

**September 21, 2018**  
**From the Headmaster**



Welcome to the Fussner family, especially Madilyn, who will join our first grade class at Lumen Christi on Monday!

Thanks to the students who have been out there selling candy to support Lumen Christi. Please turn in your candy money by this coming Wednesday, Sept. 26.

**Parent Volunteers / Annual Dinner**

Thanks to the parents who have filled out the online Parent Volunteer Form from our activities coordinator, Carolyn Giedd. If you haven't responded yet, please take a moment now to indicate where you can best serve Lumen Christi this year. The link to the form was emailed from the LCCS Communications address on Sept. 7. It's also in today's Weekly Update email.

In particular, we need parents to help out with our biggest fundraising event – the Annual Dinner – which is set for April 26, 2019. Planning is already well underway!

**Those Times When Schoolwork Is Hard**

A great advantage of our small school and small classes is that teachers can give close individual attention to students. But I think it's important to avoid giving students too much help. We won't let students drown, but we don't want to bail them out every time they have a problem or mess up.

Students need to learn that some things are harder and take more effort, but that they can succeed if they try. They need to learn that they can't always expect to get an "A" – what's important is that they try their best and that they learn something. Finding that you can recover from a bad grade, master a difficult topic or skill, or catch up when you're behind can be a great source of confidence.

Lumen Christi is not a boot camp. We don't put students in difficult situations just to toughen them up. We always want to help them succeed. But if we set expectations properly, there will be times when students have to struggle, and times when they fall short. If they always sail through, we're making it too easy, and we're not helping them build confidence and develop their full potential.

And as students move into the middle grades, we need to hold them increasingly responsible for keeping track of what they have to do and getting it done – and for dealing with the consequences if they don't.

We don't give homework for its own sake, and we don't take pride in loading it on. We believe students should work hard at school and do some work on their own to make class time more productive. Sometimes students will have more homework than usual. That may be because they're having trouble with a particular assignment or because they didn't manage their time well at school. We don't want them working hours and hours, but occasional hard nights won't hurt them.

I have been involved with Lumen Christi almost since the very beginning, and I believe that while we have always been blessed with great teachers, our faculty has never been better. So I am asking parents to trust that our teachers are trying hard to set expectations and plan instruction in a way that supports students and helps them achieve their academic potential.

You can expect teachers to let you know if your child is getting into academic or disciplinary trouble, but a bad grade or hard assignment doesn't always require intervention. Of course, if you do have concerns, feel free to contact the teacher. We encourage our faculty to check email every day and respond promptly. I would only ask that you don't expect teachers to respond immediately to an email late in the evening or on the weekend.

And you can always bring concerns to me, but out of respect for our teachers, I would ask that any issues in a particular class be raised with that teacher first.