



**Saint Francis of Assisi School**  
**Braintree, MA 02184**  
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January 10, 2008

Dear Parents and/or Legal Guardians:

As we shift into 2008, we will continue to build upon our success and the momentum that we have created to sustain a vibrant Catholic education at St. Francis of Assisi School. Since the start of the school year in September, we have continued to make significant strides in the areas of technology, academics, institutional planning, and NEASC. In an effort to level the teaching playing field, and in keeping with our mission “to be academically prepared for this technological age,” Saint Francis installed two SMART Boards (interactive whiteboards) in September. The SMART Boards interactive technology has positively impacted the classroom experience at Saint Francis. Their versatility and wide range of applications have helped raise the level of motivation, engagement, and enthusiasm among the students and teachers. We are happy to announce that due to a generous anonymous gift and fundraising efforts, two additional boards will be installed later this month. Academically, our students and faculty have excelled inside and outside of the classroom. Terra Nova scores are up and we have completed our assessment of our writing /reading program. The faculty is pleased with the progress our students continue to make using the John Collins Writing Program and the Open Court Reading Program. In the area of institutional planning, we have made great strides in developing our benchmarks to measure and assess organizational effectiveness. We continue to improve communications between the school and families with TeacherEase, Connect -Ed, and the SFA web page. Our NEASC accreditation work continues, and has been a very productive self study. I want to thank and commend our teachers and staff for ALL of their hard work, and most especially, our three chairwomen, Mrs. Dobrev, Mrs. Horsman, and Mrs. Lord who are putting the finishing touches on the document. We are certainly getting closer to the finish line ~ going to print with our self-study. This fall we started the year by asking “how students will benefit” by the choices and decisions we would make. Our accomplishments thus far are grounded in the very essence of this question.

**Please note:**

Open House for grades pre- k –grade 8 will be held **January 28<sup>th</sup> - February 1<sup>st</sup>** from 9:00A.M.-12:00NN. Applications are accepted (pending availability) on a first come, first serve basis. A waiting list is started as soon as the class is filled. We encourage enrolling children as early as 3 years old to secure a seat at SFA for their pre-k -grade 8 education. Priority is given first to our present students already enrolled at SFA, followed by siblings, parishioners, cluster members, and lastly, the wider community.

**School Liturgy:** Please join us on Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 A.M. for our school wide liturgy.

**Progress Reports:** Grades Pre- Kindergarten – 4 distributed on January 24<sup>th</sup>

**Report Cards:** Grades 5-8 distributed on February 7th. Optional team conferences will be held on February 13<sup>th</sup> - more information to follow

**Catholic Schools - Week of January 28<sup>th</sup>**; Specifics are included in our CSW flyer. Please join us for our Traditional Family Liturgy on Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 P.M.

**Noon Dismissal** Please note we have an early dismissal on Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. The extended day is available.

**Tardiness:** Please make sure your child/children are arriving to school on time. We start at 7:55 A.M.. Children who are arriving late are not only disrupting teaching but are also missing out on important morning learning. Please note: this is part of their permanent record card that follows them to high school.

Lastly, please take the time to view our website for teacher letters, homework, and additional correspondence from the school. Also, review your child's progress on TeacherEase.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Vittoria DeBenedictis