



“It is not enough just to wish well; we must also do well.”

~ *St. Ambrose*

June 15, 2022

Dear Parents,

Since the founding of Saint Ambrose School in 1995, we have had the great mission of forming young men and women for higher education, their vocations in life, and becoming saints. At the heart of all our classes, programs, extracurricular activities, and policies is the desire to help each student know Jesus Christ, and joyfully live the gospel, both now and for the rest of their lives. Our school’s vibrant and demanding academic curriculum teaches the Catholic faith and virtue, while incorporating proven and timeless methods of learning with new technology and resources.

This educational vision of forming the whole child can be seen in the happiness of our students, and the many awards and recognitions they have received. It can also be seen in our alumni who frequently return to our school and share their successes in high school and college, careers, and family life. Our alumni often express their gratitude for their formative experiences at Saint Ambrose School, especially living in a culture of Catholic faith and spirituality and leaning in a close-knit school community that has formed lifelong bonds with teachers and classmates.

This year we are pleased to introduce two new initiatives that will strengthen Saint Ambrose School in its commitment to help our students grow spirituality and intellectually.

First, the theme for the 2022-2023 Saint Ambrose School year is “Eyes Up”. This theme is taken from the Sermon on the Mount and will see each classroom focus their studies on the beatitudes. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls His disciples to be citizens of the Kingdom of God, and to live their faith by serving others. This theme will incorporate discussions on the universal call to holiness, examples of saints who lived the beatitudes, how God asks that we use our talents to serve others, and practical ways of showing charity and mercy to others. Homeroom classes will also be asked to identify spiritual and corporal works of mercy that can be done as a class throughout the year. One inspiration for this theme is the famous words of Mother Teresa, that if we want to have joy in life, we must understand what “JOY” is – it is having your life in the right order: **J**esus, **O**thers, **Y**ourself.

I hope that this year’s theme will have the same effect as themes over the past years, serving as a point of focus for all we do during the year. For example, the theme of the 2020-2021 school year was “Devotion to Mary”, where we saw the establishment of a Marian prayer garden on our campus, the school was consecrated to Mary, and we began the practice of praying the rosary as a united school community on special feasts throughout the year. The theme of the 2021-2022 school year has been “Live Like a Saint”. Two saints were chosen for each classroom as their “patron saints”. These specific saints had a connection to youth and came from all parts of the world. Throughout the year our teachers and priests developed activities to teach the faith using the example of these saints.

The second initiative is the inauguration of a Dual Language Program (DLP). Boston College's Two-Way Immersion Network has finalized our Feasibility study and has concluded that our school is ready to establish a dual language program and will support it.

It is a program that has been done successfully in other Catholic schools across the nation and was developed by Boston College's "Two-Way Immersion Network of Catholic Schools". With the support of the Office of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Arlington and Fr. Fisher, we will be the first parish in the Diocese of Arlington to implement this program, when we begin this fall (School Year 2022-2023). The DLP will provide literacy and content instruction to all students through two languages (English and Spanish). The program will start this with kindergarten only and transition the school by adding one grade every year.

This program was designed to give students the essential tools they need for success in a world that is increasing multilingualism, multiculturalism, and a global economy. Saint Ambrose school wants to give each student the tools they need for success in the world they will live and work in, and where they will help others grow closer to God.

The program will be implemented 50-50. This means that 50 percent of the content of math, science and language art should be taught in Spanish, and 50 percent of the content of social studies, religion, and language arts should be taught in English. In addition, all specials will also be in English.

The goal of the program is to develop global citizens that can connect language and culture. This connection between language and culture will provide our students a crucial cultural perspective of all Latin American countries. The goal of the program will be:

- to continue to enable students to deepen their relationship with Jesus, broaden their knowledge of their faith tradition, and connect their faith to daily life;
- to equip students with the skills that will enable them to communicate bilingually and bicultural;
- to develop communication skills that allow students to compete effectively in a global community;
- to develop listening, speaking, reading, writing, and global competence skills in two languages;
- to develop proficiency in all academic content areas in the two languages;
- to use technology and other non-print sources to gather information;
- to increase awareness of students' own culture and appreciation of the culture(s) of others.

The program will be taught through a cultural lens to allow students to view the world openly and to gain an understanding of other cultures at a deeper level. Students will be able to develop a stronger bilingual identity and a love of learning the Spanish language with meaningful connections with all Latina American cultures.

Father Fisher and I are very blessed that St. Ambrose will provide our students with the tools they will need to face the world in the future. As dual language students, they will continue to deepen their relationship with Jesus and attain high levels of academic achievement by cultivating global competence that will allow them to succeed in a multicultural society and global economy.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Andrew Fisher
Pastor and Head of School



Maria Teresa Tejada
Principal