

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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August 1, 2019

Dear friend of GSCS,

Hoping this letter finds you well. A lot has happened at Good Shepherd Catholic School since our letter to you in 2017. Last October (2018), the school celebrated its 60th year and our parish celebrated its 70th year. Banners for the school, church, and alumni were created for the event and they now hang in the school auditorium. A lot of our Alumni came back to see the old school and catch up with classmates – it was great to see everyone!

A new fundraiser, Casino Night, is a welcome addition to the Calendar of Events. Consider coming to that!

Our high standard of education has benefited from some additions and changes: the Music Program has been invigorated with a new teacher. Renaissance Testing with Accelerated Reader and Accelerated Math has been implemented using testing that monitors, encourages, and supports growth for all students in the areas of reading and math. The Junior High uses Google Chromebooks with Google Docs for Education on a 1 to 1 basis. The Primary classes and Intermediate classes also use Chromebooks and are working toward a 1 to 1 ratio for Intermediate. Several areas have tapped into online educational programs. Middle States visits this fall after extensive work and planning by the Middle States team. The school's partnership with APG has enhanced STEM education for our students. An increase in Title funding allowed the school to provide more extensive PD for teachers, to incorporate yoga during the month of May for mental health, and to provide field trips to drama productions. Scholarships were established and awarded to GSCS students each year. Maryland BOOST scholarship funding has helped current students and is an incentive for new students that qualify to transfer. An online payment system for tuition, fees, and bills (FACTS) is coming soon.

Taking advantage of grants available to us has resulted in new led lighting being installed throughout the entire school using Delmarva incentives, new ceilings being installed in Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3, the library, the office, and the Religious Ed office, and two new emergency exit doors being replaced in the junior high classrooms, all thanks to the Maryland Nonpublic Aging Schools and Safety Grants. Other improvements include a new security camera system inside and out around the entire property. In 2018, we received \$5135 from Maryland Nonpublic textbook funds; in 2019 the amount received was \$5265.

Keeping our Alumni Database up-to-date is an ongoing challenge. Please take a moment to update your contact information by emailing us at alumni@goodshepherdschool.net - and please include your email address. Further updates could be sent by email – keep up-to-date on what's happening at GSCS! And feel free to let us know what's happening with you.

Please take note of the school calendar of events on the back of this letter and check out the enclosed flyers. Hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Sharon Hodges, Renee LeBrun, and JoAnne Bierly – co-chairs