

July 11, 2018

All Assumption School Families,

2017-2018 was a great year for our school! Not only did the students make great academic progress but so did the school with so much help from all of you! Here are some of the highlights of this past school year:

1. New teachers arrived in August with new enthusiasm and were welcomed by the current staff creating a great environment for the children on a daily basis.
2. Fr. Dan, Dr. Hoogasian, Gayle Teixeira and the rest of the staff worked extremely hard and in so many different ways to make sure the school and our children were successful. No challenge is too great for the Assumption Staff!
3. Five graduates are moving on to High School and the Class Night and Graduation exercises were really well done. Hats off to all those that took part in the planning and execution! All parents in grades pre K - 7 should look forward to their graduation year and these unique events! **It was truly special to congratulate these students who have spent the better part of a decade together at Assumption School!**
4. PTG Meetings were well attended and full of enthusiasm and good discussion. We hope even more of you attend these meetings next year!
5. Meetings with grade level groups of parents led by the Administration, PTG President and Advisory Board Chair provided a forum to discuss current issues and fresh, new ideas. I believe all felt these meetings were beneficial and we plan on holding them again during the coming school year.
6. The Assumption School Advisory Board approved new bylaws that were put in effect at the beginning of the school year. This Board consists of 13 talented individuals and the new bylaws pave the way for increased involvement and decision making for the school by the Board. As a bonus, Dr. David Perda, the Superintendent of Schools for our Diocese, was present at several of our meetings to listen, observe and provide valuable feedback. Rest assured this Board is working hard for the school and your children!
7. As a result of the parent meetings and the increased involvement of the Advisory Board, two Advisory Board Sub-Committees were created that consist of staff, faculty and PARENTS. These two sub-committees are currently tackling:
 - A) Revised marketing strategies to build enrollment.
 - B) Enhancements and updates to current curriculum.

8. School social events and fundraising this past year were exceptional. A large number of parents representing all grade levels were involved at one time or another. This level of participation can only lead to great things for our School and our children. Keep it up!
9. Fr. Dan had a meeting with the Bishop and other diocesan staff right after the school year ended to report on the school's overall progress. The Bishop was pleased to hear of the parent involvement and positive environment at Assumption. Dr. Perda spoke at this meeting to the quality and level of commitment of the Assumption School Advisory Board that he personally witnessed as well. The meeting was a success and the Bishop is committed to the future success of Assumption School! Fr. Dan, School staff, Advisory Board and sub-committees as well as the PTG are also committed to continuing efforts to grow the school in the coming years.

The upcoming school year will open in September with a change in the administration. Dr. John Hoogasian, who has served as Assumption's principal so generously, capably, and enthusiastically for the past four years is stepping down to spend more time with his beautiful wife, Mary at their home in Maine. No more two hour commutes each way! All of us thank him for his great service to the school and trust that he will still serve as a valued consultant.

Stepping into the principal's role this year will be Mrs. Julie Olson. Mrs. Olson previously served as Principal in the Diocese of Rockford in her native Illinois before moving to Sutton a year ago and joining the Assumption School faculty. She also served as Assistant Principal at Assumption for the last half of this past school year. Mrs. Olson will still teach her 4th Grade class as well as chair our Curriculum Committee while serving as Teaching Principal. We feel blessed and honored to have Mrs. Olson in the principal's chair.

The teaching staff remains the same and are committed to be even better than last year because just as students learn, teachers also learn as each school year evolves. The 2018-2019 school year will start off fast for the middle school students as they jump right in to projects for the Diocesan Science Fair. This Science Fair takes place every other year. Two years ago, Assumption students from the 7th grade took home **FIRST** and **THIRD** place for the **ENTIRE DIOCESE** out of hundreds of students from all the other Diocesan schools of Worcester. Let's hope we can repeat!

We are looking forward to the 2018-2019 school year. It will be dynamic and we will strive to make it even better than this past year.

Have a great and blessed summer!

Robert Belsito
Advisory Board Chair