



### 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 2022

## A New Year Begins...

August 8<sup>th</sup> marked the official start of our new school year. We opened the doors to over 200 students in Pre-K 3 – 8<sup>th</sup> grades. We had all our teachers, staff, and assistants return in August, except for our Middle School ELA teacher who will join us at the end of October following her maternity leave.

Bishop Frank Dewane celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Our students participated in several areas of the Mass - the choir, as lectors, altar servers, and gift bearers. Bishop Dewane shared an important message for students to be “the light of the world” to their friends and neighbors. We are to be the “doers of our Faith” within our Community. Thank you, Bishop Dewane for your support of Catholic education and for your leadership of the Diocese of Venice.



Our Pre-School and Kindergarten teachers are working hard with our little ones! Pre-K 4 students are learning how to be science investigators as they use their science notebooks to learn about the sun and shadows. They used post-it notes to record the movement of the shadows throughout the day. Kindergartners begin every day with prayers, counting, days of the week, and the weather. Our 3-year-olds are learning friendship, sharing, and understanding directions. Thank you, Mrs. Jeanette Sanchez (Pre-K 3), Ms. Mayra Donan (Pre-K 4), and Mrs. Adele Moye (Kindergarten) for your dedication to our little ones.



***Teaching the Gifts of Christ – Truth, Beauty,  
Goodness,  
Affability, Humility, Prudence,  
and Fortitude***



***Strengthening Faith – Developing Character –  
Expanding Knowledge  
St. Catherine Catholic School***

### ***iPads, eBooks, and more...***

This year, students in grades 2 – 8 received the latest Apple Generation 9 iPad. Through the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), we received a grant that enabled us to purchase new iPads for the students. In addition to this technology, students also have access to electronic textbooks, known as eBooks, for most of their subjects. No longer can students say, “I forgot my book at school”. If families have Wi-Fi, students can access classroom information and resources; they can read eBooks on their iPads, as well as get help with math, reading, and grammar by using their online tutorial programs, IXL, Accelerated Reader, and MyOn.

Students have a vast library at their fingertips. They can choose from over 600 online books on their iPad from their MyOn app. Students then take reading comprehension quizzes on Accelerated Reader to reach their personal reading goals. As we know, technology doesn’t always provide the best learning opportunities, so students also receive traditional textbooks and workbooks for each subject.



**8<sup>th</sup> grader – Isabela Badillo learns how to use the “single-sign on” feature to access all her school programs and books on the iPad.**

## ***Middle School Academics***

The 6th grade students have been learning about the scientific method in Ms. Gouge's science classroom. Last week they grew bacteria in a Petri dish. This week they conducted a scientific investigation and observed their bacteria specimens under a microscope.



In Social Studies, student presentations showed their understanding of the Neolithic Age by creating villages that depicted the change from hunter-gathers to the dependence on plants, animals, and crafts.

## ***Learning the Value of Friendship in Pre-K 3***



We have started the new year with 65 new classroom desks, a new larger gate for our parent pick-up lane, 5 new heavy-duty picnic tables for our middle school lunch area, new tables, bookcases, and outdoor play equipment for our Pre School, as well as a donation of school supplies!

We are grateful for your prayers and support! Dr. Higgins

## ***7<sup>th</sup> Grade Uses Robotics and Legos***

Students were inspired when they read the article about a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student from Alexandria, VA who was born without a left hand and part of her forearm and wanted to play the violin. Using their lego robotics and their iPads, 7<sup>th</sup> graders created a model of a prosthetic arm. While it wasn't the prosthetic arm created for the 5<sup>th</sup> grader by seniors from George Mason University, St. Catherine students used teamwork, technology, and creativity to understand the possibilities!



## ***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!**

# Educating the whole child – Spirit, mind, and body!

- Strong academics – students are challenged with 5 core classes in Mathematics, English-Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Religion, as well as classes in technology, art, music, Spanish, and physical education. Several advanced classes offer students the opportunity to earn high school credits.
- Our school and parish communities support us and believe in the Faith foundation we are building through religion classes, weekly Masses, sacraments, opportunities to become altar servers, members of the Cantor Club, lectors, service to others, and more.
- School Clubs, Student Council and National Junior Honor Society allow students to discover gifts and talents, and practice leadership and decision making.
- Sports Club – competitive teams in basketball, flag football, and cheerleading provide growth in teamwork and sportsmanship



## Strategic Plan

We continue to focus on our Mission of providing a Christ-centered education and a strong Catholic foundation. Our Strategic Plan will guide us over the next 3 years in the areas of Catholic Culture, Academic Excellence, Finances, Facilities, Marketing, and Leadership.

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