

Principal's Report
September 6, 2022

I. Enrollment updates

- PreK 3 – 49 last year; This year we have 48
- PreK 4 - 60 last year; This year we have 61
- K – 61 last year; This year we have 59
- Total Students 481 last year; This year we have 512 so far.

II. News About School

- Summer Camp was successful, and we had an average of 80-90 daily with some days up to 100-110 preschool and K-5 campers daily. The camp ran 8 weeks. It was challenging, but successful. We are not an academic summer school, so a lot of fun themed plans go into our long days starting at 7:30AM to 5:30PM. Children and happy, fed and want to come back, so we must be doing something right!
- We welcomed many new teachers and aides this year. New teachers are in Preschool, K, 2 in 1st, 2nd 4th, 5th, and 7th grades. We have new aides as well in preschool and kindergarten, and new kitchen and maintenance help. We need a human resource department. Last year we had 20 new positions to onboard. Of those 20 there were four new teachers. It is a bit more challenging this year because there are more first year teachers, and they are spread across the grade levels. I am confident they will fall in love with teaching at CTK and our wonderful families.
- During the week of August 8th teachers were back in the building doing trainings for new procedures, curriculum, and using technology in their classrooms. They also reviewed Asthma protocols, Anti-Harassment training, OSHA training & Covid-19 updates. Grade levels met together to discuss where they left off in May and where our instruction should begin.
- We had a traditional a Meet the Teacher on Monday morning, August 15th from 8:00-12:00PM in the school building. A parent and child visited the homeroom and dropped off supplies.
- Our hot lunch grant expired so students are back to paying for hot lunch this year.
- Students were in school for classes on Tuesday August 16th. I welcomed students on the parking lot during the first week and out in front, and then made rounds in the building to each classroom daily. Students and families were excited to be back in the building. Teachers were thrilled. Thank you so much for support and prayers for the new year!
- We are back to using field trips as good educational experiences. 8th grade will travel to Bloomington, or should I say Mars for the Challenger Mission to Mars experience on September 23rd. Our choir will take a fieldtrip to see the Villas of Holly Brook in Chatham.
- I am arranging professional development for our primary grades teachers to learn and understand balanced literacy. They will dive into phonics and a new way to think about teaching word parts and irregular vowel pairs. They will get a glimpse of the Science of Reading. These workshops will take place in our building during the afternoon on 3 Thursdays, and presented by teachers on staff.
- On August 29th we had our first Spirit Day assembly of the year. The 8th grade led the prayer service and we were introduced to working together this year! We said, CTK is

Glorious!! It's like a symphony...just keep listening. And pretty soon you'll start to figure out your part. Everyone plays a piece and there are melodies in each one of us. Oh, IT'S GLORIOUS at CTK. Students all participated in cutting out instruments for a hallway bulletin board of all of us together as a symphony playing and working together to make one sound, one glorious melody of living together in Christ's love.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nomxXk6Q1rk>

- This year we are able to award 10 students with \$34,677.01 in Empower Illinois scholarship awards. It is not too late to donate and get a tax benefit.
- MAGIC match sponsors are rolling in slowly. We have received some by mail. We are at \$19,159 from 33 donors. Jessica is working on awarding these to the designated classrooms.

III. Curriculum Updates

- To supplement our curriculum and take full advantage of our new technology devices in the all grades, we added Chromecast to our K-8 classrooms. Teachers were briefed on using Chromecast at a teacher meeting August 10th. Scott Brown from LRS presented.
- We implemented Handwriting Without Tears in our preschool, kindergarten and first grade classrooms. Teachers had a training on August 12th so they could use all the resources available in the new program.
- Jean Tulin from Bradfields gave a training refresher course on August 11th. She also demonstrated how to use a new flatscreen smart board.

IV. Upcoming Events

- Safety drills for students.
- Living Rosary in October.

V. Staffing

New Teachers-

- Brooke Fuchs
- Cara Shingleton
- Gabi Madonia
- Laura Bottom
- Andrea Sponsler
- Lori Loveless
- Tiffany Finney
- Emily Wiss
- Val Butler

New Aides -

- DeSalle - Caroline Reedy
- Sponsler - Johna Keen
- Bottom - Regina Colden
- Shingleton - Tara Nagel
- Madonia - Kelly DeSalle
- Large - Kelsey Dennis

New Recess Supervisor -

- Holly Pankau
- Kevin Hamrick
- Maria Nachtwey

New Cafeteria Staff-

- Karla Eguez - Director of Hot Lunch Program
- Sheila Swick - kitchen worker
- Sharon Telson – kitchen worker

Maintenance-

- Justin Stubbs – Director of Maintenance, Property and Grounds

VI. Building Needs/Conditions

- Windows need replacing. Considering entry windows and alternatives.
- Preschool Boiler aging out. Temperature controls and separate units.
- Preschool fence and yard.
- Gym roof/Gym flooring resurfaced by sanding.
- Possible re-wiring.
- Parking lot resealed or paved.
- Possibly adding additional cameras.