

Roanoke Catholic School

SINCE 1889

*Blending learning with faith and faith with daily life*

October 3, 2014

**From the Administration:**  Fall is definitely in the air; apples and pumpkins abound.  With your help, and prayers, we have accomplished much in the first full month of school. Our students feel the excitement, as with Midterms past, and Homecoming present, we approach the end of the First Quarter.  However, the demands of October with field trips, PSAT testing, Ring Day, retreats, class work, and homework, first must be managed. As partners in the education of your child, we value your confidence in us and your support of our school.  There is much to be done, but I ask you to also remember that the month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. Let us consider this beautiful prayer of the Rosary as a means that we also can use in order to draw closer to Jesus and Mary by meditating on the great mysteries.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | CRITICAL  READING | MATH | WRITING |
| National Average | 497 | 513 | 497 |
| Virginia | 518 | 515 | 487 |
| **ROANOKE CATHOLIC** | **587** | **565** | **559** |

Academic excellence continues to be a hallmark at RCS.  The thirty-four members of the Class of 2014 had 100% college acceptance, and the RCS Class of 2014 surpassed the national and state averages in all three subject areas of the SAT:

In addition, over 82% of the juniors and seniors who took the Advanced Placement (AP) exams in 2013-2014 scored a 3 or above. On the basis of their outstanding performance on the AP exams, **eleven students have earned recognition from the College Board.  Two students earned *AP Scholar*** designation, awarded to students who receive grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. **Four** **students earned *AP Scholar with Honor*** recognition with an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP exams, **and** grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams while **Five students earned *AP Scholar with Distinction***, granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams, **and** grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.  The rigorous academic curriculum, dedication of teachers, and motivated students all contributed to these significant accomplishments.  Congratulations to our students and teachers on a job well done!

With great pride, we announce two of our seniors, Ryan Gerstemeier and Sam Welch, have been named Commended Scholars in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. About 34,000 Commended Scholars throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2014 competition for National Merit Scholarships, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2015 competition by taking the 2013 PSAT Qualifying test. Congratulations, Roanoke Catholic recognizes your hard work and celebrates your accomplishment.

*Kathleen Futrell*

*US Assistant Principal*

**Annual Health Screening:** Roanoke Catholic is having our annual health screening on Thursday, October 16th from 8-11am.

Roanoke Valley Speech and Hearing are coming to check hearing for students in PK, K, 3, 7 and 10th grade. They provide a wonderful service, and we are so fortunate to have them here! If you have a student in other grades and are concerned about their hearing, please contact Liz Bradburn, RN or Susan Algeier, RN and we will have them screened.

 We are pleased to have The Prevent Blindness group who are sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Richmond to screen vision for grades PK-7.  This is a wonderful program! They offer more extensive screening for our students than the traditional eye machines routinely used in school screenings. They also offer vouchers to those students who may need financial assistance with vision exams and or glasses. Please remember to remind your child to bring their glasses.

If you DO NOT want your child to participate in these screenings, please send a note into their homeroom teacher to OPT OUT. Otherwise your child will be screened. **Thank You!** **Clinic Office Hours are 9-3/** **982-3532 ext. 2213**.

*Susan Algeier, RN*

*Roanoke Catholic School Nurse*

**Dance**: Please mark your calendars now! Dec. 1 has been set for the Christmas show and the dance t-shirts are in. Please look for them to come home soon. Thanks, Mitzi Keeley

**Fruit Sale:** The Roanoke Catholic Alumni Association presents the Great American Citrus Sale. Proceeds support the Alumni Scholarship Fund. Order forms were sent home with students this week and are also available on our website under the tab Alumni - Citrus Sale Fundraiser. Order today!!

**Pictures**: Fall picture make-ups and re-takes will be on October 16th.

**Campus Ministry:**

**Marian Pilgrimage:**

Exciting News! Campus Ministry is planning a pilgrimage to Medjogorje from July 29 – August 6, 2015. Look for more details in the upcoming weeks, including the date and time of an informational meeting, cost and other details.

**Rosary:**

Everyone is invited to join us in praying the Rosary each Tuesday in the Chapel at 7:30 am. The intention for October 7 is thanksgiving for all the blessings our Roanoke Catholic community has received.

**Service Opportunity for Parents and Students to Help a Neighbor:**

The Catholic Historical Society is moving and needs your help. Beginning Tuesday, October 7, at 2:00 pm, they will begin boxing up items. They need to vacate the building by October 17. The Historical Society is looking for parents and students (grades 6-12) to help with packing and moving. More information with specific details will be emailed as it becomes available. If you are interested in helping, please contact Beth Derringer at ederringer@roanokecatholic.com.

**Prayer Chain:**

The purpose of the RCS Mustard Seed Prayer Chain is to strengthen the Roanoke Catholic School community through intercessory prayer and to provide prayerful support for those in need. The Prayer Chain is in the process of being updated. Any prayers you’d like prayed for are welcomed. Please try to keep your prayer request short and concise. We will keep the prayer on the list four weeks unless you ask for it to be removed earlier. The RCS Mustard Seed Prayer Chain will be sent out once a week, unless an emergency arises and we need to put something out that calls for immediate attention. You may send a Prayer Request to  **ederringer@roanokecatholic.com.**

*Beth Derringer*

*Director of Campus Ministry*

**UPPER SCHOOL NEWS**

**Testing:** Roanoke Catholic Upper School will administer the **PSAT/NMSQT** to all students in the ninth, tenth, and eleventh grades **Wednesday, October 15th beginning at 8:15 a.m.** Mrs. Futrell has distributed important information regarding this testing to each member in the Freshman, Sophomore and Junior classes.  The students are encouraged to review the sample test questions and become familiar with the test format. If you should have any questions, please contact Mrs. Futrell at 982-3532 ext. 3125 or kfutrell@roanokecatholic.com.

**Ring Day** for the Roanoke Catholic Class of 2016 will be celebrated Thursday, October 23th.  The ceremony will be held at 9:00 a.m. in St. Andrew’s.  A brunch for juniors and their parents immediately follows in St. Andrew’s Social Hall; reservations for the brunch have been sent home and are due by October 17th.  If you do not receive one, please ask your Junior.  For more information, please contact Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Derringer, or Mrs. Futrell.

**Dismissals and Cell Phones:** Apparently a number of US students are reporting to the nurse or front office with a plan for dismissal already in place.  Please review the following procedure, from the handbook, with your students.  Parental contact during school hours may only take place within these parameters:

***The use of cell phones is prohibited during the school day without express permission from Administration. Students who are ill at school must report to the nurse or front office who in turn will make parental contact. Students who need to contact a parent or guardian must use the telephone in the main office; students who contact parents by any other means may be subject to disciplinary action.***

**Looking Ahead:**

Upper School **picture retakes** and **senior portrait retakes** will be on Thursday, October 16th.

Due to Teacher Workday, **no classes** will be held Friday, October 24.

**First Quarter report cards** will be distributed Tuesday, October 28 via RenWeb.

**Parent Teacher Conferences** will be held Thursday, October 30 between 3:30 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. and Friday, October 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. More information regarding the scheduling of Upper School conferences will be forthcoming. **No classes** will be held October 31.

**LOWER SCHOOL NEWS:**

**Parents:**

I’m sure many of you have seen the scaffolding coming down from the steeple at St. Andrews. Soon the entrance will be open again! As exciting as that is, please understand that this **WILL NOT CHANGE** how we currently do drop-off of Lower School students. We will continue as we are now, pulling in to the lower lot (marked teacher entrance) and dropping four cars at a time at the cones by the large sidewalk. When the upper lot drop off was open last year, it posed many safety issues that I do not want to bring back. I really appreciate your support in continuing to use the safest means possible for dropping off your precious cargo!

**Testing:**

Parents of students in testing grades have received a letter from the Diocese explaining the new test and when and how results will be shared with you. I understand your curiosity and desire to know how your child scored. However, because this is the first test we’ve taken like this, and the first administering of this test as a baseline measure, the results will have little meaning without the context of at least one more testing session. The second testing session is in January. We will be discussing sharing the growth results with you after that testing session, but we will ultimately be guided by the Diocese in this decision. As you are aware from the years of Terra Nova testing results, our students ALWAYS do extremely well as far as the national average, and that has been the case so far with this testing. We appreciate your support, understanding, and patience.

**Uniforms:**

Please take a moment to review the uniform guidelines in the student handbook on the website. Shoes for boys should be **solid black** and for girls **solid white**. I have seen many variations of those colors so far. Socks should be solid colors with no ornamentation; skirts should fall just above the knee or at the knee, and hair accessories should be small and not distracting. Next week I will begin doing uniform checks and sending notes home for those students not in compliance. Thank you so much for your attention to these details.

*Julie Frost*

*Lower School Assistant Principal*

**Lower School SGA:** Speeches for the election of Lower School Student Government Association executive officers will be in the LS gym on Oct. 6 at 10 a.m. All representatives, alternates (K-7), executive officers and their parents are invited to the installation ceremony in the LS gym on Oct. 13th at 10 a.m. as well as to the brief reception afterwards in the library. Thank you to Kim Yeaton for making the reception wonderful.

**Grandpals’ Day**:  Don’t miss out on our annual celebration of grandparents and grandpals!  ***Grandpals’ Day*** is scheduled for the morning of Friday, **November 14th**.  Plan ahead now!