

FAW Friday News
August 25, 2023



Dear Father Andrew White Families,

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:37-39

These were the words of our gospel reading at Mass this morning! Fr. David explained to the students that we are privileged to have the choice to love God. We choose Him because He is all good and only wants what is best for us. Loving our neighbor can be a bit more challenging because none of us is perfect. We pray for the grace to always fulfill that calling!

We saw a lot of love at Father Andrew White School this week! The teachers put so much effort into making students feel welcome and cared for. The HSA made sure that the teachers felt cared for and supported by providing a wonderful breakfast for our staff. The students enjoyed spending time with old friends and welcoming new students to sit with them at lunch and join their games at recess. Buddy groups met today and it was so heartwarming to see the older and younger students sharing information about themselves and getting to know each other!

Our GAGA Ball Court was a favorite activity this week and we are thankful to our 7th grade student, Camden Barrick, for building the court with his Dad so all could enjoy the new game! Middle school students liked switching classes and everyone enjoyed eating at our new cafeteria tables! We are thankful to St. Mary's Bryantown for sharing their excess tables with our school.

We also received a lot of love from the M.I.L. Foundation this year! The Foundation provided \$18,000 in a technology grant to support our First Lego Robotics team and to purchase new interactive whiteboards that teachers can use for instructional purposes. They also provided

\$12,000 of tuition assistance to our families. We are so grateful for their continued support of Catholic Education.

The first week back to school went very well! We continue to ask for your assistance with the dismissal procedure and the use of car rider hang tags. We are training several staff members to assist with this procedure and it is very helpful to have the tags displayed so that everyone can pick up their child in a timely manner.

The new uniforms look great and everyone is doing a wonderful job with compliance. I do want to remind you to make sure that your child's shoes are a solid color and that your child is wearing shoes that are secure. No slip on shoes are allowed for safety reasons. Teachers have been sending reminder emails; please check your child's shoes to ensure that they are compliant with our policy.

Lastly, after an evaluation of options available and a review with law enforcement and the ADW, we have put alternative safety measures in place rather than those originally proposed (a law officer at Mass). The safety fee that was assessed for this year is being used to pay the balance of the safety film installed on all school windows, the installation of an additional security camera and our alarm system upgrade. We will continue to work on additional improvements as needed. After a safety and security assessment of our building, law enforcement commented that the measures we have taken are appropriate and thorough. Any additional recommendations will be implemented.

We truly appreciate all of the support that we receive from the community and our families! Father Andrew White School is a special place and I am thankful to be a part of it! Enjoy your weekend! You are always in my prayers and in my heart!

Sincerely,
Janet Szoch
Principal