



A SPECIAL MESSAGE

ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL

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 seventeenth year, we will forgo our traditional class schedule on **February 26-29** to allow our students to participate in a vast array of educational experiences that will help them grow.

This year's theme comes from a phrase we use frequently at Assumption – ***Remember Who You Are.*** Everything we have planned throughout the week is designed to help students be who they truly are spiritually, interpersonally, mentally, and physically. On Monday we will kick off the week with our keynote speaker, **Fr. Tony Ricard**. Fr. Tony is a priest in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Campus Minister at St. Augustine High School, and Catholic chaplain for the New Orleans Saints professional football team. He has a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, a master's degree in theology and a master's degree in divinity. He is a sought-after speaker because of his storytelling ability, sense of humor, and powerful message.

Also, on Monday, the **BLOOM** (Bringing Life Onstage and Offstage through Ministry) Theatre Project will feature students performing short plays written, directed, and active by AHS Students. And returning for the second year in a row is the **Assumption TED Talk series** that will spotlight a handful of students sharing powerful insights about remembering who they are 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 pursue passions and explore new interests.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY CLASS ACTIVITIES: Students will participate in activities throughout the week. Below are some 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 empowering

speakers and learn about interpersonal growth. 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 learn about online safety and communication skills. 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 a mission trip, 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 four compelling issues: anti-racism, women issues, just food systems, and immigration.

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 1:** Our mid-winter holiday will take place on Friday, March 1. 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 discover who she truly is and how she can best accomplish her goals!

Gratefully,

Mary Lang and Martha Tedesco
President and Principal