



Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Academy



August 31, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

A warm welcome to all of our parents! We extend an extra special welcome to 35 new scholars and their parents of our Crusader family!

Our theme this year is “**Catholic Schools: Lead. Learn. Serve. Succeed; Nurturing Body, Mind & Spirit.**” Our mantra this year comes from our school motto: “***I am a student of EXCELLENCE. I am a student of HONOUR. I am a student of TRUTH.***” We believe when we say this every day, it will become a part of our very being and we will become who we say we are.

This year we will focus on **five core areas: Building Relationships, Student Engagement, Collaboration, Self-Discipline and Prayer.** We firmly believe that this school will continue to soar to even greater heights this academic year; and with all stakeholders working together, we will accomplish our goals.

We are proud to boast that we have begun this school year on a winning streak. We ended the last academic year winning the prestigious Laws of Life Essay Competition, and are beginning this year with outstanding student performances in writing, science and technology.

We had 16 primary students as well as our Principal, enter the Commonwealth Writers’ Competition at the end of the last school year. We are elated to announce that MSSCA students placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th overall and three students placed in the top 10 of their age group categories, and our Principal received a 2nd place finish in the adult category.

In addition to our writing accomplishments, incoming senior, Dwight Malcolm was selected from among the brightest minds in the country to attend the very competitive summer engineering programme at Kettering University this summer. We are very proud to announce that Dwight outscored all other scholars on the final Physics examination, scoring 100%.

Moreover, five of our students who ended the 9th grade last academic year were selected for the ICT information technology course held at BTVI this summer. All of them graduated from the course with international certifications.

Finally, as is our custom, top performing students in grades 8 and 10 are allowed to write the national examinations. We are excited to report that 70% of the thirteen 10th grade students passed their BGCSE exams with A to C grades; while 89% of the 27 8th grade students passed the BJC exams they sat with A to C passes.

These accomplishments demonstrate that we are definitely a school of EXCELLENCE!

You will receive a calendar for the school year during next week’s PTA meeting, but here are a few reminders and highlights, which will be explored more fully during our **general PTA Meeting on Tuesday, September 4 at 6:00pm.**

General Information

• Academics

- You are once again reminded that this year’s graduating class will be the last class allowed to graduate with a minimum GPA of 2.00. Beginning with the class of 2020, the minimum GPA required for a Catholic Board of Education Diploma is 2.30.
- Primary school students must maintain a minimum average of 70% in the core subjects (Math, Language, Social Studies, Science and Religion) in order to matriculate to the next grade
- High school students must maintain a C grade or higher in Math and English, as well as a year end average of 2.30 or high to matriculate to the next grade.

• Social Development

- All students and parents are required to follow school rules. Ensure that all family members are familiar with the policies of the school. All new students received a handbook during orientation. We expect all Crusaders to respect and follow the rules.

• School Uniform

- PE uniforms and neckties are being sold from the auditorium before and after school until Sept. 7. They will be sold from the primary office after the 7th. The cost for PE uniforms: \$25 for youth sizes and \$30 for adult sizes. The cost for neckties: \$15 (untied) or \$12 (pre-tied).
- Jackets – We have changed our vendor for the school jackets and sweaters. We hope to have winter attire for you to purchase before the cold arrives. Until such time, if you do not have a school sweater or jacket, you are allowed to wear a solid navy blue sweater. Further details about the order to follow.

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- All students are required to wear monogrammed shirts. Beginning Monday, Sept. 3, students will not be allowed to attend classes without the proper uniform.
- **Finances**
 - Primary Workbooks have been distributed to those students whose tuition has been paid. As soon as you have paid your child's tuition, he/she will receive the workbooks.
 - Term One tuition is due in on Monday, September 3, but you will be given until September 14 to pay the full amount. Students with outstanding fees will be removed from class after the two week's grace period.
 - Parents will be billed a late fee of \$25 if all of the tuition is not paid by September 14.
 - If you are on the payment plan, you must make ten equal payments between June and March. If you are late with your payments, you will also be assessed a late fee.
- **Communication**
 - Parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers on a regular basis. Please ensure that teachers have your contact information
 - Teachers are strongly discouraged from communicating with parents via what's app. Acceptable forms of communication are: face to face, hand written notes (notes in the planner); email, and/or phone calls.
 - We ask that parents set up meeting times with teachers in order to have their full attention and time; trying to meet with a teacher between lessons or during homeroom tasks does not allow time for a meaningful conversation
 - Monthly memos will be sent home electronically, please ensure that the office has your current email address
 - You must refer to the monthly memos for any changes in the calendar

Vacation/Examination Dates

- October 8 National Heroes Day – Public Holiday
- October 26 – 29 Mid-Term Break
- November 27 – 29 Primary Dept. Examinations
- December 10 – 13 Secondary Dept. Examinations
- December 13 Christmas vacation begins at 3pm
- December 14 Primary Dept. Report Card Distribution 9am – 12 noon
- January 9 Secondary Dept. Report Card Distribution 2pm – 4pm
- January 10 Majority Rule Day – Public Holiday
- February 13 – 19 Secondary Dept. Mid-Term Exams
- February 19 Primary Archdiocesan Writing Exam
- February 21 – 25 Mid-Term Break
- April 12 School Closes at 3pm for Easter Vacation
- April 29 School reopens
- April 30 – May 3 Grade 12 Internal Examinations
- May 10 Last day of regular classes for grade 12 students
- May 21 Primary Archdiocesan Mathematics Exam
- May 22 Grade 6 Writing Exam
- May 23 Grade 6 Language Exam
- May 30 Kindergarten – Grade 5 Writing Exam
- May 31 Kindergarten – Grade 5 Language Exam
- June 3 – 6 Grades 7 – 11 Examinations
- June 6 Vacation for grades 7 – 11 begins after last exam
- June 7 Labour Day – Public Holiday
- June 10 Whit Monday – Public Holiday
- June 13 Vacation for Kindergarten – Grade 6 after 3pm
- June 14 Primary Dept. Report Card Distribution 9am – 12 noon
- June 18 Secondary Dept. Report Card Distribution 9am – 12 noon
- August 28 School reopens for 2019/2020 academic year

Joye Ritchie-Greene
Principal

Paula Bevans-Hanna
Vice-Principal, Secondary Dept.

Sue-Lynne McCrea
Vice-Principal, Primary Dept.