



The Saint Teresa Times

“Pray, Serve, Learn”

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 2



MARCH 2021

Letter from Principal Sister Mary Cecilia

“The Church is bound as a mother to give to these children of hers an education by which their whole life can be imbued with the spirit of Christ and at the same time do all she can to promote for all peoples the complete perfection of the human person, the good of earthly society and the building of a world that is more human.” (Gravissimum Educationis, 3)

St. Teresa School has been working at the education mentioned above for 90 years. The Church has strong and high hopes for what is to be provided for the children. Working to imbue their whole life with the spirit of Christ isn't easy. There are many things that are working against us, and most of those are things that our culture says that children must have, and must have now. The immediacy which pervades our lives rarely leads us to develop a depth of thought, a strength of opinion based on fact, and a strong stubbornness rooted in one's own ego.

If we are truly going to build a world that is more human, we must examine what it is to be human. That goes beyond reading, math, science, social studies, handwriting, spelling, and every other subject that is taught in our school. It goes beyond forgiveness, compassion, generosity, gratitude, self-giving, and understanding. It encompasses virtue, depth of character, rootedness in truth, and a desire to be truly who God has created us to be. We need a balance between the physical, emotional, spiritual, and cognitive parts of our education.

We have very brilliant students that have gone through St. Teresa School. We currently have very brilliant students in our school. We say that we want them to be prepared to succeed in high school, and we work to achieve that goal. That is very true; however, we also want them to reach their God-given potential, which goes beyond high school preparedness. I want St. Teresa School to be a school that produces saints. I want the Thomas Aquinas, Thomas More, Polycarp, Hildegard, Catherine of Siena, Thérèse of Lisieux, John Paul II, Carlo Acutis, Gianna Molla type saints. I want deep thinkers. I want deep pray-ers. I want fearless saints. I want saints who see beyond our current reality to find Christ in it and bring Him to the fore. I want students who see beyond their world to find ways to encompass what Christ wants into their reality. I want saints. We need saints! The question is how we get there. We're well on that path, but we have much work to do. The work isn't all done at school. It's done in homes, on the playgrounds, in the backyards. We must be the example for others.

As we look forward to the next 90 years of education at St. Teresa School, we must challenge ourselves and our students to be more than what our culture gives them. We must challenge them to be what God is calling them to be. Let us work together to produce awesome saints in our families, our school, our community. Let each one of us work to be that saint now. Don't leave it for others.





Official Prayer of the Year of Saint Joseph

Let us pray,

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

Composed by
Pope Leo XIII, 1889

MathCounts by Coach Andrew Willis



MathCounts is a national program for middle schoolers that is intended to increase math competency and problem solving skills through a fun, but challenging curriculum and series of competitions. Due to the pandemic, MathCounts went virtual this year, with online competition instead of the typical large Chapter competition and day of math fun that usually ends the year, but the team adapted well as you would expect from a group of problem solvers.

This year's participants from St. Teresa were: Abby Tlamka, Gemma Johnson, Kate Timmerman, Penny Willis, Elliot Cunningham, Meg Cunningham, Bryan Garcia, Henry Cunningham, Brendan Butler, Elise Coffey, Aleena Koenig, Anderson Clark, Damian Johnson, Lucy Willis, and Maggie Vacek. Lucy Willis placed 5th overall in the Chapter competition and qualified for the next round of competition, but all the Mathletes deserve accolades for spending their free time after school each week working on math problems!

Trout in the Classroom by Sr. Mary Agnes

The 5A class at St. Teresa School has embarked on a new adventure this semester. They are taking part in a program sponsored by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, the Nebraska Environmental Trust, and the Nebraska Trout Unlimited, Chapter 710 called "Trout in the Classroom." It began last December with assembly of the tank and preparation of the water to receive the trout. In early January the class received 200 rainbow trout eggs, and on January 19th their first trout egg hatched, with the rest hatching the following day.

The students are learning about the life cycle of the trout, their habitat, and their internal and external anatomy. The students have very much enjoyed having the trout in the classroom, and are very adept at making observations of the slightest change in their appearance and behavior.

When asked about how the students feel about having trout in the classroom, some responses included:

"I am very excited to have fish this year." –Jimmy

"I feel happy that we can learn and study real fish in the classroom." –Easton

"Having trout in the classroom is so fun! I like feeding them and changing their water!" –Clare

"I think it's been wonderful watching them grow and seeing them swim around so quickly. I also think they're very cute!" #ClassPets! –Joy

"I really like having trout in our classroom. It's really nice to go look at them during our free time and I love learning about them! Plus we get to help with the fish tank sometimes!" –Annie

"I feel thankful and happy." –Louis





“PRAY, SERVE, LEARN”

Catholic Schools Week Miniature Golf by Sr. Mary Ruth

With our traditional Catholic Schools Week field trips not possible this year, we decided to make our own St. Teresa School Miniature Golf Course. Each class designed and built a hole for the course, which was set up in the gym. The creativity and resourcefulness of the students and teachers were evident in the variety of materials they used—including foam pool noodles, plastic cups, sponges, Kleenex boxes, and even science fair display boards. The day after the course was constructed, classes took turns coming to the gym to golf. The students had a great time golfing through the different obstacles. Father Hottovy and Father Raminedi also joined in the fun and provided golfing tips to the students. Perhaps the mini golf course will become a new Catholic Schools Week tradition!



Second Grade Class Receives Sacrament of First Penance

Congratulations to our second grade class, who received their First Penance on March 27th! The Sacrament of Penance celebrates the restoration of our hearts through the expression of our sorrow, and cooperation in our healing. Penance is “the movement of a contrite heart” (Psalm 51:19). Penance and reconciliation also bring great healing and joy, as is evident on the faces of several of our St. Teresa’s second graders!

The second graders are also counting down the days until they receive their First Communion on Saturday, April 24th. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this beautiful sacrament!



Clark & Enersen Learning Environments Design Competition by Mrs. Kelly Pokoiski

In November of 2020, 7th and 8th grade students in Mrs. Pokoiski’s art class, entered the Clark & Enersen Learning Environments Design Competition, which was open to high school and middle school students within the city of Lincoln. The competition asked “all aspiring designers to design their dream learning space (indoor/outdoor/both) of the future. Designers entering the competition are encouraged to imagine and create a design of their ideal classroom setting in which they would love to learn.” During art class, students viewed examples of the latest trends in classroom design, interviewed each other about their ideal space, in addition to learning about design and architecture.

During the first phase, each student completed the Clark & Enersen contest packet, developed to help students understand the design process. Next, students began planning and creating the ideal classroom. Finally, they brought their creations to life through drawing, a variety of apps, and even using the video game Minecraft. The results were as varied and unique as each student and extremely well done (A’s all around).

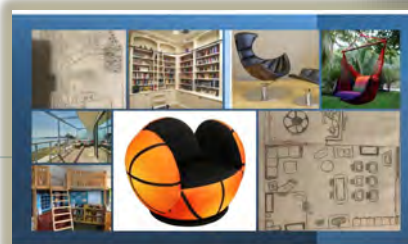
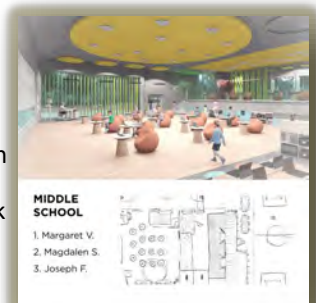
On December 18 all the projects were submitted to Clark & Enersen, with the winners announced January 25, 2021. Although there were many imaginative and creative entries, only three middle school students could win. Maggie Vacek (Saint Teresa’s 8th grade) placed first and was awarded \$500.00. Maggie Seeman (Saint Teresa’s 7th grade) placed second, awarded \$300.00. Joseph Fitzpatrick (Saint Teresa’s 7th grade) placed third, awarded \$200.00.

The students of Saint Teresa School want to thank Clark & Enersen for providing this unique learning opportunity, allowing the students to express their creativity and ideas about the future of classroom design and education.

Top Right: 1st Maggie Vacek

Bottom Left: 2nd Maggie Seeman

Bottom Rt: 3rd Joseph Fitzpatrick





8th Grade vs. Teachers CSW 2021 Volleyball Match

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Submissions for the newsletter to:
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***We are a faith-filled
Catholic community
called by God to teach,
nurture and guide our children
to achieve their
God-given potential
on life's journey to heaven.***



SAINT TERESA TIMES

The Thrive Initiative by Jeff and Megan Knieval

St. Teresa School has flourished in our community for over 90 years, built on a foundation of solidarity and a unifying vision: high-quality, affordable Catholic education providing the building blocks for both citizens and saints. The goal of **The Thrive Initiative** is to ensure that the same can be said for St. Teresa's students for generations to come.

Thanks to unparalleled support from our parish, St. Teresa School has remained on firm financial footing through its entire existence, while also setting the bar for tuition affordability. Unfortunately, from an operational standpoint, remaining financially healthy has required supplementing long-standing parish support with significant tuition increases in recent years, the trajectory of which St. Teresa families have never seen previously. We don't believe this trend is destined to be the "new normal". This is the backdrop for **The Thrive Initiative**.

While published tuition rates (and future increases) are now effectively set at the Diocesan level, we nonetheless have a compelling desire to keep St. Teresa's affordable for current and future families by curbing actual out-of-pocket tuition costs. **The Thrive Initiative** is a two-pronged approach to build on the St. Teresa School legacy and ensure that legacy for the future.

The Thrive Endowment is designed to support long-term out-of-pocket tuition relief in the form of annual interest payments directly to the school, while preserving (and growing) principle for generations to come. As the endowment grows, so too will the annual support for school families. There is no doubt that scaling the Thrive Endowment for meaningful annual income will take time; this is the rationale behind the second tier, the **Thrive NOW Fund**. Contributions to this fund will be used immediately to offset effective out-of-pocket tuition increases for St. Teresa School families.

100% of donations to the **Thrive Endowment** and **Thrive NOW** will directly benefit St. Teresa school families in the form of out-of-pocket tuition relief. Contributions will be made to, as well as administered and managed by The Catholic Foundation of Southern Nebraska, in order to provide a multitude of gifting options, including non-cash assets, such as real estate, grain, equities, and more. Your contribution to **The Thrive Initiative** will ensure a sustainable future for our school, a sustainable future for our students, a sustainable future for Catholic education at St. Teresa School.

Look for more information regarding **The Thrive Initiative** in the coming months.

"Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi" As we Worship, so we Believe, so we Live