



8001 West Belmont Avenue
River Grove, IL 60171-1096
Phone 708.453.6233
Fax 708.453.6296
www.guerinprep.org

MEDIA CONTACT

Sr. Dawn Tomaszewski, SP
Director of Communications & Public Relations
708-453-6233, Ext. 4708

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GUERIN PREP OPENS NEW SCHOOL YEAR WITH NEW PRINCIPAL, ALL STUDENTS EQUIPPED WITH LAPTOPS

A new principal will greet the students of Guerin College Preparatory High School when schools opens for the 2009-2010 school year, a year that will also mark the first time all of its students will be carrying a laptop computer to class on a daily basis.

Anthony “Tony” Tinerella joined the school July 1 as principal. The former dean of students at Marmion Academy in Aurora, Tinerella has more than 19 years experience as a teacher as well as an administrator.

“Tony brings a very high level of enthusiasm and energy to the job,” said Terry Malik, president of Guerin Prep. “He has a proven track record of listening to the views of all constituencies – especially parents. I am sure he will quickly establish a solid rapport with teachers and students as well.”

Tinerella earned a master’s degree in education and administration with a Type 75 certification from North Central College in Naperville in 2007. He holds a bachelor of science degree in biology with an education sequence from Illinois State University, Normal. He has begun a doctoral program in educational administration from Northern Illinois University.

Tinerella, himself a 1984 graduate of Marmion, has served at Marmion in various capacities since 1990. He has been the dean of students since 2001. His role as dean included creating a teacher evaluation and assessment rubric and administering annual teacher evaluations. He also headed the curriculum and instruction committee for the School Improvement Plan.

Before his current duties as dean of students, Tinerella was the assistant dean of student for six years. During two years of that time, he was also the chairperson of the science

department, where he helped design and implement a new science curriculum. He has taught both biology and physics at the school.

In addition, Tinerella has served as both the head football coach and baseball coach and was the director of the weightlifting club. He was part of the Kairos retreat program for 13 years.

He was given the distinguished service award by Marmion Academy in 2008 and was named their most dedicated teacher in 2006. Aurora University honored him as a “Teacher Who Makes a Difference,” in 2004. He is also listed in Outstanding High School Teachers Who’s Who and is a 3rd Degree Knight of the Knights of Columbus affiliated with Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Wood Dale.

“This is an opportunity for me to take a new school, one that is discovering its own tradition, that is ready to find its own identity—the school is ready to springboard and it needs someone with excitement to take it there,” Tinerella explained. “I’m ready to go. That is definitely my personality.

Laptop Program

Guerin Prep began the one-to-one computing program in the fall of 2007 with the freshmen and sophomore classes. Each fall since a new class has been added to maximize the school’s mission to prepare students for success in college and career. Beginning this fall, all students will be bringing their laptops to class each day.

Thanks to a wireless infrastructure installed throughout the school building, each student is able to access the Internet anywhere. This technology, combined with the school’s curriculum and a well-versed faculty allows students to explore diverse cultures and new perspectives; write and edit reports, essays and presentations electronically; plan, prepare and present creative multimedia projects; access online tutoring and communicate with teachers and others worldwide. Electronic textbooks for most core classes are loaded on the laptop.

Though the real test of Guerin Prep’s one-to-one computing program will come when the first group of “laptop” graduates go off to college, a recent “mid-term evaluation” indicates that these laptops are transforming the ways teachers teach and the ways students learn.

A technology evaluation of all Guerin Prep teachers to chart the progress of the two-year old laptop program was conducted this past spring and affirmed that that Guerin teachers have effectively integrated technology in their lesson plans and that the use of technology tools has been standardized in every Guerin Prep classroom.

The study concluded that without a doubt, these tools are transforming the ways teachers teach and the ways students learn.

Back to School

The first full day of the 2009-2010 school year will be held Friday, Aug. 21 for an anticipated 615 students.

Guerin Prep will welcome approximately 155 freshmen and 14 transfer students to a half-day orientation session Wednesday, Aug. 19. A special meeting will be held for them and their parents the evening before, Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. at the school. Those in attendance will receive their laptop computers.

Orientation will continue for freshmen on Thursday, Aug. 19 when they will be joined by the sophomores for orientation that day. All four classes will have a full day of classes on Friday, Aug. 21.

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