



## JULY NEWS

*Traveling the community and the world through Google Expeditions ... Data-driven student learning...*

*Planning for the new school year ... and more!*

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## GOOGLE EXPEDITIONS IS COMING!

***State-of-the-art virtual learning tools will take our students around the corner, around the community and around the world!***

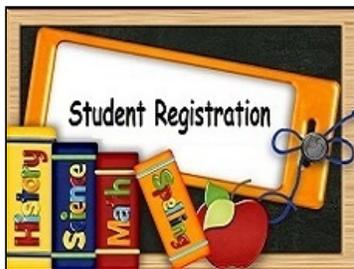


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**Amazing and immersive virtual reality (VR) adventures** through history, science, the arts and nature await our students when they return to our East and West campuses in August.

Packed with more than 900 VR experiences, **Google Expeditions is a leading-edge educational technology** that will transport our PreK-6 students to faraway architectural wonders, underwater caverns and habitats, and the vastness of space. Using VR software, **they will also be inspired to create and navigate their own virtual field trips**, whether they're studying the ancient Pyramids or Johnstown's own Inclined Plane.

Look for more info in upcoming issues of *Crusader News* and at our Back to School nights in September. In the meantime, [click here](#) to see Google Expeditions in action. Just remember to click back to *Crusader News* for more up-to-date info.



**Just a quick reminder ... if you haven't yet registered your child for the 2019-20 school year, please take a moment to do so. It's easy - just [click here!](#)**

## Planning for the Fall



It might be summer but DMCA administrators are hard at work preparing for curriculum enhancements that are coming to our campuses in the fall.

*Clockwise: Steve Cotchen, Mary Fleck, Matt Ribblett, Mary Jo Podratsky, Patty Gable, Rick Huffman and Rosemary Batzel exchange ideas during a recent curriculum work session.*

In addition to developing a more **data-driven approach**, we're working on several program improvements including the **FOSS Science program** for younger students, and writing and comprehension improvements for students in grades 2-6. More to come!

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## The DMCA Data Team

Children learn in different ways. So imagine if we could pinpoint the areas where individual students excel or where they may need a little extra help. By taking an individualized approach, we'd be building a foundation for each child to reach their fullest potential.

With the help and guidance of our new **Data Team**, we're doing just that.

Led by **Mary Fleck**, computer science teacher and our new data coordinator, this new team will be looking at and analyzing individual STAR assessment student data over the course of the 2019-20 year to identify students' specific strengths and needs. The data will show us if a student is growing or struggling with certain concepts, and then guide classroom instruction to help every student grow.

"This is part of our strategic goal to become more data-driven so that our students can thrive," Mrs. Fleck said. "To reach our goal, we'll be helping teachers establish individual Student Growth Goals. These are really exciting for us because they represent a more individualized and student-centered approach to education. We're looking forward to rolling them out in September."

Mrs. Fleck will be joined by a multi-grade team of teachers who will be trained to help their colleagues interpret data from the STAR assessments and then develop and monitor Student Growth Goals. Team members include **Shannon Stephens, Kathleen Marano, Carrie Garlesky, Tina Teno, Ryan Woodruff, Pam DiRenzo** and **Molly Largent**. Look for more data team updates in future editions of *Crusader News*.

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### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**7/1 - 7/3** - Free Uniform Exchange/Give-Away

9 am - 2:30 pm, East and West Campuses

**7/2** - Free Uniform/Giveaway, 5 pm - 7 pm, West

**7/16** - [Marianna Subs/Pizza orders due](#)

**7/26** - Mariana Subs/Pizza deliveries

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Summer Hours! Our East and West offices are open Monday-Friday from 9 am - noon and by appointment; the Middle School office at Bishop McCort is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 am - 2:30 and by appointment. Be sure to check out the [DMCA Google calendar](#) for school-wide events and specific happenings at each campus. Our 7th and 8th graders should also review the [Bishop McCort calendar](#) for important dates throughout the year.

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*The mission of Divine Mercy Catholic Academy is to empower our students through Christ-centered academic excellence within a safe and secure environment that will create a solid foundation of values, leadership, and commitment to self and community.*

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