



Star Connection

STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Winter 2022-23

Welcoming all families including military and those of all faiths

Renovations Complete and Purple Star Designation

Two very exciting things happened the first half of this 2022-2023 school year. The bathroom renovations for the lower school building were completed and our school was designated as a Purple Star School!

Just a few weeks into the new school year, the students were able to use the newly renovated boys and girls bathrooms in the main hall. Our school nurses were able to decorate and move into the renovated nurse's office.

Beginning last school year, our Purple Star committee which included Mara Bland,



Girls Bathroom

Dr. Putnam, Mrs. Madsen and Ms. White began the effort to submit for designation. In October we received the sought-after designation as a Purple Star School. This is an award that recognizes schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. We celebrated with a Purple Up Day and cupcakes!



Our Purple Star committee celebrates with Dr. Averill



Blessing of Statue

On December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, it was an extra special school mass after which the entire school processed behind the altar servers and Fr. Steve to a newly built niche in the lower school building. Dr. Averill carried a statue of the Blessed Mother while the students all sang the "Ave Maria." It was placed in the main hall of the lower school building and blessed by Father.



Fr. Steve blesses a statue of the Blessed Mother in the lower school building on December 8

Fall Mile Run

The Fall Mile Run was held on Wednesday, October 12. All our top runners finished under 7 minutes! Our top boy was 8th grader Niko C. (6:17) followed by 8th grader Tyler W. (6:25), and 6th grader Baron C. (6:23). 6th grader Salem A. crushed it with a time of 6:35, with 4th graders Juliet G. (6:45), and Josie G. (6:50) close behind.



Starting Line Excitement!

A Message from the Principal & Pastor

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

As I sit and reflect on this past school year, there is so much for which to be thankful. Among my blessings is my Star of the Sea family which I continue to be humbled and honored to serve as your principal. I am thankful to help make a difference alongside a gifted faculty and staff who live and share Catholic faith and values every day. As first Thessalonians 5:18 reminds us, "In all circumstances give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

We eagerly began the year with the completion of a beautiful bathroom renovation in the lower building and are grateful for all who helped make this remodel a reality! As we were able to move beyond the pandemic, the Nation's Report Card (National Assessment of Educational Progress) noted that **Catholic schools outperformed public school** counterparts in almost all categories **in math and reading** for grades 4 and 8 in their 2022 results. What a proud moment for Catholic schools!



As we continue to grow in faith and enrollment, we welcome new opportunities to excel within our school community. Two big celebrations included receiving Purple Star status from the Department of Education as well as being recognized Best of Virginia Beach for Catholic Schools by the Virginia Beach Award Program.

As we say farewell to 2022, we look forward to hosting another Raise Craze where we will highlight acts of kindness, celebrate Catholic Schools Week, and hold our annual events to include the Spring Mile Run at the boardwalk, our annual auction, and Sandcastle Day! As Pope Francis stated, "Prayer leads us forward in hope," and our amazing faculty and staff have new goals, initiatives,

and STREAM projects as we head into spring.

We thank you for your unwavering support and wish you a prosperous and blessed 2023!

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,

Carey L. Averill, Ed.D
Principal

Fr. Steve DeLeon
Pastor



Our Early Learners on Hawaiian Dress Down Day

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

Alumni Spotlight—Class of 2018

Over the Holidays we reached out to parents of the class of 2018 to find out what they are up to!

Chiara Baez is attending the University of Mary Washington and is majoring in political science and historical perseverance.

Jack Charles is attending Tidewater Community College where he is taking mostly music classes.



Jack Charles

Hayden Harris graduated High School a year early and attended the University of Tampa. She recently transferred to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and is studying creative writing. Her brother, **Gregory** (class of 2014) is at the University of Tennessee and is studying Business Management.

Camille Holder is currently working full-time at her dad's restaurant, The Melting Pot, as a server and marketing assistant. She currently just completed a marketing plan for the restaurant for 2023. She will be flying to Kentucky in March to collaborate with the Melting Pot franchise team to discuss further marketing strategies. She hopes to one day own her own restaurant with the skills she is learning first hand with her dad.

Merreck Lincoln briefly moved to Connecticut to play with a hockey league in New York state. He is currently playing for Whalers Junior Premier hockey league in Norfolk, Virginia.

Jacob Ritz is currently attending Longwood University and is studying nursing.



*The Ritz siblings with Mrs. Ramsey
(Jacob is 3rd from the left)*

Delaney Winn is attending James Madison University and majoring in Business Management. She works at Heirloom Restaurant when home on breaks.



Delaney Winn

Bonus Updates!

Cady Thomas (class of 2013) is in her second year of Pharmacy school at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Class of 2025. Go Heels!

Seth Thomas (class of 2015) graduated with a degree in Marine Technology and is currently a boat captain for SeaTow in Wilmington, NC.

Parents Lincoln and Terrina love when they come home to visit but don't mind being empty-nesters either!

Do you have an alumni update? Please email development@sosschool.org. Thank you!

New Mascot Debuts!



Our school has a brand new Star mascot which made its debut during a pep rally right before the volleyball tournament!

The mascot was able to also attend the Homecoming parade at CHS. Look for the Star mascot at future school events!



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.sosschool.org



News Around Campus

WELCOME NEW TEACHERS We welcomed new Middle School religion and social studies teacher, **Mrs. Caitlin Radigan**, at the beginning of the year. She is originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and received her Undergraduate Degree from Marist College in New York in Education, Special Education and Psychology. She then received her Masters degree in Literacy from Mount Saint Mary College in New York. She has spent the last six years in Japan and Sicily with her husband, four children and two dogs.



Mrs. Caitlyn Radigan

Our strong enrollment necessitated a second third grade class and so we welcomed **Mrs. Rachael Kerr**. She is a Virginia native who graduated from Old Dominion University with a Bachelors in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Masters in



Mrs. Rachael Kerr

Elementary Education. Mrs. Kerr has her teaching certificate in Prek-6. She recently relocated back to Virginia after following her husband's naval career. She has taught in Hawaii, Maryland, Washington and Virginia. Mrs. Kerr has two daughters ages 7 and 12 and she loves going to the beach in her free time.

We also welcomed New Resource Teacher, **Mrs. Christian Miller**. She was raised in Virginia Beach and has two married adult children. She earned her Bachelor of Liberal Studies from Mary Washington College with a concentration in Child Development and Social Interaction. She holds a Masters of Education from the University of Mary Washington with a concentration in Special Education, K-12 Curriculum. She is a die-



Mrs. Christian Miller

hard Green Bay Packers fan and has lived around the world as a military brat.

Our new School Counselor, **Mr. Gerald Ott** has spent most of his life working within the church and volunteering with children in the Richmond area. He graduated from Regent University in 2021, with a Bachelor of Psychology with a focus on Clinical Counseling. He is studying for his master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Old Dominion University. He is well versed in many techniques of therapy, such as Cognitive Behavioral, Gestalt, Group, and Play Therapy. Gerald's job is to counsel and aid the student body of Star of the Sea Catholic School. In his spare time, he often enjoys reading, and spending time with his wife and cats.



Mr. Gerald Ott

In January, we welcomed **Dr. Barbara Salter** as our new music teacher. Barbara has concertized extensively in Europe and America. She has two children, one of whom lives here in Virginia Beach. She has an active music studio in town and is excited to share her talents with Star of the Sea students.



Dr. Barbara Salter

Barbara is a native of Minnesota and a graduate of Cornell College in Mount Vernon, IA in organ performance. She went on to study in Germany where she earned the highest degree offered to church musicians in Europe. She also holds a Master of Divinity and Doctorate of Music degrees from Candler School of Theology. She's has served as organist at St. Paul's Kirche, Peachtree Christian Church in Atlanta, and First Methodist in Fayetteville, GA. We are excited for Dr. Salter to work with our students and share her talents with all of us!

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HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

(HSA) The Home and School Association (HSA) opened up the 2022–23 school year with the first day of school Parent Coffee and the annual Back-to-School Picnic. Both events were well attended and enjoyed by both our new and returning families. Families were able to enjoy amazing food, great music, a delicious cake walk, and much needed time to catch up with other school families at our Back to School Picnic! Many thanks to all the families who donated their time and efforts to make these events so much fun for everyone.



Cora H., Eveylyn G. & Lila K. at Back-to-School Picnic

\$2,956.89. Our fall fundraisers, a clothing drive by Jackie Ankley and the Yeti drinkware sale by Elaine Hourigan, raised \$360 and \$883.34, respectively. Thank you to everyone for attending our events and for donating and purchasing items to support our school.

We have been so happy to be able to continue to host our social events so that our new and seasoned families can connect. All of these events are what makes our school community the special place it is. We felt extremely blessed in the first half of the year, and cannot wait to see what 2023 holds!

DEVELOPMENT We kicked off our 2022-2023 school year with our fun-filled annual golf tournament. With over 40 sponsors and a great raffle donation by PHR, the event grossed \$20,129 and netted \$13,418 for the school. The event was held

on Friday, September 23 at Heron Ridge Golf Club. Special thanks to our dream team that consists of three players who have not missed a golf tournament since its inception! They are former principal, Ms. Susan Fentress, and alumni dads Rod Budd and Norm Hess. Mark your calendar for Friday, September 29, 2023, for our next tournament.



Dr. Averill, Susan Fentress, Norm Hess, Rod Budd &



Sheppard W. and his mom, Genevieve W.

We were so happy to host our third annual Trunk or Treat and the highly anticipated Santa's Secret Shop. Megan Johnson organized Trunk or Treat, with 34 decorated cars handing out candy, a fire truck from Station 11, and an outstanding bake sale by our 8th grade families. Carmel Alves ran another highly successful Santa's Secret Shop that allowed our students to secretly shop for their loved

ones. We had a team of super helpful volunteers that assisted the kids with their shopping. We love all the holiday traditions our HSA hosts.

Finally, the HSA was able to successfully raise money while having a great time at our events and fundraisers. Our annual Back-to-School Picnic raised \$2,686.94. Santa's Secret Shop raised



Parent Trish Joseph with Faculty & Staff Mrs. Pereira, Mrs. Padrick, & Mrs. Vonusa at the Back-to-School Picnic

We held several spirit nights this first half of the year. We made \$455, \$405, \$700 & \$300 from events at Mahi's, New Realm, Shorebreak (Pungo location), and the Outback at Hilltop. We look forward to holding one per month for the remainder of the school year!

The 12th annual 5K and Mile Fun Run was held on Saturday, November 5, at the Oceanfront. We had 22 sponsors and raised over \$10,000 for our school. Congratulations to top male finisher, Bartos Trojca with a time of 19:17 followed quite literally by our top female finisher, Lauren Hoy

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with the time of 19:38. 4th grader Declan H. was our top finisher of our Mile Fun Run.

Our annual auction mixer is scheduled for Friday, February 10, at Crawford Hall. We will preview the live packages we are working on for our spring online auction. Silent auction items will be available between

April 15 and April 22. At 7:45 pm on the 22nd, our silent auction will close, and then we will

Development Coordinator Jackie Ankley with top finisher of the Mile Fun Run, Declan H.

immediately begin our live-streamed live auction! Our SOS dad hosts are ready to entertain as we watch the bidding frenzy LIVE. The message board interaction is not to be missed!!

ATHLETICS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL (FALL)

Our school established a volleyball program for its student athletes this year and fielded their first team of 14 girls ranging from grades 5-8. The Stars started their season 0-5, losing all their first games away, but ended the season winning their next five games at Home, placing their record at 5-5 for the regular season. They placed as 6th Seed for the ETIS

Tournament; won their 1st Round match at Home (making them undefeated at Home!); and went on to the 2nd Round, losing to the team that won the tournament - *it's worth noting our Stars beat this team in the regular season.*



Star of the Sea Volleyball Team

SOCCER CLUB (FALL)

Another first this year, this club was primarily focused on garnering interest for competitive SOS soccer teams. We're getting there with soccer, and this club was a successful first-step.

JUNIOR CROSS COUNTRY CLUB (FALL)

The inaugural year for this club, and one geared primarily for 4th grade and below runners, saw 15 runners practicing each week during the Cross

Country season to prepare them to wear the SOS uniform competitively.

CROSS COUNTRY (FALL)

15 runners strong and ranging from grades 5-8, our Stars began practicing for their four competitive meets before school even began. Prepared for the physical and mental demands of long distance running, all runners completed their runs at all meets and placed Top 3 in all meets. Overall, SOS placed 1st in the Girls Division and 3rd in the Boys Division. Shoutout to 6th grader Salem A. who finished FIRST with the girls and to 8th grader Niko C. who placed 15th with the boys.



Niko C. and Salem A. at the Cross Country Championship

SWIM (FALL)

Swim was canceled by the Tidewater Catholic Swim League (TCSL) this year due to league-wide low enrollment.

GROMMETS BASKETBALL CLUB (WINTER)

A longstanding Club for SOS, and another fun-filled and basics-learned season of six weeks where we prepared our PK3-2nd graders for competitive basketball. Soon these young athletes will be bringing home the gold for SOS.

BASKETBALL & CHEER (WINTER)

Our season is currently underway with eight Basketball teams and one HUGE Cheer team, so make sure to come out and cheer on our Stars. More info to come at the end of the year.

RUN CLUB (FALL-WINTER)

50+ runners, ranging from grades 1-8, are on-track to complete their 25.2 miles necessary to participate in the Shamrock Marathon Operation Smile Final Mile, where they'll finish the final mile of their marathon of 26.2 miles.

ON THE HORIZON

'23 Spring Sports: Golf, Field Hockey, and Track & Field

Matthew Chaney
Athletic Director

Angels Circle*(Gifts \$5,000 and above)*

Vicki Berling
 John Buckley
 Brian Large
 George & Sheri Mumejian *(in memory of their son, Michael)*

Super Star Circle*(Gifts \$2,500 - \$4,999)*

Richard Rumble and Rebecca Skotty *(in memory of Richard E Rumble)*

Gold Star Circle*(Gifts \$1,000—\$2,499)*

Joseph Bergamino
 Tony & Irene Boone
 Michael & Marilyn Borza
 Phil Cockrill
 Col & Mrs. James Edge
 Patrick & Sandra Gomez
 Fred Napolitano

Silver Star Circle*(Gifts of \$500 to \$999)*

Gary Allen
 Cecil & Theresa Garber
 Rob & Debbie Giroux
 Tim & Genie Glaser
 Joe & Annette Hawa
 Andrew & Karen Loiacono
 Marge Standing
 Gordon & Beth Ufkes
 Teddy & Susannah Uroskie
 Linda K Walker

Bronze Star Circle*(Gifts of \$250 to \$499)*

Jeff & Jackie Ankley
 Bryan & Carey Averill
 Paul & Lee Bergen
 Kelly Climo *(in honor of John M Lewis)*
 Mary & John Coffey
 Rory Compton
 Robert & Mara Foley
 Dan & Diane Foley
 Robert Grandfield
 Johanna McNally-Gross
 Norm & Lynn Hess *(\$200 in memory of Jackie Napolitano and John Grawl and \$250 in honor of Thomas Lyle)*

Andy & Karen Loiacono
 Patricia R. McGlinchy *(in memory of Richard E. Rumble)*
 Jeffrey D McGuire
 Capt & Mrs. James Mulligan
 Roman Catholic Diocese of Richmond
 Stephen & Maureen Whitfield

Stars Circle*(Gifts \$100—\$249)*

Paul & Lee Bergen
 Kelly Climo
 Jean Choplinsky
 John & Barbara Davey
 Lorraine DeGiorgi
 Robert & Christina Dowdy
 Kathleen Edge
 Susan Fentress
 Barbara Hudak
 Gretchen Hudome
 Mark & Lynn Ittner
 Ruth M. Jennette
 George & Duygu King
 Patricia King
 Chris & Erin Klein
 Jerry Kotchka
 Marc & Nancy Lambert
 Frank & Freddie Lansangan
 Vince & Michelle Libasci
 Betsy W Matz *(in memory of Richard E. Rumble)*
 Thomas & Tara McNally
 Hon & Mrs. Thomas Padrick
 Bert & Betsy Reese
 Marie Reese
 Nicholas & Josephine Sanchioli
 Michael Scheidt
 Tom & Diana Socha
 Gregg & Peggy Thuman *(in honor of Our Granddaughters Brooklyn and Peyton Austin)*
 Bill & Lyn Ungvarsky
 Harold & Cathryn Whisman
 Sallie Y Williams
 Michael & Michelle Wilson



8th Grade

Friends Circle*(Gifts to \$99)*

Anonymous (#iGiveCatholic)
 Anonymous (#iGiveCatholic)
 Raymond & Pauline Bach
 Jim & Deb Billing
 Sr. MaryAnne Bolger
 Brenda Bonfoey
 Matt & Rebecca Chaney
 Ann K Crenshaw *(in memory of Richard E Rumble)*
 Glenn Dannenfesler
 Adam & Kelly Davis
 Vincenza DiNardo
 Sherran Denkler
 June F Donnelly
 Sean M. Dowling
 Sr. Eileen Dugan
 Michael & Vinita Folck
 Patricia Hyatt
 Jim & Laura Jansen
 Alice & Ben Kahng
 Lisa Kane
 Robin Keith
 Jamie Kissel
 Tricia Leone
 Scott Levine
 Gerry & Nancy Liette
 Vincenzo Di Nardo
 Donna Odanga
 Julie Pagano
 Michael & Meghan Pfeiffer
 Christine Tynes-Pierce *(in memory of Catherine Margaret Tynes)*
 Niklas Putnam
 Amy Reineberg
 Jason & Sofia Robinson
 Star of the Sea Women's Group *(in memory of Shelley Ann Fox)*
 Ed Zurich



Fisher C. and prayer partner Baron C. during "Little Saints" Nov 1

Star of the Sea Catholic School



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Dr. Carey Averill, Principal

PROOF



Homecoming Parade at Catholic High School



Kindergarten Carol Morning Performance

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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-  tinyurl.com/SOSVB
-  [staroftheseavb](#)