

St Francis PRE

May 2019

Summer—So much to think about

I always think in August that May will take forever to get here but then all of a sudden it is Christmas and boom—it's the end of April. After PRE is over I get together with all the teachers and I am amazed at what the teachers would like to see done different next year. I take all ideas and then try and implement a big majority of these ideas and I know from the bottom of my heart that these ideas the teachers want to implement are for the best for all our children.

I read this quote on Facebook a year ago.

In one year a child spend 7800 hours at home and 900 hours at school and 44 hours at PRE. Which teacher should be more accountable? (I added the hours for PRE)

I believe this goes the same way with PRE. I have so many parents that don't understand why I ask these kids to say the prayers at home so when we test out at PRE they know them. Here are a few examples I have heard, why don't you practice with them at PRE or set 10 minutes aside and help them with the prayers. My response to the kids are, "Everyone goes to bed so why not say your prayer before you go to sleep, or you can say it on the car ride to school or a game, or say the prayer while you are brushing your teeth. It is so easy to want someone else to do the work for us parents but we need to know that it is our primary responsibility to be the guidance our kids need in their lives for their Catholic Faith.

When I first started teaching with PRE we only had an hour to get our lesson presented to the children. That was very hard, by the time you got them all situated and focused and then presented the topic and then put in a time for the director to tell the children what she needed, took the class time down to about 40 minutes. That was very hard to get what we needed presented and discussed before it was time to go home.

Then we decided to go up to 1 1/2 hours so we could complete a chapter in our books we teach out of. Sometimes this is still rushing us through a chapter a night but we get it done. There really is no time for us to set aside ten minutes for just practicing prayers.

The teachers and myself discussed, in the past, that this is something that parents need to take control of and help their children learn. Some teachers have decided to either pick one prayer to say at the beginning or end the night for one month and then move on to a new one for the next month. But I will say this, children with not learn a prayer only saying it once a week. I ask you to reread the *Facebook quote* at the beginning of this letter again. See the hours that kids are with their parent, see that you are the influential person in their lives. You took a vow between God and your family that you *are* going to raise your kids according to the Catholic Church. Going to church on holy days and all Sundays is one of the vows you took. To bring them up according to God's plan was another vow. How are you doing?? Doing good, I hope so. Only you and God know the truth.

When I go to my meetings for PRE, I have a set of guidelines I have to abide by to be the director of the program. One rule is that each student is to know about 4-5 *more* prayers, per grade. If you feel these are a lot for the kids to know, more than we use in church are a regular basis, please ask me at registration night and I will show you what they are required to know and you may just like my list.

All families should have gotten color coordinated prayer cards that show the prayers each grade should know. If you don't have one and would like one, let me know and I will get one to you.

And one last note, nothing says that your second graders **will** make their First Communion two weeks after Easter if they don't meet the requirements (knowing prayers, knowing concept of what First Communion means). This goes the same way for Confirmation. If your child does not meet the requirements they will not be allowed to join the class with this sacrament. If you feel this is something very important to you, then I ask as a parent, please be the person your child is looking up to and help them get to the point they need to be at for this sacrament.

This segment I don't want to come off as nagging but I have to set down the rules that PRE has and make sure we are all on the same page and we are all looking out for the best of all the children involved.



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See you in August

St. Francis Website: <http://humphreystfrancis.com>

Check out the church website.

PRE newsletters are on there monthly if you misplaced yours.

See what is all happening at church.

JC CAMP

If you have a child that will be entering the 9th grade, you should have already received paperwork for the upcoming camp. JC Camp is scheduled for July 26-29. If you have not turned in your paperwork please do so soon. If the dates for the Humphrey/Lindsay JC Camp don't work for you, please let me know as I have other area JC camp dates that may work. If you have questions, please call and I will answer any questions you may have.

Prayers

Make sure you are practicing prayers with your child/children. Included in this letter is how your child tested out at the end of the year. Please work with them on the ones that are marked, need help and anyone that falls in their grade level. Remember if they are a 3rd or 5th Grader, they don't need to know all the prayers, they have another year to get the last half. But the further along they are the better.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is set for October 13, 2019, at 10AM Mass. Please make sure all your hours are done by September 15. I am missing a few sponsor papers that were due in April so please see if your sponsor has completed that. If you are unsure, give me a call and I will find out if we received it or not. Everything must be turned in by September 15, 2019, and there is no extension. There will be one more retreat that each student will need to attend but as soon as that date is set I will pass that along. If you are looking for dress clothes over the summer, girls cannot have strapless or spaghetti strap dresses and no skirts that are shorter than your hand when you hang your arm down to your side. Boys should wear a nice dress shirt and dress pants. Ties are optional.

*We make a living
by what we get,
we make a life by
what we give!*

Teachers

If you have an interest in being a teacher, please come talk to me. I ask that you pray on this and see if this is something you hear your calling at. Just one year is all you can give, I will take it! Maybe you want to do a couple, I will take that too! You don't have to be a saint on your faith to be a teacher. Heaven knows I don't know everything but I am willing to learn each day.

Trust me, this is not the worst job in the world, and you may even find the rewards are pretty special too.





First Communion

I want to congratulate Logan and Mayson on receiving their First Holy Communion on May 5. They both were very excited to have this day finally come and I am excited to see them receive the sacrament after all the hours them and Mrs. Schnieder put in to get ready for the day. A big shout out to you parents also for allowing us to get them prepared and now they will be able to continue to receive Jesus every week for the rest of their lives. Congrats 2nd Graders.



SHADOW LIVING STATIONS PLAY

I want to send a huge thank you to Kim Sjuts who put in lots of hours to put the Living Stations Shadow Play on for the community. It was truly a awesome production. The kids were amazing, the attendance was great, the trumpet players sound magnificent, and you parents are saint for allowing the time with your kids to be able to put this on.

