

Friday NewsNotes

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Mission Statement

It is the mission of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee to collaborate with parents in the formation of students spiritually and academically, passing on to all the message of Christ.

Textbook Selection – Language Arts/Reading

Barbara Densmore, the Scotts-Foresman representative, is forwarding materials to the K-8 schools in Language Arts/Reading and Literature. As soon as the materials arrive she will schedule presentations and/or Webinars. Ascertaining which series best meets the school's needs requires some background study in current research and practices. To assist you and your teachers we have included a few websites that provide guidance and information that is very helpful.

The Florida Center for Reading Research at Florida State University is a great resource for teachers and administrators. This site has "Guidelines for Reviewing a Reading Program" which would assist teachers as they review programs.

<http://www.fcrr.org/FCRRReports/guides/grpp.pdf>

Richard Allington, a long time reading researcher and author has some good advice also. Some of his topics may be found in the websites below.

Other sites:

<http://teachersread.net/Papers.htm>

<http://www.aft.org/topics/reading/index.htm>

http://www.reading.org/publications/reading_to_day/samples/RTY-0604-research.html

<http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/read/edpicks.jhtml?src=ln>

A website with information for intermediate and middle school teachers of literature can be found at:

<http://www.teachingliterature.org/teachingliterature/>

For schools with accreditation on the horizon, present the research to your faculty and document it for your School Improvement Plan. Keep copies of articles, etc.

Ethics In Education Act

The Ethics in Education Act requires that all new employees in schools with Corporate Tax Scholars and McKay students fulfill certain requirements. The law applies to both public and private schools. Our schools already fulfill most requirements.

The Province of Florida, together with the FCC and diocesan lawyers are working to ensure that what we fulfill the requirements and are studying the requirements.

We will keep you informed as decisions are made and put into place. Some of you may have received a form to be submitted by December 1. We will also get back to you soon regarding that form.

Notre Dame Initiative

Thank you to all who have posted their results on Curriki. Both our diocese and the Diocese of Memphis seem to be moving forward. After reading many of team/department outcomes posted I can understand the discussions going back and forth. It is also interesting to see how similar and how different ideas from different dioceses can be.

Thank you for all your efforts! I know this has not always been easy – and your perseverance is appreciated. I have not commented on any postings – but I have read most of them! Please pass my thanks on to your teachers.

If any teachers are having problems posting on Curriki please contact Sarah Popek at ND.

Reminders:

Pastor-Principal Meeting

The Pastor-Principal meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and will be held in the Conference Room located inside the Family Life Center at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Religion In-service (Escambia)

The November 7, 2008 topic will be on the teachings of St. Paul and presented by Msgr. Reed and held in the Family Life Center at Sacred Heart Cathedral. The session will begin promptly at 1:30 and end at 3:30

Schools that participate in a state scholarship program

The new Private School Annual Survey for the 2008-09 school year is available on the School Choice web site at:
www.floridaschoolchoice.org.

Have a wonderful and safe weekend.