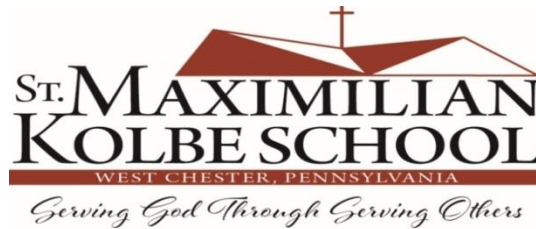


September 7, 2015



## **Principal's Post**

*Ideas on teaching and learning*

### Starting the Year Right

Here are some ideas to help your family get the year started on the right foot.

- Set aside a place and time for homework. Pick a time when the whole house could be quiet. Let children know that you think their work is important.
- Older students can make their own weekly schedule that blocks out time for homework and study but also for activities, clubs and practices, TV and video games.
- Use a kitchen timer to set times for specific subjects, such as 20 minutes for spelling practice, or to schedule breaks. Chunk up assignments into manageable time slots.
- Take an active interest in *what they are learning*, as opposed to what they have to do. Ask students to tell you about the stories they are reading, have them explain their math to you.
- Encourage children to *keep trying*. Support their efforts but let them figure things out. Help them to appreciate the value of practice and repetition to sharpen newly learned skills and concepts.
- Work in partnership with your children's teachers. Communicate often: call, write, email, and schedule a conference. Build a relationship with your children's teachers that is cooperative and respectful. Disagreements are best discussed outside the purview of your child.
- Be an "Explainer". Children are *wonderful observers* but *terrible interpreters*. How often have you been preoccupied or busy with something not related to your child only to have your child ask if they did something wrong? Children *really do* think it's all about them. It's how their brains work.

Stay positive about school. We want NO TEARS over homework, NO apprehension over coming to school, NO misunderstandings over what's expected.