

November 4, 2011

Dear Parents,

The fall season has arrived with cooler temperatures and wet weather on the horizon. With the beginning of a new grading period I'm reminded of how fortunate we are at St. Bernard's Catholic School to have the students and families that we work with every day. The student's grades for the first quarter were very good and our ITBS testing have given us data showing our strengths and areas of improvement.

Again, it is very difficult to compare our students at St. Bernard's Catholic School to those in the public school, but here are facts published this last week illustrating the test results using NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress/Nation's Report Card). Students were tested in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade throughout the country in Math and Reading. The following percentages are the results of the public school students using NAEP and the results from the ITBS test taken by our students this last September. The number indicates the percentage of students that scored at a proficient or higher level:

Math	Grade 4	Grade 8
Public	40%	35%
SBS	59%	71%
Reading		
Public	34%	34%
SBS	73%	89%

We are very proud of the work being done by our students, parents and staff.

As you can see our students have excelled in the academics necessary for future success. One thing that does need to improve is tardiness at the beginning of the day. There are too many children coming to school late, disrupting prayer time and the beginning of class with their late entry into the classroom. To improve on this problem we are asking the parents to move their start in the morning ahead 5-10 minutes so everyone will be on site before the 8:15 bell rings. We understand that occasionally there will be times when the family will be late, but lately it has been more the rule than the exception. The gates will be closed beginning November 8<sup>th</sup> promptly at 8:15am. If you are not inside the gate by 8:15am, a parent/adult will need to escort your child to the office to receive a tardy slip. Parking inside the gate will also be discouraged. You have been acquainting your child during the first quarter of the year on the arrival procedures so they should be ready to walk to their respective grades before the 8:15am bell. If they are not in line at the first bell (8:15am) they are going to be marked tardy. Please keep these policies in mind for the remainder of the year.

Preparing the student for the day is very important; the proper rest at night along with a nutritional breakfast is critical for the children's success and future. Along with their school work completed properly for the new day, their arrival must be timely.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter

Gary Abate