



Weekly Newsletter - 12.7.2022

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[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

The teachers and staff would like to send a sincere thank you to each and every family for the generous Christmas gift received! We truly appreciate your kindness and we wish you and your family a happy, healthy and blessed Holiday Season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Upcoming Events & Calendar Reminders

Friday, December 9th:

- All School Mass @ 9am - Wear Full Uniform

Tuesday, December 13th:

- Tree Topper Tuesday - Wear Holiday Hats!

Thursday, December 15th:

- Tiger Spirit Day
- Christmas Program @ 6:30pm; Doors open at 6pm - Victoria Hall

Friday, December 16th:

- Christmas Spirit Non-Uniform Day: Christmas PJ's, Ugly Sweaters, Red, White & Green
- Noon Dismissal for All Students
- No After School Extended Care
- No Full Day Preschool (12pm-3:10pm)
- No PM Pandas

8th Grade Babysitting Nights

8th Grade Babysitting Nights are back! Save the date for December 10 and January 7 from 5 -9 pm and take advantage of a parent night out while our amazing 8th graders entertain your kids with pizza, games, movies and FUN! Money earned will help fund the 8th Grade D.C. trip!

Registration for Dec. 10 is available: [HERE](#)

Date: December 10, 2022

Time: 5pm - 9pm

Location: St. Catherine's Victoria Hall

Cost: \$40 for 1 child; \$30 for each sibling (ages 4-12)

Questions: Contact Debi Backstrom at 206-707-5432 or debi.backstrom@gmail.com

See you there!

Zeek's Pizza Fundraiser! On January 7th, Zeek's Pizza will donate 10% of all in-store St. Catherine food purchases made between 5-8pm that night (beverages excluded) to the 8th grader DC Fundraiser. Thank you Zeek's and the Finlayson family!

Volunteers Needed!!

We need your help, and your muscle! In preparation for the Christmas Program, we need to move the piano from the music room to the gym floor, as well as move 2 sets of bleachers onto the stage. Please come on Monday, December 12th at 3:15pm in Victoria Hall to help out! Those that volunteer will get double volunteer hours - thank you in advance! If you can make it or have questions, please contact [Amanda](#).

NPH Candy Candy Sale

NPH will be selling candy canes to raise money for our goldchild Yhon in Bolivia. Candy canes are 25 cents each. We will sell them at recesses on Monday, 12/12 and Tuesday, 12/13. Thank you for supporting NPH!

7th Grade MDI Bake Sale

Hey Tigers!

The 7th grade class is hosting a bake sale on Wednesday, December 14th. Items will cost \$0.50 to \$3.00. This event will take place in the gym foyer during both morning and lunch recesses. All proceeds will go to the St. James Cathedral and their service projects. Don't forget to bring money!

Thank you,
7th Grade

Christmas Program

After 3 years, the well loved St. C's Christmas Program is back! We are so excited to gather together on Thursday, December 15th at 6:30pm to celebrate Christmas with all our students and their families.

All reserved seats are taken! The remaining seats are first come first serve. Doors open at 6:00pm. You may not enter the gym and put coats on chairs during the day. Any items left on chairs before 6pm will be removed.

More information about the Christmas Program will be sent out later this week.

Best Buddies

Attention 5th-8th Grade Families: We are so excited to become a member of [Best Buddies International](#), an organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). At St. Catherine's (and other elementary and middle schools), our Best Buddies program will simply be a social club focusing on building friendships and social skills within our 5th-8th grades with monthly lunchtime meetings and activities. Our first event will be next week on Tuesday 12/13 during lunch recess. We've extended our registration window through this Friday, 12/9.

Please see the [attached letter](#) from Best Buddies for more information and a registration link. There will be a \$10 fee per student to join to cover the cost of activities. After registering, the \$10 fee will be billed to your family's SchoolAdmin Account. This is an amazing opportunity for your child to get involved with the world's largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As they move forward in their academic careers, it's very possible that your child will attend a high school or university that belongs to Best Buddies as well. We hope you will consider having your child join Best Buddies at St. Catherine!

Holiday Workshop with Smart with Art

Join us for a fun filled afternoon of holiday artful gift making on Tuesday, December 12th. Your Kindergarten-5th grade student will design one incredible art piece based on a winter holiday theme that will be gift wrapped ready for gift giving. This one-time special class is 1.5 hours in length, held on site at St. Catherine School.



[Register Here!](#)

Valet Used Uniform Donation

FRIDAY, 12/9: MORNING & AFTERNOON carline in the St. C's parking lot

The Post-Thanksgiving Purge: Need to clear the closet of gently used uniforms? This Friday, unload jumpers, sweaters, sweatshirts, skirts/skort, and vests (see below for items we collect) while dropping off or picking up in the St. C's parking lot!

Donation Tips and Tricks

YES, PLEASE!	NO, THANKS!
<p>Plaid St. C Sweatshirts Skorts/Skirts Vests/Cardigans</p>	<p>Pants Socks Polos Shorts</p>
<p>Donations at Uniform Sales Events VALET COLLECTIONS 1st Monday (NOV-FEB) PM Car Line</p>	<p>Used Uniform Requests Between Sales Donation Drop Offs to School Office</p>

St Catherine Spirit Gear Update

To our St. Catherine community who placed an order for Spirit Gear: There was an issue with the supplier that we could not foresee, and the company hosting our school store has issued a refund to anyone who ordered through their website. The good news is that we have another store coming soon, and we should not have these issues going forward.

Please be sure to check that you have received your refund within the next 5-10 business days. If you have any questions or concerns about refunds, please reach out to: [Seattle Custom Printing \(tyler@seattlecustomprinting.com\)](mailto:tyler@seattlecustomprinting.com), 206-268-0443.

We will follow-up with a new custom school store in the coming weeks. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Tickets for Teachers

Do you have tickets for sporting events, theater, or dinner gift certificates that are going unused? Consider donating them to our "Tickets for Teachers" raffle. This past month a staff member had the opportunity to go to a Husky game because of a generous parent donation. Contact [Tammy Matusak](#) if you would like to donate.

Thank you to our STC Parents for your continued support! #thetigerway

A Few ACC Wreaths Still Available

The St. Catherine members of Advocacy & Caring for Children (ACC) are so grateful to the St. Catherine community for supporting our wreath fundraiser for the 19th year in a row! Thank you all! Our sale was such a success that we placed a 2nd smaller order last week and we still have 15 wreaths of those wreaths available for sale.

If you are interested in a wreath, you may fill out the [attached form](#) and email it, leave it in the school office, or contact Gayle Kaplan: gayle@kaplan1.com or (206) 714-9258.

We will deliver your order this week to St. Catherine, or to your home if you live locally. Wreaths are \$25 and payments may be made by Venmo @accwreathsale or by a check, made out to ACC and left in the school office. Thanks again everyone for helping us support needy families in western Washington!



WE NEED YOU!

Thank you to those who have joined the Auction committee!

We need our parent volunteers to help us plan a successful event and raise funds for our students, faculty & staff, programming, and tuition assistance! Please review [this document](#) and join the fun!

Click [here](#) to view and fill out the form.

**SUPPORT THE AUCTION! WE NEED YOU!
PLEASE SIGN-UP TO HELP LEAD OR SUPPORT THESE TEAMS**

Sponsorship Support & Ticket Sales
[SIGN-UP TODAY!](#)

Thank you for your interest in joining the planning committee.
The Auction Team | auction@stcatherineschool.net

Yearbook 2022-2023

Attention Parents! The Yearbook staff needs your help. Please send any pictures you take throughout the school year to yearbook@stcatherineschool.net to be included in the yearbook. We are particularly interested in things that happen outside of school that our staff doesn't get a chance to photograph like CYO sports, back to school photos, and eventually events like Ski Bus and Speech Team. Thank you for your help!

Yearbook questions? Send an email to Ms. Elsner (celsner@stcatherineschool.net).

New St. Catherine Social Media Email!

Have you been looking for a way to share your amazing photos from weekend sporting events? Do you have pictures of St. C's Tigers doing great things? Please share them with us at socialmedia@stcatherineschool.net

Make sure to include a description of the event along with the names & grades of the St. C tigers. #thetigerway

Coding with Kids

SCRATCH: ARCADE GAMES I Grades 3 - 6

Mon, 3:15pm-4:15pm
Jan 23 - Mar 20 (no class on Feb 20)
\$199 / 8-week session

What's even better than dodging obstacles, collecting tokens, and playing games on coin-operated machines? Creating your own arcade games! This course teaches students to code arcade games by applying programming concepts like Events, Functions, and Game Physics. Students can recreate popular arcade games by the end of the course, such as the Brick Breaker and Space Invaders.

Registrations at www.CodingWithKids.com/session/47274

LITTLE CODERS: ANIMATIONS Grades K - 2

Tue, 3:15pm-4:15pm
Jan 24 - Mar 21 (no class on Feb 21)
\$199 / 8-week session

Learn how to make your own animations in Scratch using basic coding skills! In this course, students will focus on the arts and animations side of game development. Students will learn how to create their own characters, animate them, and tell their story through art, creativity, and basic coding skills! Projects include animating a walk cycle, a running unicorn, and a funny handshake. Our curriculum focuses on reinforcing concepts in different ways to help students retain new ideas and build a strong foundation for future learning.

Registrations at www.CodingWithKids.com/session/47275



Winter 2023

Chess Scholars

St Catherine of Siena School

No Experience Needed



Grades 3-8

Develop your child's intellect through the royal game of chess! Current research has shown a strong link between chess and academic performance in a variety of areas, including mathematics and language arts. Chess has been proven to enhance children's motivation, concentration, focus, social skills, and creativity.

Each class will consist of a fun, interactive teaching period and guided practice time. Both beginner and experienced players are welcome and will learn under the guidance of an experienced Chess Scholars coach.

Schedule: 9 Thursdays, January 26th - March 30th, 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM

No class: 3/2

To sign up, please visit <https://www.learningmeansfun.com/signup>.

You will need to enter the course code **CSW1.26.23** to register. Please register by 10pm PST on 1/4 for the early bird price of \$162.00.

If you have difficulty registering, please contact Afterschool Enrichment Solutions at 847-482-9999 or registration@learningmeansfun.com

All participants must conduct themselves in a manner that allows all students to fully participate during the class without impeding their experience. We have a no refund policy, unless there is insufficient enrollment. No make-ups will be scheduled for inclement weather or circumstances beyond our control. Please be aware of this as there will be no refunds. It's the parents' responsibility to remind the children about the classes.

If schools are closed during the program session, classes will pivot to all-virtual sessions. Please be aware of this as there will be no refunds made. Program provider has experience in virtual delivery.

SVDP Holiday Program

Not far from here families are worried about having a nice Christmas meal and feeling badly explaining to their children that Santa couldn't come this year. To answer that concern our SVDP conference is providing food vouchers for 33 families so they can plan, shop and prepare a nice meal. Plus we will provide a \$30 gift card (for each child under 18) to their mother to shop and wrap a gift the child needs or wants. Our budget for this Christmas Program is \$5,010. The majority of the families have been disadvantaged because of social or economic policies and 16 of the families are headed by deaf women who have suffered abuse. Will you please help us fund the groceries and gifts? The struggling families will appreciate this lift particularly this holiday season.

Thank you to St Catherine school students who have collected gift wrap and bows so the families can wrap the gifts making a more festive atmosphere. They also collected food to

stock the SVDP pantry to distribute now or later in the year. Thank you students!

To help 1) click the SVDP Holiday Program button on the [website](#) to donate online; 2) write a check to the SVDP Holiday Program using the collection basket at Mass; or 3) mail your check to the parish office, 814 NE 85 th Ave, Seattle, WA 98115. The vouchers and gift cards are distributed to the families with this message: "*Wishing you blessings this Holiday Season, Peace and Love from St. Catherine Church and School Community*".

Tuition Assistance 2023-2024

The tuition assistance process for the 2023-2024 school year begins now and the application is officially open. If you think that your family may be in need of financial aid next year, please complete an application. Tuition assistance is available for Kindergarten-8th Grade only.

The entire process is completed online through FACTS. All applications are first reviewed by the Fulcrum Foundation, a fundraising arm of the Archdiocese. Once Fulcrum determines their assistance awards, then the St. Catherine Tuition Assistance Committee will review the applications and distribute financial aid for the 2023-24 school year. Some families may qualify for assistance from both the Fulcrum Foundation and the St. Catherine program, but only one application is submitted.

The application deadline is January 6, 2023. This is a firm deadline - all completed applications AND required tax documentation must be submitted by this date for consideration.

You can access the application [here](#). And FACTS charges a \$35 application fee.

If you have any questions about the process or application, feel free to email [Kathy Cox](#) or you can access the FAQ page on the Fulcrum Foundation website [here](#).

Volunteer Hours

Each family with students in grades K-8 are required to contribute 40 volunteer service hours during the school year. Please email your hours to [Charlotte](#) in the school office. The Volunteer Hours Summary Sheet can be found [here](#).

Non-Uniform & Spirit Day Calendar

"When is Spirit Day? When is the first non-uniform day? I bought free dress passes at last year's auction - when can my student use them?" All these answers and more can be found on the [Non-Uniform & Spirit Day Calendar](#).

2022-2023 School Calendar

Here are the key calendar dates for the 2022-2023 school year:

- 1st day of school: Tuesday, September 6th (noon dismissal)
- Fall Conferences: November 3rd-4th (November 2nd is a noon dismissal)
- Thanksgiving break: November 24th-25th (November 23rd is a noon dismissal)
- Christmas break: December 19th-30th
- New Year's Day Observed: January 2nd
- President's weekend/break: February 20th-21st
- Easter break: April 10th-14th
- Last day of school: Friday, June 16th (10:30am dismissal after the Moving Up Mass)

Printable PDF copies of the calendars, with lots more events and dates, are available here:
[K-8 Calendar](#)
[Preschool Calendar](#)

Please note that dates on these calendars are subject to change and any changes will be communicated to families via the school newsletter as soon as possible.

Immunizations Update

The Department of Health has updated the requirements for the 2022-2023 school year. Students in preschool or kindergarten who are four years old or older on September 1st are required to have the additional dose of DTaP, IPV, MMR and varicella vaccines before the first day of school.

Students with summer birthdays will have less time to get vaccinated before the start of school, so parents should plan ahead and schedule their child's vaccination appointment before the school year starts.

Please send updated records to Charlotte at cvanhollebeke@stcatherineschool.net.

Attendance Procedures

If your child/ren will be absent from school, please notify the school office at attendance@stcatherineschool.net, as well as your child's homeroom teacher, no later than 8:30am on the day of the absence. Advanced notification of the absence (2-3 days before) is also greatly appreciated.

The safety of our students is our number one priority and the office will call home to verify the student's absence if a parent/guardian has not called or emailed.

If you know your child will be tardy due to a medical/dental/personal appointment, the office must be notified for the tardy to be excused. A parent/guardian must accompany a tardy student in to the school office to sign them in for the day.

If your child/ren will be absent from school for 2 or more days of school, please complete a [pre-planned absence form](#) and send it to attendance@stcatherineschool.net at least 2 weeks prior to the absences.

Regular attendance is important to the success of our students. Normally, illness, medical appointments and family emergencies are the only acceptable form of excused absence.

Help our school get \$ back every time you shop at Amazon!

As a participant in the Amazon Affiliate and AmazonSmile programs, a percentage of your Amazon purchases come back to us if you designate "St Catherine" as your charity of choice. Simply [CLICK HERE](#) (this link is also on our website under the "Parents" tab on the far right) to sign in to your Amazon account and place your order as usual (if you haven't signed up for AmazonSmile yet, it's quick and easy). The school will automatically receive a portion of all sales on orders placed through this [unique link](#) which is a combination of the Affiliate and Smile programs.

Thank you!



You shop. Amazon gives.

Fred Meyer/QFC Community Rewards

Fred Meyer/QFC are part of a program called Community Rewards to give back to the community! Each year, Fred Meyer intends to donate \$2.5 million (up to \$625,000 per quarter) to local schools, non-profits, and charitable organizations. Customers can designate where these dollars get spent.

If you are a Fred Meyer customer head to Community Rewards and link your rewards card <https://www.fredmeyer.com/i/community/community-rewards>. When you shop with your rewards card, you'll help earn donation dollars to the charity of your choice. St. Catherine School organization code is AF109. You may select only one non-profit at a time. Also, note that this does NOT impact your quarterly Rewards or Fuel points. You'll still receive all those benefits on top of this program. Today we have 26 families linked to this program and we still receive rewards. Imagine our rewards if every school family took the time to register!



MASS SCHEDULE

ST. CATHERINE

SATURDAY	5PM
SUNDAY	*9:30AM
WEDNESDAY	9AM
FRIDAY	9AM

CONFESSION SATURDAY 3:30 - 4:30PM

ADORATION AT ST. BENEDICT 1ST FRIDAY 6 - 7PM

ANOINTING OF THE SICK 1ST FRIDAY 9AM

*Livestream Available



ROSARIES

WEDNESDAY	9:30AM
FRIDAY	9:30AM



OPEN FOR PRAYER

FRIDAY	10AM - 12PM
SATURDAY	3:30 - 4:30PM

Mission & Philosophy

St. Catherine of Siena Parish School is a welcoming, Christ-centered community, rooted in the Catholic faith and inspired by Gospel values. As an extension of the parish and with Jesus as our model, we are dedicated to lifelong growth in faith, love, and learning.

We recognize that the care and education of the child begins with the family and that parents are the primary educators of their children. In partnership with parents, we work to promote our students' achievement and spiritual growth. Together we are committed to developing responsible, ethical leaders who think critically, act justly, communicate effectively, and serve willingly.

Vision

We are committed to providing a faith-filled, inclusive, and welcoming learning environment for all our students. Through our rigorous academic programs, our students will gain the cognitive, technological, and social skills necessary to become ethical, innovative leaders who successfully navigate the complex challenges of today's world.



St. Catherine of Siena School | 8524 8th Avenue Northeast, Seattle, WA 98115

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