



ST. BEN'S SCHOOL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Greetings from Principal Haluska

Happy November! What a great start to the 2023-24 school year. **This year, St. Benedict has its highest enrollment in twenty-one years with 167 students.** We had some vacancies this year with staff and were blessed to be able to fill all positions. Those new to St Ben's or in new positions are: Sarah Christopher-special education; Randy Schissel-custodian, Sally Dougherty-1st grade; Megan Swanson-4th grade; Jackie Harless-preschool associate; Sheila Kruger-preschool Instructor; and Martha Kane-office. We are looking forward to a great year of quality learning for all students. As I say each year, we have an amazing Catholic School. Never take this for granted. Pray for our school and Catholic Education everywhere. Wishing all of you a Happy Thanksgiving as well as a safe and blessed Holiday Season! Let's have a great 2023-24 school year.



Primary Unit Kindergarten with Mrs. Einck

The kindergartners have been busy learning their ABC's and new sight words! We enjoy practicing our letters and words with fun items, including rocks, Play-Doh, and Twizzlers!

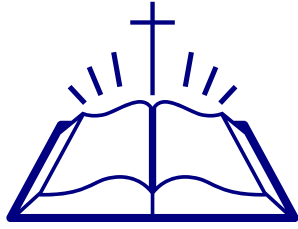


Faith

Do you follow our wonderful school on Facebook? You should!
Search: **Decorah St. Benedict School**

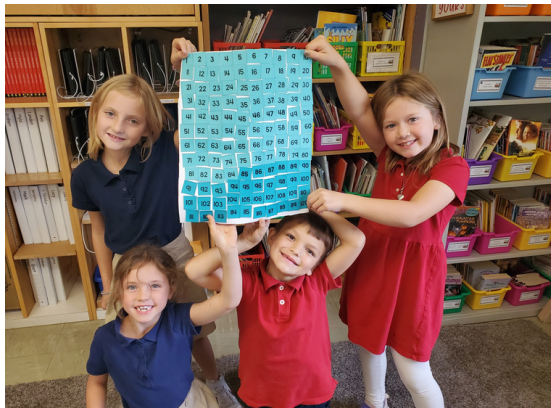


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First Grade with Mrs. Dougherty

Our first grade friends enjoyed a beautiful fall day at Peake's Apple Orchard in Waukon, Iowa, where over 1,400 apples trees grow! Students learned how apples are grown and harvested, different types of apples, and different foods made from apples.



Second Grade with Mrs. Dahl

Evan from Winneshiek County Conservation came and presented about composting. Our 2nd graders led Mass on Oct. 20 and did a wonderful job. We attended the 8th grade play, *Beauty and the Beast*. It was so great seeing our middle school friends on the stage.





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Intermediate Unit

Third Grade with Mrs. Frossmo

Mrs. Frossmo's students have had a ball conducting a pumpkin lab in science class! Students measured, weighed, counted seeds, and tested to see if pumpkins would float! 4 out of 5 pumpkins DID float! They also worked on their writing skills by jotting down clues about their Halloween costumes so their classmates could guess what they'll be dressed as this year!



Jesus



Fourth Grade with Mrs. Swanson

Fourth grade had fun representing their favorite sports team during Red Ribbon Week. They also enjoyed studying fossils at Lake Meyer and observing larvae in science class!





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Fifth Grade with Mrs. Galligan

Our 5th graders were ready to shine on tie-dye day for Homecoming. They also enjoyed the chance to perform poetry outside on a beautiful fall day! Our field trip to Fort Atkinson Rendezvous Days was a highlight from the first quarter, for sure!



Middle School Unit

Middle School with Mrs. Jewell

Mrs. Jewell's middle schoolers have been busy exploring Lake Meyer, working on persuasive essays and memorizing lines for the school play!





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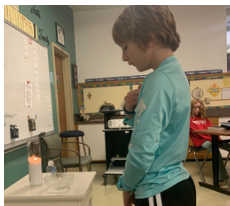
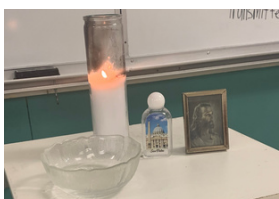
The middle school students are busy researching for their History Day projects. On Oct. 19, they went to Luther College's library for a morning of research. Many came back to school with excellent resources. We look forward to seeing what topics everyone picks this year!

Middle School with Mrs. Lien



Middle School with Mrs. Franzen and Mrs. Murphy

Middle school religion classes had the chance to learn about holy water and baptism. They then were able to bless themselves with holy water from the Vatican, which had been blessed by Pope Francis during Mrs. Murphy's recent visit to Rome!



The sixth graders learned about water quality while at the Decorah Fish Hatchery for a day sponsored by Iowa State Extension, Winneshiek County Conservation, Winneshiek Soil and Water and the Iowa DNR.

The 8th graders had fun making rice jump and water spray during their study on waves, wave properties, and how waves move through different mediums.

We have some budding movie makers in 7th grade! They are learning and working with iMovie to develop editing skills. Part of the project has the students working with the green screen.

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St. Ben's Specials

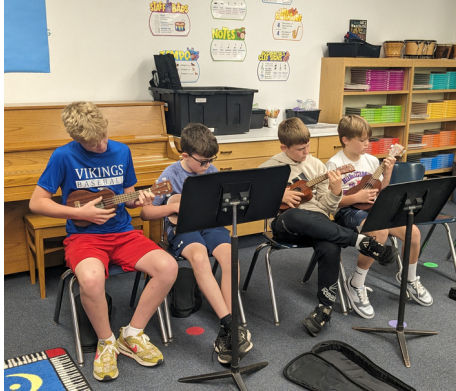
Band with Mrs. Bliven

The Cadet and Concert Bands are busy learning new songs to focus on balance and blend, new rhythms, good tone and new notes! Their upcoming concert will be December 6 at 1:30 and 7:00 pm!



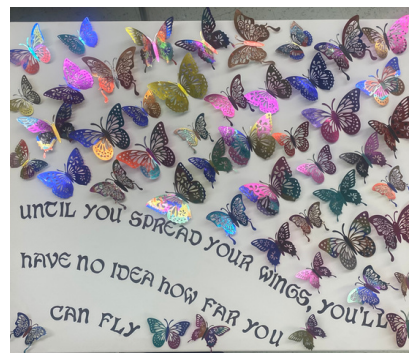
Music with Mrs. Kowitz

Our St. Ben's music students are off to a great start! Our musicians love boomwhackers, ukuleles and working on syncopation.



Art with Mrs. Holland

Art class has been busy! The 8th graders helped create the backdrop for the school play. All classes are working on class projects for our school auction! Take a sneak peak at the first and second grade projects!





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PE with Mrs. Tangen

Students in Physical Education have been busy with a variety of units! Middle school and intermediate units have enjoyed Frisbee activities, football activities, and basketball. The primary unit has been keeping busy with hand-eye coordination, movement and teamwork activities! We have been enjoying the beautiful weather outside.



St. Ben's Specials



Resource Room with Mrs. Christopher

I am thrilled to be a part of the St. Benedict school staff. I spent most of my professional life at North Winn. in the resource room. I truly love working so closely with students to help them overcome challenges they may face in school. This first quarter has been just that! Students working hard to build skills in all areas to help them reach new goals for the school.



Computer Class with Mrs. Eichinger

Kindergarteners used the TuxPaint app in computer class to draw pictures of "what makes me happy". Their voices were recorded describing their pictures and a whole class keynote presentation was created. Fourth graders created some AWESOME stop motion animations in computer class.





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Our Preschool Friends

Preschool with Mrs. Kruger and Mrs. Harless

The preschoolers are learning about all things related to autumn this month. The preschoolers decorated a Halloween picture to brighten the day for community members who receive *meals-on-wheels*.



SIMPLIFIED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL YEAR 22-23

Income

Tuition	\$339,772.00
St. Ben's Parish Investment in Education	\$525,000.00
Third Source Income	\$247,348.00
Other	\$ 6,836.00
Total Receipts	\$1,118,996.00

Expenses

Salaries	\$885,166.00
Instruction and Supplies	\$ 91,393.00
Administrative Office & Fundraising Expenses	\$ 45,340.00
Fixed Charges	\$ 71,743.00
Maintenance	\$116,352.00
Other	\$ 1,226.00
Total Expenses	\$1,211,220.00

Facts

Number of Preschool Students	20
Number of Students (K - 8)	135
K-8 Per Pupil Cost (cost to educate per year)	\$8,972.00
Number of Teachers	19
Salary for 1st Year Teacher	\$27,900.00
Average Teacher Salary	\$39,864.14
Average Years of Service (Teachers)	16.4
Number of Non-teaching Staff	5
Average Years of Service (Staff)	17.4

We love our St. Ben's Family!



St. Benedict School received a generous donation of a used, small, white covered trailer from Holland Construction. Thank you for this amazing gift! This trailer will be used to hold redeemable cans and bottles. Please help support our school by putting all of your cans and bottles in any garbage bag inside the trailer. All profits will go to St. Benedict School.



Can and Bottle Collection
ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL
Drop off your redeemable cans and plastic bottles in the trailer at school.
402 Rural Avenue
-No GLASS
-No Garbage
-Bag in garbage or redemption bags