

BUSY SUMMER AT IMMACULATA ACADEMY 2008

ACADEMICS: We are happy to report that we needed two additional classrooms so... we consolidated offices- principal's former office is now Campus Ministry and Religion, assistant principal's is now the principal's, and the assistant principal moved up to the technology office. Institutional Advancement also consolidated so the Alumnae office could become a classroom and our guidance assistant moved into the guidance office, so we could use her space for storage. Whew!

We were very sad to hear that Mr. Mike Morlock decided to try his luck on the West coast when he moved to California on August 8th. I was so happy to change his position to full time this past January, and he will be a very difficult piece of Immaculata to replace. Fortunately, he has recommended some worthwhile candidates, so the task is underway. We wish Mike happiness and sunny beaches and a good job in California, and thank him for all he did for Immaculata in the short time he was here. God speed.

We are happy to introduce a new full time Spanish teacher- Beth Reguerira, who comes to us from Notre Dame, and a new Creative Design teacher, Amy Utzig, who also works at Mount Mercy Academy, and will be teaching one class every day filled with photoshop, digital cameras, and other fun sections. Our academic plan is to add religion every day to the sophomore, junior and senior classes, and eliminate study halls when possible. We would like parents to get their moneys worth at Immaculata Academy, and best prepare our girls for college.

AESTHETICS/PHYSICAL PLANT: Immaculata has been filled with busy workers all summer- thanks for your help! All of the lockers and fire doors have been painted, the masonry on the outside of the building continues to be repaired, new carpeting and paint has been added to places that needed it, the "Latin" room has been painted and carpeted to make room for a full time Latin teacher for the first time in years, and some classrooms have been painted- thanks Don!

We continue to wait patiently to break ground for a new digital and brick sign, and are awaiting approval from the town for the opportunity to do this. New front outdoor lighting will also be accompanying the new sign. We ordered 100 collegiate desks to accommodate growth and new offerings. The school purchased a much needed new hot water tank, and we are currently installing an exhaust system for our kitchen.

We are working on a new MAINTENANCE MODEL where two staff overlap their hours to work some time together, and to better cover the school during all the hours it is open. I want to thank Ron and Robb for putting in so many extra hours over the summer, and the unbelievable cleaning staff headed up by Kay Manns, and supported by Tara and Kelly, Darlene and Donna! The school is shining!

ATHLETICS: we are happy to introduce our new athletic director, who was also married over the summer and has a new name (Congratulations!)- Mrs. Andrea Drabik (formerly Agnello) and our new (returning) assistant Athletic Director- Jill Monaco. We are also happy to introduce all our fine new coaches, and welcome back our existing wonderful coaches. Joining us new this year will be Mike Schermerhorn as our Varsity Soccer coach, and Kelly Martin as his assistant. Jason Gleason will be our JV volleyball coach, and Missy Wapshare our JV soccer coach. We have a new cross country coach, named Charlie Planz and a new assistant for the Varsity basketball team- Joe Badaszewski. We have increased our athletic budget, and continue to value the many talents of the girls and coaches that grace IA! Since the Hamburg High school track has been closed all summer for renovations, my family and I have discovered the schools "cross country track", and have been very challenged and happy running the "Hilbert" this past month.

FINE ARTS: Cinderella tryouts will be held after school September 10th and 11th, with a pre-Thanksgiving production being held November 21, 22 and 23rd! Freshman will be participating in both Art and Music for the first time, and the school has purchased new risers to accommodate our bigger and better chorus. We have also hired a well respected and experienced actor, Colleen Walsh, who has shared her talents with our school in the past, to teach a theater course at the school. Jamie Burritt will head up a new Fine Arts Committee that will begin in September, and Sister Jean Cherry will head up a new Leadership committee, both recommended by our new Strategic Plan- 2008-2011!

Our new quarterly technology committee will continue to be coordinated by Mrs. Monaco, and Mrs. Stahl will continue to grow and develop our school by attending monthly meetings in the areas of: Finance, Marketing, Institutional Advancement, Marketing, Buildings and Grounds, Strategic Plan Updates, Faculty and Department Head meetings, Parent Guild Meetings, Bissnet (Buffalo Independent Secondary Schools Network), and the Board of Trustees. I will also continue to serve on the Southtowns Teachers Board, the Hamburg Youth Consortium and the Frontier Key Communicators.

We are so fortunate and blessed to have committed board members who facilitate these committees on their own time, and help us out with their expertise and talents. THANKS!

PARENT GUILD: We were so appreciative with the hard work and support of the parent guild this past year, and would like to thank...Bob and Joan Vetter, Michelle and Gary Brady, Mary Hosler, Mary Jo Lahiff, and Linda Wach. We are happy and proud to welcome the new members of the parent guild for the 08/09 school year, and we look forward to working with them: Michelle and Gary Brady, Pam and Fred Fielding, Mary and Gerry Philbin, Carol Haas and Mary Ann Starkey and Gail and Bill Phillips! Mark your calendars for an upcoming new event- a parent/faculty bonfire in the backyard of Immaculata to be held Friday night, September 12th. Also, remember our annual MATER CHRISTI GALA, which is held earlier this year on October 2, 2008. Reserve your table!

We are taking our TECHNOLOGY model one step further from our new model last year, and adding a TRI-DELTA help desk feature. Once again, we are pioneers venturing out and trying this new model, and other schools are already considering following suit.

The CALENDAR and STUDENT SCHEDULE were both out for the first time in the beginning of AUGUST, as promised, so thanks to the coordinated efforts of everyone that made that happen- especially Mrs. Horab and Mrs. Wapshare in the guidance office and Shirley in the main office! Every effort was made to accommodate every student request.

Steve Lingle, our PR director, will be working on our very first SEASONAL NEWSLETTER this year, so you will be getting deadlines to respond to soon. ALL AREAS of student life will be included, and we will be distributing a hard copy to everyone who wants one. It will also be available on line.

OPENING DAY FOR TEACHERS is being planned for Tuesday, September 2nd, which will include an opening prayer service, discussion of the new STRATEGIC PLAN by Sister Judith, overview by Bob Smith of the Southtowns Teacher Center offerings, and pasta stations by Vince from Cenzo's! In the afternoon, we have created a brand new formalized NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION to help our newbies off on the right foot.

OPENING DAY FOR STUDENTS is being planned for Wednesday, September 3rd. We will hold an opening assembly and introduce all faculty and new classrooms. We will also explain a new assembly that will take place the FIRST WEDNESDAY of every month, called MORNING MEETING, where the entire student body will meet together in the auditorium for prayer, announcements, skits, or whatever else the students want to do. Our MENTORING program will continue on the other three Wednesdays of each month, and our VISUAL COMMUNICATOR announcements will continue with special broadcasting, run by our own JoAnne Wiatrowski and students, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with regular announcements on all other days. Announcements will soon be on line also.

THERE IS MORE!!! But I think that's enough for now. ☺ This is an exciting time for Immaculata- there are so many people involved in this school that care about it, have ideas, and are willing to work hard to support our mission- educating young women academically, spiritually, personally and physically to become all they can be. We do this with kindness and respect, and we appreciate the involved supporters who continue to work with us every day in that way.

THANK YOU!!!

Stahls at Lollapalooza in Chicago!

Mary Lou Stahl
Principal

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