

Last August, our faculty met to set goals for the 2011-2012 school year. After good conversations about current educational trends, we summarized our discussion by saying that we hope every student at St. John Fisher leaves our school as a young person who is *competent, curious, and compassionate*. At our school masses, in religion classes, and in various student council projects, we have tried to deepen our understanding of this “3C” network by working to put these goals into practice.

As we begin Catholic Schools week, it is important to thank all in the parish community for the “NETWORK SUPPORT” you provide for our Falcons. Because of your financial and philosophical support for the school, we remain the second largest in the Archdiocese. Our new pre-school offers a variety of class options for parents and has helped our youngest scholars experience the thrill of discovering new ideas in a caring and creative environment. On the EXPLORE standardized test that is the precursor to the ACT, our eighth graders did exceptionally well. Several even had perfect scores in one of the areas tested. The gym is busy with multiple team practices from 2:30 until ten every day. Our art and music programs are second to none and are a good balance to the outstanding educational technology program for which our school is noted. This year, because of the success of the school auction and the generosity of several benefactors, we have an I Pad lab which opens yet another world of opportunity and experience for the students.

The students attend Mass with their class once each week and our all school Masses are, thanks to Dr. Chermak, always prayerful and thoughtfully prepared. Sacramental celebrations at St. John Fisher truly mark the faith development milestones in our children’s lives and are “memory makers” for the entire family.

Although compassion for others is difficult to define, *you do know it when you see it*, and I am privileged to see it every day. Thank you for modeling kindness and generosity as you respond to toy drives, food collections, preparing meals for our families who are struggling, contributing to the tuition assistance program . . . your response, whenever asked is always amazing! Thank you for always being willing to walk the extra mile to extend your hands and hearts to others.

We cannot celebrate Catholic Schools Week without kudos to our teachers who are deeply dedicated to the values of Catholic Education. Their professional credentials, willingness to learn new ideas, and consistent interest in the success of each child whom they teach are an inspiration.

Finally, thank you for sending us the finest kids in the world! They are bright, enthusiastic, often very funny, and will one day be the scientists, musicians, thinkers, and leaders who will make a difference in our world. Of course, they stumble and or make mistakes, but they also know that their parents, teachers, and our St. John Fisher community are here to support their best efforts. We can be confident that the next generation will have the skills, talents, and values to be help shape a better world.

Thank you for continuing to believe in the values and vision of Catholic Schools, especially, St. John Fisher School. Happy Catholic Schools Week!