

August 26, 2009

Dear School Parents,

This year all of the Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Oakland will be embarking on a three-year plan of Professional Development for its teaching staff. The meeting of all classroom teachers in grade level groups (K-2, 3-5, and 6-9) to review and strengthen our Language Arts and Math Curriculum Guidelines ensures that our standards are rigorous, relevant and challenging.

We are very excited by this venture which includes dialog with our secondary school colleagues, as we work together to refine our standards where necessary so that we meet the 21st Century skills our students will need to be successful in the years ahead. In order to maximize the work involved in this process, we will be gathering all of the teachers from our 45 school sites on three separate occasions: September 18, 2009, November 6, 2009, and February 26, 2010.

In preparation for this year's in-services, 43 teachers attended a three-day workshop in the summer led by national speaker and author, Kay Psencik to become facilitators of this process during the three-day in-services. Additionally, all of our school principals are participating in ongoing professional development in this area.

While we recognize that these 3 full days of professional development require flexibility towards each school's master calendar, we are confident that the effects of this systemic professional development program will be of immeasurable value towards ensuring that **all** children in the Diocese of Oakland are provided a coherent curriculum that challenges each student to succeed in a Christ-centered environment.

Thank you for your commitment to Catholic education in our Diocese!

Blessings of peace and joy surround our new school year!

Sincerely,

Sister Barbara Bray
Superintendent of School
Diocese of Oakland