will send them on to you.

For those parents of students from Lancaster St. Mary parish who will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation on March 2, 2010, I remind you of the first Confirmation meeting scheduled for this Sunday, October 4th at 10:00 a.m. in the Spirit Center. This will be the first of three meetings that will assist parents in their role in the preparation of their child for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Educational Apparel will be visiting our school this Friday, October 2nd in the Spirit Center between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to take care of your uniform needs. Educational Apparel supplies uniforms for our students in grades 1 – 5.

Preparations are being made for our special Grandparents Day celebration on Tuesday, October 13th. It has been some time since we celebrated this special day in honor of our grandparents. Grandparents will have the opportunity to visit with their grandchildren between 9:00 a.m. and noon. A special Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. that day in honor of our grandparents. It seems that more and more grandparents are becoming a valuable source for volunteering here at St. Mary's and we are grateful for the time they give to helping our students and teachers in various capacities.

Important reminder!! Every child under 8 years old must ride in a booster seat or other appropriate child safety seat unless the child is 4'9" or taller. Every child from 8 to 15 years old who is not secured in a car seat must be secured in the vehicle's seat belt. The Ohio Department of Health states that the back seat is the safest place for children to ride. Children under 13 years old should ride in the back seat at all times. This new Ohio Child Passenger Safety Law goes into effect on October 7, 2009. This will affect field

trips which involve students under 8 years old or shorter than 4'9" that are being transported by car.

And those are my thoughts for this week.