

Adeodatus

Saint Augustine Catholic High School, a college preparatory institution rooted in the teaching of Jesus Christ, facilitates academic excellence while enriching Catholic values.

A Monthly Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 1, August/September 2009

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NEXT MONTH

In October's issue:

- Meet the Board of Directors
- PSAT and AIMS Testing
- Respect Life Week

SACHS newsletter takes on new life

Part of the parental survey administered in winter 2009 requested that the school newsletter, separate from the school newspaper, be reinstated. SACHS is proud to announce a new form to the newsletter: Adeodatus.

Welcome back to school everyone! And welcome to the newly resurrected newsletter from Saint Augustine Catholic High School, Adeodatus!

Adeodatus was the son of Saint Augustine. His name means "gift of God." This newsletter is dedicated to all those gifts of God who come to Saint Augustine Catholic High School.

Monthly Information

Adeodatus is a newsletter that runs from August through May each school year to communicate information to parents and other community members about what is happening at SAHCS.

Going Green

Adeodatus will be published in an electronic format only to save paper and to promote the use of the school's website. The school will alert parents and other stakeholders when new issues are available. Please make sure your current email address is on file in the school office. Also, make sure that your ISP or email provider does not block email coming from the domain staugustinehigh.com.

Format

The newsletter will always contain a message from the Principal and an updated calendar of events/activities for the school. It will also contain various features and other articles throughout the year. If you have any ideas for specific items you would like to see in Adeodatus, please contact the school.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Welcome back to SACHS for another great school year! Last year there was a focus on stabilizing the school community and implementing some capital improvements. The school looks and feels like a high school more and more each day while maintaining the beauty of the seminary and grounds that were constructed

more than 50 years ago. This year has three major foci: 1) the dramatic improvement of the academic program, 2) an enhanced recruitment program for increased enrollment, and 3) completion of the initial accreditation process through WCEA.

Over the summer many curricular documents for school programs were written, re-written, and redacted into new format. These new documents and the ones in progress will meet or exceed state and national standards. Special thanks to Dr. Rachel Moreno, Betsy Ferrer, Tony Piccotti, Gina Novoa-Svarosky, and Jennifer Kiefer for their work over the summer (and their work this fall). This new curriculum will provide a stronger foundation for our students and will better prepare them for college. In addition, there will be a student focus this year on the 16 Habits of Mind. These are research based habits that lead to an increase in student success. More information about this can be found on page 3. Parents, I am asking for your support in the implementation of these habits throughout the year.

With the decrease in family commitment (tuition) we have experienced an increase in our student enrollment this year. We are expecting even more significant results during the admissions season this fall. The board and administration will be doing all that they can to spread the word about SACHS to all those interested in Catholic education in the metro Tucson area. But we need your help! The best form of advertising is parent to parent communication. Please tell your friends who have school age children or grandchildren about SACHS and how it can benefit all students who want to learn and who want to be leaders in excellence.

Finally, the school will be completing the process of initial accreditation this school year. A visiting team from WCEA (with an observer from NCA) will be here Sunday - Wednesday, February 21-24. Mr. Bud Droegemeier has taken over for Mr. Peter Corrigan as the self-study chairperson. During the fall the process of writing the final draft of the self-study will take place. Mr. Droegemeier has already involved many SACHS stakeholders and asked them to be part of committees. This process of examining our own school and creating an improvement plan is critical for SACHS to move from survival to stability. Then we move into significance!

Saint Augustine, pray for us!

Kevin P. Kiefer
Principal

CAMPUS MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Effective August 18, 2009, Deacon Andy Corder will be assuming the role of Campus Minister. He will be coming to the school approximately 10 hours per week to assist with the following tasks:

- Liturgy planning and the contacting of priests for Mass
- Serving as a resource for faculty and staff
- Being available to students during the lunch period
- Attending student retreats, including KAIROS

BIOGRAPHY

Deacon Charles Andy Corder was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Raised a Southern Baptist, Andy became a Roman Catholic by choice. Retired from the United States Air Force in 1996, Andy chose to make Tucson his home, having raised three children here from his marriage to Tina Pajkos who died in 1990. Their oldest daughter is currently serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Micronesia on a two-year mission. Andy and his wife Donna (Donn), also a convert to Roman Catholicism, have been married for 18 years. In 2004, Andy responded to the call to the ministry of Deacon, and entered the formation program in the Diocese of Tucson. In 2005, Andy and Donn opened the only Catholic bookstore on the east side of Tucson, Fr. Kino's Corner, named in honor of Fr. Eusebio Kino founder of St Xavier del Bac in 1700. In 2008 Andy was ordained a Deacon in the Roman Catholic Church and serves at St Francis de Sales Parish. Andy currently serves on the board of Caridad de Porres, a local non-profit charity with the mission of feeding the working poor and homeless community in Tucson.

GREETING FROM DEACON CORDER

"Peace to you in Christ! I am excited to be working with the St Augustine Catholic High School family. Working with the young people of our church today has always been a passion of mine, because they are the future of the Roman Catholic Church. While my schedule at the school will only be part-time, Mr. Kiefer and I are working to make the time productive and maximize the time I am available to the students. I look forward to seeing you around the campus!"

The Rev. Mr. Andy Corder
Deacon/Campus Minister

Habits of Mind debuts at SACHS

As part of the academic focus for the year, SACHS will be introducing the *Habits of Mind*. The Habits of Mind are researched based habits that lead to increased student performance. They were identified by educators and researchers Arthur L. Costa and Bena Kallick.

What are Habits of Mind?

Costa and Kallick (2008) define Habits of Mind as follows:

- “They are the characteristics of what intelligent people do when they are confronted with problems, the resolutions to which are not immediately apparent” (p.15).

- “A Habit of Mind is a pattern of intellectual behaviors that leads to productive actions” (p.16).

- “A Habit of Mind is a composite of many skills, attitudes, cues, past experiences, and proclivities” (p. 17)

Implementation of Habits

This is the briefest of introductions to the 16 Habits of Mind. Each month beginning in September, SACHS will focus on two Habits of Mind. The goal is to build a common vocabulary and familiarity with the Habits of Mind by the end of the school year. Then a more formal incorporation of these habits into the curriculum can begin.

The 16 Habits of Mind

1. Persisting

“Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they never quit.” (Conrad Hilton)

- Stick to it!
- Persevering in task through to completion; remaining focused.

2. Managing impulsivity

“Goal-directed, self-imposed delay of gratification is perhaps the essence of emotional self regulation: the ability to deny impulse in the service of a goal, whether it be building a business, solving an algebraic equation, or pursuing the Stanley Cup.” (Daniel Goleman)

- Take your time!
- Thinking before acting; remaining calm, thoughtful and deliberative.

3. Listening with understanding and empathy

Listening is the beginning of understanding. . . . Wisdom is the reward for a lifetime of listening. Let the wise listen and add to their learning and let the discerning get guidance.” (Proverbs 1:5)

- Understand Others!
- Devoting mental energy to another person's thoughts and ideas; holding in abeyance one's own thoughts in order to perceive another's point of view and emotions.

4. Thinking flexibly

“Of all forms of mental activity, the most difficult to induce even in the minds of the young, who may be presumed not to have lost their flexibility, is the art of

handling the same bundle of data as before, but placing them in a new system of relations with one another by giving them a different framework, all of which virtually means putting on a different kind of thinking-cap for the moment. It is easy to teach anybody a new fact. . . . but it needs light from heaven above to enable a teacher to break the old framework in which the student is accustomed to seeing.” (Arthur Koestler)

- Look at it another way!
- Being able to change perspectives, generate alternatives, consider options.

5. Metacognition (thinking about thinking)

“When the mind is thinking it is talking to itself.” (Plato)

- Know your knowing!
- Being aware of one's own thoughts, strategies, feelings and actions and their effects on others.

6. Striving for accuracy

A man who has committed a mistake and doesn't correct it is committing another mistake.” (Confucius)

- Check it again!
- A desire for exactness, fidelity and craftsmanship.

7. Questioning and posing problems

“The formulation of a problem is often more essential than its solution, which may be merely a matter of mathematical or experimental skill. . . . To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advances.” (Albert Einstein)

- How do you know?

- Having a questioning attitude; knowing what data are needed and developing questioning strategies to produce those data. Finding problems to solve

8. Applying past knowledge to new situations

“I've never made a mistake. I've only learned from experience.” (Thomas A. Edison)

- Use what you learn!
- Accessing prior knowledge; transferring knowledge beyond the situation in which it was learned.

9. Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision

“I do not so easily think in words. . . . After being hard at work having arrived at results that are perfectly clear. . . . I have to translate my thoughts in a language that does not run evenly with them.” (Francis Galton, geneticist)

- Be clear!
- Striving for accurate communication in both written and oral forms; avoiding over generalizations, distortions and deletions.

10. Gathering data through all senses

“Observe perpetually.” (Henry James)

- Use your natural pathways!
- Gathering data through all the sensory pathways - gustatory, olfactory, tactile, kinesthetic, auditory and visual.

(see Habits on page 4)

Habits of Mind (continued)

11. Creating, imagining, innovating

"The future is not some place we are going to but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found, but made, and the activity of making them changes both the maker and the destination." (John Schaar, political scientist)

- Try a different way!
- Generating new and novel ideas, fluency, originality.

12. Responding with wonderment and awe

"The most beautiful experience in the world is the experience of the mysterious." (Albert Einstein)

- Have fun figuring it out!

• Finding the world awesome, mysterious and being intrigued with phenomena and beauty.

13. Taking responsible risks

"There has been a calculated risk in every stage of American development - the pioneers who were not afraid of the wilderness, businessmen who were not afraid of failure, dreamers who were not afraid of action." (Brooks Atkinson)

- Venture out!
- Being adventuresome; living on the edge of one's competence.

14. Finding humor

"You can increase your brain power three to five fold simply by laughing and having fun before working on a problem." (Doug Hall)

- Laugh a little!
- Finding the whimsical, incongruous and unexpected. Being able to laugh at oneself.

15. Thinking interdependently

"Take care of each other. Share your energies with the group. No one must feel alone, cut off, for that is when you do not make it." (Willie Unsoeld, mountain climber)

- Work together!
- Being able to work in and learn from others in reciprocal situations.

16. Remaining open to continuous learning

"The greater our knowledge increases the more our ignorance unfolds." (John F. Kennedy)

- Learn from experiences!
- Having humility and pride when admitting we don't know; resisting complacency.

The Great Adventure comes in September

Saint Augustine Catholic High School in conjunction with Fr. Kino's Corner is proud to announce its first community Bible Study.

From greatadventureonline.com:
"The Great Adventure is a Catholic Bible learning system that makes the complex simple by teaching the story (the narrative) of the Bible. Every day, more and more people are encountering God's Word through the methods taught in The Great Adventure.

Jeff Cavins developed The Great Adventure in 1984 when he realized that most people, despite

their strong faith, did not grasp the "big picture" of the Bible. Though they knew selected stories, they were not able to connect them into a full narrative. His answer was to identify the books of the Bible that tell the story from beginning to end. By reading just these 14 "narrative" books, a chronological story emerges.

From this idea grew the immensely popular Bible Timeline program, which teaches the story in a way that is easy to remember and helps people to continue reading Scripture on their own. Hundreds of

thousands of Catholics have learned to read the Bible through this system, which provides a solid foundation for all other reading and study.

Since the creation of The Bible Timeline, The Great Adventure has grown into a remarkable system designed to give the average Catholic a solid foundation for a lifetime of Bible reading. Parishes around the world are finding renewed faith and increased involvement among parishioners whose lives have been changed by this exciting study series."

SACHS will be offering the 24-week Bible Timeline Study this year, beginning on September 16. Meetings will be each Wednesday from 7-9pm in the cafeteria. The cost for the program materials is \$45 (this averages to less than \$2 per week), and the materials will be available through Fr. Kino's Corner. (Contact Deacon Andy Corder to register/purchase materials at either acorder@staugustinehigh.com or customerservice@frkinoscorner.com or call 790-4033.



Fr Kino's Corner

Catholic Books & Gifts, L.L.C.

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Fr. Kino's Corner is proud to support Saint Augustine Catholic High School.

We are proud to be your trusted source for Catholic books and gifts!

August/September 2009 Calendar

Check www.staugustinehigh.com for updates.

AUGUST

3 - Faculty return to campus for preplanning inservice

7 - Freshman/new student orientation day (8am-3pm)

10 - **First day of school for all students**

11 - Regular schedule, no Mass

12 - First late start Wednesday of the year; note: **the tardy bell rings at 8:40am this year**

12 - Fall Sports Night - all fall sport athletes and at least one parent must meet in the cafeteria at 6:30pm.

14 - Mass schedule; memorial of Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe

18 - All school Mass

19 - **MANDATORY PARENT MEETING** in the cafeteria at 7:00pm.

20 - AM Assembly for Students - Cyber Safety

22 - Parent Safe Environment Training (Cafeteria), 9:00am

22 - Fingerprinting available for background checks (Cafeteria), 10am-2pm

24 - Board of Directors Meeting at 7:30am

24 - Student picture day - all students must be dressed in red polo shirts and khaki pants/shorts.

24 - Parent Safe Environment Training (Cafeteria), 4:00pm

25 - SW @ St. Gregory, 3:00pm

26 - Fall Sports Picutres, 7:30am-8:30am

26 - CC @ Lincoln Park, TBD

26 - VB @ San Miguel, 5:00pm

26 - Parent Safe Environment Training (Cafeteria), 7:00pm

27 - Senior Retreat

28 - Feast of St. Augustine: all school service projects, 8:30-11:30; lunch with the Knights of Columbus, 12:00-1:00; pep rally, 1:00-1:45; Mass with Bishop Kicanas at St. Francis de Sales, 2:00-3:00

28 - VB @ ASDB, 4:00pm

28 - FB @ St. David, 7:00pm

SEPTEMBER

1 - VB @ Desert Christian, 5:00pm

1 - Mini-Class Night, 6:30pm: parents, come and meet your student's teachers for 10 minute mini-sessions.

3 - SW @ Anthem Parkside, 4:00pm

4 - VB @ Valley Union, 3:30pm

4 - FB vs Elfrida Valley Union, 7:00pm @ ASDB

5 - CC @ Flagstaff Invitational

7 - **LABOR DAY - NO SCHOOL**

8 - SW @ Pusch Ridge, 4:00pm

8 - JV FB vs Patagonia, 4:00pm

8 - Parent to Parent Executive Committee Meeting, 6:00pm

9 - VB vs Ajo, 5:00pm @ Clements Center

10 - National Honors Society Induction, 7:00pm, Chapel

11 - VB @ Patagonia, 4:00pm

11 - FB @ Patagonia, 7:00pm

12 - CC @ Buena

15 - VB vs Lourdes, 3:30pm

15 - SW @ Ott YMCA, 4:00pm

16 - CC @ San Manuel

16 - The Bible Timeline Bible Study, 7:00-9:00pm (Cafeteria)

17 - Freshman Retreat

18 - End of First Six Weeks

19 - CC @ TBD

19 - FB @ CSD Riverside (California)

22 - **Progress Reports Posted**

22 - SW @ Valley Christian, 3:00pm

22 - VB @ Valley Union, 5:00pm

23 - The Bible Timeline Bible Study, 7:00-9:00pm (Cafeteria)

24 - VB vs St. David, 3:30pm @ Clements Center

26 - CC @ Boise, ID

26 - FB @ NMSD, 1:00pm (Santa Fe, NM)

29 - VB vs Patagonia, 3:30pm @ Clements Center

29 - SW @ Florence, 4:00pm

30 - The Bible Timeline Bible Study, 7:00-9:00pm (Cafeteria)