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Don't let tuition stand in the way of gifting your child a Catholic education. We work with all families to make it possible to attend St. Joseph Catholic School. All are welcome.

We want to encourage you to explore the value of a Catholic education here at St. Joseph Catholic School. Researching options for your child's education is an investment that will pay dividends for a lifetime. Let us show you what we have to offer at St. Joseph Catholic School! Schedule a tour today!

\$500 Tuition Transfer Grant Available!



A limited number of grants are available. Contact Jerry Van Dyke, the principal, at jvandyke@sjsricelake.org or visit our website at: sjsricelake.org/500-tuition-transfer-grants-available/



Pg. 4



MARCH 2021 | QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The Spartan Spotlight

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL
RICE LAKE, WI



NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

100th Day of School
Jerry Van Dyke, by the principal

Journey to the Cross -
Celebrating the Season of Lent

Alumni Spotlight & Legacy
Family Andy Hanvelt - 3

Tuition Transfer Grant - 4

ALUMNI! Scan me with your mobile device camera app!



100TH DAY OF IN PERSON SCHOOL!

Great things are happening at St. Joseph School!

In just the past few weeks, we have hit several important milestones and events in our school year.

In mid-February, led by the preK, kindergarten, and 1st grade students, we celebrated the 100th day of school. The 100th day is an event that our youngest students look forward to every year. Having students in school for instruction this school year made this even more meaningful. Our students have stayed healthy, outside of a few classes affected by quarantines thus far, because of our mitigation measures of mask wearing, distancing, and extra cleaning and disinfecting.

Earlier in February, we celebrated Catholic Schools Week (CSW). During CSW we were able to attend Mass virtually with Bishop James Powers at the Cathedral in Superior. In addition to some fun activities during the week, students came together to collect food and clothing donations for Sister's Emergency Food Pantry and the Family Resource Center at Heart Island. Our 8th-grade class did an excellent job leading the SJS community in a food drive, collecting a very generous amount of food donations; 1,600 items in all were donated for this important ministry.

COVID has changed some aspects of what we do in school, but it has not changed who we are as a school community. St. Joseph Catholic School is blessed with the great support of our cluster parishes, our students' parents and grandparents, alumni, and many other friends. We will remember you all in our prayers and at Masses throughout Lent and into the Easter season.

Jerry Van Dyke, Principal

Pg. 1



A JOURNEY TO THE CROSS - LENT

How St. Joseph Catholic School students are journeying through this Lenten season and preparing for Easter Sunday

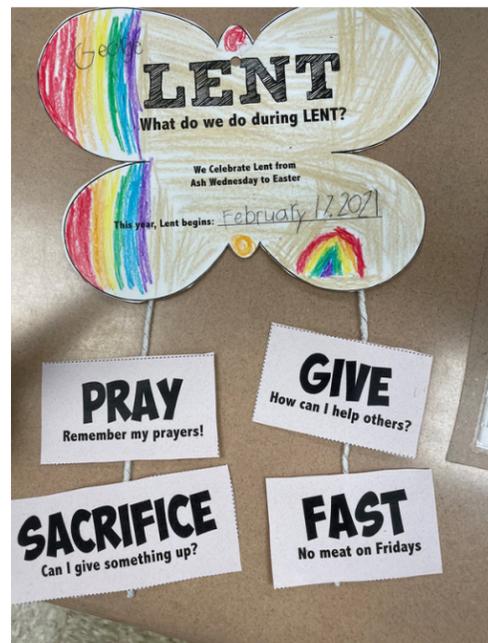
Our Catholic faith has always been at the center of what we do here at St. Joseph Catholic School. For over 130 years, our school has taken pride in forming our youth to be leaders in society, faith leaders in their future families, and leaders in the church. Our school has evolved and changed over those 130 years, but one thing is still true. Our Catholic faith is the beacon for what we do. We are proud to have excellent and caring teachers. The faith diversity in our enrolled families (60% Catholic, 40% other faiths) helps us to embrace a culture of welcoming to all. We treasure the gift of sharing the beauty of our Catholic faith.

Throughout the season of Lent, each of our classrooms are walking with Jesus to the cross through several different activities and daily classroom prayer. Let's take a look into a few of our classrooms:

Our 4K students, taught by Mrs. Shannon Holthaus, have been learning how to pray during Lent. They have created prayer chains to help them with visualizing their prayers and the prayers of their classmates.

1st-Grade students have also been learning how to pray and what to pray for. They have been focusing on prayer, giving, fasting and sacrificing and how they can use those four areas to learn how to pray. Mrs. Melissa Handorf says using these areas of focus helps our 1st-grade students to be intentional about "what" they pray for. (see picture at right)

Music and Faith: It has been a challenge for our music teacher, Mrs. Mary Shearer, to teach music this year without singing (due to COVID-19 safety measures). She has found many creative ways to keep our students engaged and excited about music. We were recently gifted a classroom set of ukuleles which many of our students have really enjoyed. This Lent, she has been teaching our students American Sign Language to sing silently in their hearts the hymns at school Masses. We all long for the day when we can sing our Lord's praises at Mass again.



1st Grade Lenten Activity

John 11:40

"Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"

Pg. 2



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT AND LEGACY FAMILY ANDY HANVELT (1998 GRADUATE)



The Hanvelt Family

Tell us a bit about what you have been doing since 8th grade?

After St. Joe's, I attended high school and then college at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. I studied Business Management and following graduation, worked for Wells Fargo. After four years at Wells Fargo, I interviewed and got a position at CCF Bank in 2010. After several years of working and living in Eau Claire, I was offered the opportunity to move back home, to Rice Lake, to start up a new CCF Branch location and I am now the Community Bank President. Since then, I have started a family and my wife, Katie and I, now have three children, Ryan (fourth-grade), Emily (third-grade), and Evelyn (Kindergarten), whom all attend St. Joseph Catholic School. It has been a blessing for our family to be living in Rice Lake and now experiencing the school as I did in my younger years.

What is important to you in the education of your children?

When my wife, Katie, and I were looking for a school for our first child, we knew that we needed a safe place that would embrace our son for his shy personality. I knew that the small classroom environment, that St. Joe's provides, would help provide him a sense of belonging and encourage strong friendships with his classmates. The friendship bonds that my children have at St. Joe's are very close - like siblings almost - which has been a great blessing.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment?

I have always been a very driven individual; chasing after success in my personal life and professional life. I also love to meet new people. Through my professional career at CCF Bank, I find a lot of joy in helping business owners to be successful in their endeavors. My greatest professional accomplishment is helping those businesses and the people who work in this community. It makes Rice Lake a great place to live.

Did you have a favorite subject or teacher at St. Joseph Catholic School? / Favorite memory at St. Joseph?

My favorite subject has and always will be Mathematics. I really enjoyed having Mr. Bob Seabold as my math teacher. He always pushed me to work harder, even though math came easy for me.

The most important thing I've gained from attending St. Joseph Catholic School as a child was the exposure to presenting class projects in front of my classmates. That exposure to public speaking has helped me in my career. Playing football and basketball were also fond memories of being at St. Joe's.



Pictured here is Andy Hanvelt (yellow) with his 8th-grade class and his favorite teacher, Mr. Bob Seabold (red).



← (Andy in his Spartan football uniform before the big game.)

Any advice for current students to make the most of their experience at St. Joseph?

Don't blend in! Get out there and try new things. If you are not involved in an extra-curricular, try something, and then if that doesn't fit, try something new. I encourage you, when you graduate from St. Joseph School, to take extra courses in high school to challenge yourself. Don't lose sight of your dreams and what you want to do with your life. Don't blend in!

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MAKE A GIFT TO SUPPORT CATHOLIC EDUCATION!

We rely on gifts to help fund the gap in tuition and the cost to educate. Every gift, great or small, helps to support the kids.

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OR mail to: St. Joseph Catholic School,
Attn: Advancement Office, 128 West Humbird Street, Rice Lake, WI 54868



Pg. 3

