

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am a valuable person. I have dignity and worth. What I do makes a difference.

This mantra, taken from the freshman Affective Skills curriculum that began in the late 1980s, is a powerful part of Assumption's history and one that continues to influence our graduates well into their adult lives. Knowing the long-lasting power of these words, we believe that it only makes sense to connect this mantra and our mission statement with another life-changing tradition at Assumption: Mission Week.

Guiding all our programs, Assumption's mission statement reflects our vision that our graduates will be socially responsible women committed to gospel living, lifelong learning, and a life of leadership and service in society. Our annual Mission Week project gives us the opportunity to reinforce these aspects in an innovative, educational, and award-winning experience. For the sixteenth year, we will forgo our traditional class schedule on **February 27-March 2** to allow our students to participate in a vast array of educational experiences that will help them grow.

This year's theme is **Own Your Story**, so everything we have planned throughout the week is designed to help students take charge of their futures – spiritually, interpersonally, mentally, and physically. On Monday we will kick off the week with our keynote speaker, **Katie George '12**. Katie's own story has been fun to watch as it unfolds. She was a star volleyball player while at Assumption and went on to play for the University of Louisville where she was named a three-time all-conference selection. In 2015, she led the Cardinals to their first-ever ACC team title in any sport and was named ACC player, setter, and scholar-athlete of the year. She graduated magna cum laude in just three years from UofL with a degree in communications and a minor in sports administration. Also in 2015 she was crowned Miss Kentucky USA and finished in the top eleven in the subsequent Miss USA contest. She began her career as a sportscaster with WDRB in Louisville and then moved to Fox Sports Wisconsin as a reporter covering the Milwaukee Bucks during the 2018-2019 NBA season. From there she joined the ACC Network in 2019 and then became a full-time sportscaster with ESPN in 2021.

Also on Monday, the **BLOOM** (Bringing Life Onstage and Offstage through Ministry) Theatre Project will feature students performing elements of short plays related to our theme. New this year is an exciting TED Talk feature that will spotlight a handful of students sharing their "stories" and the wisdom gained from them in the classic TED Talk format. Additionally, students will experience two 30-minute learning opportunities from a wide range of sessions on topics related to life skills, creative arts, movement, and personal development, all designed to help students own their own stories in ways that are as unique as they are.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY CLASS ACTIVITIES: Students will participate in activities throughout the week. Below are the highlights of activities at each class level and what aspect of the Affective Skills mantra will be the focus of the remainder of their week.

- **Freshmen - *I am a valuable person*:** On Tuesday, freshmen will visit multiple sites to learn about their role in the community, especially as it relates to the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy. On Wednesday, they will hear a powerful message about self-worth from [Angie Fenton](#), host of *Great Day Live* and editor-in-chief of *Extol Magazine*, and view the documentary, *Finding Kind*. On Thursday, students will work on various projects designed to synthesize what they learned during the week.
- **Sophomores - *I have dignity and worth*:** On Tuesday, sophomores will reflect on their own dignity and worth through the Mary Byron Project, a session on self-defense, and guidance on healthy relationships and online safety. They will be doing their ACTS service on both Wednesday and Thursday that week.
- **Juniors - *What I do makes a difference*:** On Tuesday, juniors will experience a college fair and participate in other activities to help them prepare for college. On Wednesday and Thursday, juniors will be off campus for their job shadow experience and college visit, respectively.
- **Seniors - *What I do makes a difference*:** Some seniors will be on retreat, on mission trips, or serving as leaders of the freshman program throughout the week. The rest will spend Tuesday at the Green to hear from guest speakers and participate in various sessions related to healthy living and informed decision making in college. On

Wednesday and Thursday, they will participate in a two-day local field trip focused on one of three compelling issues: anti-racism, women in leadership, and just food systems.

A FEW DETAILS:

- **Time and Attendance:** During Mission Week, we will begin school each morning one hour later at 9:15 a.m. and dismiss each day at 3:00 p.m. We believe that Mission Week activities are so important that we suspend classes for the week; all students are required to attend and participate in the activities scheduled, both on and off campus. All attendance policies apply during Mission Week. If your daughter is ill and unable to participate on a given day, please call the attendance office as usual. If at all possible, please do not schedule medical appointments for your daughter on days when she will be participating in activities off campus.
- **Schedule and Permission Slips:** Detailed schedules, assignments, and necessary permission slips (for seniors, juniors, and freshmen) will be shared with the students over the next few weeks. Please be sure to ask your daughter about hers as the permission slip will require your signature.
- **Friday, March 3:** Our mid-winter holiday will take place on Friday, March 3. School will not be in session.

The success of Mission Week relies heavily upon several factors: the detailed planning of the faculty/staff committees to ensure that each day runs smoothly, the open-mindedness and energy of our students as they learn to be servant leaders, and, lastly, ***the commitment and support of our parents***. We thank you, in advance, for sending your daughter to Assumption where she is able to benefit from this innovative, weeklong experience designed to help her *own her own story* in a variety of important ways!

Gratefully,

Mary Lang and Martha Tedesco
President and Principal