



*A Word from Mrs. Nelson:* As we prepare to celebrate Catholic Schools Week, we are grateful for the energy, enthusiasm, and joy our students bring to our school community each day. Their openness to learning and to one another is an inspiration to us all, reminding us of Jesus' call to embrace the wisdom of the young. Together, let us continue to grow in faith, knowledge, and understanding, supporting one another on this journey. As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, please pray for our students. Thank you for the sisters, brothers, priests, and laypeople who have dedicated their lives in service to our Catholic Schools. Thank you for the teachers who sustain our schools today. Thank you for the parents who have given support and witness to the importance of Catholic education in their daily lives. Thank you for the students who work hard to further their education. May our building be a home for those who seek to grow in faith, knowledge, and service to others.

## SMS Celebrates CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

The National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) Catholic Schools Week (CSW) theme is **"Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community."** Catholic Schools Week serves as a national platform to celebrate and highlight the unique value of Catholic education in the United States, showcasing the positive impact it has on students' faith development, academic achievement, and community involvement, while also promoting the benefits of a Catholic school education to potential families and the wider community. Each day, Catholic school teachers and staff members challenge students to engage in innovation learning, to problem-solve, to work in teams, and to stretch their thinking. Our teachers show students how to live a faith that is infused throughout their day and help students create an environment that demonstrates concern for others and for God's creation.



Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community

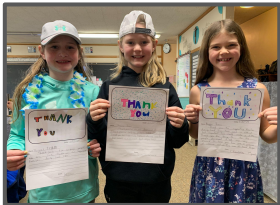


### CSW Highlights and Goals:

**Focus on faith and values:** The week emphasizes the integration of Catholic teachings and values into the curriculum, allowing students to deepen their understanding of their faith through academics and daily life experiences.

**Community building:** It's an opportunity for students, teachers, staff, families, and parish members to come together and celebrate their shared Catholic identity.

**Service and outreach:** Many Catholic Schools Week activities involve service projects, demonstrating the importance of giving back to the community.



- Thursday, January 23: **Celebrating Families** - We kick off the week with **FAMILY FUN NIGHT** from 6:30-8:30 at St. Mary's School. There will be games, snacks, and time to visit. The whole family is welcome.
- Sunday, January 26: **Celebrating our Parish** - St. Mary's School will host a **CHILDREN'S MASS** at 10:00 a.m. We will also gather as a community in the St. Mary's School Gym for our annual **SCHOOL BREAKFAST** from 8:30-12:00.
- Monday, January 27: **Celebrating our Community - JERSEY DAY!** Classes will be writing letters to members of our community who take care of others: the Nursing Home, Rose View, Hospice, and Home Health Care workers.
- Tuesday, January 28: **Celebrating our Students - INSIDE OUT/BACKWARDS DAY!** Students will get to sit by someone new at lunch and partner read with students from a different grade. Fun Student vs. Staff Activity :)
- Wednesday, January 29: **Celebrating Vocations - STUDENTS DRESS LIKE STAFF/STAFF DRESS LIKE STUDENTS DAY!** Each grade will have the opportunity to learn about the different ministries people are involved in within our church.
- Thursday, January 30: **Celebrating God's Creation - FUNNY/FUZZY SOCK DAY!** Little Saints-3rd graders will be sledding near St. Mary's School and 4th-6th graders will be Skiing at Andes Tower Hills.
- Friday, January 31: **Celebrating Faculty and Staff - ST. MARY'S SPIRIT DAY!** Students will wear St. Mary's clothing or blue/white/purple clothing. We will have mini-courses after lunch.



# PLAY, LEARN, and GROW at Little Saints Preschool!

Little Saints Preschool has been a valuable complement to St. Mary's School for 29 years. Our program is a state-licensed and exceptional Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten educational program. This is Miss Heidi's 2nd year teaching the 3/4 year olds and Miss Dana's 10th year teaching the 4/5 year olds. They are so excited to welcome you to our open house on Monday, March 10th, from 5:00-7:00pm.

SMS students and staff enjoy the playfulness and creativity these young minds bring to the school. Our 4th & 5th graders have also enjoyed being buddies with the preschool students; it gives the older students opportunities to be mentors to the younger children and help them adjust to school life.

Contact SMS at 320-256-4257 if you have a child ready for preschool; we accept students ages 3-5 throughout the school year.

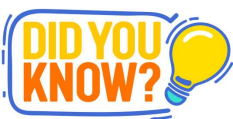


## SMS Students enjoy extra Music Classes!

This year at SMS, students are being treated to extra music lessons. In addition to Kathy Peterson's music class, Jesse Kuechle (from Melrose Area Public Schools) is bringing his talents to SMS to teach additional instrument and voice lessons to students. Each class gets a quarter session with Mr. Kuechle, learning to play the ukulele and recorder, or learning more songs to sing together. This is a great opportunity for students to broaden their musical horizons and have fun too!



- **SMS AUCTION4EDUCATION: "Stayin' Alive in '25** Mark your calendars for **MARCH 1ST, 2025!**
  - **Raffle Tickets** are on sale now for \$100 each with a grand prize of \$20,000! Drawing will be held at 7:00pm the night of the auction.
  - **Dinner** at the Melrose American Legion on March 1st from 5:00 to 8:00pm; free will donations for the food are appreciated. **50/50 drawings** will be held too; please join us there!
  - **Online Auction** at <http://www.bidpal.net/smsmelrose>. Online viewing begins on February 16th, online bidding begins on February 23rd. Online bidding will close the night of the auction.
  - **Live Auction** for the classroom items will be held during the event-don't miss the excitement!
- **WINTER OPEN HOUSE:** Monday, March 10th, 5:00-7:00pm



**Alumni and Friends - To receive positive and uplifting messages from SMS (and a link to our SMS Word), please sign up for our eNews at <https://mailchi.mp/3596b1349d3c/sms>, or use this QR code to access the site.**

*You will receive no more than one email per month.*

