

# Saint Raphael the Archangel

## The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community

Volume 8, Issue 1

September 5, 2019



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

**"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope sure and steadfast." Hebrews 6:1**

Dear SRA Families,

Well, we have had an unusual week, that's for sure! As I write this message, my thoughts are filled with sentiments of gratitude for the many who came to our rescue this week! First, with Ms. Polson, for coming back to school to collect some papers and alert Fr. John and me of the situation. We were able to resume school on Tuesday because of the discovery, early on, of the water leak. We would have been looking at closing school if the water lingered for too long. Thank you also to all the parents and parishioners for their quick response to Fr. John's call for help. Again, your actions changed the course of our dilemma. Thank you to all of our families for your understanding and patience as we move forward in the repairs. Fr. John and I are committed to keeping the school environment safe for all of our students throughout the restoration process.

As we continue "Virtues in Practice" program this year, the overarching theme study for the year is HOPE. This program defines HOPE as "trusting in God's loving plan. Through the theological virtue of Hope, our hearts are set on the goal of heaven." The virtue of HOPE is also the September Virtue of the Month. We incorporate lessons about each virtue and the Saints of each month in our weekly prayer services and classroom activities throughout the year.

We had a fantastic start to the new school year, and the students and teachers seem to be settling into a regular routine. Here are some of the upcoming events to note:

- Testing week runs through the week of September 16-20th for grades 2-8.
- Student Council will host elections next week for the open STUCO positions on September 13.
- Alumni Sunday is September 15. The school will be open to visitors for tours.
- Home & School will host the second parent meeting on Wednesday, September 25, in the cafeteria. (Due to a scheduling conflict, this will be hosted in the cafeteria.)
- Next week, the 4th-grade class has planned a "Blue Mass" on Thursday, September 12, for first responders and law enforcement family members and parishioners. All are welcome to attend Mass and the reception to follow in the cafeteria.
- Our first canned food drive of the year begins Monday, September 9 through Friday, September 13. Students bringing in 2 canned goods will be able to wear St. Louis Blues Accessories on Friday, September 13.

We are still looking to fill the Director of Aftercare position and another lead teacher position. The director's hours would be 2:30-6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and the lead teacher for Monday & Friday 2:30-6:00 p.m. Please contact Mrs. Hayes or Ms. Molly if you know of anyone that might be interested in these positions.

One final note of appreciation to Mr. Naeger and the crew of painters for painting our classrooms this summer. The brightness of these classrooms illuminates joy! Also, Nicole Ramano deserves a round of applause for faithfully collecting and cleaning used school uniforms each year with the Uniform Exchange Program. This year Nicole handed me an envelope after the Watermelon Festival with a generous donation to the school from this program. Thank you, I will put this gift to good use!

Have a wonderful September!

Blessings,

Mrs. Hayes



# Announcements



Daily Mass Time:  
8:00am Grades K - 8  
Monday - Thursday

## September 5

Weekday Mass  
Vocations  
6th Grade Planning



## September 12

Blue Mass  
Honoring our First Responders  
4th Grade & Liturgy Committee  
Planning

## September 19

St. Raphael the Archangel Feast  
Day Mass  
5th Grade Planning

## September 26

St. Vincent de Paul Mass  
3rd Grade Planning

Benediction/Adoration  
2:00pm  
First Friday of the month



## August Birthdays

Andrea Mense-1  
Ethan Bozada-1  
Christian Concepcion-2  
Mac Teeter-2  
Andrew Kellar-3  
Lucas Mense-3  
Lucas Felman-3  
Thomas Kloos-7  
Alex (Atchison) Sullivan-8  
Rosalina Maxfield-8  
Daniella Giambrone-13  
Jack Stein-14  
Claire Fuhr-15  
Caroline Fissel-18  
Sophia Chrissos-21  
Oliver Mask-22  
Anna-Grace Guenther-23  
Abby Delf-25  
Ryan Pinkerton-26  
Jack Delf-28  
Lucas Fuhr-29  
**Mrs. Mechler-29**  
Mae Klein-30  
Lily Schultz-30  
Melissa Colin-31

## September Birthdays

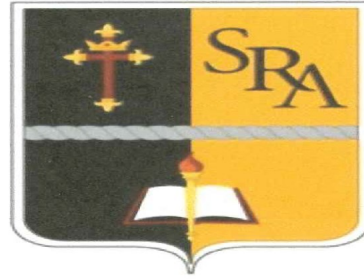
Kelly Farley-2  
Adam Trachsel-4  
Maxwell Winters-4  
Archer Fissel-4  
**Miss Chris-5**  
Isaac Potts-5  
Julia Seidel-5  
Nora Seidel-5  
Kasen Winkler-7  
Ryan Schneider-7  
Josie Spowal-8  
**Mr. Bruno-8**  
Thomas Wilkinson-9  
Linus Cyr-10  
Grace Berta-11  
Michael Gresick-13  
Mateo Switzer-14  
Ben Mense-15  
Lydia Bick-18  
Nathan Donovan-20  
Caroline Klein-20  
Christian Bernadt-21  
Adriana Kurtovic-21  
Madelyn Liddy-23  
Seamus Criscione-23  
Noah Murphey-25  
Gavin Smith-26  
Sophia Villani-27  
**Mr. Bob -29**  
Mollie Dirnbeck-30



# SEPTEMBER

- 5 2:00pm Dance
- 5 3:15-4:15 Chess Club
- 5 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting 6:30pm
- 6 3:10pm Karate
- 9-13 Canned Food Drive
- 10 3:15-4:15pm DeAngelis Choir Practice
- 12 2:00pm Dance
- 12 3:15-4:15 Chess Club
- 13 3:10pm Karate
- 15 Alumni Sunday 10:00am Mass
- 16-20 Iowa Testing Grades 2-8
- 19 2:00pm Dance
- 19 3:15-4:15 Chess Club
- 20 3:10pm Karate
- 23 Iowa Make Up Testing Day
- 24 3:15-4:15pm DeAngelis Choir Practice
- 25 Home & School Parent Meeting—Cafeteria
- 26 2:00pm Dance
- 26 3:15-4:15 Chess Club
- 26 High School Night at St. Mary's
- 27 No School K-8 Teachers PD Day Preschool is open**
- 28 SRA Rummage Sale 8:30am-12:30pm School Parking Lot
- 29 SRA Feast Day 10:00am Mass
- 29 1:00pm SRA Men's Gold Tournament - Forest Park





## St. Raphael Archangel School Fundraiser

Parking Lot Rummage Sale  
Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019  
8:30am – 12:30pm  
\*Snacks will be for sale!

Seller Info: You may “rent” a single parking spot for \$20, additional spots for \$10 each. You must provide your own table, chairs, change for customers, etc. You will be able to keep any profits you make on your sales, but all rental fees and food sales will be donated to St. Raphael Archangel School.

Interested in selling? Contact Elena Switzer at [edsqrd@gmail.com](mailto:edsqrd@gmail.com) before Sept. 15 to secure your spot!

### **SRA School Volunteers**

Volunteers are so important to the success of our school children, so that's why anyone who works or volunteers with children must be compliant with the Safe Environment Program of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis set forth by the USCCB. (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

Compliance includes attending a Protecting God's Children Workshop, completing a Worker Registration Form to obtain a background check, and reading and signing a Code of Ethical Conduct. Each parish must have copies of individual background checks & code of ethics forms on file for all active volunteers and employees. Additional background checks may be necessary if you have lived out of state in previous years.

To register online for a Protecting God's Children Workshop, please visit [www.archstl.org](http://www.archstl.org), scroll down and click on the Protecting God's Children link, then scroll down and click on View Workshops. You will be redirected to the VIRTUSOnline.org site to complete the registration process. The Code of Ethical Conduct and worker registration forms are available from your parish Child Safety Coordinator, Mary Steck ([mary.a.steck@gmail.com](mailto:mary.a.steck@gmail.com)) and may also be located on our parish website. If you have questions or need assistance with this process, please contact Mary or the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Program at 314-792-7272.

**Missouri Background Checks are obtained when you begin your ministry and are updated every even numbered year. Please let the parish office know if you would like to be removed from the list of active volunteers. You must also contact the Missouri Family Care Safety Registry at 1-866-422-6872 with address changes.**



Join our school family  
to pray and support

**Law Enforcement & First Responders**

at our

**BLUE MASS**

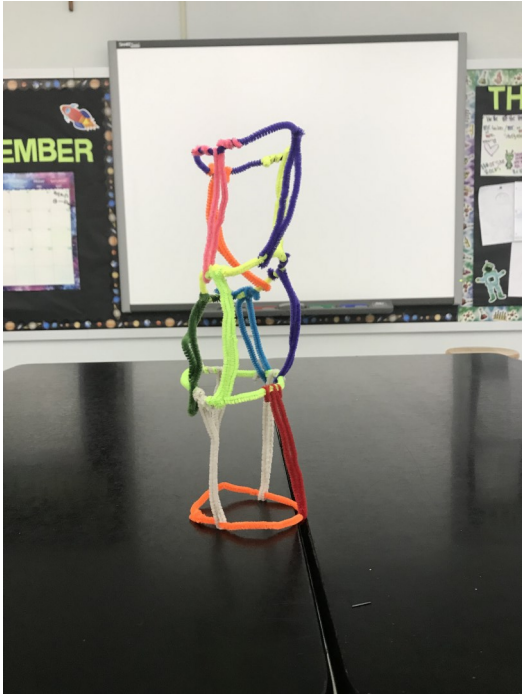
Thursday, September 12, 2019

At 8:00 AM Mass

Parishioners and families are welcome to  
this special liturgy.



Hello all! My name is Mr. Spurgeon and I am the new 4th-8th Science teacher and STREAM coordinator. Many of you have met me, and for those of you who have not, hello. It has been a great start to the year as we kick off with Scientific Inquiry in the classroom and STREAM Days on Fridays.

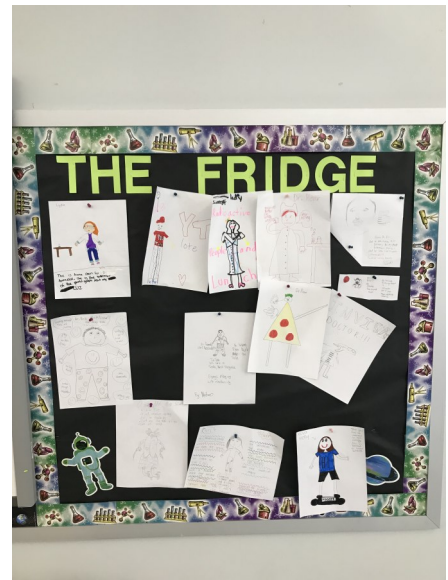


7th Grade Pipe Cleaner: This Pipe Cleaner Tower by one of the 7th Graders was one of the tallest.

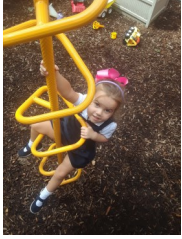


8th Grade Pipe Cleaner: Seen here is one 8th grade group and their free-standing pipe cleaner tower.

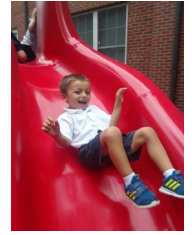
The Fridge (Scientists): In class, all 4th-8th grade students had to create a scientist with varying interests in science.



### Miss Molly Preschool A



Well, the school has a new group of wonderful three year olds for the 2019/20 year. They are a great group of kids and quite eager to come to school. They are very busy having fun and making new friends. I think they love the playground the most. I'm looking forward to a wonderful fun year with all my new friends.



### Miss Chris Prekindergarten

The Bears have done an amazing job of starting our school year. They have been excited and happy to be at school, playing with old friends, meeting some new friends, and having fun learning. We have enjoyed getting into our routines and are doing a really great job. We have already begun working on our "Letter of the Week" themes. We began with letter A by being astronauts and blasting off on an adventure to the alphabet. We also worked on the letter B by learning all about bears (of course). In our Jesus Club, we learned all about angels, and we are now talking about what we believe (as Catholic Christians). The Bears are looking forward to a wonderful year.



### Kindergarten News: Lu Ann Domijan

The Kindergarten class is off to a great start. We have listened to the book *The Kissing Hand* to help us get over missing our parents while we are at school. *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and other alphabet books are helping us learn and review the letters of the alphabet.



Meet the Kindergarten Class of 2019-2020



Our Souls are on Fire!



Mrs. Melcher is helping us learn this year. We love her!



### First Grade News: Mrs. Theresa Schmidt

First Grade is off to a fantastic start to the school year!



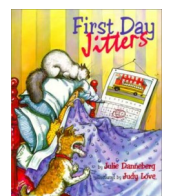
### Second Grade News: Miss Caitlin Higgins

We have been doing a lot of group work in second grade. We love helping each other whenever we can!



### Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Third Grade is hard at work learning leaf shapes, rounding numbers, doing “chain addition,” and identifying subjects and predicates. Father John spoke to our class about the twelve apostles. We are making booklets of the apostles’ symbols and learning about their lives. Three great stories we read include: *Droofus Dragon*, *Miss Nelson*, and *First Day Jitters*. We are looking forward to more writing in cursive.





**Miss Patti Woods: English (4 - 7)**

Welcome back to a new school year!

In all English classes, we have been working hard at refreshing our brains after our summer break and learning about the various parts of a sentence and finding the subjects and predicates of sentences. The children are realizing that each year, another "layer" is being added to make their sentences longer, stronger, and more clear. Each child will soon begin their first formal essay. I'm looking forward to seeing what the 4th graders can do and to see how far the 5th-7th graders have come.

In 4th grade religion, we are learning how God reveals himself to us. We had a wonderful class when Father John came to visit and look forward to more visits with him throughout the school year.

In 4th grade social studies we are learning about some Native American tribes, how some were hunters and gatherers and how they followed buffalo across the plains.

I am looking forward to a great year!

**Miss Amanda Imo: Religion, Math, Reading, Vocabulary/Spelling (4-5)**

Fifth Grade: We have had a fantastic start to the new school year! The students are getting back into the school routine. During religion class, the focus has been on how Jesus worships and how we can imitate Him. In math, our attention has been on place value and being able to compare and round numbers. During literature, the students have been working on summarizing, determining theme, and identifying cause and effect.

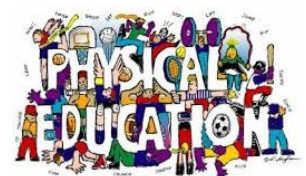
Fourth Grade: I have enjoyed getting to know the fourth graders in the classroom setting. In math, the students are learning place value and how to write numbers through the millions in standard, expanded, and word form. We are also working on comparing and ordering large numbers. During literature, the students read a short story about a small child going owl hunting with his dad. The students learned about similes and metaphors and how comparing two different things can help you make connections more easily.

**Mr. John Bruno: Physical Education**

During the first couple of weeks of the new school year, the students from grades 4-8 worked on several strength and conditioning activities. These activities use upper and lower body muscles to improve gross and fine motor skills which help to develop stronger bodies.

The middle school and primary students have been playing games with emphasis on cooperation and movement awareness. "Crazy Cones" are an example of a very popular game. It requires agility, teamwork, and movement awareness. These games require students to share and to learn to work with their fellow classmates. Another good example of a game is a conditioning activity that I call "The Train," requiring the students to work in small groups using a jump rope. All the students must hold onto the rope and then run in a straight line. When they reach a certain area, the first student in line goes to the end and the next person in line becomes the leader. This is fun for the students and teaches cooperation. We will continue working on activities/games that require similar skill sets.

As I've said many times, St Raphael school is a fun, faith filled environment for both teachers and students. We all welcome the new school year and look forward to all the games, skills, and sports we will explore together.



**Mrs. Christy Connor: Religion (6) Social Studies (4-8) English (8)**

Religion: We have begun studying about the creation stories in the book of Genesis and are practicing how to locate passages in the Bible.

Social Studies 5: Students in Grade 5 are practicing their note-taking skills. They are learning about the early people of North America and South America. They are also working on geography skills, especially constructing maps.

Social Studies 6: Grade 6 students began the year with a review of the basic geography terms that they will use all year. They will soon begin learning about the United States and Canada and will continue with their note-taking skills.

Social Studies 7: Students in seventh grade are beginning a two-year study of United States history. They have begun learning about some of the early people in the Western Hemisphere and continue to work on developing note-taking skills.

Social Studies 8: Eighth grade students began the year with learning about the Civil War. They have created a slide presentation about some of the battles and will be doing more research on these battles. The students will also begin working on a research paper that will involve topics related to the National History Day theme of "Breaking Barriers in History."

**Miss Ashley Schaaf Standard Math & Challenge Math (6-7-8) Pre Algebra, Algebra (7-8), Algebra II (8)**

In standard math, we have finished up our first chapter which covered comparing and ordering numbers. Next we will be exploring expressions and equations.

In challenge math, we have covered order of operations and properties of numbers. We will be exploring expressions and equations next.

In pre-algebra, we have covered integers, and are practicing with solving one- and two-step equations.

In algebra, we have covered real numbers and will move on to basic probability and then multi-step equations.

In algebra II, we have reviewed simplifying expressions with integers. We are exploring multi-step equations and how to write them to help solve word problems.

**Mrs. Jennifer Runiewicz: Literature (6-8) Religion (7-8)**

Welcome back! I am so excited for this school year. I have a fantastic 8th grade class. My goal this year is to help them channel their spirit and energy in the direction of leadership in the school. We are excited about leading the school towards lighting our "SOULS ON FIRE" through daily Mass and Friday prayer services.

Literature: Each student has received a schedule of due dates and quiz dates for Vocabulary Workshop. Assignments and assessments are due every Tuesday and Thursday. Please help your students to stay on track.

We have begun to read our 1st quarter novels; 6th grade - *The Giver*, 7th grade - *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and 8th grade - *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It will help them with comprehension if you simply ask them about what's going on in their novels.

Religion: We will be covering the religion text as well as exploring the Bible throughout the year. Students should expect assessments every week to 10 days.