



Mission Statement

“...to ensure that the children in the Diocese of Beaumont develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, and emotionally to their fullest potential so that they may help shape society according to the Catholic values which we cherish.”

DIOCESE OF BEAUMONT

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 3

OCTOBER 2009

Praise to God

*You are a great God.
Your character is holy.
Your truth is absolute.
Your strength is unending.
Your discipline is fair...
Your provisions are abundant for our needs.
Your light is adequate for our path.
Your grace is sufficient for our sins...
You are never early, never late...
You sent your Son in the fullness of time and will return at a consummation of time.
Your plan is perfect.
Bewildering. Puzzling. Troubling.
But perfect.*

*Let us always offer to
God our sacrifice of praise.
HEBREWS 13:15*

Max Lucado

From the Superintendent... Spiritual Dividends

By Superintendent, Nancy Collins

Daily spiritual dividends abound in our Catholic schools. School Masses at Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School are held in the gymnasium, which, as you can imagine, is not terribly conducive to the solemn experience of the Mass. Under the direction of Mr. Bemis, the principal, students have responded to the call to participate and to celebrate the Mass even though crammed together in bleachers. Choir members at Kelly volunteer to lead the singing for the Mass under the direction Ms. Prihoda and Mrs. Lawless. The meditation song was a touching and beautiful arrangement of *Open your Eyes/Amazing Grace*. I was amazed at how quiet a gym could be with 450 students and teachers as we listened and meditated.

At the end of Mass, Mr. Bemis introduced Ailene Luistro and Cici Dishman, the Junior High and High School Youth Director and Assistant Director respectively, from St. Jude Parish. Ms. Luistro and Mrs. Dishman brought guardian angel car medals for the senior class in memory of Ashley LaBiche, their classmate who died in a car wreck. It was an honor to have Mrs. Angie LaBiche joining us for Mass. Fr. Tino, the Mass celebrant and Kelly's chaplain, blessed the medals for the seniors. Mr. Bemis thanked the senior class for their leadership in being reverent during the Mass as an example for the underclassmen. He encouraged the seniors to show leadership in two service projects that will begin at the school; both involve donating food and money to the Food Bank and to Some Other Place. He reminded the students that our Kelly mission states that we promote service to society and our area has many who are greatly in need.

Dividends abound in our Catholic schools.

The October newsletter contains information on the spiritual dividends that our students encounter daily. Enjoy!

Education is one of the most important ways by which the church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and the building of community.

To Teach as Jesus Did, USCC, 1972, #13

Calendar:

Wed., October 28
St. Anthony Basilica
Trunk or Treat and
Link and Drink

Friday, October 30
Our Mother of Mercy
Trunk or Treat

Oct. 30 - Nov. 1
ASCD Conference on
Teaching and Learning
in Maryland
www.ascd.org/register

Sat., Oct. 31
First Annual Dawg
Dash—5k Run 8:00am
At Kelly High School

Friday, November 6
Kelly Varsity Football
Game - SENIOR NIGHT
7:30pm at Kelly
Stadium

November 9-10
Superintendent's
Meeting Austin, Texas

Saturday, Nov. 14
7:00 Catholic Charities
Harvest of Hope
MCM Elegante Hotel

Tuesday, Nov. 17
Principals' Meeting
HOST: St. Catherine
9:00-2:00pm

Tuesday, Nov. 17
PGC 6:00-9:00pm
CPC Conference Room

Thu., Nov. 19
11:30-1:30 Diocesan
School Board Meeting
CPC Conference Room

SPECIAL NEEDS

The "Gift of Life," God's special gift, is no less beautiful when it is accompanied by illness, or weakness, hunger or poverty, mental or physical handicaps, loneliness or old age. Indeed, at these times, human life gains extra splendor as it requires our special care, concern and reverence... Terrance Cardinal Cooke

Special Needs Workshop, Tues., October 6

The purpose of our meetings are to establish Diocesan-wide processes and procedures for admitting and educating students with learning differences. The outcome will be a handbook to guide all schools.

Teachers from the Diocese met with Mrs. Collins to review a Special Needs Handbook that is currently in progress. Thanks to the following for their time and talent: OMOM- Pam Sigura; St. Catherine – Haidee Todora, Madge Fontenot; St. Anthony – Susan Lavergne, Billie Matthews; St. Mary – Suzy Wimberley; St. Anne – Judy Kovac, Jody Kraus, Lauren Smith; MKCHS – Rene Lee, Suzanne Lewis

The discussions and input was valuable for all in attendance. Our next meeting will be **Thursday, November 12, St. Anthony Chapter Room, (new location and date)**. Our next task will be to provide descriptions of different disabilities, modifications and accommodations.

HEALTH UPDATES

Health Information

Schools have been turning in Illness Monitoring Sheets on Friday's indicating how many students have been ill with either the flu or other illnesses. So far to date, the numbers are very manageable.

Recent headlines have indicated that the H1N1 Vaccine may not be as accessible as earlier reports indicated. With that in mind, it would be prudent of us to continue our current plans for cleaning and sanitizing our schools. The plans have included urging parents to keep their children home until 24 hours fever free, and reminding employees as well as students to wash their hands using hand sanitizer. We must remain vigilant and not let down our defenses! Thanks to all for keeping our schools healthy environments!

Calendar:**Tue., November 24**

Early Dismissal - Noon
All Schools

November 25-27

Thanksgiving Holidays
All Schools

Tue., December 1

PGC 6:00-9:00pm
CPC Conference Room

Friday, December 4

CPC Staff Advent Day
of Prayer - Pastoral
Center Closed

Tue., December 15

Principals' Meeting
HOST: St. Mary School
9:00-2:00pm

Thu., December 17

Diocesan School Board
Meeting - St. Anthony
Chapter Room
11:30-1:30

Friday, December 18

Early Dismissal - Noon
All Schools

Friday, December 18

End of the Second Nine
Weeks of School

Dec. 21 - Jan. 1

All Schools
Winter Break

Mon., Jan. 4

Teacher Workday
Student Holiday
All Schools

Tue., Jan. 12

PGC 6:00-9:00pm
CPC Conference Room

Mon., Jan. 18

Martin Luther King
Holiday - All Schools

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

This year the procedure for receiving the Protecting God's Children Materials for Elementary and Junior High students, is to contact the Office of Catholic Schools at cmcginnis@dioceseofbmt.org or 409-924-4328.

We have two copies of the First/Second grade video and two copies of the Seventh/Eighth grade video. We have only one copy each of the Third/Fourth grade video and the Fifth/Sixth grade video.

St. Mary's has already reserved the week of November 2-6 and St. Anthony has reserved the week of November 9-13.

The videos and materials can be picked up from the Office of Catholic Schools on the Monday of your reserved week and will need to be returned to the office no later than the Friday of your reserved week.

Protecting God's Children must be completed at each school by Friday, December 18. Please call or email today to reserve the videos and materials for your school.

HUMAN RESOURCES

If you have teachers and staff who have had background checks completed from another source prior to the implementation of the Logos Dashboard System, the Office of Catholic Schools will not have a record of prior background checks. The Office of Catholic Schools does not have the capability of entering prior dates or information into the Logos Dashboard System. A new background check must be run in order for the information to appear in our system. Also, if you have employees who have had a driver's background check completed by another source and the employee does not appear on your approved driver's list, you will need to have them complete form J-53, Exhibit J-q from the Temporalities Manual and submit the form to the Office of Catholic Schools. All employees, volunteers and applicants must complete the current background questionnaire which was revised in January 2008. Only these two forms will be accepted along with a clear photo copy of the driver's license. Please notify the Office of Catholic Schools immediately of the actual future hire or volunteer date (00/00/0000) and please give Protecting God's Children completion date (00/00/0000) in order to have an accurate profile in Dashboard.

Calendar:

Tue., Jan. 19

Principals' Meeting
HOST: St. Anne School
9:00-2:00pm

Thu., Jan. 21

Diocesan School Board Meeting 11:30-1:30
CPC Conference Room

Sat., Jan. 23

Diocesan Stewardship Conference St. Jude Family Life Center

January 28-30

Renaissance Learning Response to Intervention in New Orleans
www.renlearn.com

Sat., Jan. 30

Catechetical Workshop Assumption Church 8:30-2:00

Jan. 31-Feb. 6

Catholic Schools Week

Wed., Feb. 3

10:00 Rainbow Mass Grades 7-8 & 5-8
St. Anthony Basilica

Tue., Feb. 9

PGC 6:00-9:00pm
CPC Conference Room

Mon., Feb. 15

Student Holiday

Mon., Feb. 15

Teacher In-Service Mike Patin, Presenter
St. Anthony Cathedral Center 8:00-12:00

Thu., Feb. 18

Diocesan School Board Meeting 11:30-1:30
St. Anthony Chapter Room

The Good News....

And Jesus said; bring the children to me....

St. Anthony Cathedral School – Beaumont - Pk 3 – 8, Mrs. Phyllis Walters, Principal

Current enrollment: 225, 160 families 9% Asian, 32% African American, 16% Hispanic, 4% Multi-racial, and 39% Caucasian, 61% diversity; 185 Catholic students, 10 parishes

St. Catherine School – Port Arthur - Pk 3 – 8, Mr. Michael Collins, Principal

Current enrollment: 177, 130 families 9% Asian, 32% African American, 30% Hispanic, 2% Multi-racial, 3% Unknown, and 24% Caucasian, 76% diversity; 131 Catholic students, 11+ parishes

St. Anne Catholic School – Beaumont – Pk 4 – 8, Mr. Todd Higginbotham, Principal

Current enrollment: 586, 397 families 9% Asian, 4% African American, 5% Hispanic, 4% Multi-racial, 1% Unknown, and 77% Caucasian, 23% diversity; 508 Catholic students, 22 parishes

St. Mary Catholic School – Orange - Pk 3 – 8, Dr. Frances Drodgy, Principal

Current enrollment: 215 students, 150 families 7% Asian, 9% African American, 3% Hispanic, 1% Multi-racial, 1% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 79% Caucasian, 21% diversity; 164 Catholic students; 10 parishes

Our Mother of Mercy – Beaumont – Pk 3 – 6, Mrs. Dorothy Wheaton, Principal

Current enrollment: 59 students, 37 families 91% African American, 6% Hispanic, and 3% Multi-racial, 9% diversity; 50 Catholic students, 9+ parishes

Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School – Beaumont, Mr. Roger Bemis, Principal

Current enrollment: 435, 251 families 8% Asian, 9% African American, 8% Hispanic, 2% Multi-racial, 1% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 4% Unknown, and 68% Caucasian, 32% diversity; 298 Catholic students; 24 parishes

All schools have strong Catholic identities and are involved each year with service to the communities of their parishes, to many non-profit organizations in our communities, and to organizations outside our communities, like Catholic Relief Service. Catholic schools are powerful evangelizing communities for the Catholic Church.

More Living Rosary Photos...



St. Anne Catholic School



St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School

TECH & LEARNING

From: <http://www.techlearning.com/>

Calendar:

Friday, March 5

End of the Third Nine Weeks of School

Friday, March 5

CPC Staff Lenten Day of Prayer - Pastoral Center Closed

March 8-12

Spring Break

Tue., March 9

PGC 6:00-9:00pm
CPC Conference Room

Tue., March 16

Principals' Meeting
HOST: St. Anthony
9:00-2:00pm

Thu., March 18

Diocesan School Board Meeting 11:30-1:30
Location TBA

Tue., March 30

Chrism Mass 6:30pm
St. Anthony Basilica

April 1-2

Easter Break
All Schools

Monday, April 5

Easter Monday
Pastoral Center Closed
SCHOOLS OPEN

Tue., April 6

PGC 6:00-9:00pm
CPC Conference Room

April 6-9

NCEA Conference
Minneapolis
www.ncea.org

Vocabulary Site Launches Flash Card Contest

[Brainyflix](http://brainyflix.com/), the site which teaches SAT and ACT vocabulary through students' image and video creativity, has launched a \$200 flashcard contest, in which students create interesting sentences and pair them up with memorable pictures as a visual cue. Between now and Dec. 7, Brainyflix will select five Brainypics each week which will qualify for the Grand Prize of \$200. In addition, iTunes songs will be awarded for every five Brainypics submitted. For contest details, visit http://brainyflix.com/main/contest_rules.

Ten Ways to Get Beyond PowerPoint with Classroom Projectors

True tech integrators know the digital projector can be used for much more than projecting. Here is a sampling of some creative ways to use your projector in any curriculum.

- **Reading/Writing.** Display images, words, or phrases for writing prompts in creative writing or poetry class. Model savvy formatting and editing skills by giving live demonstrations in your word-processing software. And put away those old flashcards—young students love singing karaoke to practice their pronunciation and identify targeted sight words.
- **Mathematics.** Utah State University's National Library of Virtual Manipulatives offers hundreds of multi-sensory games, illustrations, exercises and puzzles for K-12 students that explore numerical operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and data analysis. (nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vLibrary.html; free online, \$39.99-44.99 for enhanced desktop version).
- **Science.** Ask students to add their experimental data directly to your spreadsheet and project graphs of their results for everyone to see—you'll identify those pesky outliers in no time. Protect your eyebrows and your budget by showing videos of dangerous chemistry demonstrations.
- **Social Studies.** Google Earth (earth.google.com) works wonders but loves to crash on older computers. Try the University of Texas at Austin's renowned Perry-Castañeda Library Virtual Map Room (www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/; free) for a wide array of PDF maps from around the globe.
- **Timer, Stopwatch, Countdown.** Using a simple freeware program like TimeLeft (www.timeleft.info), students will see exactly how long they've been working on a project, how much time is left, or how many days until the ice cream social after your final exam.
- **Games and Quizzes.** Turn those groans to glee come quiz-time with hyperlinked Powerpoint presentations that mimic popular quiz games like "Jeopardy!" or "You Don't Know Jack." Free Sheppard Software (sheppardsoftware.com) has dozens of interactive games that will have your students begging for more.
- **Board Work.** Standing at the whiteboard terrifies many students. Why? Writing large print on a vertical plane isn't easy for everyone and little handwriting slips can turn into big, embarrassing mistakes. Ask students to do the work on a sheet of paper, fire up your doc camera, then project their results. No more stage fright!
- **Graphic Organizers.** Online diagramming software like Glimfy (www.glimfy.com; free basic membership, premium account varies by number of users) or Bubbl (bubbl.us; free) can make creating lively instructional flowcharts, cluster diagrams, and spider maps a breeze.
- **Guest/Substitute Lectures.** Live streaming or podcast lectures from guests will give your students access to experts around the world without footing for an airline ticket. Record your own lectures with software like Camtasia (www.techsmith.com/camtasia.asp; \$299) or upload your Powerpoint presentations to Slideshare (slideshare.net; free) and you'll be the toast of the substitute teaching pool. Best of all, students can access these lectures for future reference.
- **Drama/Theater.** Want to do some on-the-fly improv theater? Hang a white sheet, place the projector behind the sheet facing your audience, and let your students perform inexpensive miniature theatrical productions. Project image "backdrops" from your computer and you'll have the fastest set changes in history.

For almost eight years, Ron S. Doyle served as a teacher, technology coordinator and Director of Studies at a charter high school for youth in crisis in Boulder, Colorado. He left his beloved career in education in 2008 to care for his two young daughters full time.

Calendar:

Thu., April 15

Diocesan School Board Meeting 11:30-1:30
CPC Conference Room

Sat., April 17

OMOM School Scholarship Banquet
6:00pm MCM Elegante

Tue., April 20

Principals' Meeting
HOST: OMOM School
9:00-2:00pm

Thu., April 22

Bishop Guillory's Teacher Appreciation Banquet for Honored Teachers' of the Year
St. Anthony Basilica Center 6-8pm

Sat., April 24

Breakfast with the Bishop 9:00-11:00
St. Anne Parish Hall

Friday, April 30

Student Holiday Teacher In-Service
All Schools

Tue., May 4

PGC 6:00-9:00pm
CPC Conference Room

Tue., May 18

Principals' Meeting
HOST: Msgr. Kelly H.S.
9:00-2:00pm

Student Accolades



Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School

Proudly announces our Homecoming Queen, Kate Broussard, pictured right with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Broussard, IV. Congratulations Kate! On October 14, Mu Alpha Theta and National Honor Society held a joint induction service. Mu Alpha Theta inducted 33 new members, and the National Honor Society inducted 42 new members. Rajesh Reddy, son of Dr. and Mrs. Keshava Reddy, is a National Merit Semifinalist. He has consistently taken the most rigorous classes that Kelly offers. By graduation, Raj will have completed 9 AP classes. He is President of Mu Alpha Theta active in NHS, Key Club, Student Council, and Varsity Tennis. Salimah Jasani, also a National Merit Semifinalist, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Karam Ali. She plans to attend the University of Texas and pursue law. Enrolled in 8 AP classes, Salimah is also President of Debate and is active in Mock Trial, Drama and NHS. Congratulations to Mrs. Furby, who was recognized by the Beaumont Chapter of the Texas A & M Club as an Outstanding Classroom Teacher. Each year the club recognizes one teacher from the Beaumont high schools as well as one junior high and one elementary teacher. All were honored at the September meeting of the A & M Club at St. Jude Church.



Life is good at **Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School**. We enrolled 4 new students; and we are still accepting new students. Each week on Wednesday, we have Mass for the children and we discuss the Saint that is being honored that day. On Wednesday, October 7th we honored Our Lady of the Rosary at Mass; and we also said the rosary after Mass in church. Speaking of Mass, students and teachers attend Mass together the second Sunday of each month. Students are actively participating in the Mass. Our Pre K3 - 3rd grade performed for the parishioners of the church. They received a standing ovation. The following Wednesday, Father Godwin was so impressed with our students and their performance that he asked them to perform just for him. The week of October 26th, students will be participating in the math-a-thon to benefit the children of St Jude's Hospital. Students are asking their parents, aunts, uncles, etc. to help them raise money for this project. One student has already raised \$90. Students will also have a chance to exhibit their math skills. Lastly, we are looking forward to our trunk or treat that is going to take place on Friday, October 30th. There will be games, a pony for picture taking; and lots of treats for kids. The Drug Free Week will also take place this same week. We will have a visit from Officer Hall and Officer Yorie (Canine Dog) on Monday, October 26th.



The fifth grade of **St. Anne Catholic School** did an outstanding job with the Blessing of the Animals in observance of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Father Rodel walked around blessing all of the pets. The 4th and 5th grade students collected a substantial amount of cat and dog food. The Humane Society was very grateful for the donation. Carsyn Hlavinka, second grader and her Beagle, are pictured left.



Thanks to all of the students and parents that participated. The St. Anne school community gathered to pray the Living Rosary on October 14, led by the third graders. In observance of the Year of the Priests, the students offered prayers for all clergy of our Diocese, especially those who serve the Catholic schools in the area.

Calendar:

Thu., May 20

Diocesan School Board Meeting 11:30-1:30
CPC Conference Room

Friday, May 21

MKCHS Bacalaureate
Mass St. Anthony
Cathedral Basilica 7pm

Sat., May 22

MKCHS Graduation
Beaumont Civic Center
4:00pm

Thu., May 27

Last Day of Classes
ALL SCHOOLS

Friday, May 28

Teacher Workday
Student Holiday
ALL SCHOOLS

Mon., May 31

Memorial Day Holiday
Pastoral Center Closed

June 4-5

Diocesan Liturgical
Conference - St. Jude
Family Life Center

Tue., June 29

PGC 6:00-9:00pm
CPC Conference Room

Student Accolades

**St. Mary Catholic School**

Held its 16th year celebration of the Living Rosary on October 7, 2009 in the school gym. This date is set aside to honor the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Eighth grader Logan Morris was chosen to carry the crucifix. Thuy Do and Destinee Thompson were chosen to carry the banner. Students from 3rd through 8th grades participated by leading the prayers. Rev. Joseph P. Daleo led the participants in the sign of the cross and the Apostles' Creed. Dr. Drodody, Principal, led the student body in the Fatima Prayers and the Hail Holy Queen. Special thanks to Mrs. Rose Fuller, Mrs. Jane Arsenault, and Mrs. Peggy Lavalley for making this wonderful celebration so successful. The Art classes, under the direction of Art teacher Nancy Rendall, created a scarecrow in the likeness of Vincent Van Gogh for entry in the Shangri La scarecrow contest. "Vincent Van Scarecrow" will be on display along with an "El Dia de los Muertos" scarecrow from the Spanish classes at Shangri La from October 19 through November 15. St. Mary Catholic School recognized October 16th as Breast Cancer Awareness Day. The Student Council encouraged the entire student body and staff to "Pink Out" and wear a pink shirt to show their support.

**St. Catherine of Siena**

Celebrated the Living Rosary in Church on October 16th. Congratulations to 7th graders, Jose Barron, Luke Norris, and Katherine Reyes for qualifying for the Duke Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP). The mission of this Duke University program is to identify academically talented 7th graders. Each of these St. Catherine students achieved a score of at least the 95th percentile in an area specified by Duke University on the Terra Nova standardized tests.



One of the main bulletin boards in the first floor hall of **St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica School** is devoted to the Feast of the Guardian Angels (October 2nd). The Kindergarten student's

hands were used as "feathers" for the angel's wings. On the Feast of the Holy Rosary, October 7th, each student and staff member received a blessed holy card of Our Lady of the Rosary. The back of the card has all of the mysteries of the rosary including the Luminous mysteries. The school learned a new Marian

hymn: "Mary, the Dawn" which they sang at Mass on the feast of the Holy Rosary. The Living Rosary was held on Friday, October 23 in the school gym. The 8th graders at St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica School recently visited Channel 6 News Station as a part of their journalism class. The students were able to go behind the scenes and see the many aspects of what goes into putting on a news broadcast. They met Greg Picazzo and James Brown from News at Noon and were even part of the show. Brent Booker was a special helper for James Brown and gave part of the weather forecast. It was a great experience for the students.

Grant Due Dates:

Abell-Hanger Found.
None www.abell-hanger.org

Alkek Foundation
None www.alkek.org

Brackenridge Found.
None

Bridgestone Firestone
None
www.bridgestone-firestone.com

Burkitt Foundation
Feb. 1 & Aug. 1

Cora Foundation
None
www.corafoundation.org

Crowell Trust **None**
<http://www.crowelltrust.org/>

Daughtry Foundation
March 1 & Sept. 1

DeVos Foundation
None suev@rdvcorp.com

Frankino Foundation
January 1, Annually

Lewis Foundation
None

Meadows Foundation
None

Pocono Foundation
None

Raskob Foundation
Dec. 8 & June 8

Rogers Foundation TX
Oct. 1, Annually

Watson Foundation
None

Contact Christine for more
information on the above
listed grants.
cmcginnis@dioceseofbmt.org

THE INFORMATION IN THIS
NEWSLETTER IS FOR THE USE OF
THE ADMINISTRATORS,
FACULTY, BOARDS AND PASTORS.
PRINCIPALS ARE REQUESTED TO
FORWARD INFORMATION TO
APPROPRIATE PERSONS.

SCHOOL BOARD AND DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The Diocesan School Board hosted a luncheon for the principals and the Local School Board Finance Committees last week. The focus of the meeting was to review the job descriptions for the Finance Committees and what financial information should be shared at the monthly board meetings, so the total board is up to date with the school finances. Mrs. Laura Williams, CFO and James Collier, Analyst, provided information on the budgeting process and the monthly budget reports sent to the schools. The finance office provided a sample report that Finance Committees could use monthly. Mr. Collier focused on the Mission Sustainability requirements that all schools must review and strive to accomplish. The Financial Office will work with individual schools to help them in any areas that they need.

Mrs. Marcia Stevens, Executive Director of the Nonprofit Development Center, spoke about this new initiative established in Beaumont to assist the nonprofits in finding and successfully applying for grants. The center is located on North Street, www.setxnonprofit.org.

Thanks to Mr. Mike Fuljenz for underwriting the delicious lunch from Bando's.

Administration

Modern Technology – What is acceptable use?

Recent headlines have indicated that inappropriate use of cell phones and other modern technology is becoming a “black plague” to school administrators. “Sexting,” although not new, is becoming more pervasive and has caused some students to be charged with a crime. Most schools allow students to have cell phones with them at school, but have penalties if the phones go off or students are caught using them. The Texas Association of School Boards suggested that schools update their students’ code of conduct policies by stating, “Disseminating, transferring or sharing obscene, sexually-oriented, lewd or other illegal images or photographs” may be disciplined.

Should we be more explicit about describing unacceptable use in our school documents? Certainly our school mission statements indicate that our schools are teaching instruments of Christ’s love for mankind. But is that sufficient in our current society?

Principals and teachers should review the information in their Parent/Student Handbooks and update as needed. Addendums can and should be added as necessary to our current policies.