



St. Catherine Catholic School (SCCS)

The Mission of St. Catherine Catholic School is to provide a Christ-centered education and a strong Catholic foundation where children can strengthen their relationship with God and prepare for life’s challenges and their service to others.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

Thankful for our Blessings

November is a time to reflect on the many blessings we have within our families, our school, and our community. We are grateful for our parents, our teachers, and our benefactors who help make a Catholic education possible!

As the Thanksgiving Holiday approached, students collected over 2,000 canned goods for our local Food Pantry; they enjoyed classroom celebrations and learned about the importance of helping those in need. Just before the break, the students enjoyed our traditional “Field Day” games and activities, and the coveted Spirit Stick was awarded to 1st grade!



Our “*Friendzy*” catchphrase for this month is “Grow Gratitude”.

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Growing Future Leaders

A new semester class this year for 7th and 8th graders is our Leadership Class. We are hoping to teach our young people what good leadership looks like so that as they go out into the world, they will not be afraid to take on leadership roles and responsibilities. The class started the year focusing on the leadership qualities of Pope Francis, using the book, "Pope Francis; Why He Leads the Way He Leads". Next, the students will learn about the leadership skills of Abraham Lincoln, using the book, "Lincoln on Leadership". In addition to the class, students can also join our Builder's Club. The Builder's Club is the foundational club of Kiwanis that is especially for middle-school students. Club members recently helped at the Kiwanis Breakfast in downtown Sebring. All monies raised through Kiwanis and Builder's Club is used to help children in Highlands County.



STAR Testing Results are in...

Three times a year, students take the STAR Reading and Math assessments to determine if students are on or above grade level, or if they need intervention. The assessment also provides teachers and administrators data on each student's academic growth in these areas. As the year progresses, the curriculum also increases in rigor. The 2nd STAR test should have students showing a 50% in growth, with the hopes of 100% growth by year end. Using the data from grades 2 – 8, 10 out of the 14 tests for math and Reading showed 50% or more as a class average for student growth; 3rd grade had the highest student growth in math with a class average of 81%! Congratulations teachers and students – *Well Done!*

Re-registration for current families for the 24-25 school year will open on January 1st. Please go to our website under "Admissions"

www.stcatheschool.org

Christmas Pageants

Our new Drama Club is performing the Nativity Play on December 15th at 1:30 p.m. in the Church. In addition to the play, each class, grades 1 – 8, will perform a song and special Christmas reading.

The Pre-school and Kindergarten Christmas Pageant is December 18th at 6:00 Pm in the Parish Hall. *All are invited!*

Report Cards & Parent/Teacher Conferences

Report Cards and Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for January 11th. Teachers in all grades, PreK- 3 thru 8th grade, will schedule brief conferences between 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Please save the date!

Technology News:

Students at St. Catherine have access to iPads and laptops to help prepare them for high school, college, and beyond. In today's world, the access to immediate information can be a blessing as well as a curse! We teach students typing skills, how to use Office programs (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), but more importantly, we teach Cyber Safety.

From the Cyberbullying Research Center

- Most youth have been drawn to social media - 95% of teens in the U.S. are online.
- The best thing a parent can do when their child is cyberbullied is to make them feel safe and convey unconditional support.
- Overall, we need to educate our children about appropriate online behaviours - we can never monitor their activities 24/7.
- Parents should cultivate and maintain open lines of communication with their children.
- Reinforce positive morals and values regarding respect and dignity.
- Teach resilience – the skill to bounce back after facing adversity.

Sameer Hinduja, Ph.D. Justin Patchin, Ph.D.

Academic Coaches Provide Extra Support

Our Academic Coaches help our students succeed! When they have an opening in their schedule, these teachers work one-on-one, or in small groups, with students to reinforce math and reading skills. We are also blessed to have Mr. Krenisky as a volunteer in our middle-school math classes. Fondly known as Mr. "K", he has continued to help tutor students Monday – Thursday for more than 5 years! Additionally, students who have a Support Plan also receive math and reading help from our Title 1 Teacher, Mrs. Hannah Liles.

Teaching Catholic Traditions

Students not only learn about our Catholic faith and traditions through Religion classes and by attending weekly School Masses, they also learn by participating and learning how to be lectors, altar servers, gift bearers, and members of the choir.



The Faculty & Staff wish all our families, friends, and benefactors a beautiful Advent and Christmas Season! Thank you for your prayers and support.

Dr. Higgins

The Foundation Begins Here...

PreK 3 students experience a world of learning. This is their first educational experience.

PreK 3 students are introduced to the alphabet, numbers, shapes, and colors. They also work on their social skills and fine/gross motor skills.

PreK 4 students get a head start with their formal education. They are exposed to new experiences that will allow them to grow and build a strong and solid academic foundation.

PreK 4 teachers use the Investigator Club Curriculum to give students a well-rounded education. The curriculum focuses on cognitive, social, and emotional skills, along with fine motor skills and science.

Outdoor activities teach children to share and build social emotional skills.

Kindergarten students learn to read and write and to socialize through working with their peers.



Celebrating our READERS!



All students who have met their Semester Accelerated Reader goal will be invited to a cake celebration and they will have a "dress down day" for all their hard work in reading. *Congratulations!*

Website: www.stcatheschool.org **School Phone:** (863)385-7300

Follow us on *Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram*

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