



# KNIGHTS IN THE KNOW

ISSUE 1 • FALL 2022



## INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to our first issue of our triannual newsletter for Saint Andrew Catholic School. This newsletter, like our weekly announcement email, stems from last year's vision process, and the need for improved communication and collaboration between home and school. The purpose of this newsletter is to highlight changes in policy, place a spotlight on accomplishments earned, and build stronger partnerships with parents and guardians.

TRIAENNIAL  
NEWSLETTER

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# FAITH IN ACTION

Right before the Thanksgiving break, our students were introduced to our new school-wide initiative titled, **FAITH in Action**. Although this is a new concept to the students, the staff has been working diligently on this approach since January 2022. This is called PBIS or Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports.

In laymen's terms, our school has developed a set of expectations or rules for your child's behavior at school. We will teach these expectations to all of our students, and we will recognize students who meet them.

66 YOU CAN'T GO BACK AND CHANGE THE BEGINNING BUT YOU CAN START WHERE YOU ARE AND CHANGE THE ENDING.  
-C.S. LEWIS 99

## What is Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS)?

PBIS is a process for creating safer and more effective schools. It is a systems approach to enhancing the capacity of schools to educate all children by developing research-based, school-wide, and classroom behavior support systems. The process focuses on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive behavior for all students. Rather than a prescribed program, PBIS provides systems for schools to design, implement, and evaluate effective school-wide, classroom, non-classroom, and student specific plans. PBIS includes school-wide procedures and processes intended for all students and all staff in all settings. PBIS is not a program or a curriculum. It is a team-based process for systemic problem solving, planning, and evaluation. It is an approach to creating a safe and productive learning environment where teachers can teach and all students can learn.

## What is PBIS at our school?

As part of our PBIS process, teachers and other staff members will use evidence-based practices to increase student learning and decrease classroom disruptions with the adoption of a unified set of expectations and consequences. To keep students focused on the rules in a positive manner, we will do the following when teaching academics and behavior:

- Constantly teach and refer to our school-wide expectations.
- Provide students with more praise than correction.
- Talk to students with respect using positive voice tone.
- Actively engage everyone in the class during instruction.
- Use pre-correcting, prompting, and redirecting as we teach.
- Look for the positive first and provide positive, immediate, frequent, and explicit feedback.

## PBIS PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the PBIS team at SACS is to maintain a nurturing environment, through partnerships with the school community, by creating consistent expectations and positive outcomes that will foster social, emotional, spiritual, academic, and intellectual growth for all students.

## PBIS EXPECTED OUTCOMES

We are the Knights of...

### **FORTITUDE:**

Be courageous through difficult tasks

### **ATTITUDE**

Have a positive outlook

### **INTEGRITY**

Be honest with myself and others

### **TRUSTWORTHINESS**

Be responsible

### **HUMILITY**

Put others first



## PHASES OF IMPLEMENTATION

### **Phase 1: Jan-August 2022**

- Establish PBIS Team
- PBIS Team Training through the LIU
- Plan/Mission/Vision Development
- Staff Training
- Lesson plan development

### **Phase 2- Fall 2022**

- Establish/teach/model expectations for every area of the building which will later align with our behavior matrix
- Streamline consequences for non-negotiable behaviors
- Begin coaching sessions with LIU
- Continue lesson planning

### **Phase 3- Jan-May 2023**

- Begin teaching the FAITH matrix. All expectations taught at the beginning of the year will fall into the FAITH matrix.
- Track positive & negative behaviors.

### **Phase 4- Jun-July 2023**

- Analyze yearly behavior data
- Make necessary changes to the behavior matrix

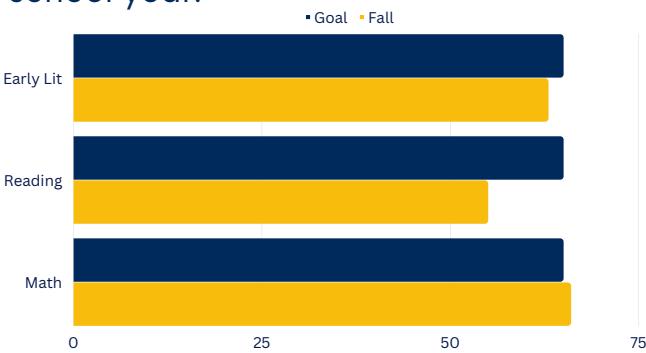
### **Phase 5- Aug 2023**

- Full Implementation
- Use LiveSchool App to track behavior and rewards
- PBIS reward system for both students and staff



## **FALL ASSESSMENTS**

In September, our students in grades K-8 completed the first round of STAR benchmark assessments in both reading or early literacy and math. This beginning of the year assessment not only provides data on where students fall academically in comparison to other students their age but also provides our teachers with specific strategies to enhance instructional planning for each individual child. The chart below shows our beginning of the year assessment scores (Gold) versus our 2022-23 goal (Blue). As you can see, we are well on track to meeting and/or exceeding our yearly goal in all three areas. Our students will take the assessments again in January and then a final time in May for 22-23 school year.



# STUDENT SAFETY

As we approach the 10th anniversary of the Sandy Hook massacre in Newtown, CT on Dec 14, this serves as a good time to remind us of how important school safety must be to us all. Without question, our faculty and staff is in agreement that our school has a massive responsibility to ensure that students are provided with a safe learning environment. Having this shared vision, our school spends each summer revising our safety plan as well as prioritizing upgrades and/or repairs to the physical environment.



Over this past summer, we developed a safety drill schedule that will allow students to practice a variety of drills during each marking period. Some drills will be announced ahead of time and some will be a surprise. Additionally, students will practice drills with different exit routes and/or procedures in the event that our normal routes are inaccessible during an emergency. We realize that drills can sometimes be scary for children so we are sure to explain each drill ahead of time in terminology that students understand. Teachers often hold several classroom practice drills so the students know what to expect. Our first round of drills occurred in mid-September. We will have another week devoted to safety drills in January and again in the spring.

As mentioned earlier, our safety preparedness plan is revised every summer. Our original plan was created in 2012 under the assistance of PEMA. Since then, our plan has been tweaked with guidance from police officers who have completed walkthroughs of our building. When significant changes are made to our plan, we provide a new copy to the local police and fire departments to keep on file.



SAFETY DOESN'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT.  
-AUTHOR UNKNOWN



In addition to our drills and safety plan, we do make every effort to ensure the school is a secure and safe place for learning. Some newer additions include 18 security cameras inside and outside of our campus, privacy vine on our fencing, adding a locked gate between the walkway from the parking lot to the playground, and a more secure gate by the office entrance. Currently we are working on internal changes such as keeping all interior doors closed as an added barrier. We also are adding 4 new key card access points within the gated area between the office and school for added security.

Our team aggressively applies for school safety grants so that we may continue to enhance our security around St. Andrew. If anyone is wishing to donate towards our school safety wish list, please email Mrs. Salmon at [lsalmon@saintandrewschool.org](mailto:lsalmon@saintandrewschool.org).

