



ROUNDTABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

Knights Score High Marks on National Tests



2017 Teacher of the Year, Filmah Buenaflor, who taught AP Computer Science Principles, helped many of her students earn a 3 or higher on the College Board test for the course.

Mount Carmel School announced that its students fared very well in recently administered SAT-10 and College Board AP national standardized tests. The results show significant improvement in all subjects across all grade levels. On average, students performed at or above the 50th percentile on the SAT-10 and improved from previous years.

For the complete 2018 battery, the average performance of all students was in the 50th percentile, up from the 48th percentile in 2016. National percentile ranks indicate the relative standing of a student in comparison with other students in the same grade in the norm reference group who took the test at a comparable time. Based on the school's results, students at Mount Carmel School scored, on average, better than 50 percent of the rest of the nation.

Performance on specific subject areas and grade levels also showed marked improvement from previous years. The average performance in math increased from the 51st percentile in 2016 to the 52nd percentile in 2018, while the average performance in reading increased from the 44th

Continued on back

For 7th Year in a Row, MCS Opens with Enrollment Boost



Kindergarten student, Victoria Terlaje, is all smiles on the first day of the new school year.

Marking a seventh year in a row of enrollment increases, Mount Carmel School opened doors for the new 2018-2019 school year with over 600 students, up from a historic low of 260 seven years ago. In addition to the enrollment increase, the school launched the year with some new additions, including new teachers, new courses, and new solar panels.

Regarding the enrollment increase, school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero credited the teachers. "When we launched our 2017-2020 Strategic Master Plan last year, one of our top priorities was improving instructional quality, and that's exactly what our faculty have done." He added, "Under the leadership of our principal, Frances Taimanao, and our vice principal, Barbara Merfalen, who bring a wealth of experience and expertise with them, our teachers have used assessment data to drive what they teach and how they teach. Using a blend of innovative techniques and tried and true methods, our teachers are helping our students shine."

One student who has shined is Student Council president, Dayna Macaranas, who is enthusiastic about the new school year. "I'm excited about us coming together as a family with a lot of school spirit." Asked about what she and the council want to accomplish this year, Macaranas said, "We want to get students more involved in the school and in the community."

While the school's enrollment increased, the school is still committed to keeping class sizes small in order to have an optimal learning environment. This is why the school hired several new teachers. In the elementary level, Kimberly



Kindergarten teachers (right to left), Vilma Travilla, Kimberly Tentia, and Pearl Jin join other teachers in the Commissioning Ceremony of Catholic Educators.

Tentia will teach K4, Tasia Sablan will be a teacher aide in K4, Kimberly Tudela will teach 2nd grade, and Zyron Castillo will teach 3rd grade. In the upper grades, Keiko Yamagata, who used to be the school's business manager, is returning to teach social studies, Sarah Johnson will teach English, and Leeani Villagomez, the school's secretary, will also teach high school and elementary art.

In addition to new teachers, the school is introducing new courses in creative writing and media communications and launching a number of new programs. The school's information management system has been enhanced to include new human resource processes, such as digital time sheets. As reported recently, the school will also open the new year with 548 solar panels.

The first day of school started with the annual opening day mass, the Mass of the Holy Spirit, which was celebrated by Father Allan Cabatian. After proclaiming the Gospel, Father Allan 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.

Announcements

Health Certificates

Please remember to submit your child(ren)'s updated health certificate(s). As is required by CNMI law, all students must have an updated health certificate no more than two years old or has no expiration date.

Free School Meals Application

The PSS Child Nutrition Program (CNP) is accepting application for Free School Meals for School Year 2018-2019. Students from the school year 2017-2018 Free Meal Eligibility Listing will continue to receive free meals up to September 7, 2018. Applications are available at the MCS High School and Business Offices, or www.cnmipss.org/child-nutrition-program. Completed application and supporting documents may be submitted to the Business Office or to the PSS CNP office located in Government House 1251 on Capital Hill, Saipan.

Traffic and Parking

All employees and student drivers are reminded to park only in the lot south of the cafegymnasium. 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 and 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

Student Activities Fair

Wednesday, August 22
Activity Period

Student Leadership Retreat

Saturday, August 25
8:00 am–12:00 noon

Faculty & Staff Retreat

Friday, August 31 (no classes)

ESLR of the Week

#2. Consistently exhibit Catholic attitudes, values and behaviors.

High Marks

continued from front

percentile in 2016 to the 46th percentile in 2018. 1st grade students reached an impressive 77th percentile for the complete battery, which included achieving 70th percentile in reading. Juniors and seniors performed well in math, reaching 72nd percentile and 69th percentile, respectively.

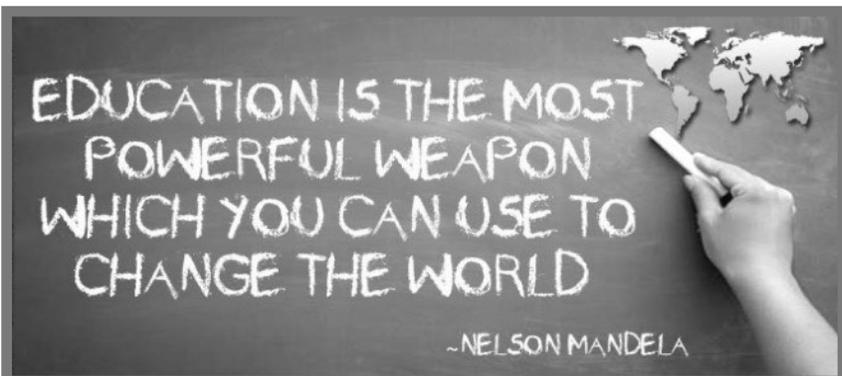
High school students also performed well on a number of College Board AP Tests, especially in AP Computer Science Principles, which the school launched for the first time on island last school year. On that test, a majority of students passed the test with a score of 3 or higher, with four students earning a score of 4 and one student earning a perfect score of 5.

School president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, attributed the success to the school's consistent emphasis on instructional quality. "Under the leadership of our principal, Frances Taimanao, and our vice principal, Barbara Merfalen, our teachers are blending innovative techniques with proven instructional methods to help all our students succeed." He added, "It's important that student success is not limited to just a handful of gifted students; we must ensure that all our students learn and grow."

Thank You!



Mount Carmel School thanks her most recent graduates, the 2018 AlumKnights, for their donation of four new water dispensers to the school as their graduation gift. For several years now graduating classes have set aside some of their funds to donate parting gifts to the school.



~NELSON MANDELA