



## 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.

MARCH/APRIL 2023

## Spring – a time of growth

Students learn that Religion and science are connected in a beautiful way. "During the season of Lent and this season of Easter, students at St. Catherine learn about the transformation that brings us new life just as a caterpillar can turn into a butterfly. After shedding their old life, and emerging from their chrysalis, butterflies experience the world from a new perspective. In the same way, when we ask forgiveness and repent, we experience life in a new light." *Mrs. Berryman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher.* May the Easter Season bring you joy and hope as we celebrate our Risen Lord!



## ***Congratulations!***

In March, several of our St. Catherine teachers were recognized at the Diocesan 2023 STREAM Symposium. Mrs. Mary Alexander, our Art and Technology Teacher, received the Blue Apple Award for her innovation, creativity, and imagination in teaching and instruction. Mrs. Brenda Berryman received the Charitas Award – given to faculty members nominated by their peers for the constant exhibition and embodiment of the Virtue of Charity. We are proud of the recognition they received for all they do for St. Catherine Catholic School.

Mrs. Berryman was also a presenter at the STREAM Symposium. Her topic, “Integrating a Growth Mindset in the Classroom” discussed the importance of helping students learn resilience and grit, especially when they encounter obstacle and challenges in their educational journey.



*St. Catherine Catholic School is opening a second PreK-3 classroom in August. If your child is fully potty trained and turns 3 on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>, please contact us if you would like more information. We provide Financial Assistance to our families in PreK-3.*

***“Student learning depends on every teacher learning all the time” (Fullan, 2007).***

On March 9, all teachers within the Diocese came together to learn about student “learning” and how to create multiple paths so that each student can be successful. As educators, we are challenged to differentiate instruction, to collaborate as a team, to teach so that all students can master the standards. The Diocesan consultant, ADAC, introduced many of the teachers to the multi-tiered support system, MTSS. St. Catherine School is in its second year of implementing this program, now called ASE, Achievement, Success, and Excellence for All. We have much more to learn, but our fantastic group of teachers and support staff have begun the important work of helping all students learn.

**Thank you to our teachers and staff who are committed to excellence at St. Catherine School and Pre-School!**

***Teacher Appreciation Week, May 1 - 5***

### **Pre K – 4 Science Lesson**

Ms. Mayra Donan spends time teaching in small groups to ensure she is able to give her students the most attention possible. Today, they were learning about plants and the importance of air, water, and sun.

Ms. Donan shared a story; students wrote in their science journals, and each had the opportunity to plant their own bean plant to watch it grow.



### **3<sup>rd</sup> Graders Become Authors!**

"The Third Graders wrote a book on what the Eucharist means to them. This project was inspired by the Diocesan Devotional Project to the Most Holy Eucharist. 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students, Madison Tokarz and Frankie Gomez received training on the Most Holy Eucharist and then gave a presentation on the Body of Christ to my third-grade students. In listening to my students' beautiful answers during this class discussion on the body, blood, soul, and divinity of the most Holy Eucharist, I thought that their understanding and answers needed to be shared in the form of a book. The illustrations in this book are also a reflection of what the children are working on in art with Mrs. Alexander. This project was a culmination of the foundation that parents and teachers, past and present, have set for our students on the greatest gift of the body and blood of Jesus Christ." *Mrs. Shipman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher*

### **4<sup>th</sup> Graders Read, Create, and Present**

The fourth-grade classroom is filled with "bottle buddies" created from the main character of the book of their choice. "The students gave speeches about their character and how the character changed throughout the story – practicing their presentation and public speaking skills as well!" *Ms. Filice, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher*



# Fun at the Family Picnic

Over 180 children and families joined us for our Family Picnic on April 1<sup>st</sup>, a time to celebrate our families and school community. Fr. Jose began the afternoon with a welcome and prayer. Children had face painting, a pinata, rock painting, music, and lots of games.

Families enjoyed hot dogs, chips, watermelon, cookies, and Kona Ice to cool off. This would not have been possible without the hard work from our teachers and staff who gave of their time to help... *thank you!*



## *A Prayer of Gratitude*

"The world needs hope. And with gratitude, with this habit of saying thank you, we transmit a bit of hope. Everything is united and everything is connected, and everyone needs to do his or her part where ever we are." *Pope Francis*

*Thank you for your continued support of our Catholic school!!*

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