

# ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Faith · Family · Education*



Dear Parents,

I would like to take this time to thank you for your trust and support with making the start of the school year so successful. As we settle into our routine, I want to assure you that we are working diligently in the classrooms and behind the scenes to make your child's experience at our school, awesome, educational and filled with God's abundant gifts. I am pleased to report that the School Advisory Council has updated our B.E.S.T. Plan and has established our 2016/17 relevant goals for enhancing and growing our school.

As stated in last month's parent communication, we, as a parish family, are excited to continue to live out our value statement through the virtues. As a reminder, our value statement is:

*We believe quality Catholic education calls us to integrate Gospel teachings and values with everyday life; while believing that all secular subjects need to be taught in the light of these values. These values are deeply rooted in the belief that Jesus Christ is the reason for our school and our community lives out our faith expressing the virtues of prudence, fortitude, charity, generosity, temperance, humility, and brotherly love. All, in communion with a strong sense of hospitality and belonging in everything we do.*

This month, we will begin by focusing on the virtue of prudence; a Cardinal Virtue, which is one of four moral virtues (prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance). These virtues are the foundation for the others. Cardinal comes from the Latin "cardo", which means "hinge." The Cardinal Virtues can all be acquired through practice, and by observing others. All other virtues hinge on the Cardinal Virtues. Prudence is the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it; prudence is "right reason in action," writes St. Thomas Aquinas. He also stated that prudence was the primary Cardinal Virtue because it is concerned with the intellect. Prudence is basically the ability to distinguish what is good and bad in any given situation and to take appropriate action. It is not to be confused with timidity or fear. It guides the other virtues by setting rule and measure. It is prudence that immediately guides the judgment of conscience. With the help of this virtue we apply moral principles to particular cases without error and overcome doubts about the good to achieve and the evil to avoid.

I ask that you reflect on, pray for and demonstrate the virtue of prudence throughout your daily lives this month. This is a wonderful way, that we as a parish family, can collectively educate our children through word and deed. I also ask that you please keep me in your prayers, and rest assured that I will keep you in mine. I would also ask that you pray that you open your heart and reflect as to how God may be calling you to support our school with the gifts He has so generously bestowed onto you. Thanks again for all that you do for our school and parish; especially with bringing our children closer to Christ!

In the loving Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Gregor

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