



WALDRON MERCY ACADEMY

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

04/09/2020 7:10 AM

Email Subject WMA - Cafeteria Update and Virtual Tigerfest

Dear Parent,

Whew! You made it to this well deserved Spring Break! I know we all could use a break from our new normal.

At this time we wanted to share some updates about both our cafeteria renovation and Tigerfest. Although we were progressing nicely in both the preparation for the construction and our initial fundraising, with the logistical uncertainties of when we will be allowed back in the building, the uncertain timelines of contractors, approvals, and materials, particularly those materials which are custom orders, the Board of Trustees determined it best to postpone the cafeteria renovation to the summer of 2021. The priority was always to cause as little disruption as possible to our students, and the Trustees did not want to enter into the project unsure of whether or not the kitchen would be ready for use in September.

We know how much excitement there is surrounding this project, so we will continue with our cafeteria fundraising in the fall, adding to the pledges and donations we have already received.

In the meantime, however, we are looking forward to our most popular annual fundraiser - Tigerfest! The money raised through Tigerfest directly impacts our students and is a critical piece of our operating budget. Tuition revenues generally cover only about 88% of our school's operating budget, leaving us with a \$450,000 shortfall which is in large part supported by the generosity of our community through annual giving and other events like Tigerfest.

As we think of our own operating budget, our thoughts immediately go to the small business owners in our WMA community. It is important that we support you, so we are looking for creative ways to promote your business while also raising funds for WMA. We would like to advertise your business in our online catalog at no cost as a way to help. The catalog will be sent next week and can be shared with your contacts as well. Contact Ashley Robinson at arobinson@waldronmercy.org to discuss this further.

This year, the Fund-A-Cause portion of the Tigerfest proceeds will be used to match a state grant we received, allowing us to provide enhanced communication and security within the building to improve student, staff and public safety as well as crisis reaction time. More importantly, installation of this equipment will eliminate the continuous disruption to everyone's learning that happens several times each day when a particular student or teacher needs to be located.

As we prepare to launch the online bidding, if you have already RSVP'd we thank you. With your blessing, we are going to use these monies for our non-refundable expenses. If you have a different preference, please contact Mark Murray at mmurray@waldronmercy.org.

All are welcome to peruse our [catalog](#) and see what items we have to offer this year. We hope to see all of you during [Virtual Tigerfest](#), whether you stay for the whole time or just stop by to say hi. [Raffle ticket](#) winners will be drawn live during the virtual event! Details on how to join us will arrive in your inbox after spring break. See you soon!

In Mercy,

Ann Marie and Ashley