

Morning Prayer for Monday June 27, 2022.

Good Morning Gators!

This morning I am sharing with you a video reflection and morning prayer because I am unable to be present in the school. Recognizing it is the last day of the 2021-22 school year, I wanted to say a few words before our summer break.

I want to begin by thanking Mr. Coccimiglio, our admin team, the office staff, and our support staff for their support and flexibility in ensuring that our teachers and students were provided the necessary resources and support to undertake the many complexities of the last two years of learning that included both online and in person instruction. What seemed impossible and unattainable at first, was completed and presented with incredible professionalism and dignity by all our staff and students.

Thank you to all our teachers, who with great commitment and resilience provided the best education possible to our students given the extraordinary and unique challenges of providing instruction during a global pandemic. Having worked with teachers for the last 20+ years, I can assure you that what our teachers were asked to do in the last 2 years, and do it with great dignity, confirmed the reason why teachers are called to the vocation of education. It is not for everyone. It is only for a select group of incredibly gifted and generous people, and amidst the political and personal rhetoric that many teachers had to endure throughout the pandemic, I am proud to have been a witness of their desire and commitment to ensure that all students receive the gift of public education.

To the students of FMG, where do I begin. You are truly a unique group. Very friendly, generous, joyful, at times stubborn and not always willing to take the advice of the adults in the building, but still a loving, caring, and inclusive group of students who daily bring about great joy and enthusiasm to the halls of FMG. Know that you are loved by all your teachers, admin, support staff, your parents, everyone entrusted to your care. I love you. Most importantly, God loves you.

Finally, as we bring to a close the 2021-22 school year, let us do so with gratitude for the many shared experiences and lessons learned. Let us continue to build upon the many years of tradition here at FMG, and also move forward excited about the newness and continued growth of our school community. A community moving always forward in great hope and joy. A caring, compassionate, and inclusive school community that always affirms the inherent dignity and respect of everyone who walks the halls of FMG.

Let us pray,

Loving God,

We come to you this day in thanksgiving for the FMG school community. We ask for Your blessing on each one of us gathered here in your name.

May we continue to be your physical presence in our world by always bringing light, love, and hope to those we encounter. May you always accompany us and keep us safe as we begin the summer break.

And may we continue to sustain and build a school community that is always caring, loving, compassionate, and inclusive of all its members and in doing so affirm the dignity and respect of all people, including our neighbour, the other and stranger among us.

We ask all of this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

St. Andrew Bessette, pray for us.