March 15, 2017

Dear Parents and Grandparents, Teachers and Staff, and Alumni and Friends of Fr. Marquette Catholic School,

Enclosed please find a copy of the first edition of our newsletter, *The Vision*. The name of the newsletter was inspired by our school logo, the eagle and the cross. The beloved disciple John is symbolized over the centuries by the eagle. St. John was a soul-mate of Jesus and thus has the eyes like that of an eagle able to gaze deeply into the mystery of God. John was there at the foot of the cross when Jesus died. He witnessed the fullness of God's love. We pray that the Holy Spirit guide us with the vision of St. John as we lead our school forward.

After much prayer and discernment, research and evaluation, the Diocese of Marquette, led by Bishop Doerfler and the Department of Education, has directed all of our diocesan schools to implement a classical Catholic curriculum. Fr. Marquette School is in the process of fully implementing that curriculum. There are numerous reasons for this movement and we are very excited to be a part of it.

Helping our children to learn to love learning and thus to become life-long learners, helping our children to become disciples of Jesus and thus to become people of faith, helping our children to become analytical thinkers, critical readers and inspiring writers are just a few of the reasons for the classical curriculum. Together we will seek the good, the true and the beautiful, through Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

We have also enclosed an information sheet that offers numerous links to data supporting tested and proven results achieved by classical curriculum programs already in place. We strongly encourage all of our parents and our entire school family to learn more about the curriculum and its corresponding methodology of teaching. We pray that you will all share our enthusiasm and excitement for the vision of our school as we move boldly forward.

Yours in Jesus and Mother Mary,

[Signatures]
Fr. Glenn Theoret  Msgr. Michael Steber  Fr. Greg Heikkala  Mrs. Mary Jo Scamperle
FALL 2017 CURRICULUM
Parent Resources

OVERVIEW
Why the Switch?
http://dioceseofmarquette.org/catholicschools/catholicschoolnews
What is Classical Curriculum?
https://welltrainedmind.com/a/classical-education/

MATH
Singapore Math Resource Handouts
https://singaporemathsource.com/resources/handouts/
Math in Focus: Kindergarten through Eighth Grade Curriculum Overview

POETRY
Ten Reasons You Should Memorize Poetry
http://www.giftedguru.com/ten-reason
Poetry Memorization: Methods and Resources

LATIN
A look inside Latin for Children Level A
Song Latin Program (Audio)

LITERATURE
Classical Core Curriculum Books: Fairy tales, Myths and Fables, etc.
https://www.memoriapress.com/curriculum/classical-core-curriculum/
Common Core: Literature without representation

SCIENCE
STEM solutions for K-8 Science
https://store.schoollspecialty.com/OA_HTML/xxssi_ibeBrandPage.jsp?docName=V700811&minsite=10206
Next Generation Science Standards
http://nysn.nsta.org/

Why Teach Greek & Latin Roots?
90% of multisyllabic English words are of Latin origin; most of the remaining 10% are Greek!
Children are entering every grade level with a language deficit in compared to years past.

Association of Classical Christian Schools
SAT Scores: Class of 2011

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<td>Math</td>
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*Data from results of 2011 ACCS survey of member schools. The ACCS average represents scores from 414 students in 31 schools.*

PISA Mathematics Scale 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
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OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2009
In 2009, Singapore participated in the PISA study, which assesses 15-year-olds in industrialized countries. Singapore made the top-performing nation in math, while Singapore students scored significantly above the international average, the United States scored below the average, ranking #31 out of 66.
I was blessed to have had the privilege of attending Holy Name High School in Escanaba. At Holy Name we were immersed in a Catholic Classical Curriculum. I had no idea what that was at the time.

I had two solid years of Latin. We studied the great Greek Philosophers, the lives of the saints and many other great men and women who lived the faith, and learned of the rich history of the Roman Catholic Church. We studied scripture and the teachings of the Church. We studied English and American Literature.

Most importantly we were inspired by the Christian Brothers and the Franciscan Sisters to be the best that we could be. We were inspired to love learning and thus become life-long learners. We were challenged to become disciples of Jesus and to become leaders in His Church and faithful to Him into eternity.

We learned how to study and how to be successful in the academic world. We were always taught that if we could be successful in school that we could be successful in the world. We learned how to study, how to read and think analytically, how to write and speak effectively and even poetically.

Now I want to give back to God through the wonderful children at Fr. Marquette School that same beautiful experience that I was given many years ago.

Amo, amas, amat, amamus, amatus, amant.

In my mind's eye, I can see back to freshman year in high school. Sister Wilfrid's petite size 5 foot stomps along as we chant the Latin verb conjugations.

In her eighties, she is an intellectual powerhouse, a former Classics major at the University of Chicago and the founder of our small school. Sister knows everybody: from famous movie directors to each and every girl that graduated from our school. In her class of three students, there is nowhere to hide. We learn Latin declensions and earn high praise when we make connections from our translations to our other studies and current events. All knowledge seems related, rather than boxed into individual categories of History, Literature, Language and Mathematics. My head is ready to burst with all these connections!

(Continued p. 2)
The Principal Vision—by Mary Jo Scamperle (Continued)

By senior year, it is just Sister Wilfrid and me. When the four-year academic awards are announced at graduation, many chuckle when I stand. I am the only remaining four-year student of Latin!

Mr. Timothy O’Donnell taught Religion and Church History. He and his wife had just had their first baby. Mr. O’Donnell was charismatic, cool and a man of faith. At parent-teacher night, he told our parents that he became a teacher because, “I love Jesus Christ.” My mom—catechist is now Dr. Timothy O’Donnell, M.A., S.T.L., S.T.D. and President of Christendom College in Virginia, an expert on the Sacred Heart, and who can be seen on EWTN.

Sister Mary Wilfrid, SHCJ has long been enjoying her heavenly reward. I like to think that she looks down upon us at Father Marquette School, and smiles at our attempts to teach the ancient language of Latin to 21st century students. She would remind me to stomp my foot while we chant.

The Curriculum Vision—Curriculum Highlights—Fall of 2017

**Latin**

Grade 4: *Sing Song Latin Program* by Classical Academic Press. Introduces Latin Grammar and Vocabulary through songs and rhymes.

Grade 5 - 8: *Latin for Children Level A* by Classical Academic Press.

Latin grammar and vocabulary, including 240 of the most frequently occurring words using mnemonic aids of songs and chants.

**Science**


**Poetry**


**Writing**

Grade K – 8: *Imitation Model Program* - Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW)

**Literature**

Grades K – 6: Fairy Tales, Myths and Fables, Classical Stories & Read-Aloud Selections.

Featuring:

- Grade 1: *Hans Christian Anderson tales, Peter Rabbit, Velveteen Rabbit*.
- Grade 2: *Selected Grimm Fairy Tales, Greek Myths, Just So Stories* by Kipling.
- Grade 3: *Norse Myths, Fairy Tales* by O. Wilde, *Arabian Nights* by Colum.
- Grade 4: *Tales of Shakespeare* by Lamb, *Fairy Tales* by MacDonald, *Alice in Wonderland*.
- Grade 6: *Tales of Shakespeare* by Lamb, *Fairy Tales* by MacDonald, *Alice in Wonderland*.

**Math**

WHY STUDY SCIENCE USING INQUIRY—BASED LEARNING?

Teacher A describes the daily lesson: “Class, please open your textbooks to pg. 123, and find the terms in bold print. Write these words and definitions about the skeleton system in your notebook.” Teacher B begins class with: “What are you eating when you eat a chicken wing? Remembering your laboratory skills which include safety precautions we practiced (which are what?), today we are dissecting part of Gallus Domesticus.

What are some words you know about the skeletal system? Using these words describe and draw what you see in your lab notebook.” What are the students learning? How are the students engaged?

What will the environment be in each classroom? Are scientific methods being used? In both cases, the goal is to learn about the anatomy of animals, including understanding bones, muscles, ligaments, tendons, and cartilage.

Teacher A is using a fact-based approach to learning scientific knowledge. Teacher B engages the students with inquiry-based learning. Inquiry-based learning asks questions and engages students in the learning process. Instead of defining facts and more facts and trying to connect the knowledge, inquiry-based learning starts how any curious adventure begins – with a question. The inquiry serves as a foundation in which all additional information is ordered to find an answer. Science is inquiry. Children and curious people use the scientific method all the time, as we are asking questions, observing, researching, and experimenting. Inquiry-based learning in science will create a life-long learning experience.

Teacher Spotlight—Abby Shunk

For Abby Shunk every day is a walk down memory lane. She attended Fr. Marquette (formerly St. Michael’s Catholic School) Kindergarten through 8th grade. Abby now teaches 5th and 6th grade in the classrooms that she sat in as a student, which provides one of the many examples of loyalty and tradition alive in this fine school.

Born and raised in Marquette, Abby was given the gift of a Catholic education. She went on to graduate with honors from Marquette Senior High School in 1998 and then earned a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Northern Michigan University, graduating with high honors in 2002. Abby credits her strong educational foundation from Fr. Marquette as a key component to her academic success. The tradition of Father Marquette continues in Abby’s own family. Abby and her husband Karl are proud to have their children Lily (8) and Wyatt (6) attending Fr. Marquette.

“A Catholic school teacher has the privilege to educate not only the mind of a child, but their heart as well.”

- Abby Shunk

Andrew Grosvenor
(Educator with experience in Classical Curriculum and current FMCS parent of 4)
Little Eagles Preschool—3 and 4 Year-Old Programs

Nurturing Children through Fun and Learning

At Father Marquette Catholic School we are committed to provide a quality and affordable preschool experience for the children of our community. Through a diverse and well rounded schedule of daily activities, we will help your child develop important verbal, social and other skills to prepare them for Kindergarten.

Meet the Little Eagles’ Professional Teaching Staff

As a child Julie Smigiel attended Catholic grade school and loved learning and living her faith at school and home. After high school, she earned a bachelor’s degree in Language Arts with an Early Childhood minor from Aquinas College in 2005. In 2010, Miss Smigiel earned a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction. This is her fifth year living in Marquette and teaching Pre-K, and it’s her 12th year teaching overall. She previously taught 1st and 2nd grades downstate at Saints Peter and Paul School in Grand Rapids, followed by teaching 2nd grade at Ludington Area Catholic School.

Miss Smigiel loves living in the U.P. and especially enjoys basking in God’s glorious beauty all around. She is a member of St. Peter Cathedral and is the Middle School Faith Formation Catechist. She has a holy hour of adoration each Thursday and prays for all of the school families. Miss Smigiel enjoys reading, hiking, spending time with her niece and nephew, and growing in her faith.

Kari Jurecic has a bachelor of arts degree in Elementary Education from St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin with a minor in Early Childhood Education. She taught kindergarten at Father Marquette School from 2011 to 2015 and now we are blessed to have her teaching in the 3 year old classroom. During the past school year she moved to Boston for her husband to attend graduate school. While there she substitute taught in a local Catholic school. We are so excited to have her back at Father Marquette as a part of the new Little Eagles program.

We are truly blessed to have two certified teachers with early childhood endorsements in our program. Our Little Eagles preschool and pre-kindergarten provide a stimulating education that prepares students well for kindergarten. This foundation is proving vital entering our accelerated academic program.