



# **Saint Francis of Assisi School**

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March 13, 2008

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

After three years of hard work in preparation for New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Accreditation, the time has finally come. On Sunday, April 6, Fr. Sepe, faculty, staff, school board, guild officers, and I will officially welcome the seven member NEASC team to Saint Francis of Assisi School for a quick tour of the school and presentations by faculty. This will be followed by a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. A principal from Taunton, MA, will be heading the team during their four days. Other members include administrators and primary and middle school teachers from throughout the New England area.

To say that the pastor, faculty, staff, and I are excited to host this team during their visit is truly an understatement. These past three years have been busy with the writing of the Self-Study Report. Our finished report, which was mailed to all members of the visiting team last week, is an honest reflection of the life, spirit, and programs that make Saint Francis School so unique. The pastor, faculty, staff, and I reviewed curriculum, evaluated the school's mission, assessed policies and procedures, and critiqued governance and organizations all in the pursuit of school improvement. We are confident that these educators representing the New England Association of Schools and Colleges will not only be impressed by the hospitable welcome to Saint Francis of Assisi School but will see our Self-Study Report come to life as they immerse themselves in all aspects of our school culture.

I extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who has worked tirelessly in preparation for this visit. Mrs. Patricia Dobrev, Mrs. Phyllis Horsman, and Mrs. Maureen Lord deserve special mention for their commitment as co-chairs and editors of the entire self-study process. I commend the faculty for their willingness, motivation, good humor, and keen attention to detail throughout their writing of the many sections of the report. Lastly, I thank the school board, guild officers, NEASC Steering and Hospitality Committees, and the "Welcome Crew" for stepping up to assist me in showcasing our special and unique Catholic school. I will provide a complete overview of the NEASC accreditation process within a month.

God has blessed us in abundance at Saint Francis of Assisi School. May we be ever mindful that as members of this school community, Jesus is the reason for our existence. May we stay true to our mission to live as "a Catholic community of faith striving to follow Jesus, pledging each day to do our best by imitating St. Francis of Assisi as 'instruments of peace' ....."

OVER

**Liturgy:** Friday, March 14, at 8:45 A.M. in Saint Francis of Assisi Church. Please join us for refreshments immediately following the liturgy. Also join to pray the rosary at 8:20 A.M.

**Holy Thursday:** Next Thursday, March 20 is a NO SCHOOL day, so please plan accordingly. Good Friday there is also no school.

**Harvey Uniform:** Representatives from Harvey Uniform Company will visit SFA School for student uniform fittings on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> for the entire school.

**Uniform Swap:** Monday, March 31 from 8:30 to 10:00 A.M.

**Thank you:** Again we would like to thank all our families who volunteer in so many ways for Saint Francis of Assisi School. Your efforts and time are invaluable to the children. It was great to see so many of you at the Guild Meeting Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. We need 100% cooperation and attendance. You are all Guild members.

*The faculty and staff of Saint Francis of Assisi School would like to wish all of our students, and their families a Happy Easter.*

Mrs. Vittoria DeBenedictis, M. Ed.

