



Dear Nativity of Mary School Families:

We pray that your summer is off to a beautiful start! With this letter you will find your child's progress report and testing results. We are proud of each child's growth and value your partnership to ensure that we are meeting your child's needs. We invite you to review both the report card and the testing results, as together, these scores help to paint a clearer academic picture for your child. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the school office at 952.881.8160.

Throughout the year, our school made progress on our Strategic Plan initiatives. A summary of the goals achieved this year are included below, but progress on all of our school goals can be found online under, "About Us" under "School Advisory Council:"

Spiritual Growth: Positivity Project and Monthly Virtue Focus

Academic & Enrichment Focus:

- **Curriculum Updates:** Blended Learning Year One - four classrooms and Growth Mindset Adoption
- **Responsive Classroom:** Now schoolwide
- **Preschool:** NAEYC Accreditation Renewal and offering summer preschool extended care.
- **Robotics & Chess Club:** Thank you parents for offering these programs! Our robotics team took first place at regions this year.

Professional Development: Training in Technology, STEM, Assessments, Growth Mindset, Blended Learning, & Mental Health

School Programs:

- **Recycling Grant** – Training students and staff to recycle!
- **PTO**–Parent events and socials, second year of Art Night and Craft Fair and new "Family Fall Festival!"
- **STEM Grant** – Maker Space and Maker Cart materials, Weather Station for Middle School Science.
- **Marketing Grant**–New photos, new brochures, multiple videos.
Growth in student enrollment Preschool to Grade 8, from 344 in 2018 to 355 this year.

Budget Deficit: Adjusted staffing to reduce the school deficit.

Father Nathan LaLiberte joins our parish and school this July 1, 2019. Interviews for the new principal are in progress with the desire to have an announcement hopefully by the end of July to all families if we find the right candidate. The school has also hired two teaching assistants, Theresa Prusha and Lisa Rivera, to support our classrooms. Offers have been extended to a new language arts and music teacher with announcements coming soon!

Over the past month, the decision has been made to put a pause on the St. Edwards' Preschool program for the Fall of 2019. With changes in pastor, principal, and the recent reduction in force of teachers, we believe what is most important for our school at this juncture is to experience a year of stabilization. The desire to grow our preschool program is important for the health and growth of our entire school as preschool is the feeder to our K to 8 grade levels. In support of this, Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE) generously has offered to allow us to use the grant given to our proposed St. Edward's preschool toward growth at our current school location. This could allow us to possibly utilize these funds for an additional preschool classroom at Nativity, or other preschool growth needs. In addition, we will continue to build collaborative relationships with both St. Edwards and St. Bonaventure to continue to develop the beautiful Catholic community of Bloomington.

As we look ahead to 2019-20, we will continue to ensure academic excellence and spiritual growth at Nativity:

Academic Focus & Enrichment: Blended Learning in all classrooms as part of our second year in partnership with the University of Notre Dame grant program. Adding standardized grading to Grades 3-4-5. NWEA-Map testing three times a year.

Spiritual Growth: Implementation of Virtues in Practice in all K-8 classrooms; Adoption of Seeds for Preschool.

Professional Development: This year all staff will receive Blended Learning instruction and coaching.

Marketing: Develop a strong marketing plan, apply for grants, and redesign the school website.

Budget Focus: The new budget and reduction in staff is aligned to reduce the school's budget deficit. Continued evaluation of the budget, with efforts to grow enrollment and increase revenue a part of the 2019-20 focus.

Communication & Handbooks: Nativity will implement increased communication efforts including coffee chats and parent surveys. School and staff handbooks will also be updated to reflect new policies from the Diocese, our Responsive Classroom and Blended Learning environment.

Thank you for your support throughout the 2018-19 school year. Whether you volunteered at school, supported our fundraisers, or helped on a field trip, we thank you for your gift of time, service and support. Our school would not be a school of excellence without you, our parents. **THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO! Have a blessed summer!**

Blessings - Father Nathan LaLiberte & Mindy Reeder