

St. Martin of Tours ACADEMY
COMPUTER CLASS NEWSLETTER- FALL 2011
FIRST - SECOND - THIRD - FOURTH GRADES

An active Christian who respects the rights of others.

We are enjoying another year in the Computer Lab. Due to the success of last year's Walkathon, we have two new software applications for students. *Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing* and *HyperStudio 5*. Thank you so much for supporting this important fundraising event for our school each year.

A diligent learner who has developed intellectual curiosity & creativity

The Mavis Beacon application has advanced beyond typing drills. The 2011 version adjusts lessons to student progress, incentivizes students with "game breaks" and has a number of opportunities to customize lessons. Our students will be able to type content from our Catholic faith, the same way they are able to learn writing and penmanship with *Writing our Catholic Faith* in the classroom (Authors Thomas and Jennifer Wasylyk, Universal Publishing). Mavis Beacon is being used in grades three through eight now, and will be introduced to first and second graders in the second half of the school year.

A lifelong learner who feels an excitement & a joy for learning

The *Hyperstudio 5* application is multi-media presentation and design software. Its purpose is to make it easier for students to share what they learn with others using graphics, online resources and their own creative ingenuity. We are beginning simply by learning how to use the application and will progress toward grade level curriculum extensions in science, social studies and language arts with input from classroom teachers.

An important part of our computer curriculum includes the discussion of computer safety. The first class of each school year is devoted entirely to the review and discussion of our school policy regarding computer use, technology and internet access (Family Handbook, pages 18-20). In grades one through four, discussion is limited to personal online safety, appropriate Computer Lab conduct and the school's internet contract.

An integrated learner who feels intelligent & confident while learning

Throughout the school year we will have more lessons regarding online safety and "cyber smarts" in all grades. Resources include videos, activities and discussion points from *Netsmartz Workshop*, a program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (netsmartz.org) and Common Sense Media (commonsensemedia.org).

An important part of the conversation includes sharing online activities with parents. Students should keep parents in the loop about what they do online and what messages are reaching them. Parents should always be the first to know when something doesn't feel right to their child, as a matter of personal safety and cyber-safety.

An effective communicator who uses the computer to communicate & express ideas


Anne Susalski