

From the Office of the Superintendent August 2010

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to the staff members who worked so diligently during the summer cleaning, repairing, and updating the school buildings. Special gratitude goes to those who volunteered their time to help with the daunting tasks associated with the school renovations:

Jr. Sr. High School: remodeled restrooms in lobby (financed by donation from Aquin alumnus); painted classrooms, office, staff lounge; landscaping; electrical work; "Inspiration" Display (donated by 1973 Aquin graduate) containing artifacts meant to encourage students to bring meaning to their lives by serving others; current items are from the life of Ed "Dutch" Gaulrapp.

Elementary School:

Hall mural (second of three stages - water, land, sky): * THANK YOU LAURA DIEMER!! *

New computer lab, new shades (PTC), classrooms painted to complement hall murals, new preschool area with designated restroom, new projectors, and painted exterior doors.

Welcome to new personnel:

Jessica Abels (1st Grade), Sarah Fleck (2nd Grade), Kathy Steger (Resource Room), Christine Koester (Discovery Room), Michelle Countryman, Jackie Gillis, Theresa Whitmore, Carolee Van De Mark, (aides/Extended Care), Phenie Petta (elementary maintenance), and Brooke Ekvall (high school English).

Because of Fr. Mike Bolger's recent designation as pastor of St. Wendelin parish, his assignment as teacher and assistant principal at Aquin is assured for the future. Therefore, he will assume additional responsibilities with students: activities, behavior, athletics, etc. We are grateful for his past years at Aquin and look forward to many more.

Thank you to the people who are no longer officially connected to Aquin. Gratitude for their many life-changing contributions will be found in the lives they touched (students, parents, and fellow staff members). We wish them Godspeed.

Change is never easy, but change is part of life. I regret any misinformation (shared at baseball games, Facebook, etc.) that caused concerns and an erosion of trust in Aquin Catholic Schools. Losing valuable people was sad and we knew it would be difficult. Thank you to parents who contacted me with their questions and concerns.

Aquin's educational program has always been excellent and has consistently produced successful students. The expectation is that its outstanding reputation will continue for many generations to come. The Aquin vision is constant - utilizing tradition, innovation, and best practices to provide the best for our children spiritually, academically, and socially. We encourage you to play a major and positive role in your child's school experience - visit often, communicate with staff members, offer constructive criticism, volunteer (!), and be an advocate for Aquin Catholic Schools.

This summer, while on vacation, I accidentally met Karrie Lameyer Keller (Aquin Class of 1958). Karrie just graduated with a BA Degree in Anthropology. During our conversation she said she surprised her children (and grandchildren) when she enrolled in college. "I was not a great student in high school so I give Aquin the credit for giving me the tools to succeed!"

Hopefully, your child will share a similar sentiment with you someday and thank you for your decision (and sacrifice) to provide an Aquin education for him/her.

-Kathleen Runte