

Hello everyone,

St. Monica-St. Michael School first day was on Tuesday, August 30th and our staff welcome 135 students to the new school year. This represented 10 more students than we ended with last year. Through the leadership of Mrs. Buzzell, the school has developed a solid reputation of being a safe and structured academic center for learning, spiritual growth, physical education, and an introduction to cultural arts and performing arts. This year has started with this same focus. Several new initiatives will be offered at this upcoming school year.

Today, I will speak specially about the 8th Grade Flag Corps. Our 8th graders have learned flag etiquette and starting on Tuesday, September 5th each morning during morning meeting they will raise the flag as the whole school recites the pledge of allegiance. At the end of the school day, they will reverently lower the flag, fold it, and place it in the Office for the next day. American Flag etiquette calls for the lowering of the flag each day if it is not specifically lighted at night. Our flag is currently not lighted so we are obligated to take the flag down at the end of the school.

A new initiative for the eighth grade is to make their own annual St. Monica-St. Michael school flag. Our 8th graders are starting to make their flag during their art class. When they finish the flag, the school flag will be unveiled on the same day the 8th graders receive their 8th grade jackets. This class flag will be flown the entire school year and stand as their legacy of their attending St. Monica-St. Michael. Within the Month of September will be unveiling the on the same date the 8<sup>th</sup> graders receive their new school jackets.

Two new initiatives we will introduce in September are our F.R.O.G. (Fully Rely on God) and our Positive behavior program – The Bee Philosophy. Details will follow soon.