

OUR WEEKLY NEWS

"LIGHTING A PATH TO THE HIGHER PURPOSE."



January 12th through January 16th

St. Joseph Community School's mission is that we are here to lead students to their fullest potential. We focus on four main categories: *academic excellency, faith, leadership, and service*. All of these categories are meant for them to thrive and also encounter Christ while on their journey.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCY

FAITH

LEADERSHIP

SERVICE

Proverbs 27:17



What are you waiting for?

START YOUR PATH HERE



"At St. Joe's, my faith was cultivated and intertwined with academics, volunteering, and athletics, and truly everything that we did. This was so valuable and formative during my growing up years, alongside what I was learning at home and at church about my faith."

Lydia Gessner // Class of '16



UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Friday, January 16th

- All School Prayer Service at 8:30am (No Mass - Father is gone.)

Visit our school [calendar](#) to see more upcoming events!

UPCOMING ACTIVITY EVENTS

Thursday, January 15th

- 8th grade boys basketball vs Waukon

Visit the activities [calendar](#) to see any changes or more information!



OUR DAILY SCHEDULE

Doors open 7:45am

Breakfast is served 7:45am-8:00am

School day begins 8:05am

School day ends 3:15pm

MEET THE TEAMS

Early Childhood Team

3 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS: A FUN WEEK OF LEARNING!

Colors- gray, brown, black, pink

Letters- Mm, Ss, Aa, Tt

Numbers- 0, 6, 8, 9 Shapes- Hexagon, pentagon

We read two stories this week. One was The Story of Cinderella, and the other was called The Noisy Playground. We read these stories with TED and learned some new vocabulary. Then afterwards, we worked on trying to recall the story with picture sequencing. We also used the details of words to help figure out what pictures went with which parts of a story. We continued our work on rhyming words, patterns, initial sounds, word segmenting, and word blending. Throughout the week, we used our fine motor skills to work on our names and what letters make up our names. We then went on to work on the exact way to form the letters in our names and made a snowman with our names.

*****Reminder that Thursday, January 29th, there will be NO PRESCHOOL or WRAPAROUND. - Mrs. Schueth**

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Mass Times

4pm at Holy Family

6pm at IC in North Washington or St. Boniface

Sunday Mass Times

8am at Holy Family

9am at Holy Family



MEET THE TEAMS

Early Childhood Team

4 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHT

Letters- M, T, P, A

Numbers-2, 4, 6, 8 Shapes-star, rhombus, circle, hexagon

Nursery rhyme- Wee Willie Winky

During Station Rotation this week the preschoolers worked on number and letter identification, sorting items by sound, counting, sorting, social skills and so much more. We reviewed classroom expectations and were happy to get back together! During our math time, we talked learned about how to use a balance scale to tell if things are heavy or light. A daily challenge has been added to the discovery center to practice using the scale. We talked about circles, half circles, and quarter circles. - **Mrs. Abbott**

Early Childhood

KINDERGARTEN HIGHLIGHTS:

It was good to be back together this week! We missed our friends. We enjoyed celebrating Epiphany in our classroom as we learned about the Three Kings and shared some King Cake. Two of our friends discovered the baby Jesus in their pieces! We have been working on getting back into our routines and remembering school expectations after several days away. In math, we finished our topic on addition and began working with the concept of subtraction. In writing, we learned about asking sentences and are practicing identifying sentences as either telling sentences or asking sentences. We were able to see the fruits of our hot cocoa stand labor as we purchased 30 sets of pajamas and 20 books, each with an accompanying stuffed animal! These items will be going to LSI of Waverly to serve families in our surrounding areas. Next up... Xs and Os Valentine Stand! - **Mrs. Flugum**

Upcoming dates

- **January 19-** no school for Professional development
- **January 28-** Family BINGO night
- **January 29-** No preschool-*refer to message sent out*
- **February 16-** no school for Professional development
- **February 21-** Night Out with St. Joes!



FIRST GRADE INSIDE SCOOP:

Happy New Year! The kids have been busy this week reviewing expectations and procedures, but they were tired! We have also started working on our FAST testing which we do 3 times a year. Everyday we do a little bit to help with this. In religion we learned more about the Eucharist and how we show our love for Jesus. We also learned about the tabernacle which is where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In reading we have been focusing on poetry, partner reading, and voice level when reading. In math we started our topic 8 which is focusing on place value with tens and ones. For example: 32 is 3 groups of tens and 2 ones or 3 groups of ten with 2 left over. We will test on this on Tuesday, so it was a short unit. In writing we focused on subjects and predicates as well as a how to chart. We did some work with sequencing words using words like: first, next, last, then, etc. Ask them about how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich! Lastly, in science we are learning about sounds and light. I love their curiosity! Have a great week and stay healthy! - **Mrs. Heying**

MEET THE TEAMS

Elementary Team

SECOND GRADE NEWSFLASH: A WEEK OF LEARNING AND FUN!

This week the second grade class begins the preparing for First Communion. The class is beginning to receive Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion with this special sacrament. Together, we discussed what we already know about Jesus. The class shared that Jesus died for our sins, he loves us, and he gave his life for us. We are learning that Jesus loves us so much that he also wants to share this sacrament with all of us. The liturgy of the eucharist is the part of mass that includes communion. "This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him". We look forward to this special time as the class prepares to receive the sacrament. - **Mrs. Rochford**

THIRD GRADE:

Welcome to 2026! We are off to a great start! Reviewing expectations throughout the building and in our classroom was a top priority this week. The students responded well and we are on track to have an excellent second semester. Multiplying with bigger numbers, 6-8, have been a little harder, but the students are starting to recognize they can use what they already know about the factors 2,3,4, and 5 help them break down the facts into manageable equations. Please practice facts at home with them as well to build fluency. Our read aloud stories were a biography and a folktale. The class did a nice job of noticing the differences in the genres. We had a great conversation about how determination is important to reach your goals. We revisited the life of St. Therese of Lisoux and reminded ourselves that her message of the little things done for others are big things in God's eyes. Prayer was important to her, and so we discussed about forms of prayer. Singing, according to St. Augustine, is like praying twice. Well, we did a stellar job of it. Happy New Year!- **Mrs. Herold**

FOURTH GRADE:

It was great to welcome students back from break and jump right back into learning! To help reset expectations, we spent time with St. Joe's University, reviewing school-wide expectations and routines around the building. Students did a wonderful job getting back into the groove. We are also excited to kick off our St. Joe's Night Out ticket challenge! Students can earn their ticket to attend the Mason City Toros hockey game by selling St. Joe's Night Out tickets. Thank you for your support with this fun incentive! **In Reading**, we began our new class novel, Ming Lo Moves the Mountain. Students are already engaged in the story and making predictions while exploring themes of perseverance and problem-solving along with characteristics of a Folk Tale. In Social Studies, with the Winter Olympics approaching, we started a new Olympics Unit. Students learned about the history of the Olympic Games and are now researching one Winter Olympic event to learn more about how it works, the athletes involved, and the countries that compete. **In Math**, students continued building their multiplication skills by working on 2-digit by 2-digit multiplication. We are focusing on strategies, accuracy, and confidence as problems become more challenging. Finally, please be on the lookout for ****Catholic Schools Week information coming home soon. There will be details about upcoming activities as well as permission slips that will need to be signed and returned for visits to the Municipal Building, Sports Complex, participation in the bubble gum contest, and a waiver for the Sports Complex.** Thank you for your continued support! Warm regards, - **Mr. Larsen**



MEET THE TEAMS

Middle School Team MIDDLE SCHOOL:

We are excited to share that our school has been invited to participate in this year's Religion Bee. It is an academic faith-based competition that allows students to deepen their understanding of Catholic teachings, Scripture, and Church tradition.

We began Round One this week. This round consisted of a multiple-choice qualifying quiz administered at school. Students' scores from this round determined which participants advanced to the next level of competition.

Students who qualify will move on to Round Two, which will take place during Catholic Schools Week. Round Two is a live, school-level Religion Bee, where the top performers from the qualifying quiz compete by answering questions aloud in front of an audience.

From there, the top three students from our middle school will advance to the Regional Religion Bee, which will be held on February 20 at 1:30 PM and hosted by Marquette in Bellevue. This round is also a live competition, and families, religion teachers, and pastors are invited to attend.

The final level is the State Religion Bee, held in late spring. Students who advance from the regional level are paired as a team and compete with other dioceses from across the state.

We will continue to share updates and celebrate our students' progress—please be sure to check our social media pages for announcements about students advancing to the next rounds. We can't wait to see them shine!

- Mrs. Stumme, Mrs. Shatek, Mrs. Denner, and Mrs. McDonald

Specials MUSIC:

It's hard to believe almost a month has passed since our wonderful Christmas program. We are so proud of our students and the hard work they added to a great community celebration and are very grateful to staff and parents who helped us welcome in the holiday season with lots of cheer! We now switch gears to the "mechanics" of music. We will be learning about sight reading, rhythm activities and practicing with playing instruments in class. We're so very excited to turn the page to new musical adventures for us to share with everyone! Happy New Year! - **Mr. Speltz, Mrs. Scheuth**

PE:

This week in PE, students began a bowling unit focused on accuracy and controlled movement. They practiced rolling the ball underhand, aiming for targets while maintaining control and awareness of safety. The emphasis was on precision, sportsmanship, and safe participation as students built foundational skills through this new activity. - **Mrs. Larsen, Mr. Henry**

