



**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 2022

### A Tribute to Our Veterans...

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, St. Catherine students, along with our Nation, honored the men and women who have fought for the freedoms we enjoy each day. Fr. Jose celebrated the Veteran's Day Mass, Kindergarten students sang a special song, and following the Mass, several of our very own Veterans held a flag-folding ceremony. Mrs. Frances Shipman (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher) read an explanation of the meaning of each fold of the American flag while Mr. James Shipman and Mr. Arthur Costa folded the flag. The first fold is a symbol of life; the second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life; the third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world...Thank you and God bless all the Veterans for their service and sacrifices.



## We are Thankful

Our Student Council partnered with the St. Catherine Church CCW in the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Students did a great job bringing in requested items for Thanksgiving Baskets being prepared by the CCW for families in our area. "Thank you" to our parents, students, faculty, and staff for helping others have a good holiday.

On the Friday before the Thanksgiving Holidays, our students in the Pre-school and Kindergarten enjoyed a special half-day of games, crafts, and treats, while our students in grades 1 – 8 participated in our third-annual Field Day. The 8<sup>th</sup>-graders won the intramural kickball tournament and the Faculty beat the students in dodgeball! Students had snacks and *Pelican Snoball* served snowcones to all the students.



## Parent Workshops

Students are not the only ones learning at St. Catherine School! We are offering our parents several evening workshops to learn about children's behavior, family dynamics, and internet safety. Professor Orlando Chirino will be presenting his second workshop on November 29<sup>th</sup>, "To Discipline is to Teach." Professor Chirino is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in the State of Florida where he worked in the clinical field for twenty-five years holding different positions in the mental health and educational fields. His third and final presentation will be held after the Christmas Holidays.

We have also partnered with Cyber Security Consultants to educate parents on the dangers that children face every day in their online life and to provide parents with strategies in this hyper digital age. Our internet safety webinar will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.



## Learning Outside the Classroom

Our Third Graders just finished their Life Science Unit Seven on Plants & the Environment where they learned about plant structures and how plants respond to light and their environment. Third graders are now studying their Life Science Unit Eight on Classifying Plants and Animals and it was perfect timing for the annual Highlands County Ag-venture Field Trip where students got to touch, feel, and listen to what they're learning about in the classroom.



Several classes also visited the South Florida State College, Young People's Theatre. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed the production of *Doktor Kaboom: Look Out! Science is Coming* and our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*

## Lets Go "Warriors"

Our Sports Program started in October with tryouts for basketball and cheerleading. The athletes are preparing for games in December with Heartland Christian. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the November game due to repairs needed after the recent weather events but we are hopeful the teams will be competing soon!



## Thinking Outside the Box

As part of the Engineering Process, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade had to design and build an "Anti-Cheating Device" in Science Class. This STREAM project helped students to think critically and creatively, as well as understand the importance of doing one's own work!



## Sebring Christmas Parade

St. Catherine students will be in the Sebring Christmas parade this year! Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher and her husband have been working hard to make the float and Ms. Vianey and the students will decorate it that Friday afternoon. See you on the circle, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.



## Friendzy Catch Phrase

Students in grades K-8, participate weekly in our Social Emotional Learning curriculum, *Friendzy*. This month's catch phrase is, "Listen Up"!

# Faith & Extra-Curricular Learning

- Each week, our students attend the 8:00 a.m. Mass to celebrate the Word of God. The students participate as lectors, altar servers, gift-bearers and classes rotate as the choir. This time of community prayer with our parishioners and friends strengthens our “family” and love for Christ.
- Our Robotics Team and Club members are hard at work each Tuesday, after school, as they design and build various robots using coding programs on their iPads.
- The After-School Tutoring and Homework Help Program is in full swing. We have about 35 students in grades 1 – 8 who receive extra support with homework assignments. The Program is free for parents and is available Monday – Thursday.



## Christmas Pageants and Plays



We invite all our families and friends of St. Catherine Catholic School to our Christmas Pageants and Play. The Pre-School and Kindergarten will have their Christmas program on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall. The main school will present the Nativity Play and Christmas Carols on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Church.

***Wishing all our families and friends a joyful Advent and Merry Christmas!***

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Follow us on *Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram*

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