STEM EDUCATION AT SIENA

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education has experienced a great deal of growth over the last few years. There are several factors that contribute to this. If one sees education myopically as a means to a career, an education in the STEM subjects is a more certain path to a job than many other avenues simply because American businesses need people who are technologically proficient. Another reason for its popularity is that it promotes a way of thinking that relies more on critical reasoning than rote memorization. As President Obama said,

"[Science] is more than a school subject, or the periodic table, or the properties of waves. It is an approach to the world, a critical way to understand and explore and engage with the world, and then have the capacity to change that world..."

A third factor contributing to the growth in STEM education is the recognition that students learn best when they can apply new information and skills to the real world, what is known as authentic learning.

Siena’s sixth grade STEM program has had marvelous success engaging students in the practical application of theory. The physical sciences that the course covers have lent themselves readily to STEM education. Our efforts to do the same in seventh grade have admittedly been less successful largely because the regular 7th grade science has been focused on the life sciences which do not dovetail as easily with mathematics. For this and other reasons, we are making a few changes to our seventh grade science curriculum next year. All seventh graders will take a STEM course that focuses on earth and space science following the Next Generation Science Standards. The following year (2019-2020) all eighth graders will be taking the life sciences, with our advanced students taking Regents Living Environment as they currently do. We are excited about these changes. They will allow us to more faithfully implement the STEM philosophy in our seventh grade and provide a more fluid and coordinated sequence of courses between seventh and eighth grade. I thank the members of the STEM subjects for their deliberation regarding these changes and the work that they will take on to bring these plans to fruition.

Martin Kilbridge
News and Events

Eighth Grade Information Packet Sent Home

Parents and Guardians of eighth graders should have received a packet of information related to end of the year activities. It included the invitation to the dinner dance, a list of important dates, a request for pictures, a graduation fee slip, and a diploma name form. The year rapidly comes to a close with many events, including the eight grade trip which departs early tomorrow morning.

Golf & Games Tournament Supports Diocesan Catholic Schools Hardship Fund


Sports Banquet Information

Parents and guardians, please send pictures of Siena sporting events to John Maier at jmaier276@frontiernet.net. He will be compiling a slide show for the Sports Banquet on May 9th.

If you could forward them to him by Friday, May 4th that would be great.

Solemnity of the Ascension—a Holy Day of Obligation

May 10th is a Ascension Thursday, a Holy Day of Obligation in the Roman Catholic Church. Families are welcome to join us for Mass in St. Thomas More church at 9:20am.

Jazz/Rock Summer Camp

Our Jazz Band director, Vince Ercolamento offers a one week Jazz/Rock summer camp at CSE music, July 16th through the 20th with a performance at the Webster Jazz Festival on July 21st. The costs $175. If you are interested, flyers are available at the front table outside Siena’s Main Office.

Strategic Plan Review Committee—Omitted Names

In last week’s Siena Notes, Mr. Kilbridge wrote about two Strategic Plan review committees, the most recent one being made up of teachers. He omitted to mention and recognize the members of last year’s review committee that included parents and teachers. The members of the 2018 review committee were: Rich Calitree, Bob DiFulio, Eric Dodds, Greg Gulick, Diane Klimasewski, Sandy Kukuvka, Tim Leahy, Seana Mancini, Pam Moore, Sr. Laurie Orman, RSM, Dana Ritz, Bryan Teegardin, and Stephanie Townsend.

Family Ambassador Program

The Family Ambassador Program gives current families the opportunity to invite their friends, parishioners, extended family members, and neighbors to join a Rochester Catholic School and receive a $500 tuition credit for recruiting a new family. And, the new families also receive a $500 credit for joining one of the 18 schools in their area. Learn more at: dorschools.org/ambassador.

Opportunities to Help … and Be Helped

Lunch Volunteers Needed

We need more volunteers to act as lunch servers for the Optional Lunch Program, particularly on Tuesdays. One day a month would help. Volunteers must be CASE certified to serve. Sign up!

Amazon Wish List

We have set up a Siena Wish List on Amazon. It is populated with technology and intramural sports equipment.

Get Your Spiritwear Online

Get your Siena swag at the online store for Siena Spiritwear.

Facebook

Like us on Facebook! Share posts you like so that word spreads!

Online Reviews of SCA

Consider writing or registering a review of Siena Catholic Academy with Niche or Great Schools.

Calendar Reminders:

Click for our Google Calendar

5/3-5/5 8th Gr Trip
5/7-5/11 Teacher Appreciation Week
5/8 PAC Meeting 6:30pm
5/9 Sports Banquet 6pm
5/10 Ascension Thursday Mass 9:20am
5/10-15 Spring Book Fair
5/14 Spring Concert 7pm
5/16 May Crowning 9:20am
5/16 New Student Mixer 6pm
5/18 Progress Reports Posted 3pm