

EXCELSIOR

FALL, 2016 VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1



Summit Receives Catholic Status from Diocese

This fall marks the beginning of the 19th year of operation for Summit Academy. School officials over those 19 years have sought affiliation with the Diocese of Boise, and that finally was granted to Summit Academy by Bishop Peter Christensen on July 1, 2016. Principal James Hickel said affiliation makes Summit inclusive instead of being just a private school. The bishop is the only one that can make this designation and getting the sanction of the bishop is important.

Mr. Hickel points out that 'Summit Academy is not only the newest member of the Diocese of Boise Diocesan Catholic Schools but is also one of only two Catholic High Schools in the Diocese and the State.' Summit's boarding program makes a Catholic high school education available for any student throughout the Diocese. Summit's four day schedule allows weekly boarders more time with family each week.

Summit also offers monthly boarding for those students who live too far to commute each week.

The school year's first Mass was held September sixth which included the lighting of the sanctuary candle for the year. With the diocese affiliation, the school is able to retain the blessed sacrament which allows students and faculty the opportunity to visit Jesus throughout the week. The student body attends Mass twice a week, once each at Christ the King Chapel and St. Mary's Catholic Church. A rotating group of visiting priests offers the on-campus Mass, after which they enjoy lunch with one of the classes.

Summit families were overjoyed by the news of the affiliation with the Diocese and join the administration in thanking all those who have worked so diligently to pave the way for this recognition.



Miss. Kim McCullough signs the Oath of Fidelity to the Catholic Church at a ceremony on Thursday, September 8th. The document, signed by the Summit Faculty each year, states that the signer will live by the Catholic faith in both their personal and professional lives. Fr. Paul Wander, pastor of St. Mary's Church, and Principal Jim Hickel, as well as other faculty look on.

Mystery Night Set for October 8

Final preparations are under way for this year's Mystery Night fundraiser, to be held on October 8th. All are invited to celebrate a night that's "Out of This World". The fun begins with a social and dinner, and includes both a live and a silent auction. The finale of the night is the revealing of the mystery winner of \$10,000.

There is something for everyone in the wide variety of silent auction items and baskets. The live auction has several highly coveted items including a Murder-Mystery Dinner, 3 Seahawks tickets, a 5-night ski trip for 6 and a 3' statue of Our Lady. More auction items including themed dinners, parties and trips are detailed on the Summit website.

Each \$125 ticket admits two guests. Call the Summit Office, or visit the Summit website to purchase.



Welcome to our new teachers!

The start of the 16-17 school year brought very few changes to the teaching staff at Summit. Mrs. Rachel Gehring joined the faculty to teach Theology to 11-12th. Mr. Richard Wimer, who taught at Summit several years ago, is back to teach Personal Finance to 11-12th. Miss Brooke Haeling is back to full-time after taking part of last year off for college. She is teaching 3-4th. Miss. Gloria Palmer has joined the teaching staff as preschool teacher and elementary aid. She teaches preschool two mornings per week as well as PE and art for grades K-6. Mrs. Julie Sonnen is teaching our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program to preschool and Kindergarten students. More about CGS and our atrium on page 3.



Interested in learning more about all our teachers?

Visit

www.summitacademyid.com

-Summer Updates-

Summer brought a chance to make updates and changes to the facilities at Summit Academy. Mr. Hickel oversaw and helped with several improvements to the building. An inmate work crew was at the school for a few weeks over the summer and several families pitched in to help. Several classrooms as well as the elementary and high school hallways received new coats of paint. Junior Lauren Stubbers says the paint "adds a pop of color" which she likes. The preschool moved to a new classroom and a teacher lounge was completed. The gym floor was painted and includes lines for volleyball and basketball. New advertising signage was installed at the crossroads nearest the school. Several permanent inspirational quotes have been hung above doorways throughout the school.

The students were impressed with the sprucing up on the first day of school. The gym floor was universally liked and the high school students appreciated the improvements to their hallway which includes hanging space for sports bags.

Summit adopts four-day week

Summit parents suggested a four-day week at a school-wide meeting last May. The Board of Directors, along with the families voted to adopt the four-day week primarily to allow more family time and longer weekends for travel and other outings. 'It's worth it to get up earlier and stay later to have one whole day off,' says seventh grader Dani Sonnen.

Many of the families who attend Summit live on farms and/or ranches with plenty of chores to do. Some high school students will continue working for their summer employers on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the school year. Fridays off allows "more time for family and socializing" says senior Ellie Watson. Eighth grader Claira Osborne says it "allows her more time to spend with her sisters."

Classes are held Monday through Thursday, with the school day beginning at 8:00 am and ending at 3:45 pm. Senior Bridget Beckman sums up the feeling of the student body, "Friday off is amazing."

Top left: Miss. Gloria Palmer directs 3-4th students during PE class.

Left: Kindergarten boys with their 'Me boxes'. They filled the boxes with items from home and then shared with the class to get to know one another.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd answers Jesus's call when He said, "Let the little children come to me."

CGS originated in Rome in the 1950's by two Catholic lay women, one, a biblical scholar, and the other, a trained Montessori teacher. Their method is now being used in 37 countries world wide. It has been approved by the Diocese of Boise and is enthusiastically encouraged by our Bishop, Peter Christiansen, for catechesis at the preschool level.

Combining Montessori principals and Catholic doctrine, CGS enables children to experience the Gospel in a way that is sensitive to their developmental needs and their inherent desire for discovery through the senses. Through hands-on activities, the young child learns about the person of Jesus: His life, death, and resurrection. They hear his teachings by pondering the parables, and experience how the Church lives out those teachings within the liturgy and the sacraments.

In lieu of a classroom, CGS uses a space called an Atrium. The Atrium is a place of learning, but more importantly, a place of prayer and reflection for the young child. The space is filled with beautiful, real, child-sized items made by members of the community. Within the atrium the young child learns to slow down their movements; to practice stillness and silence. These activities prepare their young hearts, minds, and bodies for sustained concentration and ultimately contemplation as they come to know and love Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

All children 3-6 years old are welcome to join our students in the atrium during Thursday sessions. Please call the Summit Office for more information on registering a child.



The High School girls enjoy the light-filled high school hallway, which was improved over the summer with fresh paint and now features inspirational quotes and additional hanging space for sports bags.



Above: Kindergarten student Will Sonnen does his 'prayer work' at the ambo after setting the altar in the atrium.

Year of Gratitude



Students in Michelle Sonnen's 5-6th grade started the year a little unexpectedly. When they filed into the classroom after opening prayer on the first day of school they found an empty room. No chairs, no desks. The bewildered students questioned Mrs. Sonnen, who told them they could have their desks when they could tell her how they had earned them. By midday there were still no desks in the class. Fifth grade student Levi Wassmuth groaned, "I don't think we're going to have desks for the WHOLE year!" Early in the afternoon however, a knock at the door produced a local uniformed veteran with a desk. He was followed by several more veterans carrying more desks and chairs for each student. The shocked students stood by and watched in silent bewilderment. Once the desks were in place, Mrs. Sonnen addressed the students, 'You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you.' She went on to explain the sacrifices the veterans had made to serve their country which gives them the freedom to attend school, and the freedom of religion which allows them to attend a Catholic school. The students applauded and thanked the veterans for their service. Thus began the year of gratitude in the 5-6th grade class.

122 Substation Road
Cottonwood, Idaho 83522

Mailing: PO Box 427
Cottonwood, Idaho 83522
Phone: 208.962.5650
Fax: 208.962.7129
E-mail:
office@summitacademyid.com

Return Service Requested



Visit us at
summitacademyid.com

Upcoming Events

- *Catholic Educators Conference: October 6-8*
- *Mystery Night: October 8*
- *Holyween Saint Presentations: October 31*
- *End of 1st Quarter: November 3*
- *Adult Retreat: January 5-7, 2017*

Summit Academy is a private Catholic School recognized and approved by and within the Diocese of Boise

Summit Academy is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. In addition to federal and state deductions for your charitable contribution, Idaho residents may claim an Idaho State Tax credit which directly reduces your state liability.

Summit Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, gender or national origin.



Mystery Night 2016

OUT OF THIS WORLD

This year's Mystery Night will be held on October 8th. A maximum of 350 tickets are sold, with the main event being an elimination raffle. Every tenth ticket drawn wins a prize and the grand prize for the night is \$10,000 redeemable at Sonnen Meats • Hoene Hardware Co • Les Schwab Tire, Grangeville • B&A Performance Auto • Lindsley's Furniture & Appliance • Cottonwood Foods • Chesky Woodworking • Intermountain Feed & Mercantile. A live auction and silent auction are also held. Tickets are \$125 for dual admission and entry into the raffle. To purchase: www.summitacademyid.com or 208-962-5650