



Celebrating Catholic Schools

Happy New Year to all of our KCS families, alumni, and friends! As January arrives so does Catholic Schools Week. This provides us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our school, and renew our commitment to faith based education.

As children socialize with public school counterparts, they are often drawn to the "freedom" other schools seem to offer. Parents too, may sometimes wonder if a bigger school has more to offer their child.

Our commitment to raising moral children in a complex, confusing world, is what brings us together. Our values based education, weekly liturgies, and community service reinforce the values our families hold dear. Your child can only benefit from having a faith centered school experience as she moves from early childhood through the sometimes tumultuous adolescent years. As your child develops the attitudes and values that will carry her through life, sharing a values infused environment with classmates will help your child strengthen her relationship with God, her family, and her peers.

Academically there are many advantages to keeping your

student at KCS. Our Pre-K students are given a gentle, kind start to the world of formal education. Kindergarteners, using a wide variety of learning modalities, begin to decode words around this time of year. This is a significant step in beginning to read. Students in grades 1 experience many opportunities for math in a student centered, hands-on, technology infused classroom. All of our Pre-K - 1st graders spend their days in center based instruction that allows for small group and one-on-one time with their teachers and TA's.

Students in grades 3-5 are currently taking part in our blended learning pilot, and their 2nd grade and 6th grade schoolmates will be joining the program this month. All students in grades 4-8 study Spanish with Senora Gould.

Qualifying students have the opportunity to take Integrated Algebra, or Math 9, and 9th grade Earth Science, and sit for the Regents exams in June. 100% of our students passed the Regents exams last June.

KCS also offers Junior Achievement, our empathy education program, dance,

musical theater, soccer & basketball teams, choir, instrumental music, STEM opportunities through our partnership with NASA, National Junior Honor Society, athletics, book club, as well as many other extra curricular activities, and a daily extended day program.

Our class size range of 22-34 students provides plenty of opportunity for positive socialization as well as individual attention and support. When larger classes are necessary, experienced teaching assistants provide a productive student to adult ratio in the classroom.

Another important KCS goal is to help students understand the importance of service to others. Our students are given numerous opportunities to provide valuable service to their community. This culminates with the 8th grade Mentoring Project beginning in February. The 8th grade class will visit various community agencies and learn about their inner workings. During the day they will tour the facility, learn how the agency serves our community, how the agency is staffed, funded, and operated. Most importantly, they will learn how they can support each agency in serving others.



The feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, traditionally occurs on January 6 following the twelve days of Christmas. The Epiphany commemorates three scriptural events: the visit of the Magi to the stable of Bethlehem following the nativity of Jesus, Christ's Baptism in the Jordan, and his first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana. Happy Little Christmas to all!



Gratitude for Generous Hearts

Our KCS parents, families, alumni, & friends have been busy, busy bees when it comes to fundraising. The fall fundraisers included the Yankee Candle, the Auction, Pancake Breakfast, the Scrip fundraiser, the Ultimate Discount Card, & our Barnes & Noble & Scholastic Book Fairs.

A holiday gift solicitation mailing for the general fund went out to our KCS families, friends, & alumni & was responded to most generously. A special word of thanks to our current school families who are already paying tuition and gave to help support our school's future.

You might be asking yourself, "So now that we have raised these funds,

where will they go?" Unless otherwise stated on fundraiser information, all monies raised during this school year will be used *to make up the difference between the actual cost of educating a student at KCS which is approximately \$7200.00 annually, and the \$4,436.00 collected*



in tuition. As discussed at back to school night, the KCSFO's commitment to this year's school budget is \$45,000.00. Once

we do that, additional monies will be used toward maintenance and improvement projects, teaching materi-

als not covered by public school funding, technology equipment and up-dates, to offset the cost of field trips, and for special events for the students.

It is through this kind of teamwork that we are able to offer our students many curriculum enrichment opportunities, while keeping tuition affordable for all of our families. It is not too late to make a holiday donation to KCS. Simply contact Ms. D. at 331-9318 or send your check payable to Kingston Catholic School to the school office.

Thank you to all of our families who work tirelessly to support our school!

PARABLE OF THE PENCIL

The Pencil Maker took the pencil aside, just before putting him into the box. There are five things you need to know, he told the pencil, before I send you out into the world. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best pencil you can be.

You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in Someone's hand.

You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you'll need it to become a better pencil.

You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.

The most important part of you will always be what's inside.

On every surface you are used on, you must leave your mark. No matter what the condition, you must continue to write.

The pencil understood and promised to remember, and went into the box with purpose in its heart.

Now replacing the place of the pencil with you; always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best person you can be.

You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in God's hand. And allow other human beings to access you for the many gifts you possess.

You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, by going through various problems, but you'll need it to become a stronger person.

You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.

The most important part of you will always be what's on the inside.

On every surface you walk through, you must leave your mark. No matter what the situation, you must continue to do your duties.

By understanding and remembering, let us proceed with our life on this earth having a meaningful purpose in our heart.

~~ Author Unknown ~~