



# ICCS

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER - ISSUE #2

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### JOIN US FOR THE HOUSE REVEAL PARTY: SEPTEMBER 20

WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE A SPECIAL EVENT AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL. THE HOUSE REVEAL PARTY WILL BE TAKING PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 20. INSPIRED BY THE INNOVATIVE PRACTICES OF THE RON CLARK ACADEMY, THIS EXCITING EVENT WILL INTRODUCE OUR NEW HOUSE SYSTEM AND CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF AN ENGAGING AND COLLABORATIVE YEAR AHEAD.

#### EVENT DETAILS

11AM-3PM SEPTEMBER 20  
AT THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING WITH YOU AND STARTING THIS NEW SCHOOL YEAR WITH ENTHUSIASM AND UNITY. SEE YOU AT THE HOUSE REVEAL PARTY!

#### Upcoming Events

- ICCS RECREATION NETWORK FAIR, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31—MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!
- PICTURE DAY IS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 AFTER 9AM MASS
- BUDDY WALK SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AT THE EVANS TOWNE CENTER 10AM-1PM

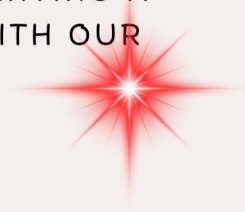


# THE HOUSE REVEAL PARTY



## WHAT IS THE HOUSE REVEAL PARTY?

MODELED AFTER THE DYNAMIC APPROACH USED AT THE RON CLARK ACADEMY, THE HOUSE REVEAL PARTY IS DESIGNED TO FOSTER SCHOOL SPIRIT, BUILD COMMUNITY, AND ENHANCE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT THROUGH A UNIQUE HOUSE SYSTEM. STUDENTS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO HOUSES, EACH REPRESENTING A DIFFERENT SET OF VALUES AND CHARACTERISTICS THAT ALIGN WITH OUR SCHOOL'S MISSION.



## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

**HOUSE REVEAL:** DURING THE PARTY, STUDENTS WILL DISCOVER WHICH HOUSE THEY HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO. THIS MOMENT WILL BE FILLED WITH ENTHUSIASM AND EXCITEMENT AS STUDENTS FIND OUT THEIR HOUSE NAME AND MASCOT.

**HOUSE ACTIVITIES:** WE HAVE PLANNED A RANGE OF FUN ACTIVITIES AND TEAM-BUILDING EXERCISES THAT WILL ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO BOND WITH THEIR NEW HOUSEMATES AND PARTICIPATE IN FRIENDLY COMPETITIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

**COMMUNITY CELEBRATION:** THE EVENT WILL INCLUDE MUSIC, GAMES, AND REFRESHMENTS, CREATING A VIBRANT AND FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND STAFF TO ENJOY TOGETHER.



## WHY A HOUSE SYSTEM?

THE HOUSE SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE TEAMWORK, LEADERSHIP, AND A SENSE OF BELONGING. EACH HOUSE WILL WORK TOGETHER ON VARIOUS SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS, AND EVENTS, HELPING TO BUILD STRONG RELATIONSHIPS AMONG STUDENTS AND ENCOURAGING POSITIVE BEHAVIOR AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN THE FUN!



WE WARMLY INVITE ALL PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO ATTEND THE HOUSE REVEAL PARTY AND BE A PART OF THIS EXCITING NEW CHAPTER FOR OUR SCHOOL. YOUR PRESENCE WILL SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD AS THEY EMBARK ON THIS NEW EXPERIENCE.



# CELEBRATING THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS: SEPTEMBER 14

ON SEPTEMBER 14, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OBSERVES THE \*\*EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS\*\*, A FEAST DEDICATED TO HONORING THE CROSS ON WHICH JESUS CHRIST WAS CRUCIFIED. THIS SIGNIFICANT DAY IN THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR IS A TIME TO REFLECT ON THE PROFOUND MEANING OF THE CROSS AND ITS CENTRAL ROLE IN OUR FAITH.

## \*\*THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FEAST\*\*

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS COMMEMORATES THE DISCOVERY OF THE TRUE CROSS BY SAINT HELENA IN THE 4TH CENTURY, AS WELL AS THE DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE IN JERUSALEM, WHICH WAS BUILT ON THE SITE OF JESUS' CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL. THIS FEAST CELEBRATES THE CROSS NOT ONLY AS A SYMBOL OF SUFFERING AND SACRIFICE BUT AS A POWERFUL EMBLEM OF REDEMPTION AND HOPE.

## \*\*SPIRITUAL REFLECTION\*\*

THE CROSS IS A SYMBOL OF CHRIST'S ULTIMATE SACRIFICE AND HIS VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH. BY EXALTING THE CROSS, WE HONOR THE IMMENSE LOVE AND SACRIFICE THAT IT REPRESENTS. IT REMINDS US OF THE PROFOUND DEPTH OF GOD'S LOVE FOR HUMANITY AND CALLS US TO LIVE OUR LIVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHRIST'S TEACHINGS.

## \*\*CELEBRATORY TRADITIONS\*\*

THE DAY IS MARKED WITH SPECIAL LITURGIES AND PRAYERS THAT HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CROSS IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES. CHURCHES OFTEN HOLD PROCESSIONS AND HYMNS THAT CELEBRATE THIS CENTRAL SYMBOL OF CHRISTIANITY. IT IS A DAY FOR THE FAITHFUL TO COME TOGETHER IN REVERENCE AND GRATITUDE FOR THE REDEMPTION AND GRACE MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH CHRIST'S SACRIFICE.

## \*\*A TIME FOR REFLECTION\*\*

AS WE CELEBRATE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, IT IS A MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION. WE ARE INVITED TO CONTEMPLATE THE WAYS IN WHICH THE CROSS INSPIRES US TO LIVE WITH GREATER COMPASSION, FORGIVENESS, AND COMMITMENT TO OUR FAITH. WE ENCOURAGE ALL FAMILIES TO TAKE PART IN THIS SACRED OBSERVANCE BY ATTENDING MASS AND PARTICIPATING IN THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICES OF THE DAY. MAY THIS FEAST DAY DEEPEN OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE CROSS AND STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH.

# Upcoming Individual Learning Plan Conferences: September at Immaculate Conception



We are excited to announce that starting in September, our teachers will be holding **Individual Learning Plan (ILP) conferences** with each family. These important meetings are designed to discuss and tailor educational strategies to support your child's unique learning needs.

## What are Individual Learning Plans?

ILPs are personalized plans developed based on a combination of student data, teacher observations, and valuable input from you, gathered through the ILP survey distributed at Classroom Orientations earlier this month. These plans help us provide targeted support and ensure that each student receives the best possible learning experience.



## Why Are ILP Conferences Important?

- 1. Customized Learning:** ILP conferences provide an opportunity to review and refine your child's learning plan. By discussing the specific data and observations, we can tailor instruction to best meet their individual needs.
- 2. Collaborative Approach:** Your input is crucial in shaping the ILP. The conferences will allow us to integrate your observations and concerns with the data collected, creating a comprehensive plan that supports your child's growth.
- 3. Goal Setting and Support:** Together, we will set realistic and achievable goals for your child. These conferences are a chance to discuss any challenges your child may be facing and explore strategies to address them effectively.

## We Encourage Your Participation

Your involvement in the ILP conference is vital. These meetings are a collaborative effort, and your insights and feedback will help us provide the most effective support for your child. We strongly encourage you to attend and engage in this process to ensure that we are working together to achieve the best outcomes for your child.



## Scheduling and Details

Teachers will reach out to you to schedule your ILP conference in September. Please look out for communication from your child's teacher regarding the specific date and time.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education. We look forward to working together to support their academic success and development.

# Unlocking Student Potential: How the NWEA MAP Test Enhances Personalized Learning at Immaculate Conception

AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL, WE ARE DEDICATED TO FOSTERING EACH STUDENT'S UNIQUE ACADEMIC JOURNEY. ONE OF THE KEY TOOLS THAT SUPPORTS THIS COMMITMENT IS THE NWEA MAP (MEASURES OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS TEST). THIS ASSESSMENT IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR APPROACH TO PERSONALIZED EDUCATION AND PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN HELPING US TAILOR INSTRUCTION TO MEET THE NEEDS OF EACH STUDENT.

## WHAT IS THE NWEA MAP TEST?

THE NWEA MAP TEST IS A COMPUTER-ADAPTIVE ASSESSMENT THAT MEASURES A STUDENT'S ACADEMIC GROWTH IN AREAS SUCH AS READING, MATHEMATICS, AND LANGUAGE USAGE. UNLIKE TRADITIONAL TESTS, THE MAP TEST ADAPTS TO EACH STUDENT'S ABILITY LEVEL, PROVIDING A PRECISE MEASUREMENT OF THEIR SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE.

AS STUDENTS ANSWER QUESTIONS CORRECTLY, THE TEST BECOMES MORE CHALLENGING; IF THEY STRUGGLE, THE TEST ADJUSTS TO EASIER QUESTIONS. THIS ADAPTIVE NATURE ENSURES THAT EACH STUDENT IS ASSESSED AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL, GIVING A CLEAR PICTURE OF THEIR CURRENT ABILITIES AND GROWTH OVER TIME.

## HOW DOES THE NWEA MAP TEST BENEFIT OUR STUDENTS?

1. ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF SKILLS: THE MAP TEST PROVIDES DETAILED INSIGHTS INTO A STUDENT'S STRENGTHS AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT. BY ASSESSING INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE WITH HIGH PRECISION, WE GAIN A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF EACH STUDENT'S ACADEMIC ABILITIES.
2. CUSTOMIZED LEARNING PLANS: THE RESULTS FROM THE MAP TEST ARE USED TO CREATE INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLANS (ILPS). THESE PLANS ARE TAILORED TO ADDRESS EACH STUDENT'S UNIQUE NEEDS, ENSURING THAT THEY RECEIVE TARGETED SUPPORT AND ENRICHMENT.
3. DATA-DRIVEN INSTRUCTION: WITH DETAILED DATA FROM THE MAP TEST, OUR TEACHERS CAN DEVELOP INDIVIDUALIZED LESSONS THAT FOCUS ON SPECIFIC AREAS WHERE A STUDENT MAY NEED ADDITIONAL HELP OR CHALLENGE. THIS APPROACH ALLOWS US TO ADDRESS LEARNING GAPS AND BUILD ON EXISTING STRENGTHS EFFECTIVELY.
4. GROWTH TRACKING: THE MAP TEST IS ADMINISTERED MULTIPLE TIMES THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR. THIS ALLOWS US TO TRACK STUDENT PROGRESS AND MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO INSTRUCTION AS NEEDED. IT PROVIDES VALUABLE FEEDBACK ON HOW WELL STUDENTS ARE ADVANCING AND WHETHER THEY ARE ON TRACK TO MEET THEIR ACADEMIC GOALS.

## HOW WE USE MAP TEST RESULTS

1. PERSONALIZED INSTRUCTION: OUR TEACHERS USE THE MAP TEST DATA TO PLAN AND DELIVER LESSONS THAT ARE TAILORED TO EACH STUDENT'S CURRENT LEVEL. THIS MEANS THAT INSTRUCTION IS NOT ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL BUT RATHER ADAPTED TO MEET INDIVIDUAL NEEDS, ENHANCING EACH STUDENT'S LEARNING EXPERIENCE.
2. IDENTIFYING NEEDS AND SETTING GOALS: THE MAP TEST HELPS IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE STUDENTS MAY NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT OR ENRICHMENT. WE SET SPECIFIC, ACHIEVABLE GOALS BASED ON TEST RESULTS AND WORK WITH STUDENTS TO HELP THEM REACH THESE TARGETS.
3. SUPPORTING DIFFERENTIATION: THE INFORMATION FROM THE MAP TEST SUPPORTS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION, WHERE STUDENTS RECEIVE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SUPPORT AND CHALLENGES BASED ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS. THIS ENSURES THAT EVERY STUDENT, WHETHER STRUGGLING OR EXCELLING, IS ENGAGED AND SUPPORTED.

## A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

WE BELIEVE THAT EFFECTIVE EDUCATION IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS. THE MAP TEST RESULTS ARE JUST ONE PIECE OF THE PUZZLE IN UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S ACADEMIC JOURNEY. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER TO GAIN A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR PROGRESS AND HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THEIR LEARNING AT HOME.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NWEA MAP TEST OR HOW IT IMPACTS YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING EXPERIENCE, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO US.

# Understanding Priority Standards: A Key to Student Success

AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL, WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING AN ENRICHING AND EFFECTIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL OUR STUDENTS. ONE IMPORTANT ASPECT OF OUR APPROACH TO TEACHING IS THE USE OF PRIORITY STANDARDS. THESE STANDARDS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN GUIDING OUR CURRICULUM AND ENSURING THAT STUDENTS ARE WELL-PREPARED FOR THEIR ACADEMIC JOURNEY.

## WHAT ARE PRIORITY STANDARDS?

PRIORITY STANDARDS ARE A SELECT GROUP OF GRADE-SPECIFIC AND COURSE-SPECIFIC STANDARDS THAT OUR TEACHERS FOCUS ON TO HELP STUDENTS ACHIEVE PROFICIENCY BY THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. THEY SERVE AS A FOUNDATION FOR OUR TEACHING AND LEARNING DECISIONS, HELPING EDUCATORS DESIGN UNITS AND LESSONS THAT ALIGN WITH KEY CONCEPTS AND ESSENTIAL SKILLS.

## WHY ARE PRIORITY STANDARDS IMPORTANT?

1. **FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING:** PRIORITY STANDARDS ARE CHOSEN BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT THE MOST CRITICAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR A PARTICULAR GRADE LEVEL OR SUBJECT AREA. THEY ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH A SOLID FOUNDATION THAT SUPPORTS THEIR OVERALL ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT.
2. **PREPARATION FOR FUTURE LEARNING:** MASTERY OF THESE STANDARDS NOT ONLY BENEFITS STUDENTS IN THEIR CURRENT GRADE BUT ALSO PREPARES THEM FOR SUCCESS IN THE NEXT GRADE LEVEL OR COURSE. BY FOCUSING ON THESE ESSENTIAL AREAS, WE HELP ENSURE THAT STUDENTS ARE READY FOR FUTURE ACADEMIC CHALLENGES.
3. **BIG IDEAS AND CORE CONCEPTS:** TEACHERS USE PRIORITY STANDARDS TO DEVELOP UNITS THAT CONCENTRATE ON MASTERING BIG IDEAS AND CORE CONCEPTS. THIS APPROACH ALLOWS STUDENTS TO ENGAGE DEEPLY WITH THE MATERIAL AND UNDERSTAND ITS RELEVANCE ACROSS VARIOUS SUBJECTS.

## CRITERIA FOR PRIORITIZED STANDARDS

- TO IDENTIFY PRIORITY STANDARDS, WE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:
- **ENDURANCE:** THESE ARE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT WILL REMAIN VALUABLE BEYOND THE CURRENT CLASS OR COURSE. THEY PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH LONG-LASTING COMPETENCIES THAT WILL BENEFIT THEM THROUGHOUT THEIR ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL LIVES.
  - **LEVERAGE:** PRIORITY STANDARDS ENCOMPASS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT ARE APPLICABLE ACROSS MULTIPLE DOMAINS OF LEARNING. THIS MEANS THAT THE SKILLS STUDENTS DEVELOP CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER SUBJECTS AND REAL-LIFE SITUATIONS.
  - **READINESS:** THESE STANDARDS ARE CRUCIAL FOR UNDERSTANDING SUBSEQUENT CONTENT OR COURSES. MASTERY OF PRIORITY STANDARDS ENSURES THAT STUDENTS ARE PREPARED FOR FUTURE LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES.
  - **ASSESSMENT:** PRIORITY STANDARDS ARE OFTEN ASSESSED ON STATE OR DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS. BY FOCUSING ON THESE STANDARDS, WE HELP STUDENTS PERFORM WELL ON THESE IMPORTANT EVALUATIONS AND MEET ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS.

## OUR COMMITMENT

WHILE PRIORITY STANDARDS ARE A CENTRAL FOCUS, IT IS STILL ESSENTIAL TO ADDRESS OTHER STANDARDS THAT MAY NOT BE PRIORITIZED. OUR TEACHERS DEDICATE SIGNIFICANT TIME AND RESOURCES TO ENSURE THAT ALL STANDARDS ARE TAUGHT EFFECTIVELY, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THOSE DEEMED MOST CRITICAL. WE BELIEVE THAT BY PRIORITIZING THESE KEY AREAS, WE CAN PROVIDE A MORE FOCUSED AND IMPACTFUL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR OUR STUDENTS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PRIORITY STANDARDS AND HOW THEY BENEFIT YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO REACH OUT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIP IN YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING JOURNEY.

# Immaculate Conception Parent and Caregivers Coffee Chat

Join the Parent  
Liaison  
for some relaxing  
talks to meet other  
parents and  
caregivers from our  
school and share  
ideas or just seek  
advice from others  
that maybe going  
through similar  
things.



**MONDAY**  
**SEP. 9**  
2 PM