

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community



Volume 12, Issue 1

Aug 2023

From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

August 31, 2023

Hello SRA Families,

We have our first three-day weekend of the school year as we celebrate Labor Day on Monday, September 4th. This is a day off from school for all grade levels. I always feel it is a much-needed pause from the rush and excitement of beginning a new school year. With the change in routines from the summer, the early mornings, the added sports schedule, and the addition of homework, life can feel stressful to families, teachers, and principals. Enjoy the holiday weekend.

It has been a positive start to the school year with many new faces and services. First, we welcome our new Pastor, Fr. Molini, and Associates- Fr. Madden, Fr. Ritter, and Fr. Simon. The students met all the priests serving our parish when they attended Mass throughout August. We welcome them as they join our parish community.

We also welcome our new tech support company, Sidebarr. Mr. Bill Koulouriotis has been extremely supportive of all the transitions this year, especially updating programs, assisting staff, and implementing the new FOB system. All of the above is a work in progress, and we appreciate your patience during this time.

We continue our student support services through the Miriam Learning Center and Catapult Learning. Our EANS II grant allows us to continue our services with instructional aides, coaches, specialists, speech therapists, and occupational therapists.

Dr. Chip Jones- Instructional Coach
Melissa McClard - Reading Specialist
Darci Kern - Speech Therapist
Donna Gallen - Occupational Therapist
Mindy McFarland - Occupational Therapist
Amber Cathers - Instructional Aide for the Early Childhood Department

The Title I program, which assists students with reading and math, also continues at St. Raphael with two new teachers, Mary Kauffman and Madi D'Angelo. We welcome all of our support staff members.

Earlier this week, school families received a letter from Fr. Molini introducing the Angel Appeal for the 2023-2024 school year. We appreciate the generous parishioners who contribute to our school and parish success. Fr. Molini asks families to return their responses as soon as possible because he wants to report school families' responses before the general mailing goes out to the parishioners. Thank you.

Thank you to all the families who attended the Back-to-School Curriculum Night. We hope the information provided that evening was helpful. For those families who attended and scanned the QR Code in the classrooms, a Dress-Down Pass for Wednesday, September 6, was sent home in this week's packets.

Now that we have gotten a few weeks of school routines behind us, I am asking parents to revisit the Uniform Policies in the handbook. I ask for parent support in helping your child follow the policies. Pay close attention to skirt length, makeup, nails, and jewelry policies for girls and hair length for boys.

Changing hair coloring and wearing non-uniform sweatshirts are not allowed for all students. I will send notes this year when a student needs to follow the uniform policies. We will work together to ensure all students are following the uniform policies at St. Raphael.

September brings standardized assessments, the parish picnic, a blood drive, and the SRA Feast Day! Look for more information to come about these events.

Have a wonderful Labor Day Weekend,

Mrs. Hayes

**WELCOME BACK
TO SCHOOL!**



Announcements

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



August Birthdays

Andrea Mense-1
Mac Teeter-2
Mae Roth-5
Logan McLain-6
Ben Bauman-7
Leo Colona-7
Rosalina Maxfield-8
William Wegman-10
John Curtin-11
George Odehnal-13
Charlie Ridley-13
Daniella Giambrone-13
Joseph Reynolds-14
Caroline Fissel-18
Dervla Sheehan-20
Christian Chirco-22
Miss Franks-27
Mary Hicks-29
Samantha Zouglas-29
Mae Klein-30
Melissa Colin-31

September Birthdays

Kelly Farley-2
Lucy Howard-2
Clayton Floyd-3
Max Winters-4
Archie Fissel-4
Isaac Potts-5
Ryan Schoen-6
Gus Boxdorfer-7
Ryan Schneider-7
Thomas Wilkinson-9
Sloane Teeter-10
Lorelai Farley-10
Linus Cyr-10
Grace Berta-11
Michael Gresick-13
Ms. Erin-14
Ben Mense-15
Peter Cyr-17
Liam LoBello-17
Nathan Kuenzel-18
Caroline Klein-20

Christian Bernadt-21
Adriana Kurtovic-21
Madelyn Liddy-23
Maisy Cyr-23
Noah Murphey-25
Allie Lowery-28
Drew Stein-29
Mr. Bob-29
Mollie Dirnbeck-30
Mallory Jost-30





Important Calendar Dates and Notes:

9/4 Labor Day-No School PK-8

9/6 History Day Parent Meeting 6:30pm

9/12 Home & School 6:30pm

9/18 School Board 7pm

9/18-9/21 Iowa Testing-Grades 6 & 8

9/22 Parish Picnic-No School PK-8

-PD for Teachers

9/23 Parish Picnic

9/28 Blood Drive 2-7pm

9/29 SRA Feast Day

Miss Molly: Preschool A



PREK A the Angels are off to a great start ! We have a big class and they are all having fun meeting new friends. We have been working learning names , rules, learning to walk through the school and meeting new teachers. -The first few weeks of preschool will be adjusting and learning to be a good student and friend. These guys are doing a great job and having fun!!



Ms. Tracy: Prekindergarten

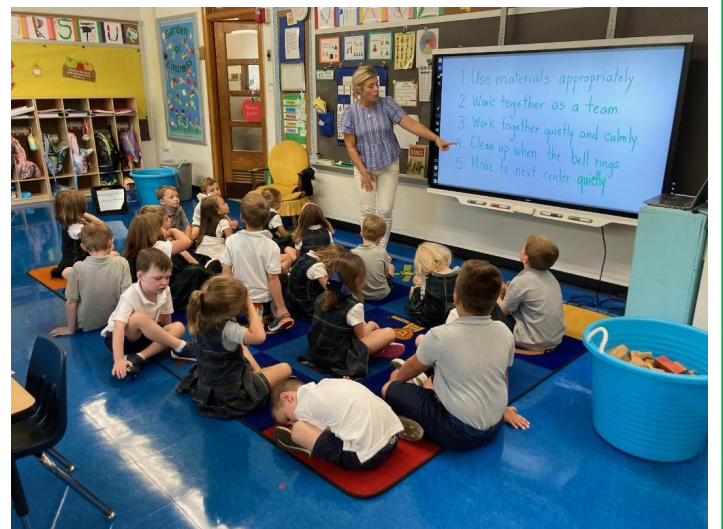


We are off and running in Pre-k B. We have spent time learning routines and rules and making new friends. The bears are practicing and learning how to recognize, spell and write their names. We spent a lot of time on the playground and even found a toad. We are going to have a great year!!



Kindergarten News: Mrs. Liz Magee

We have been busy in Kindergarten! We have been working on our daily routines, reviewing and practicing letter and number recognition and this week we began our daily center rotations. Next month we look forward to our unit on apples where we will incorporate science, math and writing!



First Grade News: Mrs. Jessica Klein



First grade is learning how to rotate through literacy and math centers and all of the daily routines of being a first grader! We are excited to get to use planners and have spelling tests (for now!).



Second Grade News: Miss Hayley Franks

Second grade is in full swing! The first three weeks have been filled with fun, and learning, getting acclimated. We're enjoying getting to know our new teacher, our new classroom, and all the expectations of Second grade! Please keep us Second graders in your prayers during this back-to-school season.

Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Third Graders all know what onomatopoeia means. Ms. Polson read a book called "This is the Teacher" and we got 20 sound words. We also did a poem called "The Fiddler" and found many pairs of rhyming words. A 3 part story called "The Pied Piper" was a fun read. We have even learned about adding fractions already. All of us are anxious to learn cursive handwriting. It will be a fun year!

Miss Gretchen Decker: Art

Welcome back to school everyone! I have lots of art projects planned for all the kids and I'm excited to see how each student approaches each topic! Pre-K got to see a pufferfish create a sand design in the sea, Kindergarten through 3rd grade got to show what they did over the summer and start a watercolor project, then 4th through 8th are finishing up their Art Appropriation Project. I'm excited to start hanging up projects!

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

It has been a great beginning to the school year. The fourth graders are all settling into the new routines of changing classes. It is a big change for them! There is a lot to remember and to get organized for.



They are all grateful for a break in the hot weather and looking forward to nicer days ahead.

Thank you to all who took advantage of Curriculum Night last week. I look forward to working with you and your family throughout the year.

Mrs. Katie Meier: Religion (5), Math (4-6), Literature/Vocabulary/Spelling (4-5)

We are looking forward to a wonderful year in 5th grade! Thank you for the warm SRA Welcome!

5th grade is working on our executive functioning skills as we switch classes throughout the day. We use different Google Slides to help us pack our backpacks.



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

4th Grade Science is learning about FORCE- Balanced and Unbalanced and we are reviewing the Steps of Scientific Method.

5th Grade is learning Properties of Matter, how to calculate Density, and different states of Matter and what changes them from one state to the next.

6-7-8th Grades reviewed the characteristics of Living Things, the parts of the microscope, and we will be learning about cells and cell organelles.

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

Welcome to a new school year! It's really great to see the students again.

Grade 6 students will be working on the history of the Jewish people and the Old Testament this year, and the Grade 8 students will be learning about Church history.

Students in Grades 5 and 8 will focus on American history in social studies. Grade 6 students will learn about world geography and cultures, and Grade 7 students will learn about world history.

I'm looking forward to the opportunities for learning and creativity in all my classes.

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

Middle school math is off to a great start this year! The 7th Grade Challenge class is working on order of operations, exponents, and the metric system. The Pre-Algebra class is reviewing working with integers and solving one-step equations. The Algebra I class is reviewing operations with rational numbers and probability. The Algebra II class is reviewing simplifying expressions and solving equations. We are looking forward to a great school year!

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

6th-8th ELA

The school year has gotten off to a wonderful start. The students began with writing memoir pieces, which serves two purposes. One, it puts their writing skills to use (and there are gifted writers at SRA) and two, it allows them to catch their friends up with their summer activities.

As a side note, the 8th grade chose the theme for their hoodie, along with the color, in record time. That's proof that this is a group that gets along and is great at collaborating.

We're going to begin our novels this week, so be prepared to ask your son/daughter what they're reading in class.

Mr. John McDermott: Physical Education

Welcome back to the new school year! We are kicking the year off with volleyball. We will be working on bumping, setting, and spiking. We will also be working on underhand and overhand serving.

