



Specials Newsletter

November 2025



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ISSUE: 1

VOL No:
03

Welcome to the Shepherd of the Hills School Specials Newsletter. This will come out every Trimester to inform you what is happening in our specials classes - Music, Art, Technology, Phy Ed, Library, and Religion. Please contact us individually if you have any questions or concerns.

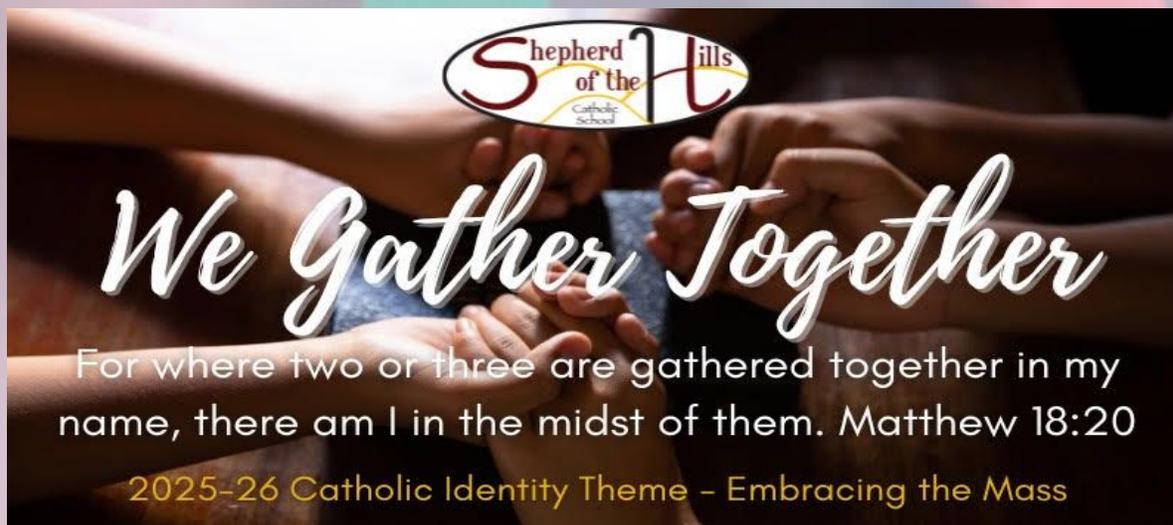
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"Walking the path of Christ with LOVE and SERVICE through a CATHOLIC education"



Art



Hello SOTH families! It is hard to believe that it is already November, but we have been so busy in the art room since the start of the year!

Our middle school students started the year off with a healthy amount of drawing. First, they tackled Blind Contour Line Drawing and while most of them found it to be a huge challenge, they were all successful in increasing their drawing skills. Following their line drawing, they created Self-Portrait collages with line drawing, acrylic paints, and some artistic flare. They all did an amazing job! Now that the holidays are approaching, we have switched gears to 3-D work for our Christmas projects.

Our Elementary students all started the year off with different styles of self-portraits. From there, various grades were inspired by artists like Paul Klee, Faith Ringgold, Jeff Coons, Georgia O'Keefe, and even Norman Rockwell. They have had the opportunity to use a variety of art materials to create their own works of art. Of Course, we have already started on our Christmas projects. There will be drawing, painting, collage, and printing projects adorning the walls making everything look festive. We are all so excited for you to see what we have accomplished!

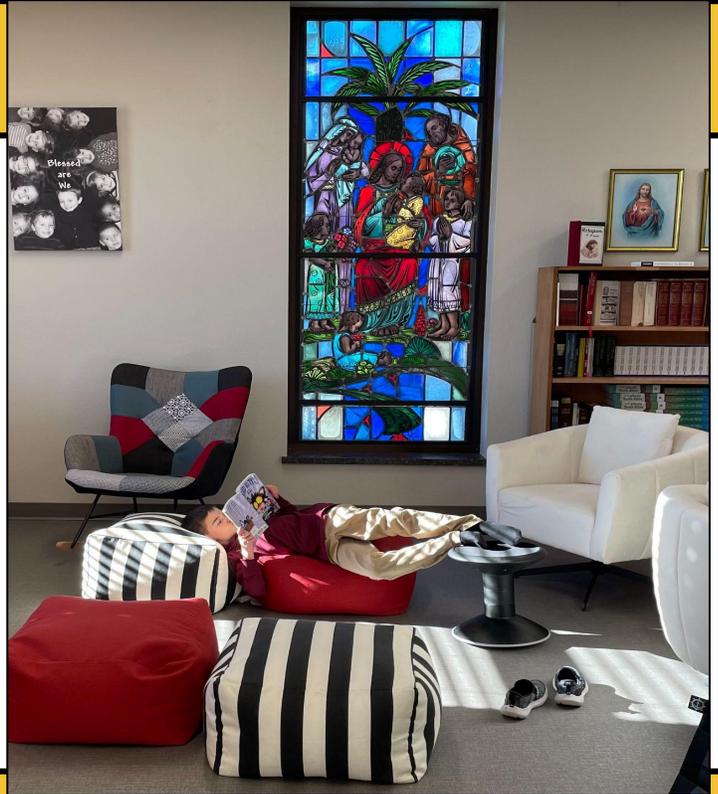


Art



Library

The library has undergone a transitional renovation as we strive to help instill a natural love for reading. Students are being introduced to the Dewey Decimal System and enjoy the more detailed shelf labeling. What students seem to appreciate most, is what they call, 'the comfy seating'.



Elementary SSR



5th - 8th grade SSR



Library



4th-5th SSR



4th-5th SSR

Library



2nd grade SSR



8th grade SSR



Music



In Music class, all students are learning many different hymns and responsorial psalms for our Wednesday mass, and two patriotic songs for our Veterans Day Prayer Service on November 11. Since October, we've also been rehearsing Christmas carols for our Christmas Concert, which will be on Tuesday, December 9.

Grades 5K-3 have learned the music alphabet (A-G), and are continuously working on various music elements, such as rhythm—steady beat, melody, harmony, dynamics—loud and soft volumes, and have played the wooden xylophone.

Grades 4-8 have expanded on rhythm elements, such as meter, time signatures, and syncopation. All students have also been learning the responsorial psalms for the weekend masses. Students who have volunteered to be Cantors, get extra music rehearsal time during the week, singing the Psalms and Gospel Acclamations.





Music





Phy. Ed.



In Phy Ed, we started the year off differently than usual and jumped right into the soccer unit and kicking unit! It was great to be able to get outside and see the growth we have had since last year!

Once the soccer unit was over and the fall weather kicked in we moved onto the volleyball unit for the older kids which is always a favorite! During this unit the middle school students focused on growing with their unit team, building chemistry, communicating and working together to strategize in different mini games throughout the unit. The elementary students worked with balloons and beach balls to learn basic volleyball movements, work on spatial awareness and work on simple communication skills with their partners.

Finally, we just completed our trimester 1 fitness testing, we did our first 1-mile test and were able to compare our pacer, push-up and curl-up test scores to our pre-test! The elementary students were able to utilize the pacer, push-up and curl-up as a warmup and to learn how to perform these movements successfully.

3k/4k has worked on locomotor movements, teamwork and spatial awareness as they have grown more comfortable in Phy Ed.



Phy. Ed.





Religion



- Students have been motivated this year! Seventh & eighth graders have completed the first 2 Units (8 Chapters) in the Blessed are We Series. Fourth & fifth have finished Chapter 8 and will wrap up their Unit 2 Cumulative Test first thing next Trimester.
- Middle school has also been busy continuing their student led service project; making and donating Rosaries. At present the club has made 123 Rosaries. Second - eighth grades take a turn leading the school in prayer for our monthly Rosary.
- 4th-8th grade Students also lead prayer before every class period. We choose prayer to reflect the dedication of the Month. It includes both English and Latin prayers, spontaneous petitions, and sometimes song.
- All Religion Students watched a Video on the Rosary for the month of October and are memorizing the Mysteries. They have been repeating the Luminous Mysteries in October and are now transitioning to the Joyful.
- Students completed research on their Saint of Choice to help celebrate All Saint's Day. They presented their Saint to the Class, Miss Carter, and Mrs. Petersen.
- We were able to watch the processes of electing and welcoming our 1st American Pope, Pope Leo XIV. Students also are very familiar with newly canonized St. Carlos Acutis by reading about him and watching videos explaining his life. It has been an exciting year. We are presently learning how to read Roman Numerals.



Students are making Rosaries



Religion



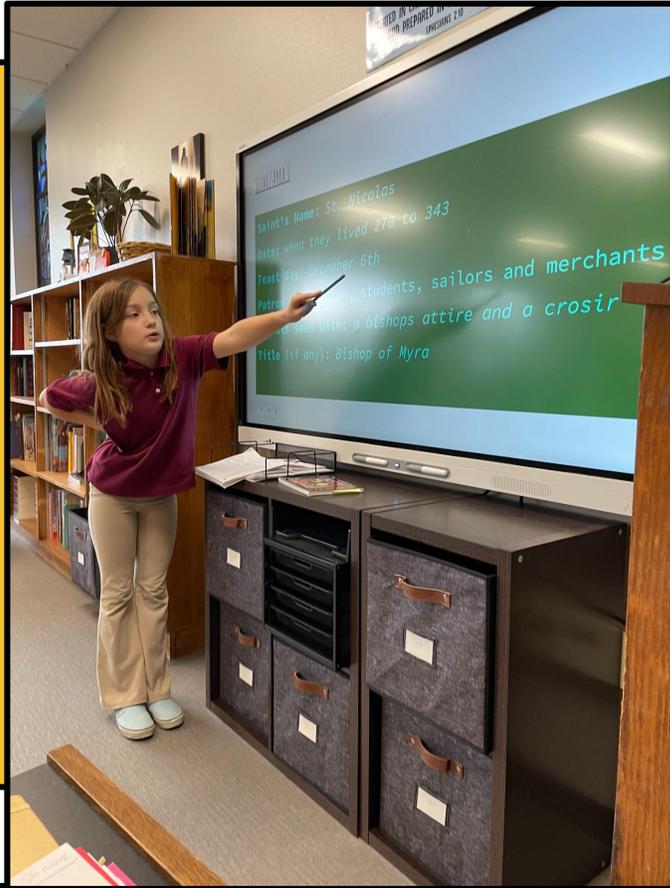
This area has also become a special place for prayer and reflection. During free time, such as after taking a Quiz, students transition here to either, read the Bible, pray the Rosary, or this particular time, some chose to independently work ahead in our BaW Series.

Fr. Tom
blesses
Rosaries from
Rosary Club
before All
Souls Mass on
the Feast of All
Saints





Religion



All Saints Day presentations!



Reading about St. Carlos Acutis!

St. Mother Teresa was well represented, while a few of our MS Good Souls stand ready to assist these little saints in the Processional.





Religion



8th grade enjoying a few rounds of Latin Hangman





Technology



Technology is always changing and it is amazing how much we need to keep up with all the changes. The students at SOTH adapt well, and always do well with the technology. Below is a little bit of what we have been doing in each of the Technology classes even though we have not had very many days of technology classes yet.

Just a little side note that this year anything assessed for Technology Class will be included in the regular classroom classes wherever the particular standards fit as there are no standards particular to technology in PowerSchool. If anyone ever has any questions as to how your children are doing in technology, please don't hesitate to ask.

Kindergarten: So far we have been learning how to use Kid Pix which is great for practicing our mouse skills doing such fun things as drawing or creating pictures. Currently we are looking at how to use the iPads properly.

First Grade: First Graders started by reviewing how to log into the laptops and practiced that a lot at first. They no longer need my help logging in every class. Then we did some reading activities, and now are in the process of publishing a class alphabet book using Kid Pix (with writing and art work). This class also is getting some practice using the iPads so that they can use them in the classroom with iXL and their reading textbook activities.



Technology



Second Grade: We start a lot of keyboarding stuff in second grade. We did some activities to begin to learn what each of the keys do, and beginning to figure out where the keys are located. These students created the keys for the giant keyboard that is in the Computer Lab. Their keys stay up until next year's 2nd grade does theirs next October. Currently they are working on creating their own mini-keyboards. They have found this difficult as it is not only a good practice to learning where the keys are, but it is also a good practice of mouse skills from making the boxes for the keys.

Third Grade: In the third grade class we do a lot that has to do with business. They created their own food product (not physically) and created a food can label for it. Currently they are creating an advertisement for their product after we discussed advertising. Soon the class will do a simulation game and put their numbers into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet also creating graphs in the program.

Fourth Grade: We started with a Computer Parts Unit where students learned about the parts of the computer and how they work. They got to take apart some old computers. Currently we are studying Technology History. This includes arcade history where they get to even play some of the old games like Pac Man and Pong.

Fifth Grade: We discussed Windows 11 and some of the settings they can change on their computers, such as changing backgrounds or mice pointers.

Middle School: The middle schoolers have begun with some Google Slideshows. They did one for All Saints Day, and they are finishing up one that relates to the content in Social Studies World Geography class. Next we will be working with some coding and possibly some robotics.



Technology

