

St. Francis Middle School Students Share Their Thoughts ~

The St. Francis Middle School is a wonderful place. Three words to describe it are friendship, unity, and fun. Throughout the year, students in the middle school participate in many different activities.

This year the students attended an assembly about bullying led by Andy Tomko. They also went to an interesting and magical assembly where a group of talented musicians came to tell stories by playing music. The 6th, 7th and 8th graders participated in a Lenten Serve-A-Thon, during which they made blankets, packed lunches, and baked cookies. Then the 8th graders helped to deliver these items to the different organizations that were in need of new supplies. Some events the middle school participates in on a regular basis are *dress down days* (uniforms are worn every day, dress down days are scheduled about once a month), pizza lunches, and lunch with friends down in the PAC (the younger students eat in the classroom). The middle school students also attend Mass on Tuesdays. The middle school students participated in Spirit Week during May, which consisted of a talent show, an assembly and some special theme days. Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade had the opportunity to take part in the school's talent show and proved to the other students throughout the school that there really is a lot of talent in middle school. The middle school students also participated in the Jump Rope/Hoops for Heart event, which is held every year in May.

The 7th and 8th graders also get the chance to take

some special classes, known as electives. They are Drama, Art, Newspaper, Yearbook, Science Lab, Web Page, Spanish, Math Counts, Band, and Gym. During the school year, the middle school students take a variety of different field trips. The 6th grade class travels over to Mill Pond Park, where they search for crayfish. The 7th grade class takes a trip up by Traverse City where they board a ship and investigate the waters of Lake Michigan. The 8th grade class gets the chance to spend a day at Cedar Point towards the end of the school year, before they head off to high school.

Besides all the fun activities that the students participate in throughout the year, they also must work very hard at maintaining good grade averages. The teachers prepare many fun and exciting ways to take learning to a totally new level. Students in St. Francis Middle School complete a variety of reports, projects and homework assignments that inspire learning and studying. To make studying more enjoyable for a test, some of the teachers provide quiz bowls and study sheets, which help the students prepare for test days.

Our middle school provides an environment where students further develop in their Catholic faith, make lasting friendships, get a great education, as well as grow into strong young people ready to make the world a better place.

~ By St. Francis Middle School Newspaper elective class students

Christmas in April?!?

On Saturday, April 17th, several of our young adults and singles joined with others in Washtenaw County to help those in need. They helped to renovate the homes of people in our area by putting their home improvement skills to the test. They painted, nailed, sanded, weeded, and generally got their hands dirty. In the process they made a difference in our community and made some new friends.



Middle School Youth: *Exploring Life's Challenges*

Values, Sexuality and the Real World

It's easier to follow Catholic beliefs in a Catholic community. The challenge is living out your faith in a world that emphasizes dishonesty, materialism, drugs and sex.

Middle School students had the opportunity to explore some of these issues during workshops held this spring.

Sixth and seventh-graders and their parents attended "Values and Sexuality" - an evening designed to foster family discussions about what's important in life and how to stay on the path that God has in mind.

The students saw a video, set some goals for the future, then looked at ways to say *NO* and avoid negative situations.

"Are You Ready for High School?"

Eighth graders attended a special event, "Are You Ready for High School?" This discussion was hosted by members of the St. Francis High School Youth Group.

Youth Director Jennifer Delvaux assembled a panel of teens from four area high schools to answer questions and offer practical advice for making a positive transition.

Here's what the teens had to say: "*Be true to yourself... don't be afraid to stand up for your beliefs.*"



*Young people are not the future of the Church. They **are** the Church now.*
— Anonymous

They also told the younger students that it's important to choose friends who share similar values. "*People who don't respect what you believe in, are not really your true friends,*" they said.

Special thanks to the high school volunteers: Jacob Rhein, Tom Rhein, Annie Azrak, Pat Falahee, Eduardo Icaza, Alan Carroll, Anya Holodnick, Steve Sepaniak, Christina Shipley, and Karen Williams

Y.E.S. . . . we DO have FUN!!!!!!!!!!

All Middle School Students are invited to attend events of Y.E.S. - Youth Enjoying the Spirit. Watch the weekly Forum for details about the Summer Bowling Party on August 17th from 3 to 5 p.m. at Colonial Lanes. For information on Y.E.S. events: Rita Zyber at 821-2133 or <rzyber@stfrancisa2.org>.



"SWING INTO SPRING" EVENT

Photos: Susan Filipiak of Swing City Dance Studio teaches some steps at "Swing Into Spring" in April. The group had some fun with the Jitterbug, the Hand Jive, the Virginia Reel and the Cha Cha Slide.

Attention 7th Graders & Older:

~ CONFIRMATION 2005 ~

Students in the 7th grade and older are eligible to begin preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring of 2005. Students prepare as part of the regular 8th grade religious education classes and in religion classes in the school. Participation in previous religious education

instruction (grades 3-7) is normally required.

Information packets were mailed to all students registered in the school and in our religious education program. Students are expected to begin working on volunteer service hours this summer.

If you'd like more information about Confirmation preparation, please contact Rita Zyber at 821-2133 or rzyber@stfrancisa2.org