



## 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, 2020

## School News...

**Classes begin!** Students from Pre K-3 thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade began classes on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Our students had a choice of taking classes online or returning to campus. Currently, we have 145 students enrolled with about 25 of these students learning online.

We have added additional safety measures to ensure that our children, faculty, and staff members remain safe during this pandemic. SCCS follows a "cohort model" where children remain with their same class throughout the day, lunch, and recess. Wearing masks, washing hands frequently, and social distancing have all become the new "normal" for students. Children enjoy "mask breaks" at lunch, recess, and during PE classes.





### **Academics**

While this year may look a lot different from previous years, our children are learning, interacting, and growing academically, spiritually, and emotionally.

Our Middle School students are learning scientific research methods in preparation for their Science Fair next semester. Students are writing claims, providing evidence, and explaining their reasoning as they look at the growth of plants in different soil.

All students participated in the Renaissance STAR 360 assessment testing in late August to help give teachers a better idea of each student's progress in reading and mathematics. St. Catherine provides academic coaches who will begin working with students one-on-one. Additionally, SCCS uses Accelerated Reader, MyOn, and IXL for reading and math assistance.

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### **Students Learn Art Basics**

This year, we have started off our Art classes focusing on health and safety messaging in 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grades. All of the classes will be exploring the Elements of Art this quarter and how to use lines and shapes in art. 4<sup>th</sup> grade has been learning about the differences between positive and negative shapes, and completing daily art challenges to help develop their skills as artists. Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades have completed self-portraits using pencil sketching. 6<sup>th</sup> grade has been learning about Picasso and even made their own rendering of a Picasso thru a board game called Roll a Picasso. 5<sup>th</sup> grade has been using lines to create a patchwork collaborative piece and has experimented with 3D paper art sculpting. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades have completed pre-tests on basic art knowledge and the Elements of Art to evaluate their previous art knowledge, and they will be learning about museum art and how to evaluate the aesthetic value of the art and purpose of the artwork itself. *Mary Alexander*



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### **Home & School Meetings**

Parents and Guardians had an opportunity to meet teachers and hear about the beginning of the year school information in a series of three Home & School Meetings that were held in the Parish Hall.

### **Progress Reports**

Progress Reports will be distributed on September 14<sup>th</sup> – *check your child's back pack!*

### ***Celebrating our Faith***

Each morning and afternoon, a student is selected to lead our daily prayers over the PA system. Included in our prayer service, all students recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the Mission of St. Catherine Catholic School.

On Fridays, we have continued the tradition of students attending Mass. For social distancing reasons, Fr. Jose does a special Mass for the children in the afternoon and they have been divided into smaller groups for each week.

### ***Pre-School***

Our Pre-School offers programs for children ages 3 and 4 (VPK). Small class sizes enable teachers to give individual attention during these important formative years.



### ***Physical and Social Emotional Education***

Our new PE teacher, Mr. Kaszuba, began the year with students walking and doing short sprints on the field. Orange ladders were used for individual drills and students were asked to bring in their own soccer balls and mats to begin learning and practicing the game of soccer.

Our teachers participated in professional learning on our first Friday noon dismissal. SCCS has purchased the Friendly Program that will bring awareness and education about social emotional learning (SEL) for our children. Teachers have the month of September to become familiar with the curriculum and activities and our kickoff of the Friendly SEL will be in October. More news to come!

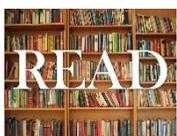


***“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.”***

*St. Catherine of Siena*

# We need your support!

Our first Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meeting is September 10<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. We will be discussing what fundraisers we will be able to have this year with COVID-19. These fundraisers are a vital component to maintain and build our academic programs for the children of St. Catherine Catholic School. More information will be shared with families and friends after our meeting.



**Family Literacy Week Kicks Off September 20<sup>th</sup>.** 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. Jennifer Percival. Students and Faculty are encouraged to kick off the week wearing neon shirts and jeans (\$5 fundraiser) to show that reading makes us "BRIGHT"!



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Our new faculty members participated in CPR training in August. All teachers and staff in the Diocese of Venice are trained every two years in CPR and First Aid.

**Website:** [www.stcatheschool.org](http://www.stcatheschool.org) **School Phone:** (863)385-7300

Follow us on *Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram*

**Contact:** Dr. Christine Higgins, Principal

[higgins@stcatheschool.org](mailto:higgins@stcatheschool.org)

