

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 eighteenth year, we will forgo our traditional class schedule on **February 23-26** to allow our students to participate in a vast array of educational experiences that will help them grow.

Our school theme this year, Living the Legacy, has been perfect for celebrating our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This year's Mission Week theme is all about how we create that legacy – **Make Your Mark**. Everything we have planned throughout the week is designed to help students make their mark not only as children of God but also as unique individuals capable of making a difference in the world. On Monday we will kick off the week with **Mass** for the whole school. Additionally, the **BLOOM** (Bringing Life Onstage and Offstage through Ministry) Theatre Project will feature students performing short plays written, directed, and performed by AHS students. Students will also hear our **Assumption TED Talk series** that will spotlight a handful of students sharing powerful stories about how they have "lived their mission" and participate in a **family competition** before ending the day in activities that will explore the mark each class will leave.

**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 lesson on self-defense, and sessions related to online safety. They will be doing their ACTS service on 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 senior year and 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 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 9:10 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, February 27:** Our mid-winter holiday will take place on Friday, February 27. 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 *live the legacy* and *make her mark*!

Gratefully,

Mary Lang and Martha Tedesco  
President and Principal