



# Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

## January 29 - February 4, 2023

*A week of celebration*

Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Schools observe the week with Masses, assemblies and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members to celebrate and showcase the benefits of Catholic education. The theme is "Cath-

olic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." These key words are the foundation to the mission of Catholic schools, an environment focused on faith, where excellence in education is provided, and a commitment of building skills so that students become of service to others. The self-discipline developed by students,

a long with learning to accept responsibility and to respect others, work together to create excellent life-long learners. The Catholic school is not just a building or an institution, but it is the people, a family working together to bring the Kingdom of God to Earth.

### St. Brendan Preschool

St. Brendan School Preschool serves two classes, one for 3-4 year old children and a Pre-Kindergarten class for 4-5 year old children. Students have the opportunity to receive instruction in religion, literacy, math, personal-social development, art, physical education, and music. Students have an opportunity to receive a preschool education in a faith-filled environment where children come together as a community, build their relationship with God, and prepare for Kindergarten academics.

St. Brendan School strives to provide a strong academic program for all its students. Research indicates at least three critical content categories in early literacy: oral language comprehension, phonological awareness, and print knowledge. Just as important is the motivation of students to participate in print-related activities. In our preschool classrooms, teachers develop the important literacy skills through rich teacher talk, using rare words children may not encounter everyday, and by facilitating conversations where children's comments are extended into more descriptive, grammatically mature statements. Not only are children read aloud to where they have the opportunity to dig deeper into the text through questioning and discussion, but they also participate in phonological awareness activities in Foundations and Heg-

erty activities. Students also are encouraged to use emergent forms of writing in their daily journals and the writing center. Here students learn how print is a tool for making meaning and as a way to communicate with others. Children may begin by drawing and scribbling followed by "reading" their marks, recognizing and writing their own names, and developing a wider ability to write words from stories, work, and play.

A preschool schedule should also include plenty of time for uninterrupted play so children have the time they need to work on sustained tasks of interest allowing exploration of materials and complex, evolved experiences over time. Curiosity and risk-taking is celebrated as inquiry-based ex-

ploration during center choice time is conducted. Items in their environment change throughout the year so children have multiple opportunities to engage in questioning and exploration. They are encouraged to communicate their findings at group time and individually with a teacher. In addition, a great focus is placed on using these social moments to develop problem solving and learn how to manage emotions. During group times, students work on identifying feelings, possible causes for these feelings, and how to handle them in an appropriate manner. They learn the words to say how they feel and how to let others know. Center time is the perfect time to do this as teachers are there modeling appropriate behavior and

helping the children with the words to use whether it be to express how they are feeling or identifying a problem and a solution. A child who is able to sustain positive relationships with peers and other adults, express and manage emotions, and self regulate will have a much easier time focusing and learning, preparing them for Kindergarten academics.

There is much to see in the small family setting. Those interested in St. Brendan Preschool for their child may contact the school office for a tour at 581-2443.



Pre-K Science



The preschool practices identifying and sorting shapes.



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### CSW Royalty Candidates 2023

At St. Brendan School each year, one girl and one boy from each grade are selected to be candidates for king, queen, prince, and princess. Names are randomly chosen by a committee of teachers.

Containers labeled with the candidates' names are in front of the school office and votes are cast by placing money in the containers. Each penny counts as one vote! At the close of the voting period, students raising the most money throughout the week will be crowned and serve as our royal court during Catholic Schools Week. As acts of service, the money donated is given to a local charity serving community members in need.

Voting took place Friday, January 20 until 9 a.m. on Friday, January 27.

In an act of good stewardship, the proceeds from the elections this year will be given to the Agape House of Vandalia, provides a safe place for families of those in the correctional centers of Vandalia and Bowling Green to stay while visiting their loved ones. This ministry relies entirely on prayers and donations from area churches, civic organizations, and individuals.

The facility has recently required paint, repairs and other updates. In addition, it was recently necessary to purchase a new furnace/HVAC system to help guests be comfortable during their stay.

**This year's candidates are as follows:**

**Prince/Princess**

**Kindergarten:**

Beckett Phipps  
James Utterback

**First Grade:**

Myra Seute  
Bentley Wieberg

**2nd Grade:**

Maggie Neale  
Desmond Eick

**3rd Grade:**

Emma Sells  
Christopher Wyman

**4th Grade:**

Addison Moss  
Alex Young

**King/Queen**

**5th Grade:**

Natalie Isgrig  
Cody Shaw

**6th Grade:**

Rylee Smith  
Max Coulson

**7th Grade:**

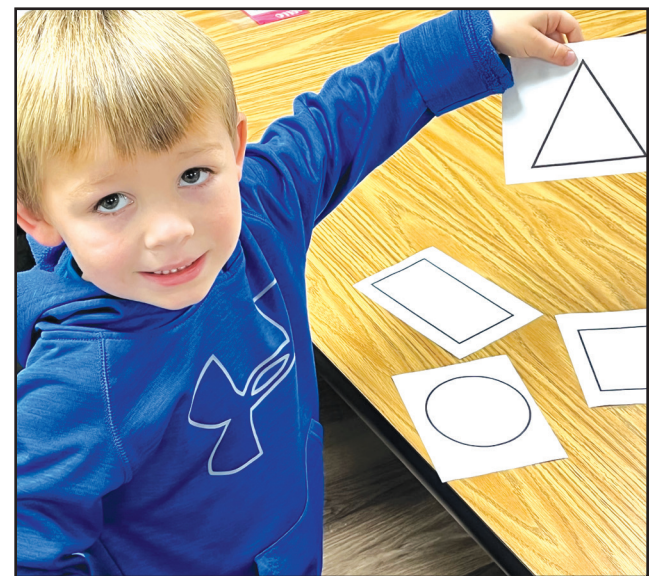
Josslynn Howell  
Landon Whitworth

**8th Grade:**

Rebecca Stanford  
Landon Kendrick



Maddie and Bailey learn about serving others by making cookies with St. Brendan's lunchroom manager, Kathy Scheiner.



Fisher holds up a shape he is using to develop his fine motor skills by using scissors.

## Faith. Excellence. Service.

# Catholic Schools Week

January 29-February 4 2023



### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:

- As communities of **faith**, Catholic schools instill in students the desire to be like Christ.
- Academic **excellence** is what Catholic education is known for. It is intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person - mind, body and spirit.
- **Service** is a large part of Catholic education and the core of Catholic discipleship.

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*Catholic Schools  
Instill in  
Students the  
Value of Service  
to Others*

# KEN'S

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### What I like about St. Joseph

St. Joseph Pre-K/Kindergarten students created a list of activities they like to participate in at St. Joseph School:

- Eating lunch with our Big Shots (Our Big Shots are 7/8th grade students who are our mentors.)
- Recess
- Walking to the public library
- Working and learning
- Playing outside on the playground
- Learning to read
- Exercising and P.E. activities
- Working on the IPads
- Going to Mass
- My dad bringing me to school
- Coloring, cutting, and making projects
- Listening to books read by our teachers
- Being a friend
- Our Big Shots reading to us
- Being the leader
- My grandma picking me up after school
- Praying in our classroom many times every day
- Counting the days of school to 100
- Sharing with my friends
- Reading Bible stories



### Faith. Excellence. Service.

Catholic schools focus on these three attributes to help students become positive influences in their community. This year the fifth and sixth graders from St. Joseph school focused particularly on Service by hosting service projects each quarter. These students held a "Socktober" drive in October and collected 477 pairs of socks to donate to the ACCIS center in Mexico, MO, to help families during the winter months. During the second quarter, students adopted a boy and a girl from the Angel Tree program of Audrain County and purchased Christmas gifts for both children. Their current third quarter service project will be hosting a book drive for the children at the Women's and Children's Hospital in Columbia and the Children's Hospital in St. Louis. Our students learn a great deal from serving others, such as empathy, kindness, respect for others, and how to grow as Catholic disciples. *"Faith in action is love, and love in action is service."* ~ Mother Theresa

#### How To Make Hot Chocolate

First I have to put water in the cup. Next I put the chocolate in the water. Then I put the marshmallows in. Last I drink it.

~ Pearson Bohr  
First Grade

#### All About Penguins

Did you know penguins slide on their bellies? Penguins live in Antarctica. Penguins toboggan down to the cold water. Penguins eat krill, fish and squid.

~ Dexter Bukovac  
First Grade

#### How To Make Hot Chocolate

First I put the hot water in. Next I put the cocoa mix in. Then I stir the cocoa mix. Last I put the marshmallows in.

~ Samantha Bukovac  
First Grade

#### How To Make Hot Chocolate

First you need to warm up the water. Next you put the hot chocolate bomb in the cup. Then you need to stir it up. Last you need to drink it.

~ Dallas Cochran  
First Grade

#### How To Make Hot Chocolate

First you need a bag of chocolate mix. Next you need a cup of hot water and put it in the cup. Then you need to stir it up and put marshmallows in it. Last you need a spoon then drink it.

~ Elise Cochran  
First Grade

#### How To Make Hot Chocolate

First put the water in the cup. Next you put the hot chocolate in the coffee maker. Then put the marshmallows in. Last I drink it.

~ Baylor Deimeke  
First Grade

#### How To Build a Snowman

First I roll up a large ball, medium ball and a

small ball. Next I put a carrot nose. Then I put rocks on for the buttons. Last I put on a scarf.

~ Bryden Deimeke  
First Grade

#### How To Build a Snowman

First you roll a big ball and then you need a medium ball and a small ball. Next you need some eyes and you need buttons. Then you need a scarf and stick arms. Last you need a hat and some mittens for the stick arms.

~ Reid LaRue  
First Grade

#### All About Penguins

Did you know penguins have no teeth? Penguins live for 15 to 20 years. Penguins slide down hills on their bellies and go swimming. Penguins eat krill, squid and fish.

~ Adelynn Robnett  
First Grade

#### How To Make Hot Chocolate

First you need a bag of chocolate mix. Next you need a cup of hot water and put it in the cup. Then you need to stir it up and put marshmallows in. Last you need a spoon and then drink it.

~ Hazel Sachs  
First Grade

#### How To Drink Hot Chocolate

First you need to warm

up the water. Next you need to put the hot chocolate bomb in the water. Then put the marshmallows in. Last I drink it.

~ Blakelyn Swaim  
First Grade

#### How To Build a Snowman

First I roll up a huge snowball and my ears are red. Next I roll up a medium snowball. It's cold. Then I rolled up a small snowball and now I'm shivering. Lastly, I add a carrot nose, a stick, a scarf and a hat.

~ Remington Chism  
Second Grade

#### How To Build a Snowman

First I roll up a huge snowball and then two more smaller balls. Next I go find a stick. Then I go find a carrot. Last I get a scarf for the snowman.

~ Easton Hill  
Second Grade

#### How To Make Hot Chocolate

First you get water and heat it up until it starts bubbling. Next you put the cocoa bomb in the mug. Then you get the hot water and pour it into the cup. Last you decorate it with marshmallows and peppermint sticks.

~ Emma Vomund  
Second Grade

*Melissa Buckman Young*  
Attorney at Law, LLC

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### Going to St. Joseph Catholic School

Going to St. Joseph School has made me a better person by strengthening my public speaking skills. By reading at mass and doing a prepared speech. Also as a Student Council officer I have learned leadership skills. These skills will help me when I go to get a job.

**- Leah Kleinsorge (8th grade)**

Attending St. Joseph School has made me a better person in many ways. However I think remembering and performing speeches at speech meets has pushed me out of my comfort zone and has changed the way I talk and communicate to others. This skill will also help me prepare for my future such as job interviews.

**- Lydia Hoyt (8th grade)**

Attending St. Joseph has made me better at communicating with others like with basketball or speech meets. I think that if I didn't go to St. Joe I wouldn't go to church and remember to say a prayer before and after meals and that being a bigshot has made me better at babysitting my cousins.

**- Kooper Schafer (7th grade)**

Attending St. Joseph School has taught me to be a better Catholic by helping at the food pantry, and doing other service projects. Helping the younger kids at school by reading to them or doing projects with



them. St. Joseph has helped me get over the fear of public speaking by presenting speeches and reading during Mass at church.

**- Will Swaim (8th grade)**

Attending St. Joseph school has helped me get a better education and allows me to play sports. One thing that I learned from this school was how to make friends and be a good friend during my school years. Being a big shot helped me be a better person by teaching the little guys on how to be a good kid by following school rules. I like being a good role model for them.

**- Layne Rohan (7th grade)**

Being a big shot and having little squirts has helped me improve my patiences and learn how to care for others. Attending St. Joseph has also made me find the importance of friendship.

**- Cali Fortmann (8th grade)**

Attending St. Joseph School has helped me in so many ways. I have learned how to have positive re-

lationships throughout life because the school has taught me kindness, empathy, and friendship. Most of all St. Joseph School has helped me grow in my faith by going to Mass every week and learning God's word.

**- Sophie Fennewald (7th grade)**

Being at St. Joseph school I was able to meet one of my best friends and learned how to be a good friend. I like that St. Joseph has big shots and little squirts. As a big shot, I can help younger students learn to read.

**- Eli Sawim (7th grade)**

How has Saint Joseph school made me a better person? I think attending this school has made me a more courageous person. At first when I started I was shy. I would not have done a speech meets or read during Mass. I've also learned that that I really enjoy history and might be a great historian because of my extended knowledge of history I learned at SJS about the school and church, and the town of Martinsburg.

**- Andrew Poindexter (8th grade)**



## ST. BRENDAN PROUD!



**The Mexico Motors Family Business is grateful for St. Brendan's church and school as they have always had such a strong impact on our family.**

*We appreciate all of the learning, religion, respect and discipline that the schoolteachers provide on a daily basis to help guide them and cultivate success.*



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