



# ROUNDTABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

## SY 2017-2018 Opens with Another Enrollment Boost



*Clock wise from top left: Third grade student, Kesil Camacho, enjoys her first day of the 2017-2018 school year at Mount Carmel School. Former Teacher of the Year, Shirley Duenas-Kapileo, helps students transition into the new 2017-2018 school year at Mount Carmel School. Jan Bobadilla, Dayna Macaranas, and Quincy Chinen are all smiles on the first day of the 2017-2018 school year at Mount Carmel School. Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez inspires students to get off to a good start on the first day of the 2017-2018 school year at Mount Carmel School.*

Marking a sixth year in a row of enrollment increases, Mount Carmel School opened doors for the new 2017-2018 school year with an enrollment of close to 600 students, up from a historic low of 260 six years ago. In addition to the enrollment increase, the school launched the new year with many enhancements, including additional sections of kindergarten, an upgraded information technology system, a new computer science course, and a revived band program.

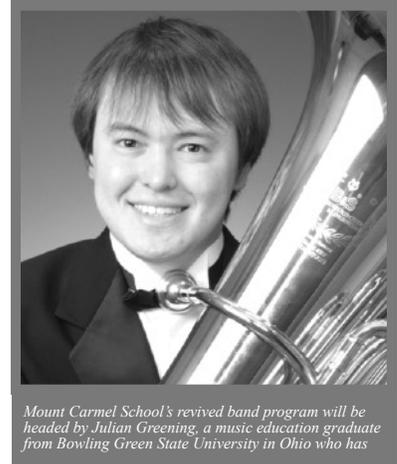
Regarding the enrollment increase, Principal Frances Taimanao attributed it to the concerted efforts of faculty to improve instructional quality. She said, "Our students did really well on the recent SAT-10 test and AP tests, showing that we are prioritizing student learning." She added, "This comes from our continuing efforts to help teachers grow and improve."

Student Council president, Erika Mendiola, is excited about all the new developments. "I think it's great," she said. "There are more choices

for students that give them new opportunities that could one day be their passion."

The first day of school started with the annual opening day mass, the Mass of the Holy Spirit, which was celebrated by Bishop Ryan Jimenez. After proclaiming the Gospel, Bishop Ryan led school employees in the Commissioning Ceremony of Catholic Educators, which is held every start of the school year during the Mass of the Holy Spirit. The ceremony highlighted the commitment of faculty, staff, and administrators to the school's mission and philosophy. Soon after the Commission Ceremony, Bishop Jimenez delivered his homily, in which he related a new school year to his daily runs at American Memorial Park. As he put it, "At first it's hard, but once you get going, it gets better." He also welcomed new and returning members of the school family, inviting them to surrender to the Holy Spirit as they launch the new school year.

## School Revives Band Program



*Mount Carmel School's revived band program will be headed by Julian Greening, a music education graduate from Bowling Green State University in Ohio who has*

Mount Carmel School announced that it will be reviving its band program this coming school year with the hiring of a new music teacher, Julian Greening.

Greening comes to the school with an extensive background in music. Greening earned his Bachelor's of Music in Music Education from Bowling Green State University in Ohio and was awarded the university's prestigious Music Talent Award upon graduating. Afterwards, he went on to teach band and music at several schools throughout Japan. Greening has also performed around the world in dozens of musical productions, including *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Singing in the Rain*, and *South Pacific*. He also performed at Carnegie Hall under the direction of H. Robert Reynolds, the principal conductor of the wind ensemble for the University of Southern California., and even performed with the alt-punk band Weezer during their 2008 North American tour.

When asked about his lifelong commitment to music, Greening said, "I was born and raised in Japan, but since music a universal language, it helped connect with people when I studied in the US." He added, "Music helps us connect with people."

Greening looks forward to sharing his passion for music with Mount Carmel School's students. As he put it, "I am very excited about coming to Mount Carmel School to build an

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## Announcements

### 2017-2018 School Handbook

2017-2018 Mount Carmel School Handbooks have been distributed to high school students and all employees. Copies for everyone else are forthcoming. You can also access a digital copy of the handbook via the school's website.

### Traffic and Parking

All employees and student drivers are reminded to park only in the lot south of the cafegymatorium. Please note that the entrance for Building C (north of the Cathedral) and the driveway for the Maturana Building (high school building) are designated as drop-off and pick-up areas. **DRIVERS MAY NOT PARK IN THE DRIVEWAYS AND LEAVE THEIR VEHICLES AT ANY TIME.** This causes traffic congestion and endangers the safety of our students.

### Student Activities Fair & Leadership Retreat

All student clubs (extra-curricular, athletics, etc.) that are interested in participating in either the Student Activities Fair or the Student Leadership Retreat should notify Student Council president, Erika Mendiola as soon as possible.

### Knights Herald

If you would like to subscribe to the Knights Herald (daily bulletin) email distribution list, feel free to email Mr. G at galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com.

## In the Future

### Orientation/Open House

Wednesday, August 16  
5:00–7:00 pm

### Student Activities Fair

Wednesday, August 23  
Activity Period

### Student Leadership Retreat

Saturday, August 26  
8:00 am–12:00 noon

## ESLR of the Week

*#1. Communicate effectively using various methods and mediums.*

# School Upgrades IT System

Mount Carmel School launched the new school year by rolling out new upgrades to its Information Technology (IT) system, all as part of a 21st Century Education initiative.

The most important upgrade is an increase in the bandwidth of the campus WiFi and local area network. Working with both IT&E and Docomo Pacific, connection speeds have been increased from 36Mips to 200Mips range. At those speeds, teachers and students will be able to stream education videos, access online content, and work with various learning management systems.

The school is also transitioning to a new student information management system (SIMS), RenWeb, that offers more user-friendly features for students, parents, and teachers. With the new SIMS, users will be able to access grades, submit homework, and eventually pay tuition online.

These upgrades come just in time for the school's new AP course in Computer Science Principles, which the College Board approved recently.

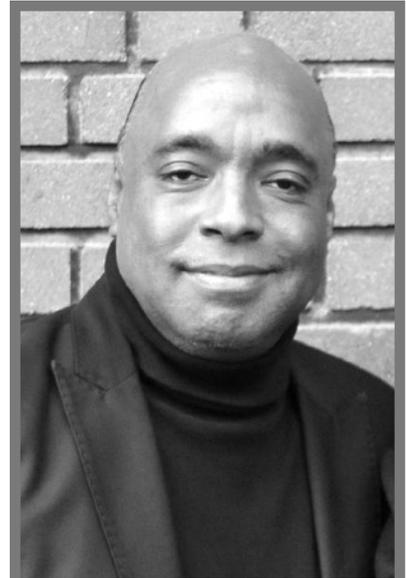
The school has even formed a Tech Task Force to make the most of the upgrades. The task force includes four teachers representing the entire K-12 grade spectrum and will serve to provide training and tech support to the faculty and student body.

The Tech Task Force is headed by the school's IT Director, Jonathan "JC" Clark, who has over 20 years of experience in application development, network management, and computer programming and is a Linux Foundation Certified Engineer. Under JC's leadership, the school has steadily improved its IT system over the past two years.

"I am very satisfied with our progress," said Clark about the improvements. He added, "We have established a strong basic infrastructure which we can build upon and are opening up to more possibilities and giving ourselves more options in managing electronic content."

For Clark, the most important goal is to help students. As he said, "The improved bandwidth means that students will have a better UX (user experience) when at school and we can provide online content from our data center when off campus." This is why he has also invested time and resources into training teachers. On that note, he said, "Better trained teachers and staff will be able to deliver content in a clear and concise manner."

Looking ahead, Clark noted, "One of our goals is to have a digital library for a relaxing area for study and research." According to Clark, "We want to make as many tools available for students and teachers."



*Leading the IT upgrades at Mount Carmel School is IT Director Jonathan "JC" Clark, who has over 20 years of experience in application development, network.*

The upgrades to the IT system are all part of the school's recently announced Strategic Master Plan. In its commitment to the tech initiative, the school's Board of Directors approved the allocation of human and financial resources to ensure that students are getting the most technologically advanced education possible on island.

## Band Program

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excellent music program and to help students enjoy music the same way that I do." As part of that effort, Julian aims to hold two concerts during the first year of the program, with a goal of eventually competing in the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

The revival of the school's band program is part of the school's Strategic Master Plan, which was endorsed by the school's Board of Directors this past May. The plan includes funding for a music teaching position and continued work on the Save the Stage Campaign. While the campaign aims to renovate the school's historic stage, the revival of the music program also harkens to the school's heritage. During the 1960s and 1970s, the school's band was often selected to play for key community events, including official visits from United Nations dignitaries and representatives from the US government during the Covenant negotiations.