

Dear Parents and Guardians,

There is a lot of new information in the weekly email this week! I encourage you to read through the entire email. :)

Mrs. Natalie Frierott is coordinating a Buck-A-Book Fundraiser for our families during spring conferences! To kickstart, we are seeking donations of used children's books. All books will be resold for \$1, and the proceeds will support our school library. Start your spring cleaning and give your gently used children's books a loving, new home! Book donation bins are available in the school foyer.

STAR Royals

Respectful, Responsible, Ready Set Safe; We Are The Royals Grounded In Faith!

The following students were recognized as our STAR Royals this week: Alice H. (PreK), Eve H. (PreK), Sam P. (TK), Faye M. (K), Finn F. (1st), Ruth M. (1st), Jack F. (1st), Veda D. (2nd), Arlo S-C. (3rd), Francis T. (4th), Mack C. (5th), Kinsley F. (5th), Theo T. (6th), Abram S. (6th), Monroe F. (6th), Kaden S. (7th), and Emery H. (8th) this week.

Be sure to check out their photos on our front bulletin board!

Weekly Highlight: Ms. Shannon's 4th Grade Update

The fourth graders have been busy getting reacclimated to the school day after a much-needed break!

This week in math, the students reviewed concepts we learned before the break, such as order of operations, place value concepts, and four-by-one digit multiplication. They also have built on their understanding of long division by using multiple different strategies (area models, partial quotients, place-value models, and standard algorithm).

During reading class, our essential question was, "In what ways can we help our communities?" Our story was called "Aguinaldo" (realistic fiction). The comprehension skills we focused on this week were identifying types of point of view by looking at first, second, and third narration and perspective. We also learned about features of problem and solution text structures. Our vocabulary focus was based on the use of context clues. The students were challenged to restate the sentence using context and think of synonyms and antonyms to fit within the context to expand their understanding.

In language arts, our spelling focus this week was on words with silent letters and how their placements and pairings with other letters in words help us understand how they are spelled. Our grammar focus was on verb tenses. This week, the students learned more about past, present, and future perfect tenses to express actions in relation to time. This week in religion class, we discussed the significance of the Feast of the Epiphany and learned about the concept of “chalking the door.” We also celebrated the Feast day of our patron saint, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

This week in science class, we started our human-machine unit, where the students will learn about parts of the human body and how they work together (muscles, bones, eyes, etc.). The students started with a question this week: “Why do our biceps bulge?” They then constructed a model of a human finger to observe how pulling on a string (a model for tendons) causes it to bend at the joints. This helped them understand how our muscles help control our bones to move.

Saturday, January 11: DCHS Placement Test

All of our 8th grade students planning to attend Dowling Catholic High School should plan to take the High School Placement Test on Saturday, January 11. Details are included in the flyer linked [here](#).

Monday, January 13: Middle School Speech and Debate Information Meeting

Any 6-8 grade student is welcome to join the St. Augustin Speech and Debate team! Our season will begin with an informational meeting on Monday, January 13 from 3:30-4:00. If you are interested in joining the team, please report to Room 203 after school. During this time, we will discuss what speech and debate is, tournament dates, and time commitments.

The informational meeting is for students only, but information will be sent home with those who attend. If you have any questions, please email Ms. Kylie Caligiuri at kcaligiuri@staugustinschool.org.

Monday, January 13: Ben Tracy Social Media Talk at Holy Trinity

Ben Tracy will be speaking with parents on Monday, January 13th from 7pm - 8pm at Holy Trinity Catholic School in the gymnasium. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend and bring a friend!

Ben Tracy speaks to more than 100,000 students, parents, and educators each year about digital citizenship, online safety, and responsible social media use. He shares his own

powerful story about how teenage social media impacted his life and discusses cyberbullying, online predators, the relationship between social media and mental health, drugs on social media, and he encourages students to use technology in a positive way.

Join us January 13th at the Holy Trinity gym for this important talk for ALL parents. This event is open for all and we encourage you to bring a friend!

If you can't make it on the 13th - feel free to join the talk at St. Pius X Catholic School on January 14th at 8am.

Tuesday, January 14: DCHS Parochial School Basketball Night

All 6th - 8th grade parochial students will receive free admission to the DCHS Boys and Girls Basketball night and a free popcorn on their designated grade level night.

Please click [here](#) for the flyer.

Thursday, January 16: Mass

Please join us for Mass on Thursday, January 16 in the school gym at 8:45am. Our third grade class will lead this week.

Please click [here](#) for the Mass schedule.

Saturday, January 18: Knights of Columbus Chili Cookoff

Join the Knights of Columbus for their Annual Chili Cookoff in the Parish Hall at 6:00pm on Saturday, January 18. For ages 12 and older, the cost to attend is \$5.00. All children under 12 will eat free.

There will be chili and all the fixings along with a chips and salsa bar and grilled cheese sandwiches. Plan to Vote for your favorite chili with additional donations. Proceeds will benefit DMARC Food Pantry. We encourage everyone to vote early and often!

If your chili has the goods to COMPETE, contact Kerry Bettis at (515) 988-2065 or bettiskerry@gmail.com to join the competition. We will have 3 awards: Judge's Choice, People's Choice, and Best Themed/Table Display!

Monday, January 20: No School

There will be no school on Monday, January 20. Our faculty will have a professional development day.

Tuesday, January 21: St. Augustin Little Learners

Calling all future Royals! Join us for St. Augustin Little Learners on Tuesday, January 21 from 9am - 10:30. Please click [here](#) for a flyer (includes our future dates, as well).

Please RSVP to Mrs. Watters (rwatters@staugustinschool.org).

February 1 or February 15: 2025-2026 Enrollment Fee Billing

Due to some recent changes with our regional staff, the processing of the \$100 per student Enrollment fee in Blackbaud Tuition Management for the 2025 - 2026 school year has been delayed and will now occur in February on the 1st or 15th, depending on your previously established tuition payment schedule.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. If you need assistance with Blackbaud, please contact the Des Moines Regional Catholic Schools office at tuitionmgmt@dsmrcs.org or 515-222-1051. For assistance in Spanish, please call 515-222-1050.

Tuesday, February 4: DCHS Parochial School Basketball Night

All PreK - 5th grade parochial students will receive free admission to the DCHS Boys and Girls Basketball night and a free popcorn on their designated grade level night.

Please click [here](#) for the flyer.

Thursday, May 1: Transportation Reimbursement Form Due

Transportation Reimbursement deadline for the second semester is May 1, 2025. Please click here to go to the "School Forms" page of our website. Then, click "Transportation Reimbursement".

Families living in the districts listed below will no longer file a paper request for transportation reimbursement. You are now required to submit your reimbursement request online by going to the websites linked below.

Des Moines - [Click Here](#)

West Des Moines - [Click Here](#)

Ankeny - [Click Here](#)

SE Polk - [Click Here](#)

Important Information

Monday, June 9 - Friday, June 13: Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars! St. Augustin Parish will be offering Vacation Bible School at the school from June 9th-13th.

Mrs. Sgroi is looking for a few adult leaders to run stations during the week. If you are interested in volunteering, please email her at asgroi@staugustinschool.org.

More information on registration will be available starting in February.

Facility Request Form

Please complete the form linked [here](#) to request our school facility use. This form helps us to determine what paperwork is necessary.

Yearbook Photo Submissions

Submit your photos for the yearbook using this link: <https://photos.iostens.com/Q9EQVG>

DCHS Camp/Club Information

DCHS Winter Weight Training (7th & 8th Grade): [Info Linked Here](#)

DCHS Cheer & Dance: [Flyer Linked Here](#)

DCHS Baseball: [DCHS Spring Baseball Clinic](#)

Thank you!

Mrs. Spike

PS. Be one of the first five to respond to this email and earn an out of uniform pass for your child/children. :)