

# SAINT AUGUSTINE SCHOOL, INC.



OCTOBER  
2023

**"WITH HANDS AND HEARTS  
TO GOD WE STRIVE FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN FAITH +  
TRADITION+ DISCIPLINE +  
SCHOLARSHIP."**

## THE CRUSADERS' NEWS

### WHY CLASSICAL EDUCATION IS WORTH THE SACRIFICES

Every year teachers begin the year reminding students about the rules and expectations of the classroom, as well as the necessary habits for success. Reviewing things we've already learned in the past is helpful to refocus our minds on realities that perhaps we forget, or can take for granted. Similarly, as teachers and parents begin a new school year, we need to be reminded why we make the sacrifices to provide our students with the type of education offered at SAS.

The Baltimore Catechism begins with single-most important fact for the life of man: "God has made man to know, love, and serve Him." To achieve this lofty goal with the most success, it is important to build a solid foundation in the soul and mind of children. Outside of the values taught at home in family life, the type of education and the studies that fill a child's mind, are the most important that will influence the child as they encounter the world. This is why every civilization has always seen that the goal of education is to pass on the traditions and wisdom of their culture. The cultural patrimony that we as Catholics wish to pass on to our children is that of Western Civilization. This civilization is the fusion of the wisdom found in the ancient Greeks and Jews, perfected and crowned with the highest truths revealed by Jesus Christ and given to the world through the Catholic Church.

*(Continued on page 5....)*

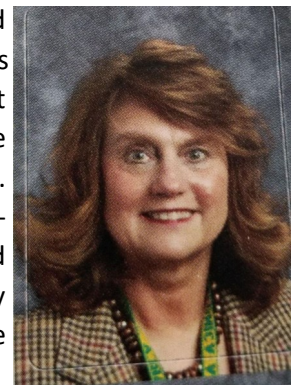


### OCTOBER DATES

- **OCT 2nd—6th: SPIRIT WEEK**
- **OCT 3rd: Back to School Night (for parents)**
- **OCT 9th:** Volleyball Game @ SWCHA (away) - 4:30
- **OCT 11th:** Latin Mass, 2:10
- **OCT 12th: HSA Meeting 3:00**
- **OCT 16th: Pumpkin Farm Field (10:30-1:30 PM)**
- **OCT 18th:** LATIN MASS, 2:10
- **OCT 25th:** LATIN MASS, 2:10
- **OCT 26th:** Last Day/1st Qtr.
- **OCT 27th: NO SCHOOL—** Teacher Workday
- **OCT 30th - All Saints' Day Celebration 1:30 PM**
  - **Report Cards Issued**

### WELCOME NEW SAS PRINCIPAL: MRS. CHRISTINE KELLY

This year we have a new Principal/Headmaster of Saint Augustine School. Her name is Mrs. Christine Kelly and she comes to us from the Monroe, WI area. Mrs. Kelly has been working as an educator and counselor for over 40 years and has most recently worked at St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin as a teacher and school-based counselor. She enjoyed this work immensely and appreciates working with students of all grades and sharing our Catholic Faith as she helps them learn and grow. Mrs. Kelly has taught 2nd grade at Holyland Catholic School in Malone, WI as well, and really liked helping the 2nd grade students understand and prepare for receiving the Sacraments. Prior to these experiences, Mrs. Kelly served as a manager and director of a number of different educational and mental health programs for children and families in the private, as well as the public school setting. Mrs. Kelly and her husband Peter have 5 young adult children who live in various parts of the Midwest. Mrs. Kelly enjoys reading, sewing, knitting, gardening and working on her old house with her husband. Please stop in to see Mrs. Kelly when you can!



# SAS STUDENT COUNCIL

With the House System needing to take a break for the year, student council will be more active again this year. They will be responsible for planning fun activities and outings, while raising money for these opportunities.

Student Council has planned the theme days for Spirit Week, as well as discussed the dress code with Mrs. Kelly. We asked that all students partaking in Spirit Week still follow the modesty code to ensure purity and that SAS can continue to have Spirit Week. On Friday at 12:00 students will play in a softball game with free time following.

There will also be a bake sale on Monday October 2nd. Students will all be called class by class to buy baked goods during the day. So please send money with your



**PICTURED:** *The new student council president, Timothy Zignego. Tim is in 12th grade and has been attending SAS for the entirety of his education. He is excited to help make his last year at SAS a fun one for everybody!*

children if they would like to buy items during the day. This system is going to be used to help cut down on the commotion of the after school rush. Plus the younger students who use the bus will have an opportunity to participate as well.

## SPIRIT WEEK

**MONDAY:** Career/Occupation

**TUESDAY:** Twin Day

**WEDNESDAY:** Western Day

**THURSDAY:**

Sports Jersey Day

**FRIDAY:** Class Color Day

\*5th: Pink

\*6th: Purple

\*7th: Blue

\*8th: Red

\*9th: Orange



## HSA: HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION UPDATES

We are excited to announce a new organization started this year with the purpose of creating a more effective way for parents and teachers to communicate, work together, and create a fun, vibrant community life at SAS!

### WHAT IS HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HSA)?

HSA is a link between SAS families and school. HSA will support enrichment programs, promote community, provide parent involvement opportunities and conduct fundraising activities to financially assist phases of the educational process. All parents are invited to attend any scheduled meetings.

### OBJECTIVES

- Plan & sponsor events that enhance and unite our school community
- Provide support for our dedicated teachers & staff
- Raise money to fund activities of HSA
- Assist with communication between families & school

### MEMBERSHIP

All families are automatically members of HSA when their children become students at SAS.

### FUNDRAISING

All parents are expected to participate in fundraising events that contribute to the educational goals of SAS.

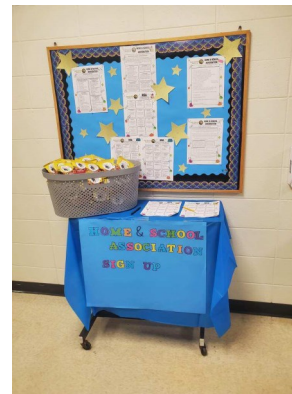
### INPUT & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HSA appreciates and encourages ideas/suggestions from all families. Activities will be added or eliminated based on feedback from staff and families by the executive committee.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Leanne Fazzari, Co-Chair  
Bobbie Zignego, Co-Chair  
Laura Kusik, Secretary  
Abby Zignego, Treasurer

\*HSA is under the direction of Christine Kelly, Principal



*Above : HSA helped make the start of the school year special. They provided a breakfast and gifts for the classroom during the teacher in-service. They also provided the meal for the family picnic before school started*



**4K/5K:** We have had a busy month, getting to know our new classmates and learning the rules and routines of Kindergarten. The 4K are learning a letter a week, while the 5K are learning a letter each day, along with beginning reading skills such as sorting vowels and consonants and learning to blend sounds into words. They have started reading mini word family books to help prepare them for reading. In math 4K is learning how to sort objects. 5K just finished learning about patterns, and is starting to learn about numbers. In Kindergarten, learning is very hands-on. Here is a sampling of the fun we have been having in our classroom:

- practicing printing using shaving cream
- tasting red, yellow, and green apples
- decorating sugar cookies with blue frosting and blue sprinkles, to celebrate the Virgin Mary's Birthday
- singing folk songs with the 3rd and 4th graders, while Mrs. Celestin's son played the guitar
- holding and petting the kittens that Mrs. Dudzik brought into the 1st and 2nd grade classroom
- playing with a large parachute to learn to work together
- making apple prints with half an apple and paint
- learning about bugs, and then designing our own
- using blue, red, and yellow finger paint to mix the colors purple, orange, and green
- popping popcorn when we were learning the letter P

The Kindergarten classroom is always buzzing with activity and learning!

**1st/2nd:** "First and second graders have hit the ground running this year! The first graders are quickly settling into the new classroom and adjusting well. They have been learning a lot already. So far they have been enjoying math (they've used animal crackers to help them with their counting); reading has brought back favorite stories like the "Little Red Hen" and learning the long vowel sounds. Second graders picked up where they left off- they jumped right into addition and subtraction, their new reading book, which has a variety of fun short stories, and they have been doing great with their first spelling lists with definitions. As a class, we have begun our Latin prayers- beginning with a review of the Sign of the Cross. In science, we've been studying living and nonliving things, and in P.E. we've been practicing teamwork with catch and basketball. Everyone enjoyed Leo's show and tell earlier this week when he brought in two of his kittens, Cheez It and Harry."



*Pictured: Students showing off finished projects, Mrs. Dudzik visiting the classroom, students enjoying the visit of some adorable kittens, and Ms. Celestin's son playing the guitar*

## 3rd/4th GRADE CLASSROOM *By: Mrs. Bernadette Celestin*



Since September the 3rd and 4th grade have been very busy! They've been working individually, in small groups, and as a class. Both grades have been reviewing previous grades in their subjects as well as learning new material. They are struggling to understand written directions for exercises on their own.

Some special events included having a folk singer come with a guitar and engage the children in a sing-along as well as learn some new songs. They also had a stargazer evening at Saint Augustine where they learned something new about a compass, used the telescope to view the moon, recited astronomy facts before a large group, and found the Big Dipper. They also used the pointer stars in the Dipper to find the North Star.

Art projects included painting and lighting constellations as well as making a miraculous medal to put on their desks so that

*LEFT: Students in the 3rd/4th grade class, along with their families and any others who wished to attend, gathered for a stargazing event on Friday, September 29th. They were able to get hands-on experience of observing the night sky and looking for some of the things they had been learning about in astronomy. It was a blessed time of learning and fun for everyone!*

## JUNIOR HIGH CLASSROOM NEWS

- **LITERATURE 56:** Students have started the year reading *The Golden Goblet* to complement their study of ancient Egypt in their history class. Ranofer, a boy who loses all his comforts and prospects when he becomes an orphan, struggles to find a way to escape the control of his evil step-brother and pursue his dream. The book gives insight into the culture of ancient Egyptians, while teaching students to be grateful for their blessings.
- **LITERATURE 78:** Students are reading *Edmund Campion - Hero of God's Underground*.
- **ANCIENT CIVILIZATION 56:** The 56 graders have started studying the oldest civilization we have the most knowledge of, Ancient Egypt. Students made their own 'tombs' similar to how the Egyptians would have decorated them.
- **AMERICAN HISTORY 78:** The 78th grade students began the year exploring how the 'first' explorers and settlers in the New World were actually from the Catholic nations of Spain and France. They created their own island they discovered, if they were to find a new land today.
- **GRAMMAR:** Students have been reviewing the different ways to form plural nouns; the various uses of adjectives (descriptive, interrogative, demonstrative, and more); and are currently involved in learning the correct usage of subject and object pronouns.
- **CATHOLIC DOCTRINE 78:** Students have been studying the Sacraments as a whole, starting from the definition of a Sacrament, their number, who can and should receive each, and proceeding to investigate each in depth. We have learned the different modes of baptism, the proper matter and form of the Sacrament, and many details of the ceremonies surrounding the Sacrament. We studied Confirmation, and are engaged in an in-depth unit on the Eucharist, the Real Presence, the nature of sacrifice, and more.
- **PHYSICAL SCIENCE 78:** We are working on the wonders of creation, starting from the wonders of atoms and energy. We are also working on protocols to follow when conducting a lab, such as recording data, and hypothesis about what the data shows.



**ABOVE:** The 7/8 students performing a science experiment  
**BELOW:** The 56 boys show off their ancient Egyptian tombs

## HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM NEWS

- **AMERICAN HISTORY 9-12:** This year the school adopted a new book for the history course written from a traditional Catholic philosophy. The book incorporates Catholic philosophy and papal encyclicals as commentary on the events of American History. This is an invaluable aide in the understanding of our nation's past events, popular mindsets, and opinions today, as a Catholic, and not according to modern, secular opinions. Students will be well-equipped to analyze past historical events, as well as modern political debates, from a Catholic philosophical perspective.
- **APOLOGETICS:** Upperclassmen are reading and discussing *Mirari Vos* (On Liberalism) by Pope Gregory XVI. Student thesis topics this year include... The Moral Permissibility of the Death Penalty, Religious Liberty, Akita Apparition, Medical Ethics and Plastic-Cosmetic Surgery, The Most Holy Rosary, and *Traditiones Custodes* of Pope Francis.
- **AMERICAN LITERATURE 9-12:** Students are reading and analyzing selections from Washington Irving, such as *The Specter Bridegroom*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, *Rip Van Winkle*, and *The Devil and Tom Walker*.
- **J.R.R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings 9-10:** Freshmen and sophomores are reading *The Fellowship of the Ring*. Discussion of Catholicism embedded within the pages of Tolkien's magnum opus.
- **PHILOSOPHY 9-12:** We began our semester of logic by learning the three acts of the intellect and how they correspond to verbal and logical units. Students are now able to distinguish three different ways a word or phrase might be used, are aware of the relationship between the depth of a concept and how many things that concept may apply to, and are now examining the elements which combine to make up a logical proposition. Students are also practicing "translating" everyday language and sentences into the logical form necessary for analysis.
- **ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY 9-12:** We began our year with a review of cells, moved into the study of histology (tissues), and are beginning to work on the "Skin and Bones".



*Tony Zignego and Josh Dudzik study the skull as they prepare for their unit on the skeletal system in Anatomy & Physiology!*



# WHY CLASSICAL EDUCATION IS WORTH THE SACRIFICE

(Continued from page 1...) Unfortunately, the treasures of our Western Civilization are devalued and being forgotten through the modern education system. A classical education includes the great books that shaped the greatest minds of western philosophy, art, and literature. The history of the Greeks, Romans, and the great men and women in the work of the Catholic Church are all read. All of the great saints who were educated would have read many of these works and been familiar with the philosophy of Aristotle and Plato. Their minds would have been trained to be disciplined through the study of Latin.

Besides what they studied, they also had the same GOAL for their studies, as well as the same HOW to achieve that goal. The method and content of the traditional curriculum of Western Civilization began with the Greeks and their approach called *paideia*. The Greek educational theory of *paideia* was training to form excellent humans who would create an excellent society. They would form this excellent human through gymnastics and music, after beginning the training of the mind in the mathematical subjects of the *quadrivium* (arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music). Then they mastered writing and communicating with language in the study of the *trivium* (grammar, logic, and rhetoric). This type of preparation would cultivate moral virtue in each soul. The Greeks valued a human nature perfected by virtue. We can see then that this value on the meaning of life and education did not begin with the Catholic Church. The humanities (the studies suited to a free person), which would bring a person to the height of human perfection was inherited from the Greeks and built upon, or perfected, with the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The pagan Greeks and Romans had the seeds of the truth in recognizing the goal of virtue and a life well-lived for humanity. What they were missing was the *telos* (the 'end') of why virtue and a perfected human nature mattered. Christ provided this answer, and the Church has added centuries of its own great theological and educational wisdom. This method of cultivating moral virtue and the great works that have shaped our cultural worldview, such as *Dante, Aristotle, Aquinas, Dostoevsky, Dickens*, etc. are the treasures that students receive when they study a classical curriculum. This is the kind of truth, beauty, and goodness that will provide material for truly noble and Catholic souls. ***The sacrifices to preserve and pass this treasure of centuries of development are well worth the effort when we see that the other option is an education centered around lists of facts generated by bureaucrats; facts to be engrained into students, who are seen more as workers useful for creating economic dominance, rather than souls destined for heaven.***

## FUN AROUND SCHOOL: ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY HSA

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST



### MOVIE NIGHT!



## **FEATURED STUDENT WORK : SERVANT OF GOD, ISABEL OF SPAIN** *Tiffany Yogerst, 12th grade*

*Most secular histories neglect to fairly cover the work of the Catholic nations of Spain and France in the New World before the English began their colonies. Queen Isabel was the great Spanish monarch who made the exploration and colonization of the New World possible by finally uniting Spain, eliminating the Muslims from the nation, and finding enough resources to fund expeditions. What most people do not realize is that Queen Isabel was a devout Catholic and has her cause open for canonization. She has been declared a Servant of God. Almost 60% of the Catholic population speaks Spanish, and we can attribute this fact partly to the dedication of Isabel to the work of Spanish missionaries in the New World. While Spain did want to further strengthen their nation, the monarchs also deeply care about spreading the faith.*

Queen Isabella is known for increasing the possibility of the growth of Catholics and the Church in Spain. She was a woman of chivalry, in her ruling, culture, and religion. She always sought to spread love and instill confidence.

In 1471, Queen Isabella of Castile married King Ferdinand of Aragon, and the Spanish kingdom was united. Castile and Aragon were both still separate cities, based on laws, codes, and living, but with the New Monarchy both the king and the queen worked together to unify and establish justice. They both had a goal of not denying the faith in public and returning the noble power to the state, where it belonged. They respected all life and fought for human rights. Spain began to support unity in diversity and a recuperation began among the nation.

In 1407, the Granada War was started against the Muslims. The Muslims were given a reservation to live on, and Queen Isabella wouldn't stand for a Muslim sector in her Catholic country. So, to end this war, she asked them to all surrender and they would be returned to Africa free of charge. However, they refused. Force had to be used. Queen Isabella never sought cruelty to non-Christian religions. Instead, she showed true unlimited religiosity and did every-

thing with her faith. Isabella had to expose the Jews because the pope insisted she did for Spain to truly turn back to its original roots. She ruled with a unity between state and church. Isabella held the human factor first and didn't harshly remove the Jews. She was simply being obedient to the pope, and she removed them with charity.

Queen Isabella ruled Spain with faith first. There was a unity created in every aspect of life, notably a reform to priests to return to charitable works. She sent bishops back to their home diocese to be a shepherd to their flock. The reform also insisted upon clergy formation to be assisted by Canon Law, enforcing the proper teaching to the people in the Catholic Faith. Through these reforms the truth of the Catholic faith was restored.

Queen Isabella showed great recognition to God, Jesus, and Mary. She would spent hours in adoration. She would give poor people food, clothing, and alms as a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. She had love for Holy Thursday.

When Queen Isabella was approached by Christopher Columbus to travel to America, she agreed because she wanted to take back the Holy Land from the Muslims. The way to do this was through getting gold from the Americans. The other reason Isabella agreed to the voyage was to convert all the souls of the natives to the land to the Catholic Faith. This was her greatest mission, to spread the faith to every aspect of life. She sought new land for ser-

vice, not to conquer it. As the formation of the New World came about, there were selfish people that mistreated the Indians and used them as slaves. Isabella was very upset and replaced those leaders who were enslaving the Indians. She set the Indians free. The Queens' testimony was that every person's rights are recognized and are a citizen under Spain.

As Isabella was dying from uterine cancer, she wrote of how she was ready to die in honor of the faith. She truly taught everyone, including her children, to never hurt the Indians and to live as though everyday is your last. Isabella passed in 1504, and is worthy to be declared a saint.



