



St. Catherine Catholic School (SCCS)

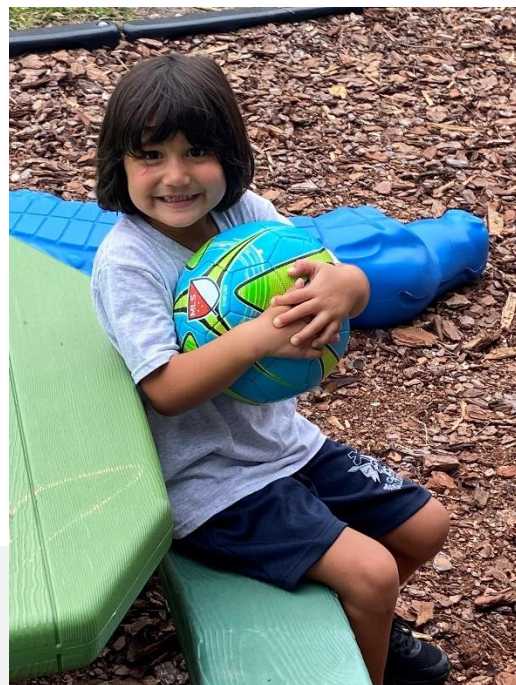
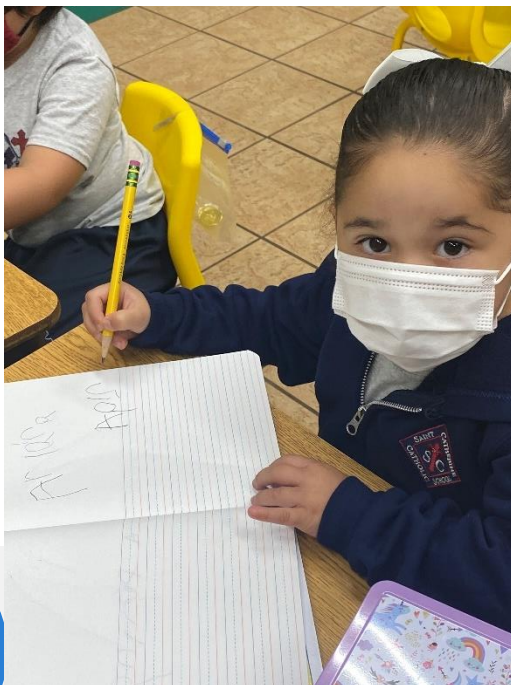
The Mission of St. Catherine Catholic School is to provide a Christ-centered education and a strong Catholic foundation where children can strengthen their relationship with God and prepare for life's challenges and their service to others.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 2021

School News...

Students from Pre K-3 thru 8th grade began classes on August 9th! It has been a challenging start to the new school year but God has blessed us with an increase in our enrollment and we continue to keep our students, faculty, and staff safe during this resurgence of COVID-19. Last August, we began the school year with 138 students enrolled, this August, we begin with 164!

The Diocese of Venice has asked each principal to monitor the positivity rate in their county. Each Friday, after 8 PM, the Department of Health releases the weekly positivity rates by counties. If the rate is above 10%, students and staff are required to wear masks inside the school buildings. So...we have been wearing masks, taking temperatures, social distancing as much as possible, and cleaning high-touch surfaces and areas. Our children are happy to be at St. Catherine Catholic School!



Welcome...New Faculty & Staff

This year, we welcome a few new Faculty & Staff members. Mrs. Frances Shipman (3rd Grade) and Mrs. Melanie Blake (Middle School ELA) are not exactly new to St. Catherine. Both teachers were with us last year. Mrs. Shipman worked as our Title 1 Teacher and Mrs. Blake covered Mrs. Percival's maternity leave. When positions opened up for this school year, we were delighted that they wanted to join our team.

We also welcome Mrs. Carmen Ramos (Spanish Teacher) and Mr. Mark McCrary (PE Teacher). After completing his degree in Educational Leadership, Mr. Steve Cullipher was promoted to Assistant Principal and oversees several curricular programs, technology, and helps with the day-to-day operations.

Ms. Vianey Gonzalez is our Receptionist at the front desk and is busy helping our parents, students, and teachers with a variety of small and large tasks. A warm welcome to all!

Academics

St. Catherine Catholic School students take classes in English, reading and writing, mathematics, science, social studies, and religion. Every student, Kindergarten through 8th grade, also takes art, technology, Spanish, and PE. Advanced classes are available in Algebra I and Spanish I for a high-school credit.

Our teachers have been busy learning to incorporate STREAM (Science Technology Religion Engineering Art and Mathematics) into their lessons and unit plans. Bishop Dewane has provided STREAM resources to each school and we are looking forward to having our students use these hands-on materials and robotics. Interested students can attend robotics tournaments and learn what it takes to compete against other schools around the State.

Students are finishing their STAR 360 Assessments in Math and Reading, and we had our first student already reach their Accelerated Reader goal - Congratulations to 3rd grader Ian Morales!



Our First PTO Meeting is September 14th!
Parents, please join us at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

The Gift of our Faith

The tradition continues...just a little different. Due to COVID-19 and the need to keep our children and parishioners safe, we have scheduled our traditional Children's Masses on most Friday's at 2:00 p.m.

We welcome Bishop Dewane on September 17th (10:30 a.m.) for the Mass of the Holy Spirit for our new school year.

Parents, guardians, and parishioners are always welcome to these Masses.



Father Jose also took some time out of his busy schedule to visit classrooms and welcome the students to the new school year!



After-School Clubs & Leadership

In September, we begin the after-school clubs for students. This year, we are offering: Chess Club, Math Club, Art Club, Book Club, Yearbook, STREAM/Robotics, Rosary Club, and two new clubs: Cantor Club and Chemistry Club!

Cantor Club - The purpose of the club is to give students more time for vocal and musical development and to form a choir that is used for special school events. Also, more advanced repertoire will be learned from different historical periods for students who want to increase their musical knowledge.

Chemistry is the study of matter and the changes that take place with that matter. Chemistry looks at the ways matter changes and transforms to create the Universe that God created. The *Chemistry Club* for kids will look at the properties of water in all its states (gas, liquid, solid) and do experiments to learn more about density, viscosity, and how heat affects matter.

Leadership opportunities for students are through our Student Council and National Junior Honor Society. Our Student Council is in the process of electing officers for the new school year. Thank you to all the student leaders who showed interest in running for office, and...*Good Luck!*

Tree Planting

Last April, we had several trees donated on Earth Day. After planting the trees, we had a special plaque made in dedication to our family and friends who have died during the COVID pandemic. We will be working on adding gardens to the area this year. Please contact me if you would like to help us!

"In loving memory of our family members and friends who have lost their lives to Covid-19. Always in our hearts."

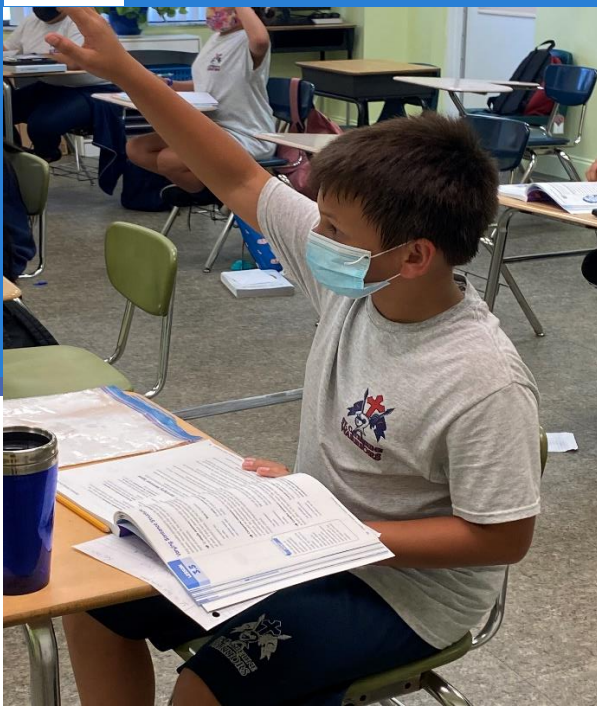
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"Thank you, Grandparents, for all you do for our students!"

Grandparents Day, September 12, 2021

Thank you for your support!

Last Spring, we were able to raise over \$35,000 in our first Car Raffle. THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this possible. Unfortunately, the tuition that each family pays does not cover the cost of educating a student. We rely on donations and fundraisers to help us cover the shortfall. This school year, we are planning on two raffles and a few smaller PTO fundraisers. We appreciate anything that you are able to help us with!



Family Literacy Week Kicks Off September 19th. We want to instill in each child a love for reading. Events have been planned for the whole week by our Middle School ELA teacher, Mrs. Melanie Blake. Students and Faculty are encouraged to kick off the week wearing neon shirts and jeans (\$5 fundraiser) to show that reading makes us "BRIGHT"! Later in the week, students can bring their towels and sunglasses for some "Reading Fun in the Sun"!

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

Follow us on *Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram*

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