



### 3 Year old Kindergarten Letter

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for enrolling your child at Blessed Sacrament Catholic School. Let me take a little time to tell you about our Preschool classroom. Our Preschool curriculum is designed to serve the needs of three or four year olds who are at different stages of development physically, cognitively and socially. The year is planned to provide interesting, meaningful, and active learning experiences. Your Preschooler will explore, solve problems, and acquire the necessary skills to enjoy learning and be successful in school. Our classroom will be very active and child-centered. The students' interests will guide many of our projects. When you do not see many worksheets coming home, remember that most of our learning takes place using manipulatives, real objects, and our environment. Children learn best through authentic, hands-on activities. Children will also have free-choice opportunities and creative choices on how they approach a task and express themselves.

At the beginning of the year your child will be introduced to our school routine. Your child will practice washing hands, walking in a straight line, using manners, and sharing with friends. In the classroom, our curriculum is from the Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute. Each month we will focus on a different theme. Some include: Weather, Farm Animals, Healthy Food, Community Helpers, and many more! Your child will also learn a new letter, shape, number, and color each week. We will sing nursery rhymes, dance to silly songs on the SmartBoard, and complete crafts. We will also play in various centers such as Art, Blocks, Free Choice, Reading, Dramatic Play, Writing, and Science.

We are so excited to see you next year in Preschool!!!



#### 4 YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN



#### **What Will Pre-Kindergarten Be Like?**

The Pre-Kindergarten curriculum is designed to serve the needs of four year olds who are at different stages of development physically, cognitively and socially. The year is planned to provide interesting, meaningful, and active learning experiences. Your pre-kindergartener will explore, solve problems, and acquire the necessary skills to enjoy learning and be successful in school. Our classroom is very active and child-centered. The students' interests will guide many of our projects. Children learn best through authentic, hands-on activities, so most of our learning takes place using manipulatives, real objects and our environment. We will introduce many skills and concepts in a group setting and then provide many times and ways to practice skills, and attain concepts independently. Children will have opportunities to work independently, in small groups cooperatively, as well as one-on-one with a teacher. Children will also have free-choice opportunities and creative choices on how they approach a task and express themselves.

**Religion:** We will be using the Religion series, Allelu! Growing and Celebrating with Jesus (Our Sunday Visitor). This Christ-centered and age-appropriate series offers 28 lessons! These lessons include activities centered on Bible stories, and it features crafts, prayers, games and music! Students will engage all their senses as they gain the building blocks for a lifetime of our Catholic Faith. We will study and develop a deeper appreciation for the Liturgical calendar and all of our Catholic prayers, customs and traditions. Beginning after the New Year, the pre-kindergarteners will attend weekly Mass on Thursday mornings. We would love to have you attend with us! All are welcome!

**Phonics and Reading:** We will be using First-Time Phonics, Readiness Skills: Book 1 (Steck-Vaughn) to build vital skills that are the stepping stones to phonics mastery. A focus on visual, auditory, and motor skills prepares students for letter recognition, sound and letter associations, and printing. Each lesson in Book 1 is built around a popular nursery rhyme, song, or story. These familiar rhymes and songs provide a basis from which students develop strong phonics readiness skills. In First-Time Phonics, The Alphabet: Book 2 (Steck-Vaughn) students will transition into writing letters of the alphabet. We will be using this book along with our Handwriting series.

**Handwriting:** We will be using Handwriting: Writing the Manuscript Letters (Universal Publishing). Handwriting is used every day, in every subject and by every student. This book was designed to help the student learn and achieve the correct handwriting skills needed to write neatly and clearly so that others can read it easily. We will continue to practice handwriting throughout the year using multiple mediums, such as, chalk, dry erase marker and pencil. Good handwriting will help students in other subject areas such as reading and spelling. Handwriting also promotes good thinking and communicating skills.

**Math:** Although we do not have a mathematics book, we incorporate many math skills in our daily routines. Our math skills range from recognition of numbers, to counting by 2's, 5's and 10's! We use many manipulatives to practice counting, sorting, and patterning, as well as real-life practice with calendar work involving recognition of numbers, graphing and even adding!

**Thematic Units:** We will incorporate many units throughout the year that will enhance your child's learning experience. These units will be closely related to skills being taught in the classroom and in relation to real life situations as well.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU NEXT YEAR IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN!!!



## 5 YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN



### What Will Kindergarten Be Like?

The kindergarten curriculum is designed to serve the needs of five year olds who are at different stages of development physically, cognitively and socially. The year is planned to provide interesting, meaningful, and active learning experiences. Your kindergartener will explore, solve problems, and acquire the necessary skills to enjoy learning and be successful in school. Our classroom will be very active and child-centered. The students' interests will guide many of our projects. When you do not see many worksheets coming home, remember that most of our learning takes place using manipulatives, real objects and our environment. Children learn best through authentic, hands-on activities. We will introduce many skills and concepts in a group setting and then provide many times and ways to practice skills, and attain concepts independently. Children will have opportunities to work independently, in small groups cooperatively, as well as one-on-one with a teacher. Children will also have free-choice opportunities and creative choices on how they approach a task and express themselves.

**Phonics and Reading:** We will be using Scott Foresman Reading First Texts for the basis of our phonics and reading instruction. The Scott Foresman kindergarten series includes instruction in alphabet awareness, phonics, reading fluency and listening, vocabulary, and text comprehension. We will also be using Starfall reading. You can go online to [starfall.com](http://starfall.com) for additional resources. In addition, we will use a variety of methods, materials, approaches and mediums for reading and phonics to ensure each child is receiving individualized instruction. The International Reading Association recognizes that there is no single method or combination of methods that can successfully teach children to read. Therefore teachers must have a strong knowledge of and use multiple methods, as well as a strong knowledge of the children in their care in order to create an appropriate balance of methods. We will visit the school library weekly. We encourage you to get a library card for your child and make weekly library visits part of their routine. A positive attitude toward reading is essential in kindergarten. A love of reading begins early and at home.

**Journal Writing:** Your child will have a journal for writing. These journals will progress from scribbles, to individual letters, to phonetic spelling to even correct spelling by the end of the year. We encourage you to provide opportunities for your child to write at home, making lists, sending letters or postcards and responding to events in writing. As children learn sounds they try to "stretch out" words to listen to the sounds they hear. They will record the sounds in their journals and we will discuss their successes and what strategies they can use to be more successful.

**Math:** We will use and base our instruction on the Sadlier-Oxford kindergarten math series "Progress in Mathematics." This comprehensive series introduces and reinforces many skills such as, sorting, patterns, numbers, addition and subtraction readiness, money, time, measurement, tables, graphs and fractions. Each child will have a workbook for skill building. In addition we will incorporate math into many daily routines for example, taking surveys, measuring, comparing and calendar activities, as well as provide time for real-life mathematical practice with manipulatives to deepen understanding of concepts learned.

**Religion:** Exploring the Catholic faith with kindergarteners is so rewarding, they tend to innately understand and accept teachings. We will study seasonal themes and the basic Catholic prayers, customs and traditions. We will be using a newly revised and more comprehensive series for instruction this year! Beginning after Thanksgiving, the kindergarteners will attend weekly mass on Thursday mornings. We would love to have you attend with us.

**Thematic Units:** Children naturally make connections among content areas and make strides in their learning when studying a specific theme or topic that incorporates all content areas. Our unit themes will integrate curriculum content areas in **social studies, math, science, music, reading, writing, religion and art**. Unit themes will be noted in our newsletter as well as on our monthly calendar. If you would like to send in a special snack, item, book or share something about our current theme, we welcome you to.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU NEXT YEAR IN KINDERGARTEN!!!



## **FIRST GRADE AT BSCS**

Dear Rising 1st grade Families,

In addition to developing a solid knowledge, love and commitment to following Jesus Christ, our 1st grade curriculum has much to offer. In Math, your child will work towards adding & subtracting to 20, plus more.

Our students really enjoy the interactive learning they receive through the e-book to our math series on the Smartboard.

Of course, Reading is a big part of first grade. It is phonetic based and focuses on vocabulary, fluency & comprehension skills.

In Language, your child will begin to recognize and use nouns, verbs, pronouns and adjectives in their sentences. There is a "Writing Workshop" component that allows the students a chance to write and publish personal, informative and creative writing pieces.

At the end of the year we have a special celebration in which the students read their published works to their peers and members of their families, followed by an ice cream social.

The first graders learn many songs and poems as a fun way to remember facts about the units we are doing. They will illustrate many poems which they collect throughout the year in their Poetry Binder, which they love to look and reflect back on.

Some after school activities that 1st graders enroll in include tennis, karate, Lego Club, dance, yoga, painting and more.

Our spring field trip usually is to Kiawah Island where they learn about and enjoy its natural environment.

One of your child's most important years in school may very well be their year in 1st grade.

See you in first grade!

Blessed Sacrament Catholic School

## SECOND GRADE LETTER

Dear Parents of Current First Graders,

Is your child registered for second grade at BSCS?

I hope so! Otherwise your student may miss out on an awesome year!

2nd grade is a great year at BSCS. Just a few of the highlights are:

- \*Reconciliation

- \*Spring Field Trip to Capers Island

- \* First Communion

- \* May Crowning

- \* Multiple performances throughout the year

The goal in second grade is to help each student to grow spiritually, academically and socially, as well as to develop a lifelong love of learning.

Our classroom is not simply a classroom, but a Community of Learners! Learn more about our classroom management at [http://www.newmanagement.com/ebooks/pdf/clip\\_chart\\_ebook.pdf](http://www.newmanagement.com/ebooks/pdf/clip_chart_ebook.pdf)

Please feel free to contact me directly about 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at BSCS at [jking@scbss.org](mailto:jking@scbss.org)

Jessica King

2nd grade

Blessed Sacrament Catholic School

Charleston, SC

Here is our classroom website:

<http://2krocks.weebly.com/>

<http://2krocksclassblog.blogspot.com/>

## THIRD GRADE LETTER

Dear Parents of Rising 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders,

Third grade will be doing an intense study of SC history. This always excites the students. We try to plan our field trip to go along with SC history. Last year we went to Legare Farms for a reenactment of the Revolutionary War.

Our Reading program covers all necessary objectives and skills. In addition, we have begun doing intense novel studies each quarter. Accelerated Reader is also new to Third Grade. This is an independent Reading Program in which the students choose books of their own interest and take tests checking comprehension. Each quarter there is a goal that they need to meet.

Cursive handwriting will be in full swing day 1 with students changing over to full cursive after Christmas.

The beginning of the year reviews addition and subtraction with regrouping. Fractions, Geometry, and Measurement are part of our curriculum. The main focus is multiplication and division. The students also start each day with a spiral math program called Math 4 Today, which they should be familiar with from 2nd grade.

In Science, we study living things, rocks, layers of the Earth, and Forces and Motion. The students take part in several experiments throughout the year.

Language begins each morning with Daily Oral Language and sentence diagramming. We require that all students must write in complete sentences in all subject areas.

Religion focuses on the Sacraments of Initiation. We also tie in the Commandments as well as Lenten and Advent Seasons. Students will participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Christmas and Easter.

We look forward to having your children in our classes next year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [kdabney@scbss.org](mailto:kdabney@scbss.org).

Thank you!  
Kathryn H. Dabney

# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade First Quarter Goals and Short Range Plans

## 2016-2017

Amanda Stover

### English/Language Arts:

#### Reading

**Standard 1: The student will read and comprehend a variety of literary texts in print and non-print formats.**

**Standard 2: The student will read and comprehend a variety of informational texts in print and non-print formats.**

**Standard 3: The student will use word analysis and vocabulary strategies to read fluently.**

- **Unit 1: Focus on Family**
  - Literary focus – setting, cause and effect, characterization, context clues, sequence, inferences, drawing conclusions and making judgments
    - A Visit with Grandpa
    - Train to Somewhere
    - Yingtao's New Friend
- **Novel Study: Because of Winn Dixie**
  - Literary focus – setting, plot, characterization, cause and effect, visualizing, summarizing, sequencing

#### Writing

**Standard 4: The student will create written work that has a clear focus, sufficient detail, coherent organization, effective use of voice and correct use of the conventions of written Standard American English.**

**Standard 5: The student will write for a variety of purposes and audiences.**

- Spelling: Lists will be derived from Zaner-Bloser Spelling Connections Grade 4 and current curriculum in reading and social studies.
- Vocabulary: Lists will be derived from current curriculum Social Studies, the basal reader and Because of Winn Dixie, our novel series.
- Writing: Creative writing, persuasive writing, descriptive writing, and “perfect paragraph” and will be interwoven throughout the curriculum.

#### Language

**Unit 1: Grammar: Sentences**

- Sentences
- Subjects and Nouns
- Predicates and Verbs
- Simple and Compound Sentences

## **Unit 2: More about Nouns and Verbs**

- More about Nouns
- Possessive Nouns
- Action Verbs and Linking Verbs
- Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

## **Social Studies**

**Standard 1: The students will demonstrate an understanding of the migration and settlement of Native Americans of North America.**

**Standard 2: The students will demonstrate an understanding of exploration in the Western Hemisphere and its influence on European Exploration.**

**Standard 3: The students will demonstrate an understanding of exploration of the New World.**

- **Social Studies Weekly**
  - Week 1: World/U.S. Geography
  - Week 2: U.S. States and Regions
  - Week 3: American Indian Nations
  - Week 4: How Did It All Begin?
  - Week 5: Spanish and Portuguese Explorers
  - Week 6: English and French Explorers
  - Week 7: Dividing the New World

## **Religion**

- Chapter 1: God's Goodness
- Chapter 2: Praise and Thanksgiving
- Chapter 3: The Commandments and God's Covenant
- Chapter 4: The Commandments and the Lord's Prayer
- Chapter 5: Jesus, the Image of God
- Chapter 6: Baptism in Christ

## **Math**

**Standard 1: The students will understand the place value structure of the base-ten number system and be able to represent and compare whole numbers up to 1,000,000 and decimals.**

**Standard 2: The students will develop fluency in adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing whole numbers.**

**Standard 3: The students will understand the effects of multiplying and dividing whole numbers.**

- Chapter 1: Understanding place value, reading and writing numbers through hundred millions, comparing and ordering whole numbers and money amounts, using halfway points on a number line, making and counting change, rounding whole numbers and money amounts, solving problems by making a table or list.
- Chapter 2: Using addition properties and strategies, applying subtraction concepts and the rules for subtraction, finding missing addends, minuends, and subtrahends, using strategies to add or subtract mentally, estimating sums and differences, adding and subtracting money amounts, learning various methods of checking addition and subtraction, solving problems using logical reasoning.
- Chapter 3: Adding with regrouping, subtracting with regrouping, subtracting with zeroes in the minuend, adding and subtracting money amounts, and recognizing extra information when solving problems.
- Chapter 4: Chapter 4: Multiplying by One and Two Digits, using multiplication properties and models, finding missing factors, finding and using patterns in multiplication, estimating products, multiplying by 1- and 2-digit number with regrouping, multiplying money amounts, solving problems by working backwards

## **Science**

**Standard 1: The students will distinguish the major groups of organisms based on significant characteristics.**

**Standard 2: The students will explain how invertebrates and vertebrates change as they grow and develop.**

**Standard 3: The students will analyze specific behaviors influenced by external cues in the environment.**

- Chapter 1: Kingdoms of Life: All organisms are made up of cells .Organisms need energy to live and grow. Organisms are grouped into different categories based on their characteristics.
- Chapter 2: The Animal Kingdom: The animal kingdom is divided into invertebrates and further into seven classes. All animals experience growth and change as they mature.
- Chapter 3: Living Things in Their Environment: An ecosystem defines all of the living and nonliving things that interact in an area. Plants and animals can change according to their surroundings. Those that do not change may not survive.

## **Assessments and Materials**

- Formal Assessments – written tests/quizzes and projects
- Informal Assessments
- Textbooks/workbooks/worksheets
- Supplemental books/worksheets for each subject
- Computer
- Smart Board
- Hands on activities
- Flip Books
- Individual help is given on an as needed basis

**All subject areas will be assessed using the following:**

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Tests, writing assignments and projects | 50% |
| • Quizzes                                 | 30% |
| • Class work                              | 10% |
| • Homework                                | 10% |

**When grades are calculated, I will round a student's grade if their effort warrants based on class participation and homework completion.**

**Weekly folders go home each Wednesday to the parents with graded papers from the week before. They are to be signed and returned.**

# **Fourth Grade Open House**

## **Welcome 4S Parents**

Welcome to Open House! In the interest of saving time, I have put together an outline of some routines and practices that we use in fourth grade: helping with homework, means of communicating, birthday celebration, grading, spelling, accelerated reader, absences, and discipline.

## **Homework and Assisting Your Child**

- Homework should take 40 minutes for written work and an additional 20 minutes of reading a night. They must reflect on their reading each night and record how many AR pages were read during that 20 minutes. Their weekly reading response sheets must be signed and returned every Monday. If your

child exceeds this time limit, please schedule a conference to discuss this with me.

- Homework is assigned Monday through Thursday nights; however, we do occasionally assign catch-up work or long term assignments to be completed over the weekends.
- Most fourth graders still need some form of supervision while completing homework. Others need close supervision and encouragement to finish. Please look over your child's work to see if he/she has completed the homework for the night and sign the assignment book.
- Homework is posted on the class page nightly, along with test dates, project due dates, events, etc. Please be sure to double check the class page to make sure that your child has written the correct assignments down before beginning homework each night.

### **Communication**

Email is the best means of communication with me (astover@scbss.org), but I also offer office hours every other Wednesday from 7:30 – 7:50 a.m. If you would like to meet with me at this time, please email me ahead of time to make sure it is not already reserved.

### **Birthday Celebrations**

Please feel free to send in a birthday treat on your child's birthday or if your child's birthday is over the weekend, send in your treat that Monday or Friday. There are fourteen students total in 4S. Please don't send in cakes or over-sized cookies that must be cut. Napkins and paper plates should also be sent in with your treat.

### **Grading**

A percentage of the final grade is divided into different categories. Tests are 50%, quizzes are 30%, homework is 10%, and class work is 10%.

### **Spelling**

New units are introduced every Wednesday and tested the following Wednesday. They will be assessed not only on how well they spell the word, but also on how well they can write the word in cursive. Their spelling grade is evaluated purely based on the printed word while their cursive is evaluated based on letter

formation, size and alignment, and spacing between letters, words, and sentences. They will either earn a check plus, check or check minus in cursive.

### **Accelerated Reader**

Computers for AR are in the library and may be taken there with the permission of the librarian and homeroom teacher. The test may not be taken during lunch and/or recess periods and they may not be taken at any other location other than the library and possibly the classroom if a laptop is available. If you have an extra laptop at home that you don't mind lending to the classroom, we would be able to use this computer wirelessly for AR tests.

### **Absences**

If your child misses school, it is the responsibility of the parents to email the teacher(s) for missed class assignments. Assignments will be posted on our class page and on Mrs. Kelly's page. Whether and when missed work needs to be completed and the timeframe given to complete the work is at the discretion of the teacher. If books are needed, they may be picked up in the school office, between 3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

### **Discipline**

- Each teacher has their own method of discipline. In 4S, I give a warning first by reminding the student what is expected of them, and I move their owl once to signal that a warning has been given. If a second correction is necessary, the student's owl is again moved and lunch detention is to be served that day along with a written explanation of what happened and what that student will do to correct the behavior (50 word minimum). If a third correction is necessary, both lunch and recess detention is served, during this time the student will write an explanation of what happened and ten declarative sentences, ten imperative sentences, ten interrogative sentences, and ten exclamatory sentences.
- If three detentions are given in a week, a demerit will be given to that student. Please note that if detentions are given weekly with no improvement in the behavior, demerits may be issued.
- Accumulation of demerits results in Saturday School detention.

### **In Closing**

I look forward to an exciting and productive school year with your precious children. They are a wonderful group of students, and we have already made great progress working together, having fun in the process.

## **Fifth Grade**

at

Blessed Sacrament Catholic School

**Math:** All major areas of 5<sup>th</sup> grade level mathematics are covered including place value, basic operations, decimals, fractions, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics, and problem solving strategies. Text: Progress in Mathematics, Sadlier-Oxford \*\*\*Extra info: I very often use cooperative learning groups to promote sharing of thought processes and skill strengths.

**Spelling:** Units of list words with a common spelling pattern are covered. Each unit includes exercises in analogies, decoding, categorizing, dictionary skills, proofreading, and creative writing. Text: Spelling Connections, Zaner-Bloser \*\*\*Tests weekly.

**Grammar:** This course continues a spiral curriculum of sentence structure, parts of speech, punctuation, capitalization, and creative writing. Text: Harcourt Language, Harcourt

**Reading:** Three teacher-selected novels with a common theme are read in class during the year. In addition, selected stories from the Literature book are also read and studied. All reading activities focus on skills such as main idea, details, sequence, inference, predicting outcomes, drawing conclusions, vocabulary, etc. Text: Reading, Fantastic Voyage, Scott Foresman

**Science:** Fifth grade level skills are taught in the areas of Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science. Students complete activities, experiments, and projects in these areas. Text: South Carolina Science, Macmillan/McGraw-Hill

**Social Studies:** This course covers the events from the Civil War up to the present. Research activities and projects are completed by the students. Text: Social Studies, The United States, Scott Foresman

Extra info: As a culminating activity at the end of the year, each 5<sup>th</sup> grade student chooses a famous person whom we have studied to research and present as a character in a Wax Museum.

# SIXTH GRADE LETTER

Welcome to 6R, you've made it to the second floor!!

This year should prove to be an exciting one for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade as they will now begin rotating from class to class during the day. 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will have the opportunity to work with several teachers as they study their courses and begin their journey towards high school.

For me, having 6<sup>th</sup> grade as a homeroom this year has been an absolute pleasure. My philosophy in the classroom is that we should be always mindful of the fruit of the spirit and that we should act in a Christian manner to show that God truly lives within each of us. It is apparent in all classrooms that this sentiment is shared among the students and faculty.

When asked what they like about the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, most students responded that they "love having lockers", "get to wear a hooded sweatshirt", "get to talk until school starts", "have fewer years left in school", "by switching classes the day goes by faster", "get to visit with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders", and "my favorite part about coming upstairs to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade was still being awesome me."

Students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be invited to join extra-curricular activities that include Choir, Dance, Art, Language, Drama, Band, Student Council, Book Club, as well as groups that focus on Community Service. Extra-curricular sports are also offered which include tennis, volleyball, and basketball.

All students will find that Blessed Sacrament Catholic School is a place where they will feel welcome and respected at all times. They will find teachers who have a passion for learning and who are truly devoted to their faith as well as their profession.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Letter



Dear Parents of Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Graders:

Please allow me to take a moment to welcome you back to Blessed Sacrament Catholic School for an exciting and eventful seventh grade year! As a seventh grader in English and Literature classes, your child will participate in project-based learning, independent practices, and 21<sup>st</sup> century literacy analysis.

The English program at BSCS is strongly based on the study of grammar. During the course, students will build on their knowledge of parts of speech, sentence structure, and writing. The writing process and different type of writing are studied. The English program in 7<sup>th</sup> grade also includes the study of vocabulary using the Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop series. This series begins in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and continues into high school to prepare students for standardized tests, including the PSAT and SAT.

The literature course allows students to explore various genres of writing, such as novels, short stories, and poetry. Students will learn the importance of plot and figurative language through analysis and close readings. Students will maintain journals in order to organize their thoughts and notes. Thematic units will enable students to comprehend historical contexts and universal messages within each reading.

Again, I want to welcome you back to Blessed Sacrament Catholic School. I am looking forward to working with your child and you throughout the upcoming school year.



## **Eighth grade Letter**

Dear Parents of Rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders:

In an effort to let you and your student know what 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be like, we wanted to let you know the following:

It's almost HERE! A time you've been waiting for...for some up to 9 years... the beginning of the end of your time at Blessed Sacrament! It's an exciting time, a time of first and lasts.

Eighth grade brings with it many new adventures, and an overnight trip is a big one. Last year we went to Camp Kanuga, in North Carolina. We did all sorts of fun things there: night hiking, challenge courses, campfire fun, sports and much more.

During your 8<sup>th</sup> grade year you will participate in a family tree project - you'll be able to trace your family tree as far as possible, looking for interesting and unique facts about your family. You will talk with family members about your history, make mouthwatering recipes that have been handed down and share pictures or other artifacts with your class.

This year many of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will ready themselves to make their faith more their own by preparing for Confirmation.

Eighth grade also has a tradition of doing Living Stations during Lent. As a class, you will write and perform your own Stations of the Cross.

It's a time when you are getting ready for the next step, High School. You could apply for new clubs: Retreat Team, Jr. Beta Club and more. We will ready your mind, body and soul to continue your journey on to High School and beyond.

I look forward to having your students as Eighth Graders.

Mrs. Tina Moore