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Claver's Chronicle



Happy New Year

Happy New Year to you all! We hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas celebrations and had a blessed and relaxing holiday gathering with their families. Thank you to everyone who attended our Advent program! Your children (and teachers) worked very hard and practiced for several weeks. Didn't they all do a wonderful job!! If you have not yet picked up your DVD of the program, please see Ms. Rawd in the school office.

The new year begins with excitement as we look to next year. This month, each family will be given a letter asking about your intent to return in the fall. Current school families have priority for fall placement and we want to make sure you are able to get into the program of your choosing. Don't forget to enroll those siblings as well! Letters of intent will be due to the school by January 31st in order to secure your placement for the next school year.

In honor of Catholic Schools Week, we will be hosting an Open House on Sunday,



January 28th from 11am-1pm.

The theme of Catholic schools' week 2024 is: "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." We know the value of a Catholic education and the dividends of faith, knowledge, discipline and morals it helps instill. Thank you to all of you for recognizing those same gifts and enrolling your children here in our programs.

All families are welcome and encouraged to attend our Open House! Please remember to bring any neighbors, relatives or friends who may be interested in enrolling. Registration materials will be available to them during the Open House.

Family Movie Night has been arranged on Friday, January 19th

at 6:00 pm in the Youth Center.

As the new year begins, we also look towards our spring auction! We need everyone's help to ensure a successful event. Remember! at least two service hours should be contributed to our Spring fundraising event. Service hours can be quickly accumulated helping with this auction. We can't wait to see you there!

The staff of St. Peter Claver Preschool wishes you, our extended family, a safe, healthy, and prosperous new year.

May God bless you all with good health and happiness. May we all continue to grow in our faith and serve our Lord to our fullest potential.

Volunteer Hours

Remember! Everyone is obligated to do 20 Service Hours. The coming of the New Year marks the approximate halfway point for the school year. With that in mind, you should be about halfway through your service hours. At this point you should have completed 10 hours. The good news is there are about 5 more months left and more opportunities. Keep in mind, too, that service to our parish also counts!

Bingo Night



Every Thursday evening. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, contact Paul Hopkins at (805) 390- 7781 for Bingo.

Fingerprinting

There will be a fingerprinting opportunity on Thursday January 18th from 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm at our youth center. For signing up please call Kyle (805) 526-0680.

Questions



Do you have questions about our school? Curriculum?

Office procedures? Making payments and navigating Smart Care? Upcoming events? How you can volunteer? On January 16th & 17th You can “Ask Ms. Rawd.” From 8:10 to 8:40 am you can come to the office.



Please come and join Mrs. Meyer in the staff room to discuss Principal matters or just stop by for a cup of coffee! from 10:15 to 11:00am on January 10th & 18th.

Movie Night!



Please plan on joining us for a free movie on Friday, January 19th! (Movie to be determined). Water, popcorn and after dinner treats will be served. Bring your own dinner, lawn chairs, and blankets to the Youth Center at 6pm on January 19th! (Dress comfortably—pajamas encouraged! A sign-up sheet will be available in the office. Stop by and let us know you’ll be joining us!

Happy Birthday!!

Mrs. Rawd Jan 3rd
Mrs. Meyer Jan 9th
Mrs. Tonya Jan 20th



Early Dismissal

Please remember, there is an early 12:30 pm Kindergarten dismissal this month on January 12th. Followed by a 1:00 pm staff meeting.

No School

There will be no school in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day Monday January 15th.



Open House - Sunday, January 28th

Please join us here on Sunday, January 28th for our annual Open House kicking off Catholic Schools Week. This is an opportunity to invite the parish and local community to our school to show off all the good work we do! It is also the time in which we accept applications for Fall 2024. As current school families, your children receive preferential registration. Please let us know by January 31st your intentions regarding re-enrolling your current student and/or siblings into our school programs. After the first of February, remaining spaces in our programs will be given to interested applicants. Because we offer a developmentally appropriate Kindergarten program with a maximum of 24 students, we anticipate our Kindergarten program to be at capacity next year. All students seeking entry into Kindergarten will be given a readiness assessment and placed according to readiness. We are excited to begin preparations for the beginning of another school year. Please share our Open House information with interested friends, family and neighbors. We look forward to having a large turnout for the event!

Dates to Remember

1/3	Happy Birthday! Ms. Rawd	1/18	Coffee with the principal 10:15-11:00 am
1/8	School resumes		
1/9	Happy Birthday! Mrs. Meyer	1/19	Family Movie Night 6:00 pm Youth Center.
1/10	Coffee with the principal 10:15-11:00 am	1/20	Happy Birthday! Ms. Tonya
1/12	12:30 pm KG dismissal, 1:00 pm Staff meeting	1/23	KG Step up day.
1/15	No School. Martin Luther King.	1/28	Open House 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
1/16 & 17	Ask Ms. Rawd 8:10 am to 8:40 am	1/29 - 2/2	Catholic School's Week.
		2/3	Mother-Daughter Event

Reminders

As the new year begins, I want to take this time to remind everyone of a few items:

- School begins promptly at 8:15/8:30am. Please try and be at school on time so that the teachers can begin their lessons.
- The school day ends at 11:30am, 12:30pm, or 2:30pm. Please try and be timely in picking up your child. A grace period of 5 minutes is allowed. Following that, your child will be signed into Extended Care. Charges for Extended Care will be

calculated at \$10 per hour.

- There is a service hour commitment of 20 hours per family per school year. Because the school year is approximately half way complete, you should have about 10 hours accomplished by now. Not there? We'll try to help! Let your child's teacher know you are in need of home projects and we'll try and find some things for you to do.

- Don't forget to take your child to Mass each week. The lessons they are learning here will have much more meaning when followed by weekly family attendance at Mass.
- Monthly tuition payments are due to the school on the tenth of each month and late as of the 11th. Should you choose to pay after the 10th, the account will be charged \$30.00 late fee. We encourage all of you to set up autopay to avoid any mishaps that would incur late fees.
- Extended Care is only available until 5:00pm. Please pick up your child on time.
- Letters of Intent to return to St. Peter Claver School for school year 2024-25 will be sent home this month. Please return by January 31st.

The Importance of Parent Education

Parenting, for many, is the most important and challenging job to ever have and a role that gets little recognition. Parents and other primary caregivers of all types (foster parents, grandparents, adoptive parents, etc.) can all use an opportunity to learn tips and new strategies to relate with our children and enjoy being with them. It also allows an opportunity to engage with other parents that may be having similar issues and struggles.

Today, there are new parenting challenges to overcome. Skills, routines and values were passed from generation to generation and parents could rely on networks of support to help them parent. Compared to past generations, many parents and families have become isolated and are raising children in silos. These parents are trying to figure it out alone. The skills a child needs to be successful have changed as well.

Over the years, each generation sees a change in what society considers parenting issues. Currently, families struggle with behavior management issues including lack of expectations, child supervision and excessively severe and inconsistent punishment on behalf of the parent. According to John Geldhoff, an Oregon University assistant professor of behavioral and health science, all parents—high income, low income, mandated and non-mandated—can benefit from evidence-based parenting education.

Parents who have attended classes and learned effective discipline and parenting techniques report having children with higher grades, fewer behavior problems, less substance abuse issues, better mental health and greater social competence. Parenting education programs offer support and education that can address issues and make parenting easier, more enjoyable and can strengthen a child's ability to thrive.

Building Early Emotional Skills in Young Children is one of many parenting programs offered by Michigan State University Extension. Many other reliable sources of information for parents are available to meet their needs. Resources are readily available online through YouTube videos, research-based websites, in person, podcasts, blogs and books that are readily accessible. Before you engage with a parenting resource, check the source of the information to be certain it is research based and reputable.

Your child's childcare center or school, community center, local library and local county MSU Extension may offer in-person trainings. In-person parent education allows parents the options to ask pertinent questions to their situation and potentially meet other parents to share stories with. A frequent issue that is brought up is relatable to everyone in the class, quality discussions begins, and ideas are shared. Online classes may also offer valuable opportunities to explore materials at your own pace and connect virtually with other parents.

Parenting education can be seen as something negative, like it is a reflection on your ability to parent. Parenting education is not just for parents who are struggling or having severe problems with their children's behavior—it can be an opportunity for parents to feel more confident as a parent, prevent future problems, enjoy being with their children and help their family get along.

We may invest time and money to take our new puppy to obedience class, take golf lessons or practice our swing, or take our family out to eat or on vacation as a way to invest in ourselves and our families. Similarly, parenting classes are an investment in our personal growth and our children's future ability to build healthy relationships, make and retain friends, get a job and keep it, and become great parents themselves. To find more valuable, research based information about parenting, check out the following resources:

- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children (MiAEYC)
- Zero to Three
- Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University
- MSU Extension's Family This article was published by Michigan State University.

St. Peter Claver Preschool and Kindergarten provides a developmentally appropriate curriculum centered in faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church. We endeavor to deepen a child's awareness and love of God and nurture their natural love of learning.

We, the members of St. Peter Claver Catholic community, acknowledge and respect the uniqueness of each child. In partnership with parents, we provide developmentally appropriate Catholic instruction in an environment which supports each child's sense of self and nurtures a love of learning. Our curriculum incorporates a variety of learning activities designed to enhance a child's love of God, and promotes problem solving, creativity, self-expression, and social skills. We seek to stimulate children's learning in all developmental areas, while at the same time, allow for individual differences in learning styles. St. Peter Claver Preschool and Kindergarten affirms the worth and dignity of each child and fosters an understanding and sensitivity to all people by encouraging reverence and respect for each person.



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