



# Catholic Schools

The theme focuses on three priorities that Catholic schools establish that make them stand out from other educational institutions. Children are taught faith - not just the basics of Christianity, but how to have a relationship with God. Academics, which in Catholic schools are held to very high standards, help each child reach his or her potential. Service, the giving of one's time and effort to help others, is taught both as an expression of faith and good citizenship (NCEA website)

Dear Friends,

This week we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. As is our tradition, we have the annual Faculty/Staff breakfast on Tuesday sponsored by the Peer Ministers and Stretch leaders, Thursday we gather as a community to honor the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord; Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur's Congregational Feast and Catholic Schools Week and we close the week on Friday with the popular homeroom breakfast.

In light of the national theme, we are also focusing on the three priorities in a very intentional manner. National Honor Students, Peer Ministers and Stretch Leaders will be taking the lead role and clearly demonstrating how East lives out the theme this year.

We will accomplish this through the life story of Sr. Dorothy Stang. Morning and Third period prayer for the week will focus on the Beatitudes which provide a list of actions and attitudes that exemplify the Christian life. At the moment of her death, Sr. Dorothy read from the Bible: Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.

In all the religion classes, students will learn about the life and martyrdom of Sister Dorothy and gather on Friday in chapel to pray for her and ask for the courage to be a witness to faith and service.

Finally, we begin the plans for a peace garden, honoring the work of Sister Dorothy in saving the rain forest, and protecting the rights of the most vulnerable. We will raise funds to provide plantings, benches and a peace pole. In the spring, we will ask each class to help with the planting and the blessing of our garden. It will forever be a place of peace and contemplation.

It is our hope that we like Sister Dorothy, through our faith, academics and service plant the seeds that will bear the fruit of love, justice, integrity and hope this week and always.

Campus Ministry  
Laurie Janecko, John Urbanski

Principal and Chief Administrator  
J. Hartling