



SPECIAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL ISSUE!

*Academic Centers for Enhancement ... what's new in our classrooms ... PreSchool and Pre-K updates ...
listening sessions ... STREAM update ... important dates ... RICH program ... and more!*

Announcing New Initiatives for 2018-19!

It's been a busy summer for our administrative, faculty and board teams. After a dynamic

and collaborative effort, we're happy to announce several new initiatives for the 2018-19 school year that will help strengthen students' foundational **math and literacy skills**, and fuel their interest in the arts, sciences and wellness.

- **ACADEMIC CENTERS for ENHANCEMENT (ACE)** - Our East and West campuses now have dedicated and full-time classrooms where students in grades 3-6 can receive a **full range of academic support**, whether they need help mastering academic concepts or want to be challenged beyond their grade level. Plan to join us for our Meet the Teachers Open House in early September to tour the new classroom at each campus and learn more. More info on our Meet the Teachers night is coming shortly.
- **"LETRS"** - Throughout the year, our K-6 teachers will complete the nationally-recognized LETRS literacy professional development program to help students improve their overall reading abilities. Using **best practices**, the **research-based program** will sharpen our teachers' skills and give them instructional resources to help students connect the dots between language, reading and writing.
- **80 MORE MINUTES OF MATH INSTRUCTION EACH WEEK**
 - **Math in Focus** - Problem solving is at the heart of this math curriculum for students in grades 3-6, one designed to help students develop critical-thinking skills, positive attitudes, and the confidence to work through challenges. [Click here](#) to learn more.
 - **Get More Math** - This interactive online program supplements classroom-based math instruction by offering students learning modules tailored to their individual skill levels. [Click here](#) to learn more.
- **INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE** - As part of our growing commitment to technology and the sciences, we're integrating age- and grade-appropriate computer science education into our K-6 classrooms. Throughout the year, this will include continued keyboarding exercises, regular use of the MS Office suite, and introductions to **Dragon Naturally Speaking** voice recognition software; **SCRATCH programming**, where students can create their own interactive stories, games, and animations; **MIT App Inventor**; and **Tinker CAD** computer-aided drafting.
- **R.I.C.H.** - This new program will integrate Christ's teachings of **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **C**ourage and **H**umility into everything we do and share with students. More information is coming shortly.
- **'SPECIALS'** - Our K-6 students will now have access to daily 'specials' on a 6-day rotation schedule. These **enrichment classes** will introduce students to new ideas and concepts in the areas of wellness, computer science, music, STREAM, and art. Spanish classes will also be available for students in grades 2-6. [Click here](#) for a brief introduction and be sure to attend your child's Meet the Teachers Open House in early September to learn more. Dates for Meet the Teachers night will be announced shortly.



Mrs. Sandy Hunsinger (l) and Mrs. Carrie Garlesky (r) will serve as educators in our new Academic Centers for Enhancement. Mrs. Hunsinger will be based at DMCA-West while Mrs. Garlesky will work with students at DMCA-East. They'll support students who may need help in math or reading, as well as students who are performing above grade level and can manage more rigorous coursework. Both teachers bring years of experience to their positions and received extensive training to prepare for their ACE leadership role.

Check the Time!

7:30 am - 7:45 am - Drop-off

7:45 am - 7:55 am - Report to Homeroom

7:55 am - Prayers

8:00 am - Class day begins

2:45 pm - Dismissal

2:50 pm - 6:00 pm - After school program*

**Students must be enrolled in our after school programs to attend. Please call The Learning Lamp at 262-0732, ext. 243 for registration info.*

7th and 8th graders follow the Bishop McCort schedule. PreSchool schedules are slightly different and have been sent to students' families.



PreSchool and Pre-K News



STREAM ON ... STREAM ON ... STREAM ON ...

The latest news from our STREAM initiative



Mr. Justin Ogline, STREAM facilitator, PreK - 6, is pictured in front of the new First Lego League (FLL) table in the West Campus STREAM lab. Over the summer, the STREAM labs at both campuses were equipped with FLL tables, as well as several new tools and resources that will

provide our PreK- 6 students with hands-on opportunities to learn about coding, robotics, sustainability and more. [Click here](#) to watch Mr. Ogline preview our new resources!

These experiences will help prepare them for STREAM challenges at the middle school level. This year, we'll introduce our 7th and 8th graders to the well-respected [Engineering by Design curriculum](#) and, for the first time ever, give them the opportunity to test their skills and interests through the [Technology Student Association](#). We're also getting closer to completing our new STREAM lab on our Bishop McCort campus. The lab is expected to be up and running by the end of the 1st marking period.



Calling all students in grades 4-8 who are interested in having fun, solving problems and challenging themselves! Try-outs for our first-ever **First Lego League** (FLL) teams will be held **Monday, 8/27 (East team)** and **Tuesday, 8/28 (West team)** from **3:30 pm - 5:30 pm**. Teams are limited to 10 members each and will work throughout the year to prepare for local and regional competitions. [Click here](#) for more info about FLL and this year's challenge or email [Mr. Ogline](#) for more information. Good luck!



- Please make sure you have completed the **2018-19 school registration process** in [SchoolAdmin](#) and set up the FACTS tuition payment plan through the SchoolAdmin portal. Questions? Call the DMCA Business Office at 248-3811.

- All students are expected to follow our

- The DMCA Board of Directors will host its first **Listening Session** at its September meeting on **Monday, 9/10 at 6 pm** in the John Paul II building on the St. Benedict Church campus. Please contact Kathleen Martella-Zucco, DMCA Board Chair, at martella.zucco@divinemeracy.academy if you would like to be added to the agenda to share your thoughts, ideas or perspectives with board members. For scheduling purposes, guests must be on the agenda to present.

- Our **summer reading program** for students in grades 3-8 and our math program for students in grades 3-6 should be complete by the first day of school. [Click here](#) for more info.

- The **NFL Extravaganza fundraiser** money

uniform dress code. [Click here](#) for more info.

- Be sure to check out our **important back-to-school dates** listed below!

and ticket stubs are due on 8/27. [Click here](#) for more info.

- See you on the first day of school!



IMPORTANT DATES!

8/21 Orientation for parents of middle school transfer students and parents of all 7th grade students, 6 pm, BMCHS

8/22 Meet the Crushers and Crusaders!
7 pm, BMCHS

8/23 Pre-K and Kindergarten orientation:
5:30 pm - East

6:00 pm - West

8/24 7th Grade orientation; noon dismissal;
uniform required; buses will run

8/27 1st Day of School - K-8 - Welcome back!
Uniform required; buses will run

8/27 Summer learning assignments due

8/27 NFL money and ticket stubs due

8/27 FLL Try-Outs, East

8/28 FLL Try-Outs, West

8/31 - 9/3 Labor Day holiday - No school

9/4 Regular schedule resumes

***Watch for info on our Meet the Teacher
Open Houses in early September!***

Check out the [DMCA Google calendar](#) for more school-wide events and specific happenings at each campus. Incoming 7th and 8th graders should also review the [Bishop McCort calendar](#) for important dates throughout the year.

The mission of Divine Mercy Catholic Academy is to promote exceptional, faith-based academics that will create a solid foundation of values, leadership, and commitment to self and community.

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Questions? Comments? Please contact us [here](#).