



Dear Parents and Friends of St. Anne Catholic Grade School,

Friday, May 8, 2009

Thirty years of Catholic school research confirms that family involvement is a profound influence on children's achievement in school (*Eagle, 1989; Henderson and Berla, 1994; U.S. Department of Education, 1994; Ziegler, 1987*). When families are involved in their child's education, children earn higher grades and receive higher scores on tests, attend school more regularly, complete more homework, demonstrate more positive attitudes and behaviors, graduate from high school at higher rates, and more likely to enroll in higher education than students with less-involved families (*Catholic School Management Letter, July, 2008*).

St. Anne wants to ensure every opportunity for student learning and success. We strive to reach out to you and sustain mutually supportive interactions that are considerate, reliable, honest, competent, and open. Yet, before parents and teachers can work together, they must get to know each other and be willing to learn from one another. When parents work effectively with school administrators and teachers, their children learn more, behave better, and have improved levels of satisfaction and happiness in and with school.

Based upon good Catholic school models, research, and our own traditions, St. Anne is striving to:

- Create more time for parents to meet individually with teachers;
- Improve communication by moving from one way school-initiated communication to a school model in which active listening and timely honest responses are the norm and parental input is considered valuable. The use of St. Anne's e-mail and school website has made this more feasible.
- Demonstrate a commitment to professionalism and dynamic teaching where competence is clearly valued over mediocre or ineffective teaching.

Recent electronic communication advances have made it possible for many schools to allow parents to stay informed regarding their children's assignments and progress on a more frequent basis, sometimes even on a daily basis through online access to such tools as teacher grade books, homework postings, and web pages. Although there are some benefits, there are negative results as well. Increased availability of information has made some parents overbearing, overly-involved, and has made them place unrealistic demands upon students for levels of and time frames for performance. The parent who is too enthralled with up-to-the-minute information may know before their child of academic troubles as well as successes.

To help with proper communication while respecting the demands of a teacher's daily teaching schedule, St. Anne will strive to:

- Provide information on how the school functions. For example, details on discipline, schedules, communication timelines, and homework expectations.
- Provide information on how to support and structure children's learning at home.

The ultimate goal is to have strong and meaningful partnerships of families, school, and parish – and improve teaching and student learning.

We thank you for choosing Catholic education at St. Anne Catholic Grade School. You have made the right choice in placing your child/children here where our mission, vision, administration, teachers, and students place Jesus in the center of our school. We are proud of who we are, proud of our Catholic identity, and proud to have you with us in this great endeavor of Catholic school education.

Respectfully,

Anthony G. Sahadi

By the way, tomorrow, pesticides will be sprayed in and around the school and campus. These pesticides are pre-mixed and pre-packaged. The people who will spray are certified pesticide applicators (Orkin Exterminator.) If you have any questions, please contact me.

