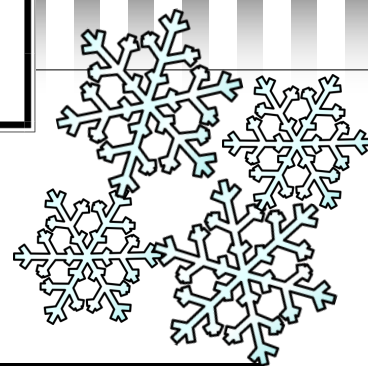


ST. FRANCIS DE SALES NEWS

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January 2024
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Upcoming Events:

Jan. 2- Return to School
Jan. 3 –Home School mtng. 1:30
Jan. 3– MS Cheer Practice
Jan. 4– MS Cheer Practice
Jan. 5– **All School Mass 8:30**
Jan. 8- MS B'ball SFDS @ GBC
Jan 9-RC Elementary Spelling Bee @ WWHS 9 AM
Jan. 9– STEM Club 3 PM
Jan. 9- MS B'ball SFDS @ Home- New Life Chr.-6 PM
Jan. 10-RC MS Spelling Bee @ WWHS-9AM
Jan. 10– **Third Grading Period Begins**
Jan. 10- Faculty Meeting
Jan. 15– **Martin Luther King Jr. Day—No School**
Jan. 16– 4-H Club 3-4 PM
Jan. 16– **School Board Meeting**
Jan. 17- Photography Club 3 PM
Jan 22– Jr. Library Guild mtng
Jan. 22- MS B'ball @ SFDS 6
Jan. 24– **All School Mass 8:30**
Jan 25– GS &Jr. Brownie Mtng.
Jan. 27-Reconciliation 10 AM
Jan. 28th-Feb. 2nd Catholic Schools Week
Jan. 29– Theater Club 3 PM
Feb. 2–**All School Mass 8:30**



January Events

Grading Period and Semester Awards

The 2nd grading period ends on Wednesday, January 9th. We will send home report cards in the communication envelopes the following week.

Semester Awards will be presented in the classrooms on Friday, January 19th.

The Aquinas Winner

This year's Aquinas Award Winner will be announced during the School Mass on Wednesday, January 24th.

Regional Science Fair

The Regional Science Fair is set for February 10th at Westside High School. We wish happy results for

our SFDS representatives: Ben Colvin, Reagan Vance, Asad Tanveer, Mara Jones, Lauren Fernald and John Fernald.

Catholic Schools Week

This year Catholic Schools Week will begin on Sunday, Jan. 28th at the 11AM Mass. We will need students from grades 3—8 to help us sing loudly and proudly! Please plan to attend this Mass and help us celebrate our special school!



Winter Testing Session

Saint Francis conducts student testing three times a year to mark fluctuations in student performance and achievement. Our winter testing will begin January 15th and runs through February 9th. Please be sure that your child(ren) get plenty of rest, eat a good breakfast before school, bring a healthy snack, and attends school regularly and on time. Routines are very important! Help set them up for success.

Valentine's Day Alert

Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday this year. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and is a day of fasting and abstinence. Therefore, the school will celebrate Valentine's Day on February 13th-Fat Tuesday! Please plan for classroom parties and exchange of Valentines to happen on February 13th this year!

Catholic Schools Week



Breakfast with Santa

Thanks to all who decorated, served, worked the doors and assisted in the game room!

Thanks to the chefs: Dr. Haddadin, Mr. Ben Hatfield, Mr. Ray Lewis, and Mr. Josh Birchfield!

Thanks to the teachers and students that made the games fun!

Thanks to Chantal Lill and Christie Lilly for making the gingerbread playdough!

Most importantly, thanks to Rhonda Willson for organizing this fun event!



Catholic Schools United in Faith and Community

Middle School Basketball Season

Our Middle School Basketball Season is underway! We have some exciting home games scheduled this month, so come out and cheer on the Saints! Our basketball coaches are Dr. John Fernald and Mr. Skeets Loving. Our cheer coach is Mrs. Cindy Fernald.

The basketball team is coordinating plays and running drills. The cheerleaders are working on floor cheers and a dance routine. Check them out! **Let's Go Saints!**



"A promising world is built on small acts of kindness and compassion."

SFDS Spelling Bee Winners

Raleigh County will hold an Elementary Spelling Bee on Tuesday, January 9th at the WWHS Auditorium. Our SFDS Elementary rep competing in this is Lilli Kate Pino.

The RC Middle School Spelling Bee will be held on Wednesday, January 10th at the WWHS Auditorium. We are allowed to send three reps to compete this year in the Middle School competition. Our first place winner competing is Madison Dorsey. John Fernald is our second place winner. Hattie Harmon was out third place winner. Best of luck to them! Go Saints!

Christmas Blessings

Thank you-Middle School students and SFDS staff for decorating the school and making our Christmas season bright!



Thank you to everyone who made our classroom celebrations memorable and fun! Homeroom parents planned well for these!

Thank you to Ms. Camarillo for putting together our Christmas Program and preparing each class!

Thank you to the teachers and staff for decorating and keeping kids ready to perform!

Thank you to our volunteers at Breakfast with Santa! We had a great turnout for this fun event!

We are truly blessed to have so many people that helped! You made our Christmas celebrations festive!

Prayers Requested....

Please pray for:

For all our priests, especially for Fr. Leonard and Father Thomas.

For a new year filled with many blessings: health, hope, joy, and peace.

For peace all over the world and in our hearts.

For all those serving our country in the military. May God keep them safe.

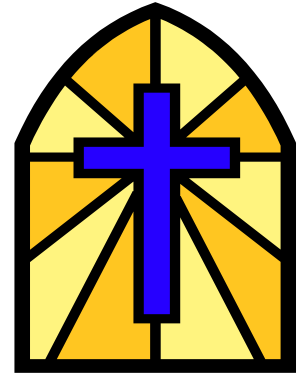
For all travelers to stay safe and fare well on their journeys.

For all who are ill or recovering. May God strengthen them.

For all those who have recently had a death in their family. May God support them as they grieve.

For all of our generous patrons and parishioners. May God smile on them each and every day.

For all of these intentions we pray.



St. Francis de Sales School Mission Statement

St. Francis de Sales Catholic School exists to provide a safe, nurturing environment for our students in their pursuit of academic achievement, moral development, and spiritual growth in Our Lord, Jesus Christ. This combination builds character and creates responsible citizens.

Education in Virtue: PERSEVERANCE

Perseverance looks like a student taking the time to work neatly and thoroughly on classwork, staying focused while completing a task, or finishing a job even when you're tired.

Perseverance sounds like a student calmly trying something again after making a mistake or promising to study for an upcoming test or just continuing to practice a skill over and over until it's done right.

**"When God's joy invades
our lives,
It spills over into everything
we do
And onto everyone we
touch."**

-Swindoll



Christmas Bags

If you have not already packed your Christmas wrappings away, please donate any Christmas gift bags, tissue paper, or bows. We really need medium sized gift bags and tissue paper.

We could use all of these items for Santa's Secret Shop next year. This would save us from buying them. Just send them to school and we will store them for next year!



HOPE Application Updates for 2024-2025 School Year

Renewal applications for the 2024-2025 school year for current Hope Scholarship students will open in the EMA portal on January 3, 2024. The renewal application window will run through June 15, 2024.

Submission of a renewal application is **required** to continue a student's participation in the program. Although the application window will be open until June 15, 2024, parents are encouraged to submit their renewal applications by the end of February 2024 before the application window opens for new Hope Scholarship students. This will allow for faster processing of Hope Scholarship applications based on the volume of applications being submitted for consideration.

Effective for the 2024-2025 school year, the Hope Scholarship Board voted on Dec. 12, 2023, to accept applications year-round, but the timing of submission of the original application for the program will determine the amount of Hope Scholarship funds received for the student's initial year of participation in the program. **The application windows for new applicants for the 2024-2025 school year and the corresponding funding amounts are outlined in the chart below.**

| <u>Application Window</u> | <u>Funding Amount</u> |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Mar. 1, 2024 to June 15, 2024 | 100% of Scholarship |
| Jun. 16, 2024 to Sept. 15, 2024 | 75% of Scholarship |
| Sept. 16, 2024 to Nov. 30, 2024 | 50% of Scholarship |
| Dec. 1, 2024 to Feb. 28, 2025 | 25% of Scholarship |
| After Feb. 28, 2025 | No funding for current year but may apply for subsequent school year. |

New student applications for the 2024-2025 school year will be available in EMA on March 1, 2024. No option to apply as a new student for the 2024-2025 school year will exist in the EMA system before that date.

The Hope Scholarship Board will continue to accept late applications for the 2023-2024 school year until February 28, 2024, for those students who are newly eligible for the program under the 45-day rule. The Board will also accept late applications for eligible students who missed the application deadline for 2023-2024 on a case-by-case basis, due to extenuating circumstances, until February 28, 2024. The Board's late application policy can be found [HERE](#).

Students wishing to apply outside of the application window for the 2023-2024 school year, under either scenario, must submit the online Hope Scholarship [Application Request Form](#) by no later than February 28, 2024. Please do not apply directly in the EMA system for 2023-2024 until being contacted by