

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community

Volume 13, Issue 8

Mar 2025



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

March 27, 2025

*"Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you with coming away better and happier."
Saint Mother Teresa*

Dear SRA Families,

March just flew by this year. One day, we were still cold and threatened with snow, and the next, we had warm, windy weather as spring had arrived! We returned from Spring Break with only one week of March left, and before you know it, we are inching into April.

April brings many important events for families to note. I still prefer my paper planner, so when I turned the page to April, I was taken aback by just how many events we have scheduled.

For the past two years, we have had a School Improvement Committee in action with faculty members and parents meeting, gathering data, and creating goals in the areas of Catholic Identity, Education, and Institution for our school. The committees have done an excellent job of discussing the future of our school. We will culminate this endeavor by hosting a visiting team at our school next week.

The SIP team will be at St. Raphael on Thursday, April 3, and Friday, April 4. Over the two days, they will review the School Improvement document, visit classrooms, and meet with key stakeholders. Once they finish assessing our goals, they will present their recommendations to the Pastor, the Principal, and the Co-Chairperson. The approved goals will become the focus for the School Board and administration to implement over the next five years. This process allows St. Raphael the Archangel School to remain accredited in Missouri.

We welcome our visiting team of principals, teachers, and a director from the Archdiocese of St. Louis to our school next week. We also send out our appreciation to our committee members for their dedication and quality discussions to create a comprehensive report to share with the visiting team. We have a great school and community!

The 7th Grade Safety Patrols will attend the Cardinals' 12:15 PM baseball game on **Wednesday, April 2.** Mrs. Stein has already sent home permission slips and gathered parent drivers.

Spring Pictures will be held on Thursday, April 10. For this session, students will dress up in their best springtime clothing. This is an out-of-uniform day. The photographer will begin once the students return from mass. We start with the preschool first, so if your preschooler does not attend school on this day, you can arrive around 9:00 am.

Family Mass is on Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday. The 7th-grade families will lead this mass, which is the second and final Family Mass of this school year. Thank you to Jeanne Magee for all her help and support with the Family Mass program this year. This year, we started a new tradition where the Confirmation class and their families take the leadership role for the Family Masses. Please mark your calendar with the Family Mass on Palm Sunday.

Our 5th-graders have been learning ballroom dancing through the Dancing Classroom program this year. We added this program last year, and our students learned so much, which is why I am excited to see our 5th graders experience this for themselves. Families of our 5th graders are invited to view the **Dress Rehearsal on Wednesday, April 16, from 2:00 to 3:00 PM in the gym**. Our younger students up to 4th grade will also attend. The final Dance Competition will be hosted at St. Gabriel on Wednesday, April 23.

Easter Break begins on Holy Thursday, April 17, and continues through Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter, and Easter Monday. Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 22. We spend the entire Lenten season preparing the students for the Resurrection of Our Lord, which we celebrate on Easter, but the Triduum days are also essential to honor. We encourage families to take this time to share the Catholic Easter traditions and ceremonies with their children.

The second grade will receive First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 4. The students will not have school the following day. In preparation for the Sacrament, they will have a fun Activity Day on Friday, April 25, and they will receive their white bows on Bow Sunday, April 27, at the 9 AM Mass. The final 1st Communion Practice and Tailgate Meal will take place on Thursday, May 1, starting at 6:00 PM.

The seventh grade will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday, May 5, at 7 PM, followed by a reception in the gym. The students will not have school the following day. The seventh graders will receive red bows at the 4:30 PM Mass on Saturday, April 26.

The Night of Entertainment event has been moved to Monday, April 28, at 6:30 PM. It is no longer on the April 29. Mrs. Roslawski is the director of this event.

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

I know this message contains much information, but April is a very busy month!

Blessings,
Mrs. Hayes



Announcements

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



April Birthdays

Chase Sitzes-2

William Schneeberger-2

Max Ewald-2

Emma Rooney-7

Olivia Jaboor-8

MaryRose Saracino-10

Sophia Sullivan-12

Audrey Primo-13

James Browning-14

Arthur Chitwood-16

Nora Anstey-17

Kayden Hoxhaj-17

Mrs. Franz-17

Hugh Winters-21

Ella Baker-22

Madilyn Wilkinson-25

Mrs. Shaver-26

Mrs. Connor-27

Kathryn Gormley-28



APRIL

Important Calendar Dates & Notes

4/3-4/4-SIP Visiting Team at SRA

4/10-Spring Picture Day

4/17-4/21-NO SCHOOL; EASTER BREAK

4/23-KOC Blood Drive in Cafeteria

4/25-2nd Grade Activity Day

4/26-7th Grade Bow Saturday 4:30pm

4/27-2nd Grade Bow Sunday 9am

4/29-"Night of Entertainment" 6:30pm



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

March has been another busy month. We learned about Dr. Seuss and rhyming. We made kites and butterflies to welcome spring on our bulletin boards. The bears made rainbows out of fruit loops and marshmallows. We continue to learn new letters and sounds. Independence and doing things on our own us in full swing in preparation for kindergarten. As always cokes, numbers, shapes, counting and writing are a part of our everyday learning.



Kindergarten News: Mrs. Liz Magee

We've been busy in Kindergarten this month! We continue to work on subtraction and are writing number sentences to go along with story problems. We will start working with beginning blends in phonics and are making a weekly Lenten journal as a class. We're looking forward to this final quarter as we prepare and plan for the last day of school mass!



First Grade News: Mrs. Jessica Klein

First grade is happy to be back from spring break! We are learning about bossy "r" in phonics and are wrapping up our money unit in math. Everyone is great at counting change! With the beginning of spring, we are starting our plants unit in science and will grow our own grass. We are also continuing to learn about the Lenten season and preparing for Easter.

Second Grade News: Mrs. Toni Jackson

Our 2nd graders are busy working on their Money Unit as they prepare for the Economics Paper Stores. They're learning about budgeting and managing money in preparation for this exciting project!

In addition, the class is diligently studying for the Sacrament of First Communion. We are also enjoying the opportunity to lead the Rosary and look forward to taking the lead on the Angelus and Stations of the Cross.

In writing, our focus is on editing and perfecting our skills to become the best writers possible before moving on to 3rd grade.

Finally, in Science, we are learning about what plants need to grow and are excited to soon begin studying animals and their needs as well!

Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Third Graders just completed two units of studies: English Unit 3 Verbs and Math Division. We took our tests and are moving forward. Our parents had homework in Spelling and they shared fun stories/letters with us using our spelling words from Lesson 26. It is hard to believe how fast this year is going. Our class has only one more Mass to lead for the schoolyear. We took a leading role this Lenten Season in praying the Angelus and sharing Stations of the Cross with the primary grades. We look forward to Easter coming up in April.

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

The 7th grade continues to prepare for their Confirmation. The 7th and 8th grade classes had a wonderful retreat with MORE Ministries. The students all participated in prayer, reflection, and watching skits concerning our faith, fellowship, and ending with a very meaningful Adoration. Everyone seemed to enjoy the experience.

The 5th grade finished their English unit, "Capitalization and Punctuation," and is now working on a narrative about what they did during spring break. |

In 4th grade English, students will be taking an end-of-unit test later this week on verbs. They will then also write a narrative about spring break. |

In Literature, we continue reading *There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom*. We are working on plot and character development.

Religion class brings us to the Eighth Commandment; You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. We will be adding this to our slide presentation this week. We have also been enjoying our Lenten Journey booklets that Mrs. Hayes provided for each of us. We are doing an activity each day and also learning how to look up Bible verses in the Bible. |

In Social Studies, we are going to finish our work on Civil Rights soon.

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

4th Grade Math:

Our next unit focuses on multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers. We are finally in our long division era!

5th Grade:

We will have a busy few weeks! We are preparing for our Dancing Classroom performance and competition, as well as JA BizTown in addition to our regular classes. Stay tuned for updates on these fun events. Happy Spring!

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

Religion:

The students in sixth grade have completed their study of the Judges and will learn about the Kings after spring break.

The eighth grade students are continuing their study of Catholic Church history. They are currently learning about the Church during the Renaissance.

Social Studies:

Students in grades 5 and 8 learned about the Civil War. Grade 5 students are working on information about the Oregon Trail. The eighth graders are about to begin their study of World War I. Grade six students have begun studying Southeast Asia, and grade seven students will be looking at information about the empires of ancient Africa.

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

In 6th Challenge Math, the students are working with proportional relationships and exploring circles. In 7th Challenge Math, the class is working on writing and solving equations. In Pre-Algebra, the students are learning about the different ways to represent functions and will begin exploring the volume of cylinders and cones. In Algebra, the students are interpreting and analyzing functions. In Algebra 2, the students are beginning to work with imaginary numbers and the quadratic formula.

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

6th-8th ELA: We're in the middle of two books. each of which has the story told via free verse poetry (7th and 8th) *and* we've dived into a book that is a "classic" and is incredibly well-crafted and deep (6th grade). We're writing poetry/essays (for a Missouri Botanical Garden writing competition), along with more informative pieces.

Evening of Entertainment We had to change the date. Now, the gala affair will be held on Monday, April 28 at 6:30 in the gym. This will be a time for all dancers, singers, gymnasts, comedians and musicians to shine. All talent is welcome except for lip syncing. A flyer will go home next week.

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

4th Grade Science are still learning about Plate Tectonics and plate boundaries and will be constructing spaghetti towers to see if they will hold up to the earthquake shaker table. Then they will be learning about volcanoes around the world.

5th Grade Science is learning about the Life Cycle of Stars and the two main paths stars can go through.

6/7/8th Grade Science are studying the Over-Exploitation of Resources on Earth and how the different types of Pollution affects the Earth

Miss Gretchen Decker: Art

We finished the 3rd Quarter! Woo! The preschoolers have created Lent and St. Patrick's Day Crafts. Kindergarten through 3rd Grades made a watercolor flower painting along with a St. Patrick's Craft. Then the Upper school classes just finished their Color Theory Projects which were either 3D Crayons or a Color Palette Collage. The early Childhood students will move onto a small 3D Project for Easter and the Upper Classes will actually be making a weaving project

I would also like to address some Summer Camp Updates! As Qi and I just made an official count chart for summer camp over Spring Break, anyone who signed will be sent an email with a letter that lets you know if your child(ren) will be part of our camp! I believe all that are part of our school who signed up for camp before the break will be receiving one of those letters :) Thank you for your patience on this as I want to assure that I'm taking the right steps for a successful camp!

I hope everyone had a great well-received Spring Break and I can't wait to end the school year on a high note!

Mr. Jeff Klos: PE

The 5th grade class has been working very hard with Dancing Classrooms. They have been practicing the rumba, stomp, Walt's, foxtrot, tango, and they are excited to finish with the swing.

1st-3rd grade are starting a baseball/softball unit learning everything they can soak up!

The upper grades will be learning how to come out of the starting blocks and relay with a baton in track when we can get outside.

Mrs. Jena Copeland: Music

In music, preschool and kindergarten learned about fast, slow, high, and low. We identified things in the world around us that are fast, slow, high, and low, and then applied the concepts to music. We explored different speeds and explored our vocal range. We are finishing the month in Kindergarten with practicing keeping a steady beat, using all the fun chants we learned throughout this unit. 1st-5th grades have been learning to play the xylophone this month. 1st grade is using a color coded system to identify and play their melodies, while 2nd-5th grades have all been reading notes and rhythms on the treble clef staff (Yes, REAL music!) to play their melodies!