



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

SCHOOL

Dear Rising 3rd and 4th Grade Students and Families,

The theme for the 2022/23 school year for the Archdiocese of Baltimore is One Body in Christ. As a school and parish, we will have many opportunities to appreciate the diversity present within each one of us as we renew our faith using our God given talents for the good of others. Here at IHM, we also want to focus on seeing and appreciating those talents in each person we encounter. This happens in a very particular way when we value diversity and show empathy for others. Diversity and empathy are cornerstones of our Catholic faith and were demonstrated by Jesus in many ways. In order for children to grow and develop in appreciation of diversity and empathy, they must be exposed purposefully to situations where those two ideals combine.

Literature is one way for students to encounter the need for valuing diversity and empathy for all of God's creation. For the summer reading assignment for rising 5th and 6th graders at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, students will be REQUIRED to read the following book: *The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes by the first day of school, Monday, August 29, 2022 in order to complete an in-school assignment during the first week related to the book. This assignment will be worth 30 points and will serve as your child's first ELA grade for the first trimester of school. There will be no written work that needs to be completed over the summer for this book. Students can check the book out of their local public library or purchase through a local retailer.

The Hundred Dresses is an early reader chapter book that is based on the true experiences of the author as a girl who is teased by her classmates because she is different. Wanda is a girl who lives in an undesirable area of town who is teased because of her Polish last name. She is quiet and wears the same blue dress to school everyday. When Wanda stops coming to school, another girl in the class, Maddie, begins to question her own role in teasing and not standing up for others when it is the right thing to do. The students in Wanda's class learn about one of her special talents but they fear it is too late to make a difference in how they acted towards her. Wanda though showcases the power of forgiveness to her classmates .

While this is the only requirement for summer reading, we encourage all students to read daily throughout the summer. Reading is an important part of elementary school learning as it permeates all academic subject areas and reading over the summer assists students with keeping up their critical thinking and reading comprehension skills. Now that students have mastered learning to read, they can work towards “reading to learn” about the world around them.

We look forward to discussing the book above with your student at the start of the 2022/23 school year.

Sincerely,
IHM Grade 3 & 4 Teachers