

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community

Volume 13, Issue 9

Apr 2025



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

*"I used to believe that prayer changes things,
but now I know that prayer changes us,
and we change things"*
Mother Teresa

May 2, 2025

Hello SRA Families,

April has been a whirlwind! One minute, we are preparing for Easter, and the next, we are fully engaged in all the end-of-year events. When we came back after Easter, it seemed as if we were on a sprint for the end of the school year. This message has many things to cover, so let me begin.

First, our Catholic Church is undergoing a transition with Pope Francis's passing. We continue to pray for Pope Francis; may his soul rest in peace. We must also pray for all the Cardinals as they enter the Papal Conclave on May 7. May the Holy Spirit guide the Cardinals and the process as the Church selects a new Pope.

April brought many highlights about our students. Clara T., Addie P., Helen P., and Susan I. represented our school at last week's History Day State competition. Susan submitted a paper, and Clara, Addie, and Helen came in third place with their presentation. Congratulations on representing our school well! Thank you, Mrs. Connor, for sharing your passion for history with your students.

Bellarmino Speech League also had its final event of the year. Emmy K. received a Gold ribbon, Vivian S. and Madelyn L. received Blue ribbons, and Katelyn F. and Isa H. received Red ribbons. Congratulations on your success this year, and thank you to Mrs. Roslawski for the support you provide to this program and your students.

I had so much fun with Olivia W. when she was Principal for a Day. She took her job very seriously and brought such joy to the day. She even brought an extra-special lunch treat for all the students. What such fun you had!

Our fifth-graders received a Silver ribbon for their performance at the Dancing Classroom competition. The class has spent the past sixteen weeks learning different dances and the countries and cultures they originated from. The fifth graders did an outstanding job; we are very proud of their accomplishments.

This week, we host the "Night of Entertainment," one of my favorite events of the year. Thank you, Mrs. Roslawski, for your passion for finding opportunities for our students to shine. This is not a talent show, and no tryouts are needed. Students can create and prepare an act using their skills or interests and perform for a captive audience. Guests leave the performance with joy in their hearts.



On Sunday, May 4, the second graders will receive their First Holy Communion at a special 11:00 AM Mass. They will have the day off on Monday. The seventh graders will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Rivituso on Monday, May 5. They will have the day off on Tuesday. Please pray for our second—and seventh-graders as they receive Sacrament Grace this week.

On Saturday, May 3, our robotics students will attend the Robotic Jamboree at St. Louis University High School. Mr. Kraudel and Mr. Barrett have been working with the robotics team on various challenges in preparation for this event. The students will have five opportunities to master each challenge. I always enjoy watching our students work intently on coding the robots to success! Thank you, Mr. Kraudel and Mr. Barrett!

On Thursday, May 8, our eighth graders will lead the school during the May Crowning liturgy. Our second-grade class will be their honor guard. This is a beautiful mass when we honor Mary, our Mother. All are welcome to attend.

And finally, the day we have all been waiting for...Field Day is here on Friday, May 9. Mr. Klos and the Field Day parent committee have been planning for months to make this a special day for the students. Dismissal will be at 12:30; please note that the time is later than usual because the Men's Club will provide lunch for the entire student body. We had so much fun last year competing in our school Family Groups. Let the competition begin!

On a added note, the Today and Tomorrow Education Foundation asked St. Raphael to be a host site for their campaign for the annual Archbishop's Gala each spring. We were one of two schools to host the photo shoot back in February. I got to see the final product of photos and interviews with some of the students when I attended the Gala, but they also sent it to me so I could share it with our school community. Enjoy the video. [2025 Archbishops Gala Mission Video](#)

Blessings,

Mrs. Hayes

These are Important Dates for the **2025-2026** school year.
The full calendar will be sent at the end of the school year.

Back to School Sunday August 10, 2025
First Day of School August 12, 2025, with a Noon Dismissal
Thanksgiving Break November 26-30, 2025
Christmas Break December 19, 2025, at Noon Dismissal
Classes Resume January 5, 2026
Spring Break March, 16 - 20, 2026
Last Day of School May 22, 2026



Announcements

Daily Mass Time: 8:00am
Grades K-3 T/W/Th
Grades 4-8 M/W/Th



May Birthdays



Addison McMorrow-1

Elizabeth Anstey-2

Mrs. Meier-2

Xavier Cyr-4

Douglas Adams-5

Mara Rooney-7

Hattie Zitko-9

Russell Powderly-10

Francis Kaloyeros-12

Leo Kurtovic-12

Javier Rea-15

Caleb Bernadt-15

Rory Meier-17

Jack Berry-18

Harry Bradford-21

Henry Beshears-29

Mark Boeckmann-29





Important Calendar Dates & Notes

5/1-2nd Grade First Communion Practice &
Tailgate Sale 6:00pm

5/4-2nd Grade First Communion

5/5-2nd Grade no school

5/5-7th Grade Confirmation with
Bishop Rivituso

5/6-7th Grade no school

5/8-May Crowning

5/9-Field Day-12:30pm Dismissal

5/11-Mother's Day

5/12-Biz Town 5th Grade

5/14-8th Grade Last Day of classes

5/15-8th Grade Mystery Trip

5/16-8th Grade Graduation Dinner

5/18-8th Grade Graduation Mass

5/20-PK Performance 6:30pm

5/23-Last Day of School

5/30-Report Cards Open

Miss Molly: Preschool A



The Angels have been doing a great job at learning their letters and writing. They are done with writing straight lines and now are practicing the curve letters. They had fun with the letter U, especially making Unicorns!!! They made a Leprechaun trap but found out the Leprechaun took all our gold while on spring break. Before break they had fun experiencing all the fun activities of St. Patrick's Day.



Ms. Tracy: Prekindergarten



April was a fast month. The bears learned more letters and sounds. We worked on teen numbers and how to write them. We went on a field trip to the zoo. Everyone had so much fun. We got to see the new polar bears and see animals that aren't always out. We celebrated Easter and learned about holy week and why we have Easter. Many new games were learned and played to reinforce the skills we have practicing both old and new.



Kindergarten News: Mrs. Liz Magee



We began a measurement unit in Kindergarten this week and are working on identifying blends in words in phonics. We also started a new chapter book read-aloud; Pippi Longstocking, and we are loving it! We are anxiously awaiting our first time leading mass on the last day of school and have begun our preparations to make this a very special day!

First Grade News: Mrs. Jessica Klein

First grade had a busy April! We learned about counting money, telling time and shapes in math and all of the different vowel teams in phonics. To wrap up our plant unit in science we planted grass and have loved watering it and watching it grow. Some students' grass grew so tall it needed a "haircut!" Another highlight was using our persuasive writing skills to write our parents letters convincing them of something we should have; they even wrote us back! And of course, we loved celebrating Easter and enjoying the beautiful spring weather!

Second Grade News: Mrs. Toni Jackson

April was a busy and meaningful month for second grade! We participated in Activity Day to prepare our hearts and hands for our upcoming First Communion. We also received bows for our front doors to remind others to keep us in their prayers. In social studies, we wrapped up our economics unit by creating our own paper product stores—what a fun way to learn!

Looking ahead to May, we are excited to celebrate the sacrament of First Holy Communion on May 4. In science, we are exploring different habitats, and in math, we'll be studying shapes and their attributes. We'll also be finishing our writing boot camp, working hard to write clear, cohesive paragraphs.



Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Ms. Polson's Third Graders are researching a state of their choice. Some students even wrote or contacted their state to get maps, brochures and information for their poster project. All students are busy reading and learning and taking notes to complete the requirements. We look forward to sharing in May with one another. We have also learned a card game called Authors where the objective is to get 4 of one kind. It has been a fun learning activity on the rainy days in April. It was enjoyable to have some visitors in our school (SIP Committee) during early April. All enjoyed an Easter break and we are keeping Pope Francis in our prayers. It is hard to believe we have less than 20 days in May.

Miss Patti Woods: English (4 &5) Religion (4 &7) Social Studies (4) Literature (4)

4th Grade English: We will be taking our unit test on adjectives soon. Then, we will be working on using correct capitalization and punctuation. We are also writing a narrative about an imaginary leprechaun and what he did one crazy weekend (or day) at their house.

4th Grade Religion: We are just about finished learning about the Beatitudes. We have been discussing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

5th Grade English: We recently completed our unit on pronouns. Now we are studying our use of adverbs and prepositions.

7th Grade Religion: Confirmation is almost here! Please keep these students in your prayers as they strengthen their Catholic faith and become adults in the eyes of the Church.

Mrs. Katie Meier: Religion (5), Math (4-5), Vocabulary/Spelling (4-5)

The 5th grade wrapped up their Dancing Classrooms curriculum and brought home silver ribbons from their competition!

We will be focusing on our JA BizTown curriculum for the next couple of weeks to get ready for our visit on site in May.

Mrs. Christy Connor: Religion (6 & 8) Social Studies (5-8)

Religion:

In grade six, we have completed our study of the Kings of Israel and will be starting to learn about the Prophets.

Students in grade eight are continuing their study of Catholic Church history into the 17th and 18th centuries.

Social Studies:

Sixth-grade students have begun to discover the areas of Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica.

Seventh-grade students are learning about how exploration and trade in Africa eventually led to the exploration of the New World.

Students in grade five have completed their study of the Oregon Trail and will be learning about World War I.

Students in grade eight are learning about the causes of the Great Depression and will soon begin their study of World War II.

Mrs. Anne Stein: Standard Math & Challenge Math (6-7-8) Pre Algebra, (7-8) Algebra (7-8)

The Algebra II students are learning to solve and graph quadratic equations and divide polynomials.

The Algebra class is learning about exponential growth and decay and will finish the year working with polynomials.

The Pre-Algebra classes are exploring the laws of exponents and will be learning the Pythagorean Theorem.

The 7th Challenge class is finishing a unit on solving equations and will begin studying probability.

The 6th Challenge class is learning about proportional relationships and exploring circles and will finish the year working with negative numbers.

Mrs. Sioux Roslawski: Literature & English (6-7-8)

6th-8th ELA:

The end of the school year is fast approaching. All three groups of students are immersed in their last novel. *Greenwood Gone: Henry's Story* is historical fiction and includes real-life historical figures in the plot. *Hatchet* is realistic fiction, set in contemporary (or at least semi-contemporary times) set in the woods. *The Outsiders*---an 8th grade favorite---is realistic fiction set in the 1960 in Oklahoma.

We're working on argumentative writing, which involves creating a claim, collecting evidence, countering with a counterclaim, and then a conclusion.

Civitas

Civitas is a local, free-to-schools model UN program. All year, off and on, students have been working on researching a country of their choice. They created UN resolutions--as the delegate of their country--and we just recently had our General Assembly. Clara Thomposon presented her resolution--and it passed by an overwhelming majority. Mark Boeckman also presented his resolution, and it also passed overwhelmingly.

Bellarmino

We had our final speech competition. This time, students were judged by two different judges for each round, so the difficulty level was raised. The following students competed:

Emmy Kleekamp--She earned a gold ribbon.

Vivien Smith and Maddie Liddy--They earned a blue ribbon.

Katelynn Feldman and Isa Hogrebe--They earned a red ribbon.

Mr. Leonard Kraudel: Science/STREAM (4-5-6-7-8)

4TH Grade just finished testing on Earthquakes and Volcanoes and will be studying Paleontology, the study of fossils and how important they are in learning about the Earth's past and what organisms lived at that time and what the environments were like.

5TH Grade is reviewing the Water Cycle and the importance of water to humans around the world and how to conserve and protect it.

6/7/8TH will be learning about the formation of the solar system, types of galaxies, and reviewing moon phases and eclipses.

Miss Gretchen Decker: Art

Happy Spring everyone! I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter Break and ready to finish up the school year! For the past few weeks for Preschool and Early Childhood Students, they created a Transfiguration of Jesus, a 3D recreation of Jesus Rising, and Easter Bags. Soon, they will be learning about Hokusai and make their own versions of "The Great Wave off Kanagawa" artwork. The Upper School Students have finished their weaving projects and are moving onto Egyptian Artwork or finishing their Year-Long Projects.

I would also like to take this time to thank everyone who purchased an Art to Remember Project! The Early Childhood students' artwork was Choice-based on the subject and materials they liked to use for their artwork. Then the Upper School created what would've been their final assignment but turned into the Art to Remember Project as it fit perfectly for the assignment! I hope everyone finishes off the year on a high note and glad to know that I will also be seeing some of the students during Summer Camp.

Mr. Jeff Klos: PE

We've had a busy month with the 5th grade. Practicing for over 2 months on ballroom dancing. We had a dress rehearsal at SRA the Wednesday before spring break and our competition at SGA last Wednesday where they received silver medals. They were all outstanding while representing SRA in every aspect.

Upper grades have been practicing volleyball/pickleball/badminton this month. The lower grades are playing various games involving proper throwing techniques. They performed very well and we have almost mastered throwing in opposition.

Mrs. Jena Copeland: Music

The month of April brought many different things to the music room! Pre-K focused on fast, slow, high, low, and began repeating basic rhythms. Kindergarten began reading and playing basic stick notation rhythms. First grade finished their xylophone unit and began learning about the lines and spaces of the treble clef staff. Second, Fourth, and Fifth grades completed their xylophone unit and have moved on to playing Boomwhackers and learning how each note fits within a song both rhythmically and metronomically. Third grade also completed their xylophone unit and has moved on to learning to play the recorder.