



# Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

## January 26 - February 1, 2025

### St. Brendan Catholic School

Catholic Schools have a rich legacy in our diocese. The importance of their presence is highlighted every year during Catholic Schools Week. This national celebration brings children, teachers, parents, and priests together at the local level to remind them of their common faith and the sense of community it celebrates. It is an opportunity to celebrate the gift of our parish school as students have the opportunity to celebrate the Sacraments regularly, to study Sacred Scripture and learn how to apply it to their lives, to pray, and learn from the lives of saints what it means to live a life as a disciple of Christ. Students also come to understand that they are beloved sons and daughters of God made to grow in relationship with Him and one another. The importance of a strong foundation of faith among young Catholics is needed now more than ever as children at a young age are constantly influenced by the secular world. Building a sense of community based on our Catholic faith will lead to a future that flourishes for them and for our community.

Academic excellence is the hallmark of Catholic education intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person—mind, body and spirit. As shown in test scores and student achievements beyond their attendance at school, our students are given opportunities St. Brendan School to develop their knowledge,

interests, and skills so they are prepared to live the life God has prepared for them. Finally, service is fundamental to Catholic education and the core of Catholic discipleship. Service is intended to help form people who are not only witnesses to Catholic social teaching, but also active participants serving in their community. Students participate in many acts of service within their school as well as in their community.

St. Brendan School is a Preschool-8th grade parish school that has 184 students. Each grade receives instruction in religion, math, literacy, personal-social development, art, physical education, and music. With a highly qualified faculty in a faith-filled, nurturing environment, students are given a strong academic foundation beginning in preschool through 8th grade. In each grade level, students' needs are identified and supported so that each is able to grow according to his/her ability. Additionally, students participate in speech, athletics, House, News Class, and fun weekly exploratory classes. This well-rounded approach in a small, family setting sets our students up for success now and in future years.

St. Brendan School has been busy planning Catholic Schools Week events and activities. Mass will be held on Sunday, January 26th at 9:00 a.m. with students representing their class processing in carrying a banner re-

flecting their class theme. A breakfast of pastries provided by parents and parishioners will follow.

Additional activities include:

This year's the theme at St. Brendan is travel: Go Out to All the World and Spread the Good News.

**Monday**  
Celebrating Vocations, St. Joseph medals presented to chosen students, travel around the world and wear your comfiest travel clothes.

**Tuesday**  
Celebrating Your Community, St. Teresa of Calcutta medals presented to chosen students, Safari dress day.

**Wednesday**  
Celebrating Sacrifice, St. Maximilian Kolbe medals presented to chosen students, USA Day.

**Thursday**  
Celebrating Stewardship, St. Kateri, Caribbean floral and neon wear.

**Friday**  
Celebrating Hope, Blessed Carlos Acutis medals presented to chosen students, dress in St. Brendan apparel and jeans.

Students will enjoy fun activities throughout the week including bowling, watching movies, and enjoying the MHS Jazz Band. Families are invited to lunch.

St. Brendan has also partnered with MMA, inviting them to share information about different countries around the world. Students will also be praying the Mission Rosary for the World and learning about Saints from around the world in prayer families.



St. Brendan fifth graders help out in the kindergarten classroom.



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### CSW Royalty Candidates 2025

At St. Brendan School each year, one girl and one boy from each grade level 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. Students raising the most money throughout the week will be crowned and serve as our royal court during Catholic Schools Week.

This tradition has a long history of being an act of service, the money donated is given to a local charity serving community members needed. Last year, students raised money for the United Way of Mexico, MO. This year, money from the Catholic Schools Week voting for the Catholic Schools Week Royalty will be donated to the Catholic Mission Office to help with a mission trip that provides glasses for adults and children in the Yucatán.



Mrs. Cheyenne Yeager teaches her early childhood class of 3-year-olds.



St. Brendan participated in a school-wide canned food drive to benefit the Help Center.



The seventh graders visited the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis.

## WE ARE A PROUD CATHOLIC SCHOOL



### Faith

The binding element in Catholic Schools.

### Community

Not a building or an institution, but people of faith serving God and others.




### ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

#### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

January 26-February 1, 2025


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## January 26 - February 1, 2025

St. Joseph Catholic School



The 2024-2025 St. Joseph school picture.



This Pre-K kid reads a book about Catholic Mass.



This Pre-K kid leads her class in the alphabet chart.

### What do you like about going to a Catholic school?

*By St. Joseph's Second and Third grade classes*

**Owen** - I like to go to church on Tuesday and Friday.

**Bennett** - I like reading and participating in school masses.

**Jeremiah** - I like learning about Jesus.

**Reagan** - I like participating and doing a part in mass.

**Lincoln** - I like saying prayers at school.

**Braylie** - I like learning about Jesus during religion class.

**Luke** - I like praying at school.

**Heidi** - I like learning about God in religion class.

**Andrew** - I like drawing pictures about the stories I hear in religion.

**Madilyn** - I like singing during church.

**Nora** - I like to listen and participate in the readings at church.

**Weston** - I like the prayers that I say at school.

**Easton** - I like to say my favorite prayer, The Our Father.

**Emerson** - I like to go to mass and learn about Jesus.

**Clark** - I like being able to draw about Jesus.

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Catholic School Alumni



### Alumni of University of Notre Dame salute St. Brendan Catholic for quality of excellent education, based in Faith.



#### University of Notre Dame Graduates

Saint Brendan Catholic School Graduates

Tim Hagan - B.A. Notre Dame '59	Michael Pohlmeyer - B.A. Notre Dame '70 LL. D. Notre Dame '73
Dan Hagan - B.A. Notre Dame '61	Warren Hagan M.D. - B.S. 1970
Michael Williams - B. Eng. Notre Dame '66	John Pohlmeyer - B.A. '98 M.B.A. '03
Brad Brummell - B.A. 1982	Barbara Brummell - B.A. 1984

#### Notre Dame graduates with St. Brendan Affiliation

Lowell Hagan Harold Pohlmeyer	"Mize" Morris Bob "Beau" Brummell
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### St. Joseph students write essays

One of the novels read this year by 7th and 8th grade classes was “Tuck Everlasting” which is about a family that has the ability to live forever after drinking from a hidden spring. Students responded to the following prompt after reading about a character’s indecision regarding immortality.

“If you were given the opportunity to drink from the spring and live forever, would you? What do you predict would be the advantages and disadvantages of immortality?”

*By Kaytlynn Arens  
8th Grade*  
Life is the most beautiful thing, ever. Yes, it would be a blessing to live forever but I truly don’t believe I could do it. Just think, we live to go to heaven, so why would you want to live forever? There are pros and cons to immortality. Some pros being, you wouldn’t have to rush life if you lived forever,



you would be able to experience all generations and living forever would give you the time to live the life you have always dreamed of. Some cons, you would have to watch all your family members die, everything around you would change and you would get talked about since you would be different from everyone else. Living forever would be something to be grateful for but I don’t know if it would be an option for me. If I did choose immortality I know that I would live life to the fullest and if I didn’t live forever, I would be fine with a normal life. Immortality would definitely change the way I see the world and the people I love

and care for because you would see them all go through every stage of life

*By Coltin Cope  
8th grade*  
I think that it would be bad to live forever because you would have to watch everyone you know and love die. The pros of living forever, and I couldn’t and many, would be that you could see everything you wanted to see and travel wherever you wanted. The cons of immortality are pretty big because you would have to watch everyone you love die, you wouldn’t be able to go to heaven and see God, and you would probably get tired of living after a while. I would not want to live forever because I wouldn’t be able to watch my kids die. I think that immortality would change the way I see the world because I would try and spend all my time with my family to see them as much as I would.

### The Perfect Snow Day

With all the winter weather, especially the beloved snow, 5th and 6th graders wrote about what the perfect snow day would be:

Here is the perfect snow day, step by step. First, I would sleep in late. Then, I would wake up and go play 2K. After that, I would ask my grandma to take me and my sister to Dos Arcos to eat lunch. After that, I would go back home and sleep some more. When I wake up I would call Andrew and ask him if his dad could take us sledding. And last, but not least, I would drink hot chocolate.

*- Ryan Arens*

The perfect snow day would start by sledding down a big hill. Me and my siblings would build a fort out of the snow after we were done sledding. I will also start the biggest snowball fight ever, but I would hide in the fort so I wouldn’t get hit with any snowballs. Then, we would go inside and drink

hot chocolate to warm up. After the hot chocolate, we would go back outside to build a snowman. I think that would be the best snow day ever.

*- Etta Sachs*

The perfect snow day would be on a Friday so we would have a four-day weekend. When I wake up, I would go outside and build a snowman. Then I would make snow angels. When I am done playing outside, I would go in and get a cup of hot chocolate. After the hot chocolate, I would wait for my brother to wake up we could have a snowball fight. When the snowball fight is over, we will go sledding but my dad pulls us on the gravel road so it will be a little bumpy. After the sledding, I will go back inside for more hot chocolate and watch a movie. That would be the perfect snow day!

*- Hannah Swaim*

The perfect snow day would involve sledding, having a snowball fight and building a snowman. Me and Maci would pull each other on the four-wheeler then go inside and drink hot

chocolate and maybe eat some soup. Last time I went sledding, my hands got so cold they were throbbing! We used to build a lot of snowmen but now we mostly sleep in so we would probably only make one. This would be the perfect snow day for me!


*- Leah Poindexter*

#### Snowflake Poems


*By Easton*  
Snowflakes have six sides  
Now a snowflake  
One of a kind  
Whispering softly  
Freezing crystals  
Little snowflakes  
Another blizzard  
Kissing the ground  
Every snowflake is small  
Short little snowflakes

*By Remi*  
Sparkling  
New snow coming  
Oh so beautiful  
White as can be  
Floating down  
Lightly touching  
Autumn is gone  
Knitting hats for the snow  
Excited for snow  
Scattered all over





### St. Brendan’s Catholic School proudly selects the 2025 Recipient Award for Outstanding Alumnus to Doctor Robert O. Slater Ph.D.



Dr. Slater is currently Professor and Chairman of the Dept. of Educational Leadership and Foundations, The University of Louisiana, Lafayette, La. Having received his Education Doctorate at the University Of Chicago, and his Masters of Education from Harvard University, Doctor Slater has also been selected as a national Fulbright Scholar three different occasions: once to Greece, to Peru, and to Bolivia where he helped developed these countries educational systems.

A research author of numerous publications and book chapters (over 60), he was Senior Research Associate with the U.S. Dept of Education in Educational research and Improvement in Washington D.C. as well. An Excellent teacher, Professor Slater has also been recognized for his outstanding teaching excellence at LSU, Baton Rouge and Texas A & M University where he previously was taught.

**He was a graduate of St. Brendan’s school in 1962 following 8 years.** He is an active member of The Catholic Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Lafayette La. He is married to Maria, who also teaches at LSU and they have two sons, one in High school and one in college.

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