



St. Catherine Catholic School

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

A Rich Tradition

January 29th thru February 4th marked the 49th year of celebrating Catholic Schools! Our classrooms are filled with the rich traditions of our Faith, excellent academics, and opportunities for students to discover their gifts and talents in after-school clubs and athletics. Did you know...Catholic schools continue to outperform public and other private schools on national assessment tests (NAEP); Catholic high schools have a 99 percent graduation rate compared to 86 percent in public schools; Catholic schools' service programs expose students to different communities of need and service to others; and Catholic school attendance boosts the likelihood that a minority student will graduate from high school from 62 percent to 88 percent. We love St. Catherine Catholic School! Our Superintendent, Fr. John Belmonte, celebrated our opening Mass of Catholic Schools Week with Fr. Jose. Students participated as lectors, gift bearers, altar servers, and members of the Cantor Club.





A few reasons to choose Catholic Schools:

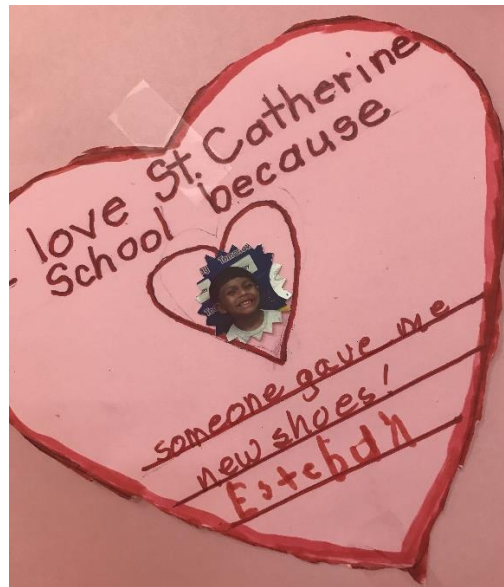
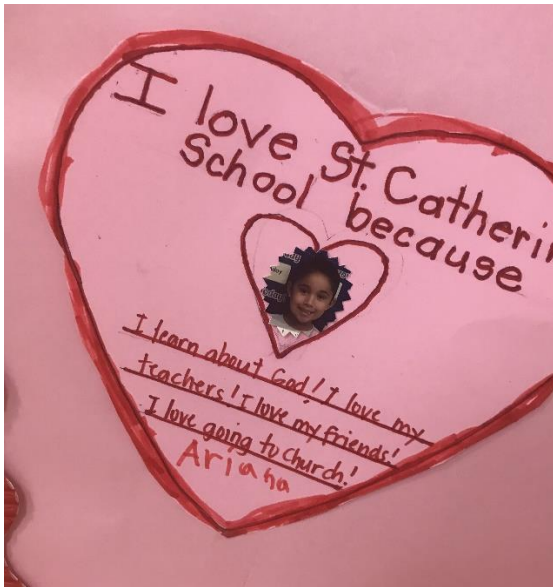
- ❖ *Catholic Schools emphasize moral development and self-discipline.*
- ❖ *We instill in students the value of service to others.*

Our Students are on a Roll...

Fr. Jose distributed the 2nd Quarter Academic Awards at our weekly Mass on January 17th.

- ❖ 24 students made the Honor Roll for First Honors, Second Honors, and Principal's List
- ❖ 24 students had perfect attendance for the 2nd Quarter
- ❖ 9 students received the "Citizenship Award", one per grade level, K – 8.
- ❖ 9 students were selected, one per grade level, K – 8, to receive either the St. Monica or St. Martin de Porres Award for Perseverance.

The Principal's List Award recipients - those students who achieved at least a 95% average in all classes - enjoyed a pizza lunch with Dr. Higgins for all their hard work!

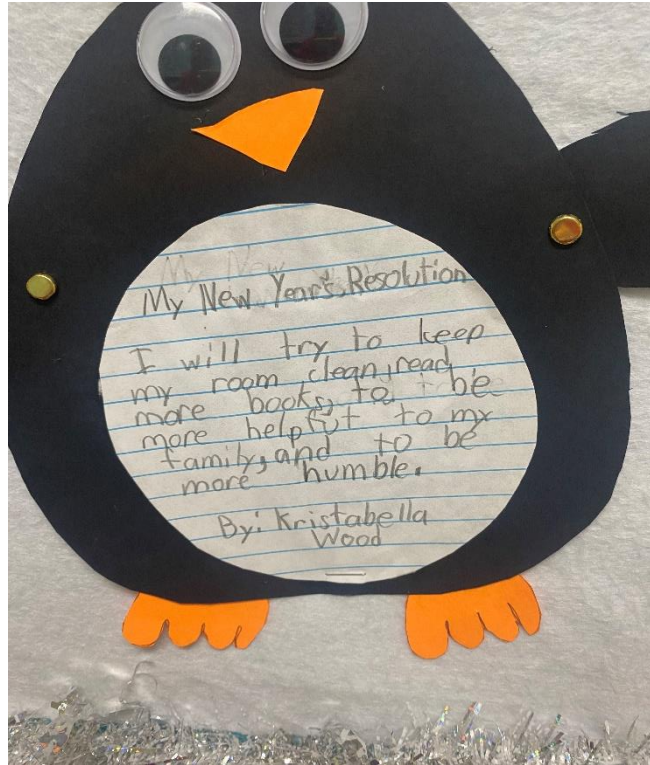


8th Graders Are Competing in Law Day

The Justice Parker Lee McDonald Law Library and the Highlands County Bar Association are sponsoring Law Day 2023. Our 8th- graders are writing essays on the topic, "*Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration*". This important essay topic will help our students focus on their civic education and the future of Democracy in our Country. Our youth are our future! Winning essays and awards will be announced in April when the courts will recess for a day to observe the importance of Law Day and celebrate the winners.

New Year's Resolution

Ever wonder what a second grader says for their New Year's resolution? Mrs. Berryman asked and the responses were priceless, "I will try to keep my room clean, read more books, to be more helpful to my family, and to be more humble."



Time for Re-Enrollment!

Our current families are asked to complete their re-enrollment information now in order to ensure their child's place for next year. We will open up the enrollment to new families on March 2nd.

Enrollment is handled through our FACTS Management. Please contact Ms. Mendez at ext. 203 if you need assistance or by email: mendez@stcatheschool.org

St. Catherine Catholic School accepts scholarships from AAA, STEP UP, and Family Empowerment to help families with tuition. We also offer Diocesan scholarships and Financial Aid. Transportation is available to our surrounding parish communities.

We Teach a "Growth Mindset"

Our teachers recently had a professional development session on Growth Mindset. We want to teach our students this important life skill - that no matter what age, their response to challenges or setbacks will be determined by if they have a growth mindset or a fixed mindset.

A student with a growth mindset believes, "I can't do it...YET." When a person with a fixed mindset hits an obstacle, they believe, "this is all I can do." Teachers can teach growth mindset using their environment, language, communication, and modeling a growth mindset.

The recent research on neuroplasticity indicates that the human brain continues to learn and change throughout our lives. Two leading authors on growth mindset and grit are Dr. Carol Dweck and Angela Duckworth. Our goal is to set students up for success.

Making Progress...

With the help of our benefactors, we have begun work on a new parent pickup lane and a new basketball court for the students.



Our "Friendly" Theme for February:

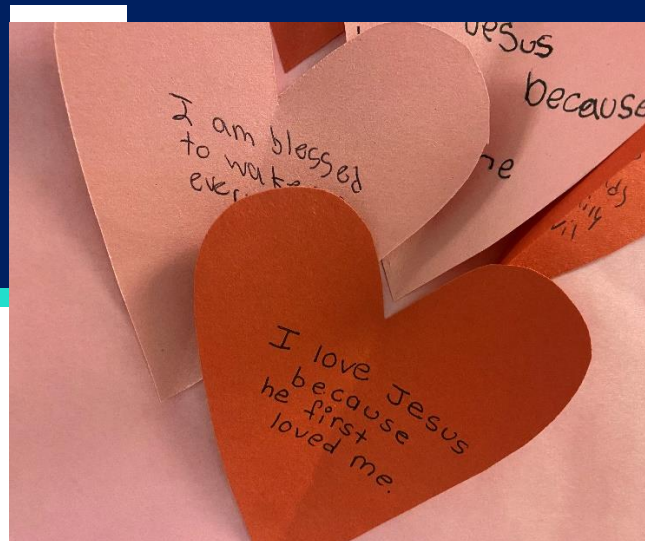
"Know your limits"

Extra photos from our Catholic Schools Week celebrations, 100th Day of School, and our field trip to Archbold Biological Station.



Raffles, Chocolates, and more!

The cost to educate a student at St. Catherine Catholic School is approximately \$9,875.00, slightly less than the \$10,285 per-pupil cost of Highlands County. Most of our families receive scholarships or financial aid to help offset the \$7,500 tuition. Because of the gap in tuition and the per-pupil expense, St. Catherine Catholic School relies heavily on fundraising and donations to help cover school operations, improvements, and programs. WE ARE GRATEFUL to all our parents, parishioners, and benefactors who support us with our endless raffles, second-collection basket at Mass, dress-down days, World's Finest Chocolates and Little Caesar's Pizza fundraisers, and the donations of supplies, water, and snacks which all help us to provide a Catholic education to over 200 students from Highlands and Hardee Counties.



- ▶ **Happy St. Valentine's Day!** Saint Valentine, officially known as Saint Valentine of Rome, is a third-century Roman Saint, and while not much is known about this Saint, his Feast Day on February 14th, has become a celebration of love.



- ▶ **TERRA NOVA**, Standardized Testing begins February 21st. Our students are STARS and will rise to the top! Students in grades 2 – 8 take a set of 3 tests that cover reading, language, math, science, and social studies.

Our students and teachers are celebrating Black History Month...

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.” Malcom X

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Principal

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