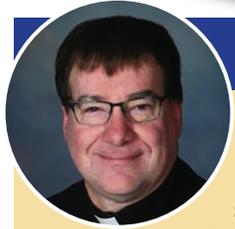




Saint Cecilia Connection

SAINT CECILIA SCHOOL NEWS • UPDATES • EVENTS • & MORE

Vol 2 • Issue 2 • 1st Quarter • 2023



A Message from Fr. Don

Happy New Year to all.

It should be an active year filled with many opportunities for growth and change in our school. The current Iowa legislature session will be considering Education Savings Accounts. The impact to our Catholic School could be very significant. Also while we thank

Erv for serving as an interim principal for us, we will be looking for someone to lead us for years and help set a vision and direction for St. Cecilia Catholic School. Thanks for all your support and may this next year be a great one for Catholic School Education in Ames.

Father Don



Greetings from Principal Rowlands

This year I am proud to be given the opportunity to lead St. Cecilia School as we continue to move forward to meet our Mission as a Catholic School. St. Cecilia has always been a special place to me as I worked in the school and experienced first-hand to help our children develop their faith. I am back at St. Cecilia after a four-year absence. During those years I served as principal at St. Joseph for 2 years in Des Moines and the next 2 years I retired and subbed in a few schools east of Des Moines.

When presented with the opportunity to help at St. Cecilia I was excited to be able to assist as St. Cecilia is transitioning to a new person in the leadership role at the school. St. Cecilia provides the students with an educational experience that has high expectations in academics but as important is the growth of the students in their faith to become the future leaders in our community.

Working with the families we are striving to make Christian values a part of their life forever. I know personally while I am with the students that they help me to grow as a Christian and help me to live a life that drives me to use my faith in my daily life with those I interact with each day. I am excited to play a small role in helping the students and families as they grow their faith and become our future leaders

Ervin Rowlands
School Principal.

AWARDS

Congratulations to Saint Cecilia Preschool for earning the Ames Tribune Best of Story County Preschool Award for 2022. Thank you to teacher, Rachel Eash and associate Lezli Pelzer for their outstanding service.



The annual **Blessing of the Animals** was held on the North lawn on October 7th. Fr. Don blessed pets and stuffed toys in honor of feast of Saint Francis of Assisi.



The annual **Saint Cecilia School Christmas "Carriers of the Light"** was held on November 29th at the Ames City Auditorium. Thank you to Mrs. Wendt and the host of volunteers for their hard work this year. Over 100 students participated in this year's concert.



For more information about Preschool enrollment opportunities contact:
Principal Erv Rowlands at:
515-232-5290
erowlands@stceciaschoolames.org



For information about careers at Saint Cecilia School contact Mr. Rowlands at: erowlands@stceciaschoolames

News from the Classroom

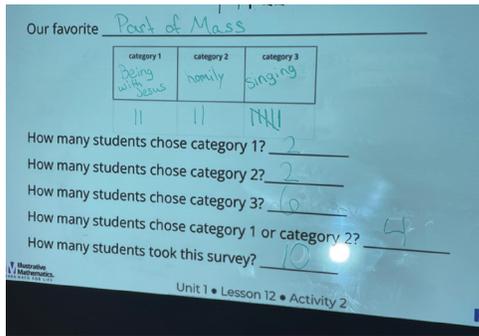
Kindergarten - Mrs. Campbell

Kindergarten has been very busy getting to know each other and experiencing ways we work and play together! One of our favorite times of the day is when we pass our prayer lamb around a circle and we say "good morning" to each other, calling each other by name. It is a very loving time and they are doing a great job of learning each other's names. We do a lot of academic learning in kindergarten, but we also learn how to get along with others and solve problems through our free play, which is another favorite time of our week. They have great imaginations and are very creative in all they do, whether it is in the classroom or on the playground. God walks with us throughout the day, and we are very excited to share our day with Him!



First Grade - Mrs. Hand

First Grade students in Mrs. Hand's class are learning how to collect data and answer questions about the information they collected. In this lesson students worked together to pick a topic and gather information.



Second Grade, Moore & Schoenrock

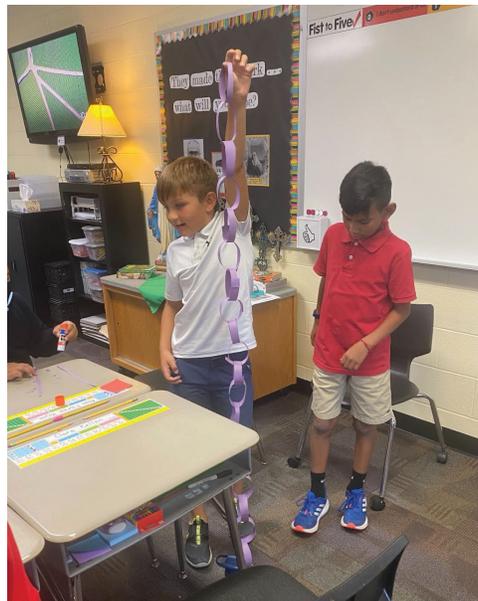
Both second grade classes took a field trip to McFarland Park on Monday, September 12th. The outdoor lesson was focused on plants and pollination. We took a short hike through the

prairie and learned about some of the different plants that grow there. It was a fun and educational afternoon!



4th, 5th, and 6th Grade Math News - Mrs. Sillman

After 9 years of teaching 4th grade, this year Mrs. Sillman is teaching 4th, 5th, and 6th grade math. She also will continue to be the 4th grade homeroom and religion teacher. The change was made so the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade teachers can work with the students as a team. The students have adjusted to this change in routine very quickly, and they are becoming more independent and responsible learners. The 4th graders are completing a unit on factors and multiples and



have used a variety of manipulatives, games, and strategies to share their thinking about multiplication. The work of the 5th graders has centered on volume, so they have been building and computing the volume of prisms. Students in 6th grade have been learning how to find the area of polygons, such as triangles and parallelograms.

Pre-School - Mrs. Eash

It is such an honor to win the Best of Story County award again this year! I love being the preschool teacher at Saint Cecilia. Everyday is different and challenging in its own way, but also very rewarding. Preschool is many children's first experience with school. Preschoolers are so excited to be at school. This school year students have had many exciting learning experiences. They have had the opportunity to participate in story times from the Ames Public Library, science experiments (their favorite involved popping popcorn), learning about letters and numbers, and learning about the love of Jesus.



Mrs. Rachel Eash
Preschool



Staff Spotlight

Saint Cecilia Says Goodbye...



Lois Vidimos

After 22 years Saint Cecilia School said good-bye to administrative assistant, Lois Vidimos. Lois started working at Saint Cecilia School in 2000

as an administrative assistant. Her responsibilities have changed over the years, but right most recently she has been responsible for maintaining PowerSchool, FACTS Grant Management and FACTS Tuition Management. She also assisted the principal with yearly contracts, Archdiocese of Dubuque and State of Iowa reports along with other duties, such as helping organize and plan daily, monthly and yearly special events. Of course, she handled the daily phone calls, emails and attendance as well.

Saint Cecilia School also said goodbye to Principal Sara Rooney. Sara left to lead Christ our King School in Des Moines, IA. as principal. Sara served as principal of Saint Cecilia School for four years.



Sara Rooney



Emily Beaudry

Other staff who have left in 2022 include Emily Beaudry (3rd Grade Teacher), Neal Davis (Associate/Office Assistant), Jessica Patterson

(Associate), Mia Soderstrum (Hot Lunch Assistant).

Thank you for sharing your talents with Saint Cecilia School.

CeCe's Corner

CeCe would like to remind everyone that the Saint Cecilia School Spirit is stronger than ever! If

you have a spirit story you would like to share send it our way.

Send your story to:

erowlands@stceciliashoolames.org



NEW FACES: Welcome To Saint Cecilia!



Carol Eide

My husband, Eric, and I moved to Ames five years ago from Fort Dodge where we lived for 28 years. While there I worked as a sixth

grade teacher at St. Edmond Catholic School. We have three adult children: Evan, Mary, and John.

We are enjoying living in Ames as we are avid Cyclone fans. We belong to St. Thomas Aquinas, and I am active in Stephen Ministry. I have been subbing at St. Cecilia for the past four years. I believe it is a real gem of a school, and I am happy to be a part of it.



Amy Kenny, Associate

I am currently married to my husband of 23 years. His name is Shawn and he works as an engineer for John

Deere at Des Moines Works in Ankeny. We have 3 children, Justin, who is a junior at Iowa State studying software engineering. Lane is a junior at Ames High School and Claire, who is a 7th grader at Ames Middle School. I stayed home for 18 years while my children were growing up and home schooled my son Lane for 4 years. I worked a year at Fellows Elementary and Northwood Preschool as an Educational Associate before coming to St. Cecilia. I love going to my son's football games and my daughter's volleyball games as well as ISU games. I am a graduate of Iowa State University.

Beth Dahlke

Beth is the new assistant cook at Saint Cecilia School this year.



Jeanne Beck, ELL

Jeanne is a doctoral student in the Applied Linguistics and Technology Program at Iowa State University. She has taught English learners,

English language arts, public speaking, and technology courses in the US, South Korea, and Japan, including EL classes at the elementary level. She is certified to teach in both Iowa and Missouri now and is excited to work with St. Cecilia English learners on a part-time basis.



Amanda Losee

My name is Amanda Losee and I am the SUCCESS Reading Teacher at St. Cecilia who comes from Ames to give support in reading for first, second, and third

grade. This is my 11th year serving the building. Prior to this role as a reading teacher I was a 5th grade teacher in two different rural districts in Iowa. I live here in Ames with my husband and our two cats. I love the outdoors and spend as much time as I can gardening, hiking, walking, biking, kayaking, or running. I also love to travel and am making my way to as many national parks as time will allow!

Saint Cecilia School adds 6th grade!

This year Saint Cecilia School added a 6th grade class for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mrs. Sara Markley leads a class of eight students. A shared curriculum is split between Mrs. Sillman (4th grade), Mrs. Austin (5th Grade), and Mrs. Markley (6th grade).



For information about 6th grade enrollment contact us today: 515-232-5290

"Young people need good teachers, like visible angels."

- St. John Baptist De La Salle

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Alumni Update!

Claudia Murphy - Class of 2015

This year Claudia Murphy (class of 2015) and her friend Abby Thompson became the first local girls of Scouts BSA Troop 160 to earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout. Claudia joined Scouts BSA in February 2019. Claudia is the daughter of Mark and Theresa Murphy. She has one sister, Becky who is also an alumna of Saint Cecilia School and member of Troop 160. Claudia is an Ames Graduate of 2022 and currently attending Iowa State University.



If you are a graduate of Saint Cecilia School or know someone who is we'd like to hear from you. Tell us your story. How has your time at Saint Cecilia School impacted your future?

Send your update to:
erowlands@stceciliaschoolames.org

SAINT CECILIA SCHOOL
KINDERGARTEN • PRE-SCHOOL
ROUND-UP
SAVE THE DATE!
FEBRUARY 9
(Parents/Guardians only)
6:00pm Preschool round-up
7:00pm Kindergarten Round-up
FEBRUARY 10
2023-24 Kindergarten Students
to spend the morning at school
CALL TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR VISIT US AT:
[HTTPS://SCHOOLSTCECILIAPARIS.ORG/](https://schoolstceciliaparis.org/)
SAINT CECILIA
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
In Christ, we Live, Love, and Learn
2900 HOOKER AVENUE • AMES, IA 50010 • (515) 232-5290
2022 BEST OF STORY COUNTY WINNER
Voted Best Pre-School in Story County 2022

School Calendar

Jan. 29-Feb. 3: Catholic Schools Week

March 3: No School (Conf. Prep.)

March 6-8: Evening PT Conferences (Time TBA)

March 9-10: No School

March 13-17: Spring Break

April 10: No School; Easter Monday

May 29: No School; Memorial Day

May 31: Last Day of Class & Early Dismissal at 1:30PM

FSA Update Family School Association

FSA (Family School Association) had a very busy fall with lots of fun family events occurring! The Camp Read S'mores Read A Thon was a huge hit with the students & teachers raising over \$8,000! We hit our all school goal so thank you again for making our fall fundraiser a huge success! Our annual trunk or treat in the school parking lot was the biggest turn out we have had! Over 30 trunks were decorated and lots of pizza was served to families!



Catholic School Week is the week of Sunday, January 29th through Friday, February 3rd. Events are being planned for each day for the kids to participate in during the school day.

The school directory was sent home with students before Thanksgiving. This is a great resource to use when needing to contact parents or students! Thank you to Emily Poss and Sara Bergman for all the work that they did to get the directory printed!

A school ambassador committee is currently being formed. If you are interested in helping with giving school tours to new or prospective students and parents, please email stcfsachair@gmail.com.



Gala Update!

Please join us on Saturday, April 29, 2023. The Event includes dinner, drinks, raffles and games as well as Silent and Live Auctions. We will also have live entertainment by the band Milk & Honey!!

After School Programs

Saint Cecilia School offers many after school programs. Below is a list of programs and contact information for each.

First Lego League

Contact: Barb Read
bkreaddc@hotmail.com

First Lego League Challenge Team
Grades 4th-6th

Meets Tuesdays and Thursdays starting August 30th and ending January 19th from 3:30-5:30 PM

First Lego League Explore Team

Grades 2nd-3rd
Tuesday Team meets Tuesdays starting September 20th and ending January 17th from 3:30-4:30 PM

Thursday Team meets Thursdays starting September 22nd and ending January 19th from 3:30-4:30 PM

Girl Scouts Daisy's

Contact: Kerry Foster
kerryjohnson411@gmail.com
Meets the first Thursday of each month starting September 1st and ending May 4th from 3:30-4:30 PM

Cub Scouts

Contact: Tim Read
timread@5fingerscreative.com
Meets twice a month

Doodle Club 2022-23

After school Art Class
Wednesdays or Fridays
Contact: Tim Read
timread@5fingerscreative.com

A New Look for Saint Cecilia!

Saint Cecilia School was proud to unveil a new school logo this year. The logo upgrade is part of the ongoing marketing initiative and created under the supervision of Principal Rooney and Fr. Czapl by St. Cecilia School parent and graphic designer, Tim Read.

The new logo will replace the old logo which has been used for decades. You will begin seeing the new logo being used gradually throughout the year.

