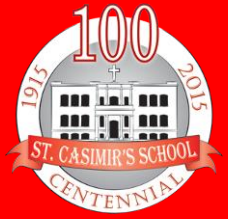




SCS FAMILY NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2023

Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year at St. Casimir's School!

My name is John Hengel, and I am the Principal of St. Casimir School. My wife and I live on a farm near Minnesota Lake. We have two adult children and one grandchild. Our family is blessed to be able to grow corn and soybeans. In our spare time, we love going to the lake and riding on the pontoon. I look forward to meeting you, the parents, on September 12th during the Meet the Principal event beginning at 5:30 PM in Fr. Mikolai Hall. This event will be followed by our first quarterly Home and School meeting at 6:00 PM to which all faculty and parents are members.

I am so excited for this upcoming school year! We have a great elementary staff, and they are working tirelessly for this school year. Some of the exciting things we have planned are:

- Band: We will once again be offering band for our fifth grade students.
- Chess Club: Eric Woodring has offered to host a student chess club after school—more details to follow.
- STEM Projects: In addition to our core subjects taught by our teachers, Heather Woodring will be leading our students in weekly projects involving STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.
- Farmamerica: All of our students and staff will be touring Farmamerica (located near Waseca) on September 29th.

Other upcoming events on our school calendar include:

- School Pictures: Every student will be photographed during the morning of September 13th beginning at 9:00 AM; however, ordering a photo packet of your child is optional. An order form has been included with this letter for your use.
- NWEA Testing: Mr. Gerard, DOW-R Assistant Superintendent, will be here at the school assisting us with our NWEA testing plus helping us out with other tasks throughout the year. We are so thankful that the diocese is letting us use his special talents! We will begin NWEA testing the week of September 18th and will continue through Sept. 29th. The week of Oct 2nd will be slated for make-up testing.
- Knights of Columbus Marathon: Believe it or not, the Marathon for Nonpublic Education is coming soon! The kick off with our local Knights will be held on September 19th following the morning Children's Mass. During the kick off, the students will receive their donation packets. The marathon itself will be held on October 6th.
- Hearing and Vision Screening: Our kindergarten-third grade students will be participating in this health screening on September 26th. If there are any concerns noted during your child's screening, you will be notified by Taryn Eilertson, USC Health Nurse.

My office hours are from 7:00-10:00 AM and 1:00-4:00 PM.

Prayers for a wonderful year!

John Hengel

St. Casimir's School Principal



2023-2024 TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS

Visuals are often a helpful memory aid, so the following table has been included to give a more easily-pictured understanding of this year's teaching schedule for kindergarten through grade five.



Study Areas	Grades K-2	Grades 3-5
Core Subjects & Art	Jinger Woodring	Ethel Aranda
Religion	Jinger Woodring	John Hengel
Phy. Ed.	John Hengel	John Hengel
Music	Josh Edwards	Josh Edwards
Library & STEM	Heather Woodring	Heather Woodring

This year we have the blessing of two instructional assistants who will be working with our teachers in their multi-grade classrooms. We are so thankful that Hannah Goette and Heather Woodring have joined the staff in this manner! Gus Druffel will continue in his role as school custodian, Teresa Chirpich will return as office manager and Breanne Scheid will serve as bookkeeper. In addition, Arnie Stenzel will once again be our lunch/recess supervisor and Pat Greff, Gwen Kimpton and Ilda Ryerson will continue to serve in our lunchroom. We have such a great group of people to make sure that the 2023-2024 is a great school year for your children!

Children's Mass

We have not celebrated a Children's Mass yet this week as Fr. Havel wanted to provide the students time to settle into their classroom schedule first. Therefore, our students will begin celebrating Mass on Tuesdays and Fridays beginning next Tuesday, September 12th. These Masses are always held at 8:30 AM unless notified otherwise. Please feel free to worship with us! What a blessing it is to be able to participate in this sacrament with our family and friends!



"Housekeeping" Items: As this is the first newsletter of the school year, it's probably a good idea to go over a few business-related items, such as:

- **Student Absences:** Whenever your child is absent from school, please make sure to call the office (507-553-5822) or send an email (casimir@bevcomm.net) to share this information—contacting your child's teacher is not the appropriate action in this case. In order that this information is reported properly, the office must be notified by 8:15 AM. If leaving a message, please be sure to state your child's name, reason for absence and whether the child will need a USC-provided lunch if s/he will be returning to school before 11:00. If you will be dropping off your child after the beginning of the school day, please enter the back entrance area with him/her, ring the entrance bell and wait for school personnel to admit your child so that you can sign them in for the day. Following these steps ensures the safety of your child and the appropriate transfer of information to their teacher.
- **Program Payments:** Thank you for your cooperation in signing up for the monthly payment program where payments are automatically withdrawn from parent accounts on the first day of each of the nine months of the school year. If you ever have a question on your account, please feel free to contact our bookkeeper, Breanne Scheid, at breanne@fieldtofarm.org or by phone at 507-338-2723.

