

Registration Update

We are 10 students ahead in registration from this point last year – which is great news. One interesting note, however, is that the growth is not in the kindergarten class. We have a number of theories about this and only time will tell for sure, but my guess is that the families in West Clermont who might normally register for our all-day kindergarten are now using the West Clermont all-day kindergarten. In previous years, this was a half-day only program, and then a half day with extended care available for pay. Now that the program is all day with curriculum, families may be waiting to pay tuition until first or second grade – when reading is much more the focus. (We have several new families coming to us for first grade this year.) This means we have to do more to communicate the value of our kindergarten as a foundation for learning, and a worthy investment. Another theory is that we have not done enough to keep our school's name in the minds of our families and neighbors with very young children. We are working on that angle; unlike the population indicators we had for the current first grade class, I believe the preschool and kindergarten children are out there. I also believe that as new families move into our area, we can be more present to them as a parish and a school.

Here are the numbers that we have for next year, and the anticipated number of homerooms per grade:

Grade	Registered by 5/11/17	Anticipated HR
K	19	1
1	36	2
2	19	1
3	31	2
4	28	2
5	36	2
6	20	1
7	13	1
8	11	1

Preschool	Registered by 5/11/17	Classes
3 yr. olds	8	1
4 yr. olds (3 days)	9	1
4 yr. olds (5 days)	16	2

*Teaching assignments are being finalized. I will communicate what I can about those decisions, by Wednesday. **As always**, the assignments made in May can and often do shift during the summer, because of changes in registration or personnel.*

On the surface, the numbers might suggest that there will only be changes in teacher assignments, but given the types of licensure that teachers need for different grade levels, and the constant effort we make to be responsible with your tuition dollars, a lower grade teacher will need to be released. I do not want to release a teacher, but it will be necessary if the kindergarten numbers stay below 27 students. Current part-time teachers will take on additional classes to help address the increase of upper grade students.

Between now and August 1, I will keep an eye on kindergarten registration. I've put a "soft" hold on the number, leaving room for parishioners who may move in and need a kindergarten class. We will keep a waiting list until August 1, and encourage new applicants for EdChoice (there is a second application window in July). If we get to 27 registrants, we will split the class, hoping for new families at the first and second grade levels, later.

Many of you have offered prayers, knowing we would be discerning these kinds of decisions. Thank you for that. I continue to be certain of our continued growth and success as a school, even with year to year fluctuations.

Yours in Christ,

