

April 11, 2008

Dear Students and Parents:

We hope that the Easter holidays gave you the opportunity to relax, rejuvenate, and celebrate the gifts God has given you. As the school year is beginning to wind-down, we would like to let you know about some events happening at Mount Carmel Academy.

Our annual Mount Carmel Academy Career Day was held March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Our 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders heard presentations that introduced them to a variety of career choices. Our 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students listened to four speakers of their choice. Students were able to select speakers from forty-five occupations.

In addition, the IOWA was administered to the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade during February. This IOWA monitors college readiness and identifies individual strengths and weaknesses in reading, language, math, social studies, and science. The results will be returned to students during a Guidance meeting in May. Currently, we are administering field tests to all grade levels. The field tests help us evaluate our curriculum and monitor student achievement.

Each grade level, except seniors, will have the opportunity to listen to a panel of upperclassmen speak on what to expect during the 2008-2009 school year. The panel will discuss a variety of grade-level topics and issues that students will encounter and answer questions about the upcoming year.

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008, we encourage all junior and senior parents to attend a pre-prom workshop on the Mount Carmel Academy campus. Mount Carmel Academy, Jesuit High School, and St. Mary's Dominican High School are sponsoring a special regional Parent-to-Parent meeting to help parents prepare for prom night. Often, teenagers make the most life-altering, dangerous decisions on their prom nights. We would like to provide you with the information you need to help your daughter make safe, responsible choices on her prom night. For more information, please refer to the Parent-to-Parent link on the Mount Carmel Web site.

It is hard to believe that it is time for juniors to be selecting colleges. At this time, juniors should be finalizing college search details. We encourage you to make plans to visit colleges during the summer months. In June, all juniors will receive an updated TOPS GPA and an updated university core GPA. All juniors should have already taken the ACT once. If you have not taken the ACT, please see your counselor immediately. Please refer to your Senior Guidance Handbook and the College Dialogue for additional resources to help with your college search and to answer questions about TOPS.

The Guidance Department encourages students to continue to work hard for the remainder of the year. Exams begin May 7<sup>th</sup> for seniors and May 20<sup>th</sup> for all other students. It can be overwhelming to prepare for several comprehensive exams in only a few days. To ensure that you reach your highest potential, make an exam study plan. Get organized and start studying in early May. Utilize the free tutoring labs during your IS time.

If you need our assistance, please do not hesitate to call, email, or visit us. Our contact information is posted on the Mount Carmel Academy Web site under the Counseling Center link.

God Bless You,

The Guidance Department