

School Year Reflections

June 2021

Ending the year with joy

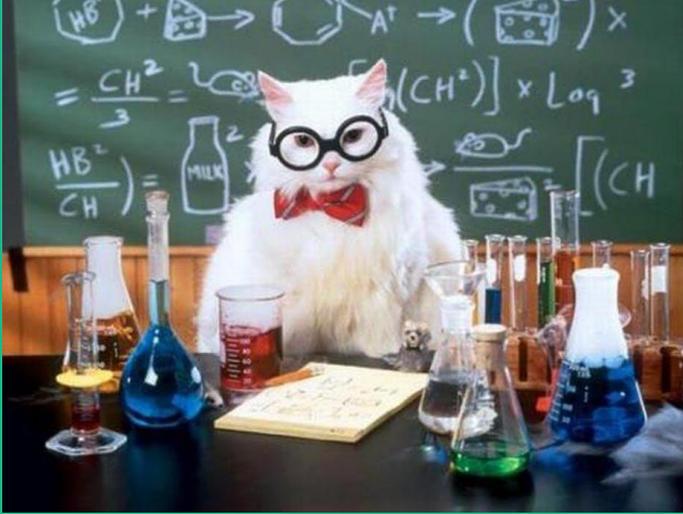
- **For students, the end of the year always comes with the excitement of the summer ahead.**
- **As we close a very different type of school year, it is important to reflect on the high points and successes that your child has experienced to help:**
 - **Reinforce positive school experiences**
 - **Give your child a sense of pride and accomplishment for their achievements**
 - **Remind students of their successes even during a difficult year**
- **Each of the following slides contains themes to reflect upon with your child as well as questions to prompt the conversation and follow-up activities.**

faith

- **The most important aspect of Catholic education is the shared faith experience. Each year, students deepen their faith within the classroom. Ask your child about:**
 - *A prayer or new information that stands out in their mind*
 - *A saint or religious figure that they found inspiring*
 - *Prayer services or liturgies that they remember*
 - *Service projects that the school participated in that they enjoyed*
- **Have your child lead your family in a prayer that they have learned or share a mini-lesson on a faith related topic.**
- **Create an outline of a saint or religious figure and add fun facts about them to the back to share with a family member.**
- **Think of a service project or activity to do complete as a family over the summer. This can also be done as acts of kindness.**



Academics



- When students talk about their academic accomplishments, they often focus on subjects that are “easy” to them or are favorites. Talk about:
 - *What is something that challenged you?*
 - *What are you the proudest of learning?*
 - *What would you like to help me learn?*
 - *What do you want to learn more about?*
- Design a math board game together using skills they have learned this year then play it as a family.
- Make a list of different books your child would like to read over the summer. Encourage them to select a new book from each genre as a summer challenge.



New Skills

- **Academics are just a piece of the puzzle for the school year. This year in particular, students were developing new skill sets, especially focused on technology.**
 - *What was your favorite new app or program that you learned?*
 - *Show me an art activity that you enjoyed.*
 - *Practice a PE skill together.*
 - *Rehearse a song or a dance that your child has perfected.*
- **Host a talent show with friends and family to have students show off new “non-academic” skills.**
- **Make a “how to” focused on teaching a family member a new skill.**
- **Showcase tech skills by introducing a family member to a new app, computer skill, or online program.**

Friendships

- **This year, we all learned how to stay connected a little differently and many relationships grew as a result.**
 - *What new friends did you make this year?*
 - *What fun, different ways did you create to hang out with friends?*
 - *What was your favorite friend memory from this year?*
- **Plan a special “friend day” celebration with different activities that you enjoy. These do not have to be elaborate outings but instead should focus on spending time together.**
- **Make a memory page (a single page scrapbook) of your favorite memories from this year. Include captions or short stories that sum up your friendship.**



Building relationships

- Over the past year, we have learned the importance of our human connections. Encourage your child to think of adults who have influenced them in a positive way over the past year.
 - *How has this relationship helped them grow?*
 - *How has this person made a positive impact on their lives?*
 - *What qualities does this person have that they think are important?*
- As you talk about important individuals, consider having your child select one person to write a note, draw a picture, or make a thank you for. Words of thanks are always a great way to remind someone of the impact they are having.
- Say a series of gratitude prayers, selecting one person each morning or evening, to add as a special intention for God's blessings.



Choose kindness



- One of the most important things to celebrate are the choices that your child has made to show love for others, mirroring the actions of Christ.
 - *When did you help another student? Or teacher?*
 - *Tell me about a time when you showed kindness*
 - *When did you help someone who was hurt or sad?*
 - *Share a time when you faced a difficult decision but made a choice that Jesus would have made.*
- Remind your child of the importance of being a helper and that the choices they make each day are helping to make the world a better place.
- Complete a kindness challenge as a family.