

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE ... SEPTEMBER 2018



Dear Parents/Guardians, Faculty/Staff, Students, Alumni, Board Members and Friends,

I cannot believe it's already September! Where does the summer go so quickly??? As you may recall, I have begun my monthly messages to you with a picture that I think you will enjoy. The picture above shows Mr. Ryan (Social Studies Chairperson) and Mr. Scherer (Math Dept.) working on a "trust" activity at our Faculty Retreat last week. I am pleased to report that our time at the RCAN Retreat Center in Kearny was well-spent. We had a meaningful experience there as we came closer together in our mission through a variety of activities – some fun and others more serious. Again, I feel we are blessed with a great faculty and I look forward to an amazing year!

Teachers have been in working since August 28th. With six new staff members, there is a lot to do in order that we are totally prepared for students on Sept. 5th (freshmen) and the 6th (all students). Our goal for the year is "Academic Excellence," and you will be hearing much more about that.

To this end of working toward excellence, the Academic Council has unanimously agreed to raise the standards of our grading system. For several years, Immaculate's passing

grade was 65. That has been raised to a 70. We feel this more closely reflects the rigor of our academic program. In a similar manner, the Honor Roll standards have also been raised. You will receive a complete sheet of information on this new grading system at Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, September 19th at 6:30pm.

I want to give you a few special reminders about upcoming events:

- Lunch applications are due to Mr. Dyer as soon as possible. The first day for lunch is Monday, Sept. 10th;
- Last call for **morning busing** – contact Mr. Dyer at x. 14;
- Summer assignments are due to teachers on September 14th;
- Students must be in uniform from the first day on;
- Sweaters are NOT required until Monday, October 1st;
- Chromebooks will be distributed to students in mid-September IF their \$50 insurance policy has been paid in full (to Mr. Seeback);
- Senior portraits will be taken on Sept. 10th & 11th – more info will follow;
- The gym uniform does NOT require the purchase of the sweatsuit. That is a personal choice.

Our Lions football game won their season-opener on Friday night by defeating Manville HS (South Jersey) 21-0. Bravo to Head Coach Ryan Horan, his awesome assistants and our dedicated team! We wish you continued success!

In the final weeks of August, I received three resignations from some teachers – Ms. Szendi, Mr. Schaefer and Ms. Mendoza. We certainly thank them for their service and wish them well in their new endeavors. We are blessed to have Mr. Albert Schlageter (PE/Health), Ms. Sharon Breckenridger (Spanish) and Ms. Rena Djiopa (Science) join our faculty and we give them a warm welcome! You will get the chance to meet all of our teacher at BTS Bight on the 19th!

Our faculty have one more Professional Day on Tuesday when they will explore the infinite possibilities of Google Classroom and put the finishing touches on their classrooms. We will then welcome our freshmen at 8am on Wednesday, Sept. 5th; students should go directly to the gym for opening prayer and a brief assembly. Dismissal is at 12 noon.

In a similar manner, we will welcome “our seasoned veterans,” the upperclassmen, on Thursday. They, too, should report directly to the gym. A special program will be held for students who have transferred into ICHS at homeroom time. By the time we reach Friday, we hope all students know how to open their lockers and where their classes are located! Our first full day is set for Monday, Sept. 10th. The calendar will go out soon.

I thank you for the trust you have placed in us. It is a responsibility we do not take lightly. May God continue to bless you and your family abundantly!

Sincerely ... Mrs. Michele Neves, Principal

