



October Newsletter 2026

This month marks the start of cooler mornings and afternoons so we encourage you to be sure your children are dressed appropriately every day for the weather. On November 1st, the uniform policy changes so be ready to put the shorts away!! Please help us keep items out of lost and found by labeling your child's jacket, sweaters, hoodies, water bottles, lunch boxes, etc.

We usually turn the heat on at school by the third week in October. We heat our classrooms comfortably to sixty-eight degrees. Students are encouraged to bring in their uniform sweatshirts every day in the event that they get cold. Please know that the school faces the same issues regarding monthly heating and electric bills that you are facing. One month of heat at school can cost the school over \$6000 so we appreciate your support and cooperation with this matter as we all try to be fiscally responsible.

We will be hosting our Annual Trick-or-Treat Night on October 29th for students in nursery through grade 4. Look for information inside the newsletter for details. Students in grades 5-8 are invited to attend the Halloween Dance on October 30th from 7-9p.m.

In the Catholic Church, October is officially dedicated as the Month of the Holy Rosary, a special time to deepen prayer through meditation on the life of Christ and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We'll join as a school family to pray the rosary on October 19th in the church. We know so many of you are demonstrating your dedication to your faith by attending mass regularly and it shows in your children's behavior at our monthly masses and in their knowledge during our religion classes.

As a reminder, the first term of school will be ending on October 30th. A great way for families to stay fully engaged in school life is also to receive automated gradebook emails on a weekly basis. This service is for students in grades 1-8. Without any extra work for the teachers, the family portal will automatically email parents who sign up, a Sunday gradebook email. This way, a parent can stay on top of academics without waiting for the end of the term or a report card to go home. Go to webforms-family demographic form-choose your name and under preferences use the dropdown menu to choose weekly gradebook updates. Teachers and Parents will meet for conferences on November 3rd. Be on the lookout for scheduling instructions.

Finally, we remind everyone to have a safe and fun night of trick-or-treating on Halloween. Don't forget that November 1st is All Saints' Day!

Happy Halloween!

Sue Gosselin





School News

Upcoming Calendar Dates

October 19- Living Rosary
October 22- STEM Gr 2-5 Event
October 27- Banking Day
October 29- Trick or Treat Night N-4
October 30- Halloween Dance Gr. 5-8, Term I ends
November 2- No Shorts season begins
November 3- No School (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
November 6- Report Cards Gr. 1-8
November 9- Mass
November 11- No School (Veterans Day)

If you are looking for Liturgy or event times please refer to the weekly Trumpet.

Have An Idea or Suggestion?

We love to hear from you! If you would like to send us a comment or a suggestion, please email us at info@comcast.net.

Do Not Send Cash or Checks Into School

When paying for field trips, art projects, club, etc. for your child, all payments must be made through our Student Information Service Program, RenWeb/FACTS.

Food Allergy Policy

Saint Michael School strives to be a nut free school. Please do not send in items that contain peanut butter or tree nuts. Please direct any questions to the Health Office. Thank you for your consideration.

Notice

This notice is per the "Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act." An asbestos management plan has been developed for St. Michael's School which has asbestos containing material present. These plans are available and accessible to the public by contacting Nick Ippolito at 978-686-4050 at the Parish Offices as well as at the LEA administration office.

Tuition Update

How Do Families Receive a Parishioner Tuition Rate?

As a reminder, to be considered an active parishioner (and receive a parishioner tuition rate for the 2027-2028 school year) families must make a minimum total offertory donation of **\$500** to our parish beginning **July 1, 2026 to April 1, 2027**. This can be done on a weekly basis when you attend Mass **BUT** it must be made in a trackable manner. You **NEED** to be a registered parishioner. If you wish to receive offertory envelopes from the parish, please email donations@saintmichael.com.

You may also make donations on the parish online giving **website**: <https://www.osvhub.com/st-michael-north-andover/giving/funds?preview=%E2%80%8B> (choose parish offering, no annual pledge). Donations made at Easter and Christmas are for the benefit of the Clergy Trust and therefore do **NOT** count toward the annual \$500 donation to St. Michael Parish.



Focus on Faith

What's a Living Rosary?

A **Living Rosary** is a Catholic prayer tradition where a group of people physically form the shape of a rosary or share the daily recitation of a rosary as a community.

Annually, our 5th graders host this special opportunity for our school family to gather and pray the rosary.

Families are welcome to join us on October 19th in the church to pray the rosary!



Did You Know?

In the Catholic Church, October is officially dedicated as the Month of the Holy Rosary, a special time to deepen prayer through meditation on the life of Christ and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

While the entire month of October is dedicated to the Rosary,, Catholics celebrate Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th.



Saint Michael Parish Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturdays at 4p.m.

Sundays at 8a.m., 10a.m. (Family Mass),
Noon and 5p.m.

If you attend the 10a.m. Mass, please consider bringing a food donation for the pantry. The children bring these up during the Presentation of the Gifts.



Halloween Happenings

Halloween is coming up soon so we wanted to share our plan for celebrating. We don't have children in costumes during the school day but we do have two separate events annually!

Thursday, October 29th – Trick or Treat Night at School

Held from 5-6 p.m. (weather depending)

Students in Nursery through grade 4 come to school in costume with their parents and trick-or-treat around the school grounds. Younger siblings are always welcome to attend! Bring your own bag to collect your goodies.

The school provides fun trinkets from Oriental Trading as well as candy that is free of nuts and peanut butter. This is a FREE event! Many thanks to the many staff who attend as well as our 8th grade volunteers!

Friday, October 30th- Halloween Dance from 7-9 p.m. for Grades 5-8

Students in Grades 5-8 celebrate Halloween with a Halloween Dance on Friday. Students who choose to wear costumes will have a costume contest to win prizes.

The cost of this dance is \$10.00 along with a non-perishable food item for the food pantry! Permission slips will go home prior.

Friday, October 30th - School wide Dress Down Day (free)

We hope you'll join us for these "Spook-tacular" school activities!





PTO News

🍪 THANK YOU FOR AN AMAZING COOKIE FUNDRAISER! 🍪

Our Rebecca's Nut Free Cookie Fundraiser was a huge success! Thanks to the incredible support of our SMS families, we raised **just under \$12,000 in profit**, far exceeding our \$4,000 budget goal!

Every dollar raised helps the PTO give back to our school and support the events, activities, and programs that make SMS such a special community. Thank you to everyone who ordered, sold, shared, and helped make this fundraiser a success!

A special thank-you to the wonderful volunteers who helped unload, sort, and distribute hundreds of boxes of cookies on pickup day! We couldn't have done it without you!



DID YOU KNOW? YOUR FUNDRAISING DOLLARS AT WORK!

At the start of the school year, the PTO provided **start-up checks** to our **teachers and staff** to help purchase classroom supplies and other essentials. This is just one example of how your fundraising support directly benefits our school! We received so many thoughtful thank-you cards (pictured to the left!), reminding us how meaningful these contributions are.

And the appreciation doesn't stop there! Our **new Teacher Appreciation Committee** is planning monthly opportunities to recognize and celebrate our wonderful teachers and staff throughout the year. Interested in helping? We'd love to have you involved! Reach out to PTO@saintmichael-na.com to learn more.

SAVE THE DATE – NEXT PTO MEETING!

Wednesday, November 18 | 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Main Street Atrium at school

Join us to hear what's coming up, share your ideas and suggestions, and learn how you can get involved!



Nursery

Mrs. Cataldo



Fizzy fall tree experiment!



Building fine motor skills with Q-tip painting is a lot of fun!



"C is for corn!"



Painting outside on a beautiful fall day!



This month we have spent more time getting to know each other and plenty of time outside! We are loving fall themed crafts and learning the first few letters of the alphabet with the sounds they make! Try asking your child about our meal time prayer and see if they can recite it to you!



Nursery

Mrs. Siddiqui



Nursery is enjoying the beautiful signs of Fall all around us! From colorful leaves to crisp breezes, we are discovering the wonderful world God created and remembering to pause, look closely, and give thanks for the beauty of His creation.





Pre-K

Mrs. Cali

Pre-K is having a wonderful start to the fall season! Our days have been filled with autumn fun as we explore everything apples, pumpkins, and changing leaves. Alongside our seasonal themes, the children are making fantastic progress with their early literacy and math skills! We are so proud of their hard work and enthusiasm!





Pre-K

Mrs. Reinhard



Our Pre-K class is exploring the wonderful season of Fall! We are learning about the changing colors of leaves, cooler weather, pumpkins, and the many signs of autumn. Through fun activities, stories, and hands-on exploration, we are building our creativity, and curiosity while celebrating the beauty of Fall!





Pre-K

Mrs. Surprenant



In October, we practiced counting, problem-solving, and fine motor skills as we used popsicle sticks, linking cubes, and candy pumpkins to create our very own "Five Pumpkins Sitting on a Gate!"

We built haunted houses with Magna-Tiles and sorted spiders. We were also busy with many fun Halloween crafts and songs!





Kindergarten

Mrs. Kasberg



In religion we learned about the 3 persons in the Holy Trinity- God the Father, God the Son, & God the Holy Spirit.

In math we are counting with one to one correspondence! So we measured ourselves with apples and practiced counting!

In reading we are practicing our sight words by playing a sight word themed board game with our friends!



Kindergarten

Mrs. Polcari



October is an exciting and busy month in Kindergarten as our young learners truly settle into their academic routines and grow in independence. In our literacy lessons, we are focusing on learning our letters and their corresponding sounds, working hard to identify both uppercase and lowercase letters while building strong phonics foundations. We are beginning to link these letter sounds together to explore early reading and writing skills.

During Religion, we are learning about God's creations all around us this autumn, while discovering the different ways we can pray to Him and talk to Him every day.



Kindergarten

Mrs. Tildsley



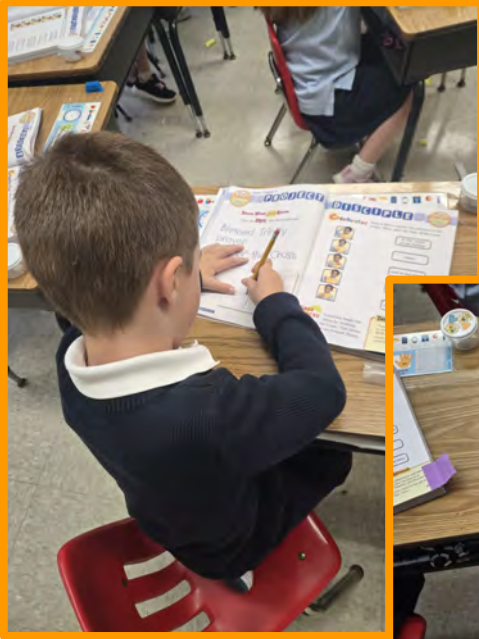
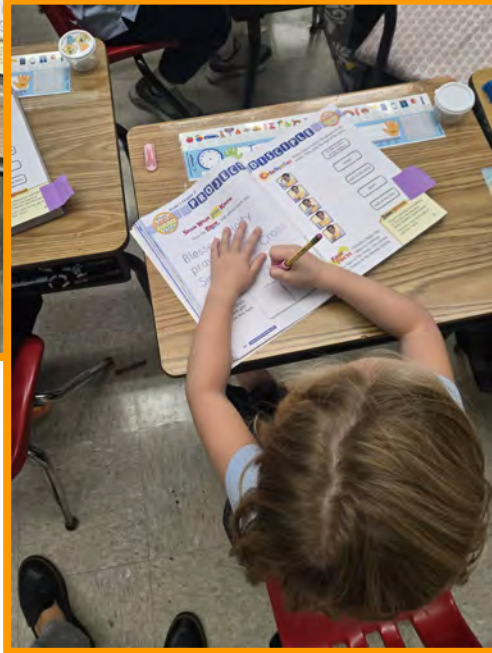
In October, our kindergarteners are busy learning, exploring and growing together! This month, we are building early literacy skills by practicing sight words using a multisensory approach. The children are also developing their creativity and problem solving skills through hands-on activities and classroom explorations. We are encouraging teamwork, sharing, and cooperation as the children learn alongside their classmates. We look forward to all the wonderful growth October will bring.





Grade 1

Ms. Bedard



In Religion, we are learning about the Blessed Trinity using the *We Believe* Religion program. Students are learning that there is one God in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We are discovering how each Person of the Trinity is present in our lives and how God's love is always with us.



In Math, our we are having fun practicing their addition facts through math games and hands-on activities! These games give students opportunities to build fact fluency, strengthen their problem-solving skills, and practice addition in an engaging and enjoyable way.



Grade 1

Mrs. Robidoux

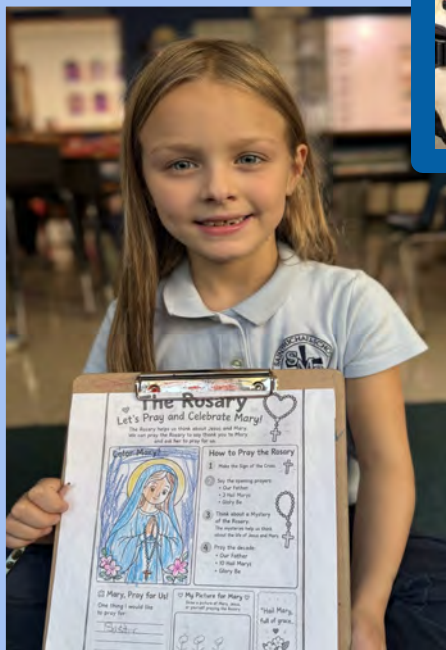
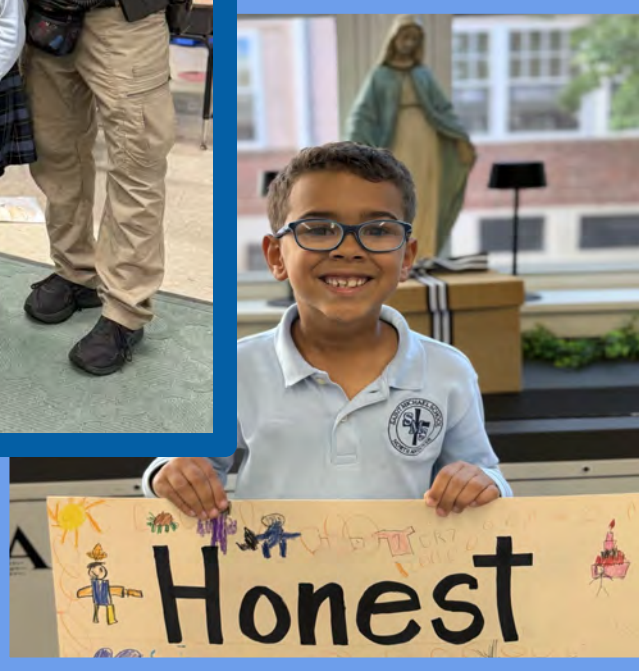


We have been learning about our community and discussing what makes it such a special place to live and learn in! We were lucky enough to welcome Officer Wilson and his K9 partner, Officer Annie, for a special visit. They shared how they help keep our community safe!



Our school focuses on building strong character through virtues. We have been learning how to be honest and joyful in our words, actions, and everyday choices.

Each week, our first graders share prayer intentions with our Prayer Bear. We discuss them and pray together as a class.



Our first graders prayed the Rosary and learned about Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the Holy Family. We explored different Rosaries and discussed ways to honor and pray to our Blessed Mother.



Grade 2

Mrs. Caffrey



We welcomed Fall by making applesauce, a Grade 2 tradition. Thank you Smolak Family for the apples.



Mrs. DiNuccio gave each child their own rosary. She comes each week to pray with Grade 2.



The children made Owen puppets to go along with the author of the month, Kevin Henkes.



Grade 2

Mrs. Grant

Grade 2 students are truly blessed with Mrs. Honey DiNuccio visits to our classroom. She guides them on their journey of faith. Her deep faith makes traditional prayers come alive for 7 & 8 year olds, but also equips them with a life long peace and spiritual connection that they will carry in their hearts.





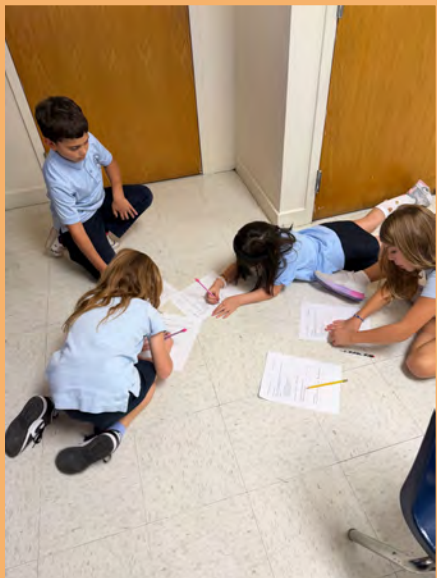
Grade 3

Mrs. DeFranzo

Our students had fun using Play Doh to create arrays while learning about multiplication! By making equal rows and columns, students practiced seeing how arrays represent multiplication problems and helped build a stronger understanding of this important math skill through hands-on learning.



Our third graders practiced analyzing different points of view in social studies! Through engaging activities and discussions, they learned that people can have different perspectives based on their experiences and what they know. Students are building their understanding of how considering other points of view helps us better understand people and events in history.



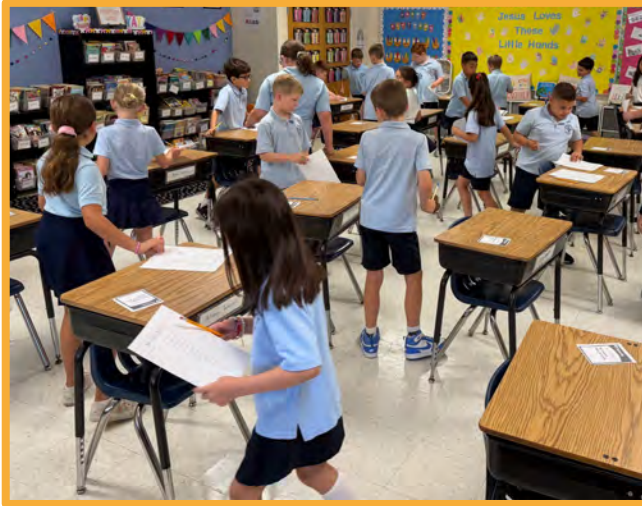


Grade 3

Mrs. Torpey

Our third graders had fun practicing their grammar skills with a game of “Scoot”! Students moved around the classroom from one sentence to the next, identifying and finding the nouns in each sentence.

In Science, students explored the life cycle of mosquitoes and learned how understanding their life cycle can help solve mosquito problems. They worked through different scenarios and brainstormed ways to reduce mosquitoes in our environment!



Students had a hands-on way to practice multiplication! They used Play-Doh to create and model arrays, helping them see how rows and columns can represent multiplication facts. This fun activity allowed students to build, visualize, and practice multiplication while making connections between arrays and multiplication equations.





Grade 3 Trip to the Zoo

Our third graders had an amazing time on our field trip to the Franklin Park Zoo! We had the opportunity to see so many incredible animals, including penguins, gorillas, zebras, giraffes, and a lion. The beautiful weather made the day even more enjoyable!





Grade 3 Trip to the Zoo





Grade 3 Trip to the Zoo





Grade 3 Trip to the Zoo



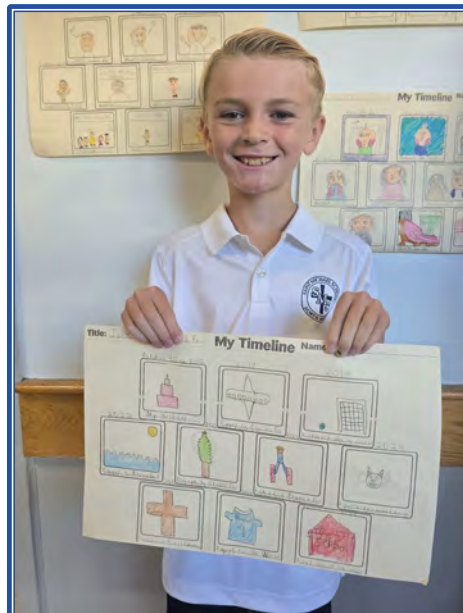
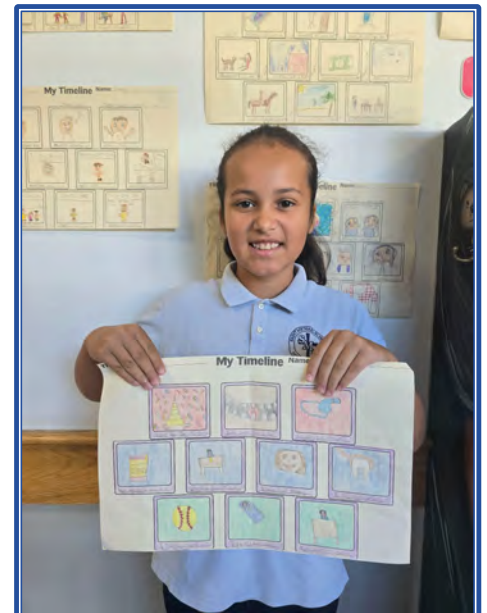


Grade 4

Mrs. Andrewchuk



In Social Studies, grade 4 created timelines of their lives. The children have also begun working on their book reports for Term 1. These book reports are focused on the literary elements of setting, character and plot.

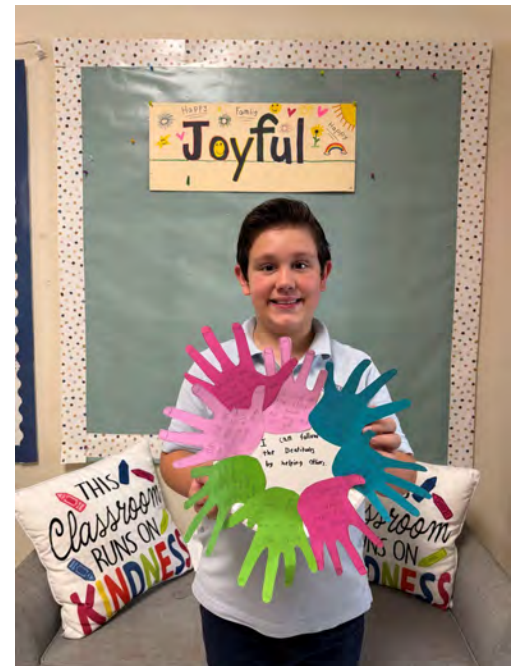




Grade 4

Mrs. Sweeney

In Math, the children have been working on addition and subtraction of 4 and 5 digit numbers. In Religion, they learned about The Beatitudes and completed a project about them, sharing how they can follow Jesus and show his love.





Grade 5-6

Mrs. Berard-Science

In 6B Religion, we have been reading and comparing the two creation stories in Genesis. Next we will focus on the promise God made to send humanity a Savior.



The 6th grade Science classes have been studying the Moon and its phases. The students drew the full moon for the month they were born in. They have also been studying weight and gravity with a lab where they measured jumps here on Earth and used math to figure out how far the same jump would be on other planets.



The 5th grade Science classes have been studying properties of matter. They got to further explore the properties of temperature, mass, length and volume in a hands on lab.





Grade 5-6

Mrs. Clifford-Social Studies



In grade 6, we are learning about Mesopotamia and Egypt while also learning the geography of those areas of the world.



In grade 5 Religion we learned the Rosary and presented our version of the living Rosary to our church community as a grade 5 class.



In grade 5 Social Studies, we are learning about Roman Numerals and the early exploration of our country.

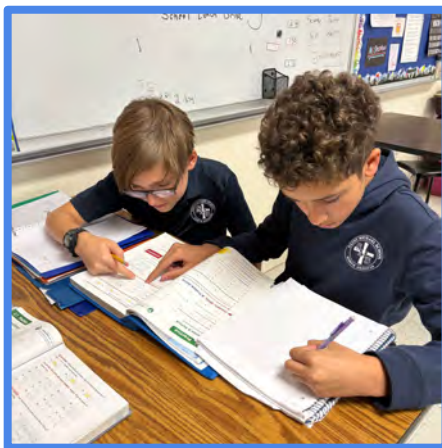
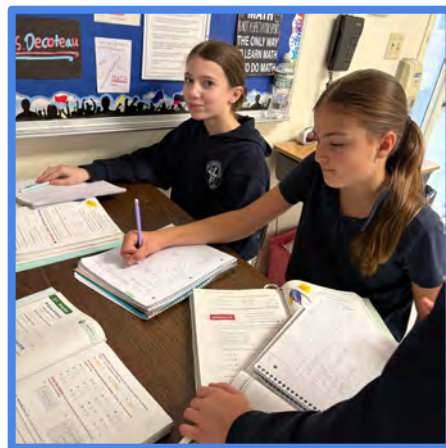




Grade 5-6

Ms. Decoteau-Math

In Math, grade 6 continues to apply multiplication and division skills to fractions and mixed numbers. We practice with partners. This helps us talk about math, share ideas, check work, and compare strategies.



During Religion class, grade 6 learns how the altar colors and priests' robes relate to the liturgical calendar.

Grade 5 students use logic skills to play 'SUDOKU'. Logic and elimination strategy skills are important in Math.





Grade 5-6

Mrs. McGovern-ELA



In religion, students participated in a role-playing activity as part of our Empowering God's Children lesson, practicing how to make safe choices and respond to different situations.

Students are brainstorming ideas and taking notes to help organize their thoughts as they begin developing their paragraphs →



← In ELA, 6th grade students enjoyed partner reading *Fish in a Tree* and working together to answer questions and deepen their understanding of the story



Grade 7-8

Mr. Annand- Science

Fall is here and the weather is changing, but both grade seven and eight are learning about different components of the earth. Grade eight is studying the rock cycle and how the three types of rocks are formed. Grade seven is learning about plate tectonics and the role the plates play in earthquakes and volcanoes.



In Religion class, the 8th graders have been preparing for our school's upcoming Living Rosary by creating Rosary Prayer Books for their Kindergarten buddies.





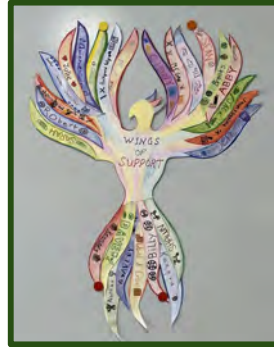
Grade 7-8

Mrs. Nagle- Social Studies



Religion

Students are exploring how Scripture and the traditions of our faith help reveal God's plan for our lives. They are reflecting on the important people in their lives who encourage, guide, and support them as they grow in faith. Students are then putting these lessons into action through an interactive board, where they share words of kindness, encouragement, and support with their classmates. Through these experiences, students are discovering the joy of building positive, caring relationships and learning how small acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.



Social Studies

In Grade 7, students explored the early Americas, examining the diverse cultures, traditions, and ways of life of Indigenous peoples. They studied how societies developed and adapted to their environments and gained a deeper understanding of the rich history of the Americas before European contact. Students also investigated why European nations explored the Americas, including the pursuit of trade, wealth, resources, religion, and expansion. Through these studies, students gained a greater appreciation for the people, cultures, and events that shaped the early history of the Americas.

In Grade 8, students took an in-depth look at the Civil War through class discussions, activities, and debates. They examined how the war affected soldiers, families, communities, and the nation as a whole. Students gained a firsthand perspective on the experiences of Civil War soldiers by participating in drills similar to those soldiers may have experienced. Through continued discussion and reflection, students considered the human cost of the war, its lasting impact on the nation, and the challenges of rebuilding a more equal future.

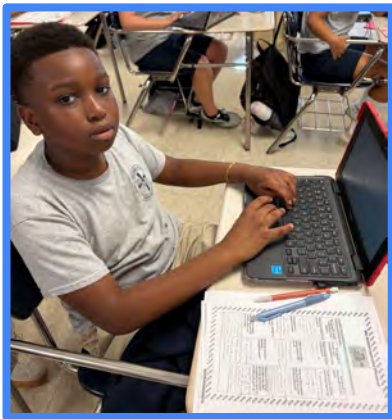




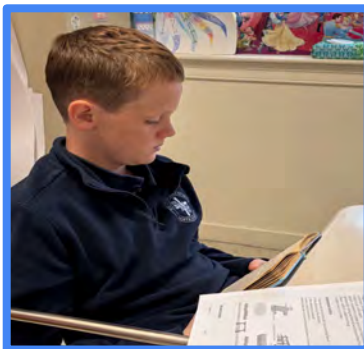
Grade 7-8

Mrs. Ordway-ELA

Grade 7 students recently explored storytelling by drafting autobiographical sketches. They wrapped up the project by sharing their writing and peer-editing, practicing critical collaboration skills to give and receive helpful feedback.



Grade 8 analyzed the world-building of *Animal Farm*. After examining the novel's exposition and character introductions, students sketched the layout of the farm based on textual descriptions to better understand the story's setting.



We explored what it means to build a deeper relationship with God and walk in meaningful community with each other. We then expressed this through poetry.



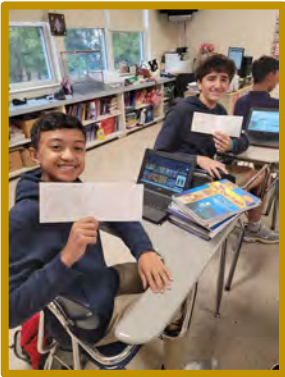
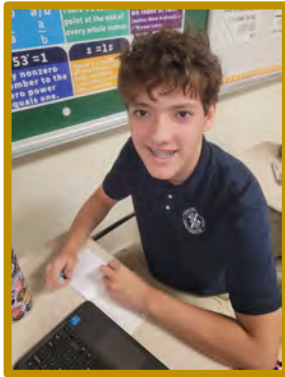


Grade 7-8

Mrs. Parker- Math

8 Religion

The 8th graders have been diving deeper into the mysteries of the Rosary. The students have been creating Rosary Books for their Kindergarten buddies which include descriptions and illustrations of the Joyful Mysteries. These are the mysteries we will focus on at our school's Living Rosary, led by the 5th grade.



Grade 7

The students in 7th grade have been working on multiplying and dividing real numbers. We reviewed the steps to follow the correct order of operations (which has now become a little more complicated with all the negative signs that are now showing up). The students got up and showed off their dance moves with an Order of Operations Dance.



Grade 8

The students in 8th grade have started working with inequalities. They are able to rely on their past work with equations while incorporating new skills like visual representations of their answers. We will be moving into functions next.





STEM

Ms. Bryant

EARTHQUAKES

Our second graders became engineers as they designed and built towers that could withstand an earthquake! Using straws and tape they worked together to create strong and stable structures. Then, they tested their towers on the shake table to see if they could survive the shaking for at least 30 seconds.





STEM

Ms. Bryant





Physical Ed.

Mr. Diaz

We have been enjoying some fantastic fall weather and are beginning to prepare for the change of seasons!

In PE class, students have been working hard to build their skills and get ready for our upcoming basketball season. We have also enjoyed volleyball and pickleball. We are focusing on developing fundamental skills, practicing teamwork, improving coordination, and demonstrating good sportsmanship.

As the weather gets cooler, we are starting to plan for the upcoming SKI season, be sure to register for Ski Club, the best time of year!

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a great fall season in PE!

Stay active and keep moving

Mr. Diaz



“The best teams turn cold days into unforgettable memories.”

-Anonymous

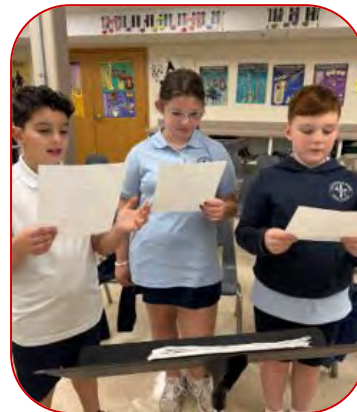
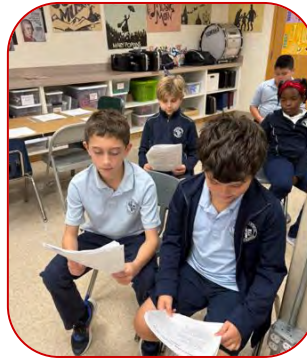
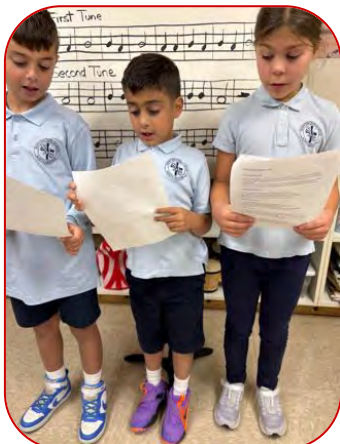
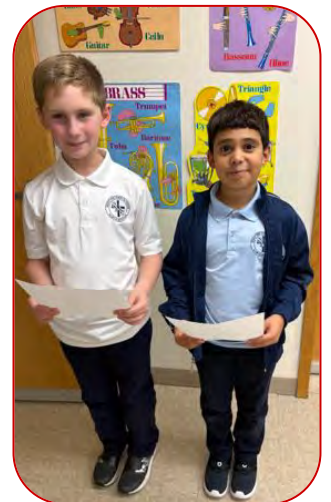


Music

Ms. Lavallee

Third and Fourth Grade students are working together to prepare for our Annual Veterans Day Program. Some fourth-grade students will serve as narrators, while other students will recite poems, and honor our veterans. Both grades will come together as one chorus to perform our American traditional patriotic songs, celebrating and honoring our brave men and women who have served our country. Our third and fourth grade students are very proud to create a meaningful tribute to our veterans!

Excellent... as usual!





Art

Mrs. Donegan



Kindergarten was getting into the fall spirit with the book *Gustavo the Shy Ghost* by Flavia Z. Drago. Using Kwik Stix they did guided drawings of a ghost, using letters and shapes. They practiced their painting skills to fill the paper with tempera cakes.





Art

Mrs. Donegan



First Graders learned about fall and discussed how the leaves change colors. They learned about warm and cool colors as well.

Students used tracers to draw at least five leaves on special diffusing paper and used lines to add the veins in the leaves. They used liquid watercolor paint to paint their papers using warm colors (red, orange, and yellow) for the leaves and cool colors (green, blue, and purple) for the background. They came out so beautiful!





Technology

Mrs. Lesofsky

Our 3rd graders recently participated in a Win at Social lesson focused on time management. Students learned about the importance of using their time wisely, staying organized, and balancing schoolwork, activities, and free time. Through discussion and activities, they explored ways to plan ahead, prioritize tasks, and make responsible choices with their time. These skills will help students become more independent and successful both in and out of the classroom!



Our 7th graders recently participated in a Win at Social lesson focused on prioritizing tasks. Students learned how to decide which responsibilities are most important and how to manage their time effectively. They discussed strategies for tackling deadlines, breaking larger assignments into smaller steps, and balancing schoolwork with extracurricular activities and personal time. These skills help students stay organized, reduce stress, and take greater responsibility for their learning and daily routines!





Spanish

Ms. Andrewchuk



Grades 6 and 7 are working on a group project about Hispanic countries. Each group has been assigned a Spanish-speaking country to research and will create a poster highlighting important facts, traditions, food, geography, and other interesting information about their country. Students are working together to research, write, and present their findings.



Happy Hispanic Heritage Month
Feliz Mes de la Herencia Hispana



“It is important for all of us to appreciate where we come from and how that history has really shaped us in ways that we might not understand.”

— Sonia Sotomayor, U.S. Supreme Court Judge



School Counselor

Mrs. Rowley



We began our Lunch Bunch counseling sessions for grades 5 through 8. This is a great opportunity to see the students in smaller groups and talk about situations which are relevant to their day, both in and out of school.