



St. Lawrence
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*We are a Catholic School family dedicated to nurturing
and celebrating a love for Jesus Christ and educating the
whole child with academic excellence.*



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Principal's Corner

Exciting events starting next week!

Welcome back St. Lawrence families. I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas break with their family. We are happy to be back with our students in person for the second half of the school year. I would like to take this time to thank everyone that gave me Christmas gifts. I am truly so blessed to be part of such an awesome community!

I'm excited to share our new e-newsletter with you to keep our families up to date with the latest happenings around school. It will be issued monthly or more frequent if needed. You may also check the school website homepage for the latest news.

Family enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year ends this Friday, Jan. 29. You should have received an email from the office. You can also log in to FACTS and there will be an enrollment tab if you haven't yet completed the process. New family enrollment begins on Jan. 31.

We will have our virtual open house this Sunday, Jan. 31. Even though it doesn't give the same feel as walking our halls and meeting our amazing teachers, we felt it was the right decision for our faculty and families to keep everyone safe. However, I am thrilled to share that interest in families attending St. Lawrence is very strong for the next school year.

Catholic Schools Week is next week Feb. 1-5 and we have fun and safe activities planned for the students. Details are included in this newsletter.

Lastly, please join me in welcoming Mrs. Kania to St. Lawrence as our new first grade teacher. Please read about her in our Teacher Spotlight.

Have a blessed weekend!
Mrs. DiMercurio

Letter from Assistant Principal Mr. Barker

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. Happy New Year! As we are into the second half of the school year, I wanted to send out a reminder making sure students are in dress code.

Last Friday, January 22, we conducted a random uniform check, and there were several students in violation. Some of the violations included: sweatshirts that are not uniform, leggings in place of tights, nail polish, tennis shoes on days that students do not have gym, non-uniform shirts under the uniform sweatshirt and hair (too long for boys and non-natural coloring for girls).

For questions and/or clarification on the dress code, see the student handbook (pages 14-24). Students found in dress code violation will be given a written warning and after three written warnings, the student will be issued a detention.

We are celebrating Catholic Schools Week (Feb. 1st-5th) and have dress-down days scheduled for each day. If you are in doubt on what is appropriate and/or have a question about any of the dress days, please email your student's teacher, Mrs. DiMercurio or me.

Please remember that we are Catholic school and the intent of the school uniform is to focus the student's attention on Christ-like behavior that will result in proper development of Catholic and Christian values and academic success.

Thank you and God Bless!

Mr. Barker

DATES & DEADLINES

Jan. 19-29 - In-School Family Re-Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year

Jan. 29 - End of 2nd card marking

Jan. 31 - Virtual Open House from 1-3:00 p.m.

Jan. 31 - Feb. 12 - New Family Application Process for the 2021-2022 school year

Feb. 1-5 - Catholic Schools Week

Feb. 4 - **PRESCHOOL ONLY** No School (Parent Teacher Conferences)

Feb. 5 - **NURSERY & PRESCHOOL ONLY** No school (Parent Teacher Conferences)

SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD NEWS

The School Advisory Board is a body comprised of school faculty, teachers and parents to collaborate with the pastor and administration and assist in developing policies for St. Lawrence school. They also serve as a voice and intermediary between school families and administration. The Board consists of four committees: *Advancement, Catholic Culture, Strategic Planning and Properties & Facilities.*

Below are updates from the January meeting. If you have any questions or concerns for the Board, please email them at the link below.

[Email School Advisory Board](#)

ADVANCEMENT



There is great interest with new enrollment this year. Help out our school by leaving a positive Google review to let potential families know what you love about St. Lawrence.

[Leave Google Review](#)

CATHOLIC CULTURE



Good news! Students will once again be able to receive the sacrament of reconciliation during Lent. In addition, each of the grades are rotating for in-person Mass on Wednesdays and grades 3-8 are able to receive communion when they attend. We receive God's grace through the sacraments. Please visit the St. Lawrence parish website below for additional dates and times for confession and Holy Mass.

[St. Lawrence Catholic Church](#)

STRATEGIC PLANNING



PROPERTIES & FACILITIES



- School Crossing signs with solar powered flashing lights were recently

Last year, the Strategic Planning committee held a contest to come up with the new motto: *"Growing in Faith, Striving to Learn, Living to Serve."*

Our school sub-committee on Faith will look for ways to communicate and incorporate the motto into student life and activities.

The committee is also looking at ways to improve school communications and better integrate with parish and KofC activities to create a stronger Catholic school community. The Strategic Plan is being updated and will be shared at a later time.

ordered to facilitate pick up procedures and enhance safety measures. The city of Utica will install the signs once they arrive.

- The main office and secretaries have been moved from their temporary home (on the right side once you enter the U doors) back to the original space (straight ahead through the U doors). It was painted and there are new counters/cabinets.

PARISH NEWS



St. Lawrence Church has the 2021 '52 Sundays' books available in the parish hall. This book was released through the Archdiocese of Detroit to help reclaim Sundays as a day set apart for the Lord, for family and for works of mercy.

The book reflects on the Sunday gospel each week and includes family activities, prayers, recipes, saints of the week and more.

Join the 52 Sundays Facebook page with other St. Lawrence families and help create a God-centered communal space to share ideas, encouragement and faith-based activities.

[StL 52 Sundays Facebook](#)



Knights of Columbus Youth Leadership member Juliana Chabot is holding a community volunteer opportunity to benefit foster care homes throughout Michigan by making 100 no-sew tie blankets. Foster care children often move from place to place without having much to call their own. These blankets will give them something they can hold onto forever.

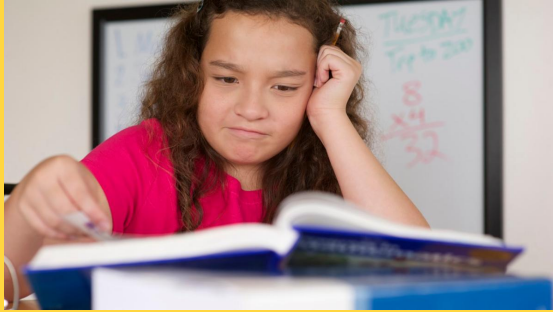
Sign up today for the in-person event at the K of C hall on Jan. 31. 10 people will be allowed to sign up per time slot to ensure COVID safety protocol. Masks and social distancing will be required.

This is your chance to serve and give back!

[SignUp Genius](#)

LEARNING CORNER

How to Improve Math Skills for Kids with ADHD



Kids with ADHD aren't the only ones who struggle with math, but challenges with working memory and sustained attention can make a tough subject even tougher. This article provides simple tricks and tips for parents and teachers to help students improve math skills — and gain confidence.

[ADDitude Article](#)

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Mrs. Kania

In our first Teacher Spotlight, we will get to know our newest member to join our St. Lawrence family, first grade teacher Mrs. Andrea Kania.

Mrs. Kania has been teaching first grade for seven years. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Elementary Education.

Reading is, and has always been, one of her favorite things and now she loves to teach students to read and develop a love for reading and learning.

She and her husband have two children, Logan and Mackenzie, who are both proud Mustangs in 2nd grade and Kindergarten, and a little Yorkie named Casey.

When she's not teaching, Mrs. Kania loves to travel with her family, watch her children participate in sports and spend as much time outside as possible enjoying warm weather.

We welcome Mrs. Kania and look forward to a great rest of the year!



SCHOOL NEWS

Catholic Schools Week

Monday, February 1

- *Decades Day*
- Quarter Drive Begins: Students may bring in coins or bills all week and place their money in the bin of the Super bowl team they think will win.



This year's Catholic Schools Week is Feb. 1-5. The theme is Faith, Excellence, Serve.

Teachers will decorate their hallways in a Disney theme and students will be able to dress up all week in different themes.

Tuesday, February 2

- *Disney Dress-up Day*
- *Parent Appreciation Day*

Wednesday, February 3

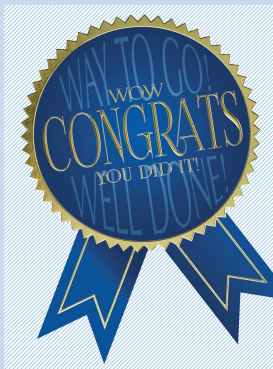
- *Essential Worker/Hero Day*
- *Teacher Appreciation Day*

Thursday, February 4

- *Comfy Cozy Day*
- *Student Appreciation Day*

Friday, February 5

- *Jeans/Sport Day*
- Quarter Drive Ends. All money will be turned into gift cards for a charity. After the Super Bowl, the class that earned the most money for the *winning* team will win a pizza party.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to 8th-grade student Ryan Brandow for receiving the top merit scholarship award to U of D Jesuit High School. This prestigious scholarship is only awarded to the top 1% of the entering class.

Bus Update

Utica Community Schools started hybrid in-person classes on Jan. 19. Busses will not be offered to St. Lawrence while they are doing this hybrid approach.

We have also been informed that due to COVID-safety measures and disinfecting procedures, it is unlikely that Utica would be able to provide bussing to meet our 9 a.m. start time.

We will continue to provide updates as we receive them from Utica; however, it is unlikely that we will have bussing for the remainder of the school year.

