



Star Connection

STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Spring 2022

Welcoming all families including military and those of all faiths

Congratulations Class of 2022!



L-R Roch Didio, Benedict Omondi, Benjamin Schuele, Leni Jolly, Gavin Piper, Chris Ankley, Jaden Large, Matthew Cook, Logan Fender, Sara Ankley, Michael Ankley, Frances Masslock, Josiah Young, Dillon Libasci, Triston Robertson, Natalie Ritz & Conrad Silberberg (Not Pictured Devin Levine)

We are proud of our 8th graders! They have weathered the pandemic and were fortunate to have many of the beloved traditions back again for their last year at Star of the Sea.

This class served as excellent role models for their school mates. Lead by SCA President, Logan Fender, they offered free after school tutoring. SCA Treasurer, Chris Ankley, spearheaded an effort to donate a new flag pole and to dedicate it in loving memory of Mrs. Brenda Morris, their 4th grade teacher who recently passed away.

In addition, they were exemplary in their behavior and respect for school traditions. The camaraderie and team work this class displayed will ensure they will be fondly remembered for years to come.



May Procession

A beloved tradition returned in 2022! The second graders who made their First Holy Communion the weekend before, proudly wore their dresses and suits to the May Procession. Our eighth graders wore their graduation gowns and recited an Act of

Consecration. Eighth grader Dillon L. and second graders Clark T. and Rion Y-M., read the poem "Lovely Lady Dressed in Blue." It was extra special as Dillon had read the younger boy's part when he was in second grade at Star of the Sea.



8th Grader, Sara A. is assisted by 2nd graders Skyler B. and Brooklyn C.

Eighth grader Sara A., with the assistance of second graders Skyler B. and Brooklyn C., crowned the statue of Mary with a floral crown.

Spring Mile Run

We had a beautiful day for our Spring Mile Run! Congratulations to the top boys, Tyler W. (7), 6:30; Dillon L. (8), 6:39; and a tie for third with Holden N. (6) and Colby W. (5) 6:45. Our top girls were Anniston L. (3) 6:55; Juliet G. (3) 7:08; and Salem A. (5), 7:10. Way to go, Stars!!



Mrs. Madsen gets a starting line selfie with the 2nd graders

A Message from the Principal & Pastor

Dear Parents, Friends, & Families of Star of the Sea Catholic School,

As we close out the 2021-2022 school year, we are grateful for your support as we successfully managed COVID-19 for another school year. With your voice, our enrollment continues to grow, and we are achieving new goals and dreams! It is an honor for Fr. Steve and I to support our students and share the responsibility to nurture and help them grow to become true disciples of Christ.

This summer *RRMM* will begin a complete renovation of the lower school bathrooms, and we will also have a new HVAC installed in our gymnasium! Additionally, our amazing Home & School Association along with our Raise the Paddle secured funds to help update our outdoor space with new signage, flowers, benches and more! Thank you to our school benefactors and families who continue to provide financial support. We are grateful and welcome your continued partnership in our growth.



Dr. Averill and Fr. Steve DeLeon

On campus, we participated in a schoolwide Science Olympiad as well as a schoolwide STREAM project (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) that focused on butterflies and will continue STREAMing as we move forward.

Please keep our Star students, families, teachers, and staff in your prayers. We give thanks to God for all of the teaching and learning that has taken place and for all of the talents and gifts that have been shared. Bless us all as we take time this summer to make memories and return this Fall renewed and refreshed so that we may continue our journey together.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,

Carey L. Averill, Ed.D
Principal

Fr. Steve DeLeon
Pastor

Marian Award



Dr. Averill and Kristin Markle

There are volunteers who are worth their weight in gold. We cannot begin to describe the contributions Mrs. Kristin Markle has made to our school. At the beginning of this school year, she (as a professional organizer) with help from Home & School president, Liz Cook, cleaned out and organized almost every storage area in the school. Mrs. Markle neatly organized used uniforms, basketball uniforms, Carol Night costumes, Home & School supplies and Development materials. For the second year in a row, she headed up Raise Craze that broke fundraising records for our school. For our auction, she introduced and spearheaded sign up parties. We likely did not capture all her contributions here. Dr. Averill was thrilled to present Mrs. Markle with the Marian Award at our May Procession mass.

Star of the Sea Catholic School is rooted in the rich traditions of our Catholic faith to provide a Christ-centered learning environment where students are dedicated to spiritual growth, academic distinction, and social responsibility. #CDRCatholicSchools #DiscovertheDifference

In Loving Memory of Mrs. Brenda Morris

Former Star of the Sea teacher Mrs. Brenda Morris passed away on Monday, April 25, after a long battle with cancer.

Mrs. Morris taught at Star of the Sea Catholic School for many years and is remembered for her kindness and caring compassion towards her former students. Many fond memories include “Mary,” “Mrs. Morris’ American Girl doll Star of the Sea class mascot, her lively choreographed faculty cheers for Catholic Schools Week pep rallies and proudly wearing her green and pink sorority colors.



Mrs. Morris with Sara A., Jaden L. and Lea W. during Catholic Daughters of the Americas award ceremony

The graduating class this year was Mrs. Morris’ last class. They are donating a new flag pole for the school on which will be placed a memorial plaque for Mrs. Morris. Her students will never forget the lessons she taught them. She danced her way down the hall when she retired, and we know she is dancing in heaven.



Mrs. Judy Grawl, Mrs. Morris & Mrs. Lynn Hess on the day she retired from teaching in 2018

“For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation.” -- Psalm 149:6

Excellence in Education Award

Congratulations to our school’s Excellence in Education Award recipient for this school year, Mrs. Lisa (Dube) Ramsey. Mrs. Ramsey has taught Kindergarten at our school for 24 years. Learning the “Tooty Ta” dance in Kindergarten is a right of passage in her class, as well as learning about her beloved Red Sox.

Mrs. Ramsey was instrumental over the past two years in preparing our school for the accreditation process. She also heads up the Sandcastle shirt design contest every other year. The package she and two other teachers offered in our auction this year had the most bids on it by far.



Mrs. Lisa (Dube) Ramsey Congratulations, Mrs. Ramsey!

First Eucharist

Congratulations to all our 2nd graders who celebrated their Sacrament of Reconciliation and their first Holy Communion this year. They received the Eucharist the weekend of May 7-8.



See what is happening at Star of the Sea Catholic School!

For information or to arrange a tour, call us at (757) 428-8400. Visit our website at www.soschool.org



News Around Campus

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HSA)

HSA is THRILLED to report that the Raise Craze Committee (chaired by Kristin Markle and supported by Genevieve Williams, Mara Bland, and Liz McNulty) planned and implemented another fun, meaningful, and successful Raise Craze! This year's goal was set for \$10,000 to fund Beautification

Committee projects and enhance the outdoor learning classroom space. Due to the eagerness of our kind students and the generosity of their

families and loved ones, the OUTSTANDING amount of \$27,449.36 was raised for our school!!! We would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Raise Craze Committee and to our kind Stars and their families for supporting our school...we are truly thankful for and are overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness and generosity!

This year's Raise Craze began during Catholic Schools Week and ran through Valentine's Day. Students participated in school-wide acts of kindness each day during Catholic Schools Week by decorating lunch bags for Social Outreach, collecting items for the parish pantry, creating a Raise Craze cheer with their class, making cards for military members, and by showing their teachers how much they are appreciated by bringing in from



Chalk the Walk

home a creative way to say "thank you." The HSA was also able to provide its own tokens of appreciation and a luncheon for faculty & staff in honor of their dedication to our children. Students sent an INCREDIBLE 1,478 emails on the school's behalf and performed an AMAZING 2,333 individual acts of kindness at home and in their communities! Mrs. D's second



Mrs. Dannenfelser's 2nd grade earned the most money for Raise Craze

graders were the top dollar earning class and Mrs. Keith's eighth graders performed the most acts of kindness. Raise Craze activities were officially completed with "Chalk the Walk" on May 4th, and students handing out kindness bags to parishioners after each mass the weekend of May 14th.

The Beautification Committee (chaired by Brianna Cox) has already planned and implemented projects around campus thanks to Raise Craze funds! All will notice that new flower beds have been planted, the triangle parking lot planter boxes have been beautifully stained, raised planter boxes were assembled and filled with colorful butterfly gardens, and the gym doors received a fresh coat of paint. Thank you for all of your hard work, Beautification Committee volunteers...everything looks wonderful!



Butterfly Garden Planter

The HSA hosted its first school-wide skating party April 8th at Sk8 House. There was a great turnout of all ages, and it was the perfect way to end the week and welcome Easter Break!

Teacher Appreciation week was May 2nd - 6th, and the HSA was able to organize many lunches, a breakfast, and staff break room snacks for our incredible teachers. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU to Trish Smigel for planning this week and to the families who donated store-bought and homemade items for our teachers to enjoy delicious meals and snacks!



3rd Graders at Skate Party

The HSA hosted its last event of the school year, which was the Mother/Son bowling afternoon at Pinboys on May

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15th. This gathering was planned for our female caregivers to enjoy an afternoon of bowling with their little men. Half the lanes in the bowling alley were reserved, and this was a sold out event enjoyed by all!

Finally, the HSA held two Spring fundraisers. The Spring clothing drive was organized by Jackie Ankley and raised \$500. The SOS Summer Gear Sale was organized by Liz Cook and raised \$300. Thank you to Jackie and Liz for spearheading these fundraisers and to our incredible families for donating and purchasing items to support our school!

Special Note: We wish our graduating eighth graders all of God's blessings as they enter high school, and may all have a wonderful Summer!

The 2021-2022 HSA Board:

Liz Cook, Jessica Glenn, Carmel Alves, Genevieve Williams, Kristin Markle, & Tricia Smigel

DEVELOPMENT We had a wonderful turnout for our Mixer to kick off our 22nd annual benefit auction. School parent, Steve Kissel provided catering through Mahi Mah's. Alumni parent,



February 25 Mixer in Crawford Hall

Nancy Morgan bartended, and there was live entertainment! Guests played heads or tails for a prize of restaurant gift cards and were able to preview some of our live auction packages.

On May 7, we opened the bidding on our online silent auction. The bidding lasted an entire week. The livestream auction was broadcast the evening of May 14. Thanks to the work of all our class package coordinators, we made over \$2,000 more on this year's live packages than last! As of this



publication, the auction has raised \$61,300 for the school.

Special thanks to all the sponsors, donors, and volunteers. Shout-out to class package coordinator, Daniela Justice, organizer of sign-up parties, Kristin Markle and hostess of the livestream location, Patty Silveri. Patty's husband, Bryan, and fellow school dad, Tom Saulnier, were excellent hosts for the broadcast.

We also enjoyed Spirit Nights at many local restaurants. Our next Development event will be our golf tournament. Please mark your calendar for Friday, September 23, 2022, at Heron Ridge.

ATHLETICS It seems like just yesterday when I said, "I can't believe it's time to get our fall sports program open." I can't believe how fulfilling it's been to have a full year of sports after our COVID - shortened seasons the last two years. Our coaches, athletes and parents all stepped up to keep our sports safe and exciting.

Our Spring sports are just wrapping up. We had a STRONG showing in Golf, Field Hockey, and Track & Field. Our golf team was at the top of the leaderboard almost every week. Each and every golfer improved tremendously from the first week to the last week. Our Field Hockey team had high participation from the elementary school, and I'm confident there will be teams to contend with for many years to come. Thanks to some incredible

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track & field coaches, we were able to add events to our “arsenal” that we previously weren’t able to compete in. Spring is always bittersweet because it means we’re wrapping up athletics for the current school year.

I was excited to be able to add Swimming to the list of middle school sports our athletes can compete in during the fall. We continue to evaluate future sports and are looking to add middle school girls volleyball, middle school boys soccer and possibly middle school baseball next year. If your athlete is interested in any of these, please let us know!

Lastly, it’s time for me to pass the Athletic Director torch. When I took this on several years ago, I had no idea how rewarding it would be to watch our athletes grow into such amazing young men and women. Not a week goes by that doesn’t make me proud to watch the sportsmanship and character our athletes exhibit during their events.

I’ve been honored and touched beyond words to be a part of our Star of the Sea family. Matt Chaney will be taking over at the end of the year, and I know you will be in very good hands going forward. For any questions you can continue to use the starofseaathletics@gmail.com email address.

Scott Levine
Athletic Director



Undeclared Youth Girls Field Hockey Team “Shooting Stars” won the championship and received the Sportsmanship Award! GO STARS!!!

High School Plans for Class of 2022

Chris Ankley, Catholic High School
Michael Ankley, Catholic High School
Sara Ankley, Catholic High School
Matthew Cook, Catholic High School
Roch Didio, Catholic High School
Logan Fender, Catholic High School
Leni Jolly, Catholic High School
Jaden Large, Catholic High School
Devin Levine, Global Studies Academy, Tallwood
Dillon Libasci, Ocean Lakes
Frances Masslock, Catholic High School
Benedict Omondi, Health Sciences Academy, Bayside
Gavin Piper, Kellam High School
Natalie Ritz, Math & Science Academy, Ocean Lakes

Triston Robertson, Ocean Lakes
Benjamin Schuele, Catholic High School
Conrad Silberberg, Cox High School
Josiah Young, Kempsville High School



8th Grade Class L-R (standing) Chris A., Josiah Y., Michael A., Frances M., Natalie R., Sara A., Jaden L., Matthew C., Devin L. & Logan F. (sitting) Gavin P., Conrad S., Benedict O., Roch D., Dillon L. & Triston R. (not pictured Leni J. & Benjamin S.)



Little Saints (Kindergarten) was done to coincide with All Saints Day instead of Catholic Schools Week.



8th graders were asked to altar serve at the funeral in April for former Star of the Sea pastor Fr. Jim Dorson presided by His Excellency, Bishop Knestout

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week was full of dress-down days and Acts of Kindness in conjunction with our second year doing Raise Craze! We were able to have a volleyball game between eighth grade and the faculty. The game was livestreamed to the classrooms of the lower building with the eighth grade winning!



1st grader Isabella G. with the lunch bag she decorated for Social Outreach



SCA Members collect donations for our parish pantry as part of Raise Craze



Movie Character Day—Can you tell which teachers are the Blues Brothers?



Decades Day



Tacky Tourist Day, Dr. Averill with 7th Grade and brothers Will & Matthew C.



Star of the Sea Catholic School



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Dr. Carey Averill, Principal

PROOF

Please follow us on social media to increase our presence.



Mrs. McNally and her daughter, 3rd Grader, Rose M., celebrate Pi Day



Elementary Girls' Champion Track & Field Team and 2nd Place Boys' Team. GO STARS!!!

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