OUR WEEKLY NEWS

ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

April 21st through 27th

"Lighting a path to the Higher purpose."

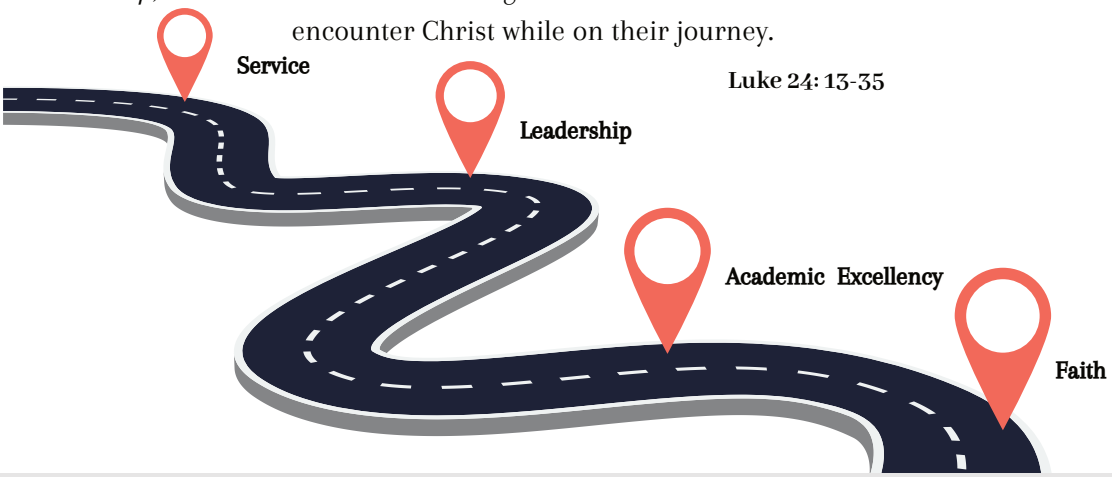




On Our Journey

Lighting a Path to a Higher Purpose

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.



Luke 24: 13-35



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

www.stjosephcommunity school.com
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UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Monday, April 22, 2024
Learning Connections Class starting at 5:30pm in the Sunrise Preschool

Wednesday, April 24, 2024
Muffins with Moms in Hynes Hall at 8am

Friday, April 26, 2024
NO Children's Mass at Holy Family Church at 8:30am

Visit our school calendar to see more upcoming events!

OUR DAILY SCHEDULE

Doors open 7:45am

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

School day begins 8:05am

School day ends 3:10pm

ATHLETICS EVENTS HAPPENING

Tuesday, April 23, 2024
- 4:15pm 7th and 8th grade Girls Track Meet at Charles City High School Track

Thursday, April 25, 2024
- 4:15pm 7th and 8th grade Girls Track Meet at New Hampton High School Track

Visit the **calendar** to see more upcoming events!



FIRST ANNUAL ONLINE SILENT AUCTION

Our First Annual Online Silent Auction Fundraiser is starting on Monday, April 22! Take a look at our school projects and other donations made for you to bid on! If you would like to read more about the directions and how it will work click this link: https://bit.ly/3Q6kW8t



SPRING WALKING SCHOOL BUS

Your family is invited to join the Walking School Bus to St. Joseph Community School this spring! The Walking School Bus walks on Monday mornings, starting at 7:40 am at the corner of Main Street and Sherman Avenue. Please contact Ashley to sign up or learn more: email achristensen@uerpc.org or call 563-419-6112.

ST. JOSEPH
COMMUNITY SCHOOL







MEET THE TEAMS

LEADERSHIP TEAM

ISASP TESTING:

On April 8th students in third grade through middle school began taking the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) tests. Students are tested over Reading, Language/Writing, Mathematics, and Science. These yearly assessments help to inform students, parents, educators, and the state, on how Iowa students are performing on the Iowa Core Standards. Although this is just one way to measure student growth and achievement, it is important for students to do his/her best to show what they know. To help students stay focused during testing and to show them how much their hard work is appreciated, students could earn effort tickets. Things like being prepared for testing, using the online tools, checking over their work, and working quietly while others are still testing would earn students tickets. Each day names were drawn for special prizes which included Kwik Star drinks, Keke's sweet treats, McDonald's lunch and the Grand Prize of a new bike!

EARLY CHILDHOOD

In 3 year old preschool we planted a flower, and some other plants. The preschoolers have enjoyed watching the plants grow in our window sill. One preschooler gets the job to water the plants when they need water. Jessica Rochford came to talk about Ag in the classroom with us. It was all about plants, and what a plant needs to grow. We also learned about the letter X in small groups, and traced the letter X. The preschoolers did an activity with pattern blocks, and the preschoolers had to match the blocks to the pattern. The preschoolers have also been working on tracing over their names for practice writing their names. -**Mrs. Sara**

We have new preschool creatures in the discovery center.....caterpillars! As we are still waiting for the praying mantis to emerge from their egg cases, the preschoolers will get to watch the butterfly life cycle up close. The sunflower seed that was planted with Mrs. Rochford has sprouted and grown quickly. It will need a new home soon! Our alphabet countdown fun has continued with Green snacks, Hat day, Ice cream, and Jammie day. The preschoolers enjoy making a letter crown each day as well. -**Mrs. Abbott**

MEET THE TEAMS

EARLY CHILDHOOD

What an exciting week in kindergarten. Our chicks hatched!!! We have really enjoyed watching them. This week we have been talking about non fiction books in reading and during read alouds we have been learning about how we can sometimes feel like the characters in a story. In social studies we are learning about needs and wants and how we get the things we need and want. In math we have finished our module over bigger numbers (11-100). In writing we finished our "small moments" story. We have learned about digraph ck and sound buddies (consonant blends) in phonics. **- Mrs. Westwater**

We have been enjoying the sounds of peeping baby chicks in our classroom this week! Hatching baby chicks in the classroom gives us so many opportunities to bring kindergarten concepts closer to the hearts and minds of our students. We connected our social studies concepts of wants and needs to what baby chicks need to be safe and healthy. We know that they need food and water to be healthy and they need a clean and warm brood box as their shelter to keep them safe. We read a book about clothing as both a way to keep us safe and an expression of creativity and culture. We then designed skirts or kilts for our baby chicks to model for our Kindergarten Baby Chick Fashion Show. Next, we worked with describing words to write about our kilts/skirts including why we chose to design them the way we did. As a final step in our fashion show, we worked on speaking in a loud, clear voice to tell about our baby chick model and the clothing we designed for it. There were many other lessons surrounding the baby chicks as well, but one of the sweetest moments was when the children prayed for a particular baby chick that had an especially hard time getting out of its shell. Sometimes the best thing we can do when faced with another's suffering is to pray to the One who holds all of creation in the palm of His hand. **- Mrs. Flugum**

First Grade was busy this week! In science we are learning about the different types of clouds and what is in them. We were able to identify cirrus, stratus, cumulus ad cumulusnimbus clouds. The weather allowed us to see some of the different types as well. We also experimenting and tried to make a cloud in our classroom using a jar, hairspray, hot water, and ice. Be sure to ask your child about it! In writing we have been working on rating pieces and writing our opinions about them. In social studies we are focusing on people from different regions in our stories and their cultures. We finished up unit 14 in math and started unit 15 which is working on shapes. More to come with that next week. Lastly, in religion we have continued to learn about the Holy Spirit and the ways it can help us in life. We hope you have a great week! - **Mrs. Heying**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This week the second grade class is learning about Geometry in math class. We have been exploring solid figures cone, sphere, cube, and cylinder. The class is learning about edges and vertices and looking for objects in their classroom with different characteristics. We have also learned about the attributes of a triangle, quadrilateral, pentagon, and hexagon. In religion, we are reminded that in mass we share the sign of peace because we know that Jesus wants us to get along with everyone and serve one another. The class is working on discussing ways to spread peace and service in our school community. **- Mrs. Rochford**

Thank you Lord for the rain!! Even though it kept us in a day this week, we are sure thankful for the green grass and the need of it for our fields. The third and fourth graders spent this week discussed the difference between fair and just. They then created bumper stickers that will hang around the building to remind everyone that these two words have big meanings. Time was our unit this week and these third graders rocked it! They learned two different strategies on how to figure out elapsed time, and wow- they did fantastic for the first experience! Super proud of them! In reading we talked about how an author's words can show humor, strong feelings, and also adding ellipses and dashes affect how we read something. One student even used ellipses in her opinion essay. So great!!! Opinion essays are wrapping up and these students continue to grow as writers! We are looking forward to Muffins with Moms on the 24th! Thank you for your continued support of our school! **- Mrs. Herold**

This week the 4th-Graders have been learning about different artist in our Interactive read aloud time as we've read about artist from around the world including Isamu Noguchi, Jackson Pollock, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Lous Braille, and Frieda Kahlo. We spent time learning more about the Titanic as we watched a video where with the help of a computer program, they were able to drain the water out of the ocean and see a 360 degree view of the Titanic wreckage. The 2nd and 3rd graders have been learning about Iowa history as we discuss places in Iowa to take a Road trip this summer. We have talked about Dubuque, Des Moines, Field of Dreams, Clear Lake, and Sioux City. Ask your child which place they would go to and why. **- Mr. Larsen**

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Would you be willing to camp out under a sign that says, "DANGER, CROCODILES. Watch your children and dogs? Well that is exactly what Ted and Betsy Lewin did in the book Top to Bottom Down Under. So who are Ted and Betsy Lewin? They are an author/illustrator team that travel around and write travelogues about their expeditions, and provide insight into lands and the wildlife there. Recently, we have been reading several books by the Lewins as part of our read aloud time. These books encourage us to appreciate the diversity of animals and nature. This week we traveled to Botswana, Africa to learn about the elephants, and ended up learning about animals like wildebeest and leechwe along the way. Next we journeyed to north and south Australia where we learned about Koalas, salties, and barramundi fish. Finally, we wrapped up our expedition in Uganda, Africa, where we were observed two groups of mountain gorillas. We will pick up our expedition with Lewins next week and head to southern India to learn about Balarama, a royal elephant. Thanks for another great week and we hope you enjoyed your weekend!
- **Mrs. Stumme, Mrs. Shatek , Mrs. Schueth, Mrs. McDonald**