

OUR WEEKLY NEWS

"LIGHTING A PATH TO THE HIGHER PURPOSE."



May 11th - May 17th

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.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCY

FAITH

LEADERSHIP

SERVICE

Proverbs 27:17



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



UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Monday, May 12th

- Fishing PE Field Trip

Friday, May 9th

- New Hampton Senior Walk Through
- All School Mass at 9 am

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 3:15pm

ATHLETICS EVENTS HAPPENING

Tuesday, May 13th

- Boys 7th and 8th grade track starting at 4:15pm at Decorah
- Girls 7th and 8th grade track starting at 4:15pm at New Hampton

Thursday, May 1st

- Girls & Boys 7th and 8th grade track starting at 4:15pm at Decoarth

Visit the [calendar](#) to see more upcoming events!

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Mass Times

4pm at Holy Family

6pm at IC in North
Washington or St. Boniface

Sunday Mass Times

8am at Holy Family

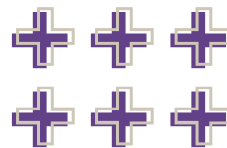
9am at Holy Family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ESA Registration please use this link to fill out the 3-5 minute application! Everyone qualifies so please make sure to fill it out! [Click here](#) 🌟

4 year old Preschool graduation is **May 20th at 6pm** in the Church. *It is also 4 year old and 3 year old preschool last day of school!*





MEET THE TEAMS

Specials



P.E. WEEKLY RECAP

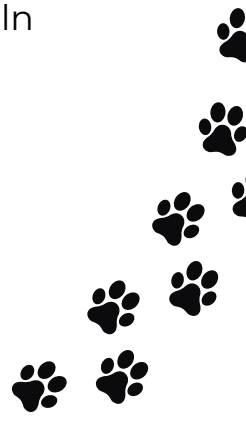
This week in PE, students continued building their teamwork and strategy skills by playing Capture the Flag on Monday. It was exciting to see how much they've improved in communication, cooperation, and game awareness since the beginning of the unit. On Friday, we welcomed Matt Crayne from Chickasaw County Conservation, who provided an engaging hands-on lesson on how to properly cast a fishing rod. Students practiced their casting skills and learned about fishing safety and technique—an important preparation for our upcoming fishing trip on Monday!

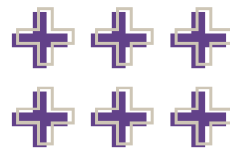
Athletes of the Week:

We are proud to recognize the following students for their outstanding effort, attitude, and sportsmanship in PE this week:

- Kindergarten (Flugum): Ryan Durham
- Kindergarten (Westwater): Karter Lincoln
- 1st Grade: Brystol Brase
- 2nd Grade: Haedinn Croell
- 3rd/4th Grade: Brinley Croell
- Middle School: Adyson Shoemaker

Keep up the great work, everyone!
- **Ms. Winter**





MEET THE TEAMS

Early Childhood Team

3 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS: A FUN WEEK OF LEARNING!

This week we started our 10-day countdown activities. We have also been working hard doing our letters and colors review through the song and mixed-up letter activity. We continue to work on learning our numbers and focused on the numbers 6, 8, 9, 13, and 15 this week. We continued to sing our new 1-20 song that we learned last week and the students have been loving that! Rectangle/prism, square/cube, octagon/hexagon, and sphere were our shapes this week. We worked on two of them a day, comparing and contrasting them. For social skills we have been working problems and using our 3-step approach to solving them:

State your problem, calm your body, and find a solution. This week we wrapped up our secret special activity that the students were working hard on as a gift for their parents. They were all very excited to bring their gifts home to share.

- Mrs. Schueth



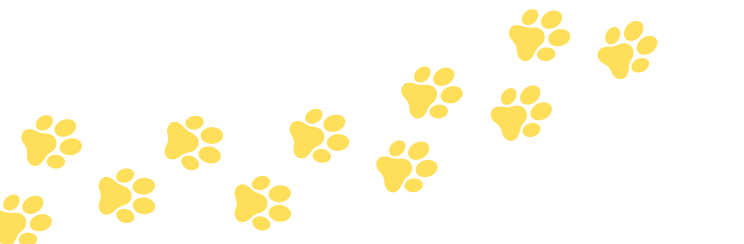
4 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS: A BUSY WEEK IN PRESCHOOL!

Letters- R, S, T, U
Numbers- 9, 8, 7, 6
Shapes- heart, star, hexagon, trapezoid
Nursery Rhyme- review
Finger Play- review

We released the butterflies on Monday! The preschoolers were able to see them up close and follow them around a little bit before they all flew away. The ants have also moved on to their next home, so the discovery center was feeling a little empty. We filled it back up with some insect specimens we were able to borrow from the AEA. A few of them even show some insect life cycles, which the preschoolers found very interesting. With the weather being so nice this week, we have tried to spend a little extra time outside on the playground. We got out the obstacle course again and joined the 3s bubble party. Letter writing work has continued and the preschoolers are doing a great job with that. In folders this weekend, you will find two invitations to the preschool graduation so you can invite family and friends if you would like. We wrapped up assessments this week and were able to really see how much the students have grown in literacy and math.

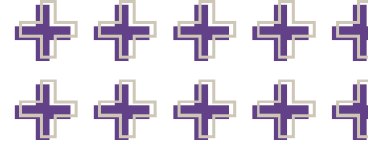
May 20-preschool last day
May 20-Preschool graduation evening @ 6:00 pm.

- Mrs. Abbott





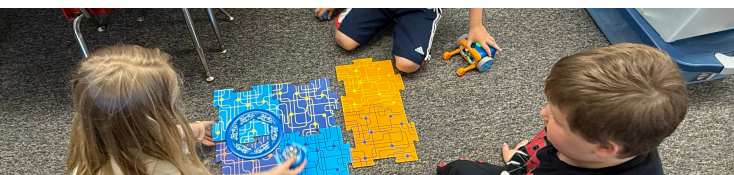
MEET THE TEAMS



Early Childhood

KINDERGARTEN HIGHLIGHTS:

We continued to learn about Mary this week as we expanded our conversation to include all of the Holy Family. We worked on family gifts to honor the love we have for our own families as well. We worked hard to learn our Mass parts and enjoyed sharing the news of God's great love for us during our kindergarten Mass! We continued working with sound buddies in phonics this week as we learned that while digraphs are like milkshakes in that they mix together to make one sound (flavor), two-letter consonant blends are like two scoops of ice cream on one cone. Just like you can taste each scoop's flavor, you can hear each letter's sound. We learned how to use a Code and Go Robot Mouse in science this week and have enjoyed putting our coding skills to the test. We continued working with shapes this week as we practiced naming 2D and 3D shapes and their attributes. We also worked on an opinion writing piece as we chose our favorite shape and gave 2 reasons to support our opinion. - **Mrs. Flugum & Mrs. Westwater**



FIRST GRADE NEWSFLASH:

Happy Sunday! The days are dwindling down to quickly and there is still so much to do. This week in religion we focused on how the Church helps people and how we are called to help others as well. Even as first graders there is so much we and our families can do like feeding the poor, clothing the naked, etc. In mat we finished our unit on solid shapes which focused on corners, vertices, and flat surfaces. We are now starting our last unit which is focusing on fractions. In their Friday folders is a game and more information for you to be able to support them. In reading we are working on folktales and how they usually have elements like starting with "Once upon a time", they usually have a good and bad character that are rewarded or punished in some way, and lastly that they try to teach us something. In writing we wrote opinion letters to Mrs. Nehls explaining why we should go on a field trip to the place of their choice. They are currently working on writing an advertisement to try to get people to purchase something. In social studies we are learning about locations and models of items. We hope you have a great week!

- **Mrs. Heying**

Elementary Team

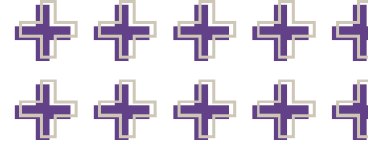
SECOND GRADE NEWSFLASH: A WEEK OF LEARNING AND FUN!

This week in religion we spent time honoring Mary through the Hail Mary prayer. We learning about the rosary and how Mary asks us to pray it to bring peace. Learning more about the Our Father was also part of our great discussions. We have been keeping a close eye on the Conclave in hopes of news of our new pope. Our money unit came to a close and the students seem to have a better understanding of each coin, skip counting with them, and the basics of making change. We moved on to telling time to five minutes (more skip counting) and time before and after the hour. It made the students think about what they do in the day and time matters. Our stories this week compared and contrasted stories about facing challenges and how characters change because of them. The second graders finished their descriptive poems and we are moving on to opinion essays. Stay tuned. - **Mrs. Herold**





MEET THE TEAMS



Elementary Team

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE:

It has been a busy week in 3rd and 4th Grade to start the Month of May. We finished up our Fast CBMR, Areading, and Amath tests this week. I am happy to report that the students rocked it. The class made some big growth from Winter to Spring and even bigger growth when you look at Fall to Spring. I am so proud of how far this class has come this year. However, we still have work to do to finish out the year. We are wrapping up our unit on the Titanic. The students had a blast learning about the ship and I am excited to see them continue their learning and discovery of the Titanic as they continue their educational journey. In Social Studies, the 7th/8th Grade students finished up our unit on Route 66 and how the highway system impacted the United States. We watched the movie Cars and discussed how the interstate system affected small towns along Route 66. They are starting a new unit on the 99 counties of Iowa as we take a look at fun things to do during the summer. We took a look at Clear Lake's Surf Ballroom and the Buddy Holly Crash Site, as well as the many things our state capital of Des Moines offers during the summer. We had the amazing opportunity to watch the Conclave and celebrated with the announcing of a New Pope!

- **Mr. Larsen & Mrs. Rochford**

Middle School Team

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

In social studies, the 5th and 6th grade students are exploring the fascinating history and culture of ancient Israel. They are learning about the origins of the Israelites, the significance of key figures like Abraham, Moses, and King David, and the importance of the Ten Commandments. Through maps, timelines, and primary sources, students are gaining a deeper understanding of how ancient Israel influenced religion, law, and society. This unit helps them connect the past to the present by recognizing how the beliefs and traditions of ancient Israel continue to shape the world today.

- **Mrs. Stumme, Mrs. Shatek, Mrs. Denner, and Mrs. McDonald**



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