

## INCARNATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL REPORT: April 2019

**Leah Coghlan, Principal**  
(for the May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting)

**Happy Easter to All – He is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **Volunteers:**

Volunteers are the heart of any Catholic school, and Incarnation School can boast that its heart is strong and healthy! Actress Audrey Hepburn, known for her humanitarian service, once said, “As you grow older, you will learn that you have two hands – one for helping yourself, and one for helping others.” Incarnation’s students are learning this from watching the many adults who give their time and talent within the school and parish. From helping in the library, to monitoring recess, to partnering with a book buddy or serving on a parish commission, and coaching a CYO athletic team, the vibrant array of volunteers is extensive. Volunteers can be found in the parish choir, or reading at the weekend Masses; they can be found judging a science fair project or distributing communion. More volunteers are found organizing service focused holiday parties or chaperoning field trips. Students are involved and volunteering as well. They participate in the school service projects and develop leadership skills as volunteers in the junior high. They are Mass servers, participants in the children’s choir, and they come back as alumni to serve within the school they loved as children. I recently had an eighth grade student ask me how old she had to be to be on Education Commission!

The school has 526 total families and 83% of those families volunteer within the school or parish in some manner. Of the 469 parish families, 86% volunteer within the school or parish. In addition, many grandparents, aunts, and uncles are involved and volunteering in the school. Thank you to all of our incredible volunteers! Our school’s mission is alive within these wonderful individuals; they are truly *walking in the footsteps of Jesus*.

Incarnation School celebrates its volunteers each year during an all-school Mass and at a reception following Mass. Please mark your calendars for Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> – all volunteers are invited to join the school children at Mass beginning at 9:00am and to the reception following Mass. The school’s Volunteers of the Year will be recognized and will say a few words about the importance of service.

### **STEM Fellowship:**

Three valued members of the Incarnation School faculty family have been selected as part of the 2019 group of Trustey Family STEM Teaching Fellows. Incarnation is one of only nine schools in the nation to be so honored. The three honorees are Mrs. Erin Maly, Ms. Colleen Hirko, and Mrs. Cassie Garison, all of whom are Grade Six to Eight Science and Math Teachers. They will become members of the fifth cohort of select Notre Dame Trustey Fellows.

This is just the latest commendation for the faculty of Incarnation School, which was itself named a Blue-Ribbon School of Excellence. This year alone, seven other faculty members were awarded Archdiocesan Innovative Teaching Grants for their successful integration of technology into the classroom.

The Trustey Family STEM Teaching Fellows is a competitive program that spans three summer sessions and two school years. Its goal is to improve STEM teaching and learning for all students, especially those populations who are underserved by STEM. This year’s Fellows will attend three Summer Institutes at the University of Notre Dame, beginning in July 2019. Throughout the school year, they will receive content-specific coaching for their instructional

practice as well as targeted support as they expand access to and opportunities for STEM learning at Incarnation.

The Trustey Family STEM Teaching Fellows is sponsored by the University of Notre Dame Center for STEM Education, housed in the University's Institute for Educational Initiatives. The mission of the Center for STEM Education is to seek to help all students, but especially those who are underserved and in Catholic schools, engage and excel in STEM disciplines through research and the translation of research into practice.

### ***Holy Week at School:***

One of the many blessings experienced by attending a Catholic school is for students to be able to live and celebrate their faith while at school. "Of the educational programs available to the Catholic community, Catholic schools afford the *fullest and best opportunity* to realize the threefold purpose of Christian education among children and young people: message, community, service." (USCCB 2019) During Holy Week, students participated in all three of these aspects of the Catholic community.

On Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, the school attended the Stations of the Cross. Fourth grade students portrayed the events of the Way of the Cross and Mrs. Masline accompanied the student choir with beautiful and touching music. Sixth grade students celebrated a Sader Meal on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Father Smith led the traditional meal and students tasted the different foods associated with the Sader Meal. Junior High Merit Society students began a multi-week service project intended to bring awareness to endangered animals and ultimately benefit the World Wildlife Foundation. Students throughout the school will learn about endangered animals and how even one person can make a difference.

### ***Upcoming Events:***

Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – Spring Concert – The band and orchestra will be presenting an evening of music for everyone's enjoyment. Please join in the fun, beginning at 7:00pm.

Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> – Fun Day for Early Fives through Second Grade Students

Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – World Language Celebration Mass – all-school Mass 9:00am

Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> – Eighth Grade to Washington, D.C.

Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Grade Performing Group will sing the National Anthem at the Dayton Dragons Game!

Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Eighth Grade Mass of Thanksgiving and Graduation – Our eighth grade students have grown in their faith and academics during their time at Incarnation. We celebrate their achievements during Mass, followed by a graduation ceremony.

Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> – Volunteer Recognition and Celebration – Incarnation School is thankful for its many volunteers. Please celebrate with us as we thank our helpers with a reception following the all-school Mass.

Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> – Last Day of School – Students and teachers will finish the year with a variety of activities before saying good-bye for the summer.