



As we get the year underway I am reminded of how many people it takes to operate a good school. I know that I've said this before, but it bears repeating. One of the big advantages we have over the public schools is our parent involvement.

Tomorrow night is our first Home and School Association (H.S.A.) meeting. All parents with students in our school are automatically members of this vital organization. As I visited today with this year's president, Mrs. Angie Eidem, we were talking about some of the things the H.S.A. does for our school. It provides money to teachers for classroom supplies. It pays for our ALEKS program, which is our online individualized math program in grades 4-6. They pay for video streaming services in the classrooms that teachers can use to supplement their lessons with up-to-date video on many different topics. They help pay for our student information system. They help buy new textbooks for students. The list goes on and on. If you haven't gotten involved with this group, please attend the meeting Tuesday evening (Sept. 9) at 7:00 in the Steinhausen Center. Rumor has it that there will be wine and cheese at the meeting!

Another group that does so much for our school is the School Advisory Council (S.A.C.). This group meets the first Thursday of every month in the school library at 7:00. Most Catholic schools in the archdiocese have these councils. And, in most schools these councils meet and advise pastors and administrators as to the operation of the school. Your S.A.C. does so much more than advise! Yes, they do help develop and write school policy. But, they also are the ones that started the after school enrichment clubs. There are many kids that benefit from these clubs every year. Please consider sponsoring an enrichment club. So many of you have skills and talents that would be a huge benefit to our students. They also sponsor the T.A.S.K. group. This group of parents give of their time and talent to help teachers on projects that can be done at home or at school, and many times they work with students. Please consider serving as a member of the T.A.S.K. group.

There are also ways to support our school without taking any of your time. Here are two:

One group that helps us financially is Cards Are Rewards for Education (C.A.R.E.). This is perhaps the easiest way to support our school and the parish. C.A.R.E. buys gift cards at hundreds of different stores at a discount. You then buy the cards at face value from C.A.R.E. for the stores where you normally shop. C.A.R.E. is able to keep the discount of which 100% is used to support the school and many other parish activities. C.A.R.E. donated several thousand dollars last year to upgrade our school's security system. You can buy C.A.R.E. cards online, after each weekend Mass in the church foyer, or each Friday at school.

If you shop at Target please consider getting and using a Target Visa Card. We receive several thousand dollars each year from Target because people who use their Target Visa Card and have designated St. Columbkille as their school of choice. Visit target.com or call 1-800-316-6142 to sign up.

Those are just a few ways that you can support our students. Please look over the list and pick one thing that you aren't currently doing and just do it.

Thank you for all your support!