

The Knightly News

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Week Celebrates Catholic Education

This weekend marks the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, a time to focus on the benefits of Catholic Education through prayer, service and recognition of the community--parents, teachers and students--that make Catholic education possible,

Catholic Schools Week To Begin

By Maggy McGuire

Join us Saturday for the kickoff of Catholic Schools week. First students will be participating in the 5:00 p.m. Mass at Holy Name Church.

Then there will be a Chilli Feed Fundraiser hosted by the eighth grade in the School Cafeteria immediately following Mass, and all parishioners are welcome!

There will also be the Mater Dei Catholic Schools Week video premiere and the book fair from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM in the gym.

We hope you can be there!

Schools Begin Day of Prayer at Hayden

By Ian Mead

Catholic Schools Week (CSW) begins on Saturday, January 25, 2020, and goes until the following Friday. At Mater Dei each one of these days has a theme. Wednesday, January 29, 2020, is the day of prayer. The day begins when the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth-graders go to the regional Mass at Hayden Catholic High School. The

Mass at Hayden is very different from a normal Mass. For a start, it's not just Mater Dei attending the Mass. All the Catholic schools in Topeka come together for a special Mass with Archbishop Joseph Naumen, as well as all the other priests from the various parishes. All the middle schoolers from Mater Dei, St. Matthews, Most Pure Heart of Mary, Christ the King, and Holy Family come together in the Hayden gym.

The Mass is said by the archbishop and all of the priests in the Topeka parishes, as well as Father Carter Zielinski, the chaplain at Hayden Catholic High School. Mater Dei's Father John Pilcher will be there celebrating as well.

Meanwhile, back at Mater Dei school, every hour, pupils from Mater Dei will head to the office to lead prayer. The students will lead prayer that will sound from the intercom, helping the students, teachers, and staff become more in tune with Jesus.

Father Carter Zielinski, the chaplain at Hayden Catholic High School and an associate priest at Christ the King Parish, both in Topeka, Kansas, helps explain Catholic Schools Week. This is what he had to say about Catholic Schools Week and the Day of Prayer.

What is Catholic Schools Week?

Catholic Schools Week is a chance to promote and be thankful for the gift of Catholic education in our community and church.

Why do we have Catholic Schools Week?

We celebrate the many people that make it possible for us to give our children a faith-based education that also prepares them for their future as responsible citizens guided by Catholic values.

Why do we celebrate Mass on Wednesday with all of the catholic schools in Topeka?

Topeka is a community with much local tradition in the Church. The grade schools take many opportunities to connect with one another through sports, service projects and other endeavors in order to foster an understanding of the Church as a community of faith which encompasses our whole lives. Hayden in particular has a rich history and tradition. Being the only Catholic high school in Topeka, it is appropriate that so many call Hayden a family. We want all of our grade schools to be a part of this family, and there is no better way to do so than to gather for Mass.

Does this Mass happen in other cities/counties across Kansas?

I am not certain that it happens everywhere that grade schools go to the local Catholic high school for CSW Mass, but I am sure that some, but not all communities do something similar.

How Is the Catholic Schools Week Mass different from a normal Mass at Hayden?

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Namely, it is a chance to commemorate the many blessings that God has given to the entire Topeka Catholic community especially through our schools. Though parents, alumni and benefactors are welcome at other Masses as well, you will likely see quite a few people present at Wednesday's Mass who support our schools with their time, talent and treasure in some way

Teachers Recognized With Walk of Fame

By Bea Herreman

Teacher Appreciation Day is Tuesday, January 28th. The teachers get to leave for a free period at 2:00 P.M. after the Walk Of Fame. The Walk Of Fame is when the teachers walk down the 1st floor hallway, and at the end of it Mrs. Hillebert gives each of them a flower. Mrs. Hillebert says that's her favorite part about the day.

Some people I interviewed said that the teachers need to be recognized on their day, and others said it was because the teachers do a lot for us, which they do. The teachers like a lot of things about Teacher Appreciation Day and how they have their own day dedicated to them. We should always appreciate our teachers because of everything they do for us.

Students Have Own Day on Thursday

By Finley Smith

Student Appreciation Day at Mater Dei is a day to honor all students' hard work throughout the year. January 30 is when Student Appreciation Day is. That day students get to come to school in their

pajamas and towards the end of the day there is a bingo game.

The whole school comes down to the gym for bingo and if some one wins, he or she gets to pick a prize. After bingo everyone gets a gift from the school. One year it was a frisbee; another year was a rubic cube. Every year there is a new prize and even if you did or didn't win, you get one.

Sometimes the teachers do something special like put on a movie for their class to watch or even play some fun board games.

MVP Day Proves Popular Part of Week

By Jenna Henkensiefken

MVP may be the last day of Catholic Schools Week, but most consider it an important day. Here students tell what they like about the day.

Why do you think that MVP Day is an important day in Catholic Schools Week?

MVP Day is important because we can show people around our school and make them feel welcome. - Bea, 6th

MVP Day is important because you bring an important person in your life and you can have a day with them by yourself and not with all of your siblings. -Katie, 6th

What are you looking forward to on MVP day?

I am excited for MVP Day because there will be many new people here at Mater Dei, and we can welcome them and show them around our school.- Bea, 6th

I am looking forward to MVP day because we can be friends

or family and bring them into the Mater Dei school family. -Katie, 6th

How many MVP Days have you attended?

I've attended 7, because I was here Kindergarten to present day.- Bea, 6th

I've attended 7, because I have been here since Kindergarten. -Katie, 6th

Who will be your MVP or MVPs and why?

Maybe my grammy because she is always welcoming my family over for just dinner or for just a fun time. -Katie, 6th

Do you know why we have MVP Day?

We have MVP Day so we can meet new people, show them around the school, and honor them and respect them because they've taken time out of their day to come see our school.- Bea, 6th

I think we have MVP day to show the people in your family how much you love them and care for them. -Katie, 6th

Day of Service Will Focus on Projects

By Angela Denny

A Day of Service on Monday, January 27, begins the first day of Catholic Schools Week. This day will see students take part in a variety of service projects. I asked Mrs. Hillebert if we would be doing the projects by classes or by our houses. She responded with "classes." When I asked what the projects were going to be about, she said the teachers would pick the projects. When I asked her who would be in charge of the day, she said, "The whole faculty works together on all of the days."

First Semester Electives Show Variety

Theatre Class Inspires

By John-Patrick Ayella

When I went to go interview the teacher of theatre class (Mrs. Wicker) what theatre class means to her she replied "Theatre is a very inspiring class for many students who want to try it out, although it does take a lot of practice, and acting skills, but never give up.

When I asked one of the students (Kevin) exactly what you do in theatre class he said this: "Theatre class is all about testing your movement, and acting skills. It also helps your life when you're older to be an actor! You can even try out in your local theatre today if it's a children play like Frozen!"

But my opinion will be that theatre can provide a lot of skills when you need them. Like when you're playing Charades it will help your acting skills (plus you can become unstoppable). To follow up with that when I asked another student (Zach) He said this: "I was actually forced to do it by my mom, and it's fun I guess."

Journalism Proves Popular

By Bea Herreman

Ms. Kaberline says that she thinks Journalism is very important, which I agree with. I think that this is a great elective and I am excited to write more stories.

She states that it helps with teamwork and communication, to get involved with events, and to help with writing skills. It definitely helps with writing skills because, if you are writing a story for the newspaper, you have to have good grammar.

Ms. Kaberline writes for a lot of newspapers and magazines: *Topeka Capital Journal*, *The Leaven*, *Topeka Magazine*, and *Quarter Horse Journal* just to name a few.

Ms. Kaberline says her favorite reading genre is Science Fiction, and she is reading *Ready Player One* currently.

Students Make Films

By Finley Smith

Mr. Hillebert and Mrs. Figgs teach the elective Stop Motion. In this class we are all learning something new, even Mrs. Figgs and Mr. Hillebert. We edit and make videos in this class.

Starting with clay and legos, people are making an amazing 30 second edited video. Each class is only 25 minutes long so everyone in Stop Motion must work efficiently to get everything they need accomplished done. We use a tablet programmed with the program Stop Motion. How it works is you take a couple photos of whatever you want to be in your video and the tablet will make those photos into a video.

There are things like sound effects and a green screen to get a special background for your 30 second video. Everyone has a bunch of different things they can put in their videos like legos, cardboard, clay people, drawings, and a bunch of other stuff! Soon we will start our little film.

Whenever you are starting a project you have to figure out what its about. Then you draw it all out like a comic book.

Elective Teaches Plant Care

By Cierra Belaire-Serna

Mr. Tanking teaches Horticulture on Monday and Wednesday.

Horticulture is about how to plant flowers and vegetables and other plants. You also learn about different types of plants.

Horticulture comes from two Latin words "garden" and "culture." We can dig up weeds and replant flowers. We learn about different types of trees and how long they last. It's a really fun class.

Elective Focuses on Math

By Grace Everett

You may not know but there is a new elective floating around school called Math Comp. Math Comp is an elective where you can practice your math skills for upcoming competitions like Mathcounts and Sundry. It is held in Ms. Harvey's room multiple times a week. This elective runs for one period and they are hoping to offer it next semester too.

Ashley Lee said, "I signed up for it because it's kind of like a brain booster to keep your skills up for competitions."

If you like math and want to get into some competitions, this elective is for you.

Reporters for this issue:

John-Patrick Ayella

Ciera Belaire-Serna

Angela Denny

Grace Everett

Bea Herreman

Jenna Henkensiefken

Ian Mead

Maggy McGuire

Finley Smith