



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.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

Catholic Education...Our Mission

August 9th marked the official start of our new school year. We opened the doors to over 200 students in PreK 3 – 8th grades and we are looking forward to a year filled with friendship, learning, and faith. Our Mission is to “offer 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.” Teachers, staff, and administration are committed to this mission and to live as Christian examples, inspiring our students.

“Central to the Catholic school is its mission of holiness, of saint-making.” *Miller, The Holy See’s Teaching on Catholic Schools*
As we strive to make our students “saints”, I would like to thank Bishop Dewane, Fr. Jose, Fr. Belmonte, our families, parishioners, and friends that continue to support us in our mission. Our children are our most precious gift; please continue to pray for our school community and the success of our new school year.



Bishop Dewane, Mass of the Holy Spirit, August 28, 2023, St. Catherine Church.



The cost of a Catholic education is often not covered with what the school collects in tuition. St. Catherine tuition is \$7,800 for grades K – 8 for the 2023-2024 school year. Yet, the actual cost per student is closer to \$11,000. Teacher, staff, and administrator salaries make up approximately 62% of costs, followed by building costs, and instructional resources. St. Catherine relies on donations, fundraising, and financial assistance from the Parish and Diocese to help cover the gap in revenue. Since 2008, St. Catherine Catholic School has offered a Catholic education to children in Highlands and Hardee Counties. Each year, the school has grown in the number of students, as well as faculty, and programs. Catholic schools are known for:

- *Academic Excellence*, our students take core classes in Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, English Language Arts, and Religion. Additionally, students have weekly classes in Spanish, art, music, technology, and physical education. Advanced classes are available in 8th grade and our graduates are successful in high school and beyond.
- *Educating the Whole Child*, our students can learn and discover their gifts and talents in extra-curricular activities including after-school clubs, robotics, and sports.
- *Faith Formation and Service*, students attend Mass weekly; they have opportunities to be lectors, altar servers, and gift bearers. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available; students attend retreats, and daily prayers and petitions are read by students over the PA. The school community participates in service projects throughout the year.



Field Day, Catholic Schools Week, 2023



Cantor Club

A Special Visit

The Sheriff's Therapy Dog Team came to both campuses for a visit. Students learned what it takes to be a therapy dog and the important role these special dogs have in helping people. K9 Janie came to visit the main campus, and K9 Stella visited the Pre-School/Kindergarten campus.

Students asked questions and had time to even pet the therapy dogs after the presentation.



Blue Moon Event!

Our middle-school students took advantage of the recent donation of a beautiful telescope to get a close-up view of a Super Blue Moon, which only occurs every 2.7 years! The students “spied” the surface and the shape of the orb, with 6th grader, Charli Carrero, and 8th grader Ian Wessal locating the Super Moon and perfectly aligning the telescope with it.



Learning the Value of New Friendships

Our Pre-School students are identifying primary colors, learning alphabet letters, environmental sounds, and Through music, prayers, Dilly the Puppet, and story time, the children are growing in their academics and Faith. Best of all they are making new friends!



Hand Chimes for Music Class

Through our Title Programs, we were able to order a set of hand chimes that the students will begin learning this year in music class. The hand chimes will accompany music at our weekly school Masses. Mr. Gillmore is working towards having the students play the chimes solo during different parts of the Mass.

Honors Classes Provide a Challenge

The 8th graders are challenging themselves in several classes, hoping to earn high school credits in Honors Algebra I and Spanish. Half the 8th grade class will be sitting for the End-of-Course (EOC) Exam in May for Algebra credit and over half the class is currently taking High School Spanish through Florida Virtual School. The higher-level classes provide our students the opportunity to earn high school credits and continue on in advanced classes, preparing for the rigor of college.

It's a Great Day to be a Warrior!

We had our first spirit shirt day for students and teachers on September 15th ...not everyone in Kindergarten had a spirit shirt, but they sure had the SPIRIT!



Coming In October...

Our students and teachers will be starting the *Friendzy* Program, our Social Emotional Learning curriculum. This program teaches friendship, having a growth mindset, setting personal goals, and learning how to apologize when emotions get the better of us. **TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Gratitude for all you do...

Every donation is a blessing. Over the past year, your prayers and financial support have made a difference:

- Student Scholarships – 97% of students receive scholarships or financial aid. With your support, a child is able to have a Catholic education at St. Catherine Catholic School.
- Summer Enrichment Program - 40 students in grades K – 7 enjoyed 3 weeks of fun and learning in June.
- Robotics Supplies - our robotics team is able to participate another year in the F.I.R.S.T. Robotics. The “Masterpiece Challenge Set” was ordered for this year’s upcoming tournament.
- Basketball Court - students are enjoying the new basketball court during recess, PE, and our basketball team now has a place to practice and hold games.
- After-School Tutoring Program – 40 students in grades 1-8 receive extra help on homework and have a quiet place to study. Teachers, staff, and volunteers are involved with this program.

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Parent-Teacher Conferences, October 19th

- ▶ Save the date, parents and guardians, for the First Quarter Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Conferences. Teachers will be available between 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. to meet and discuss your child’s academic progress.

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

Follow us on *Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram*

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