



Dear St. Rose Families,

Let the second half of our journey, through the 2020-2021 school year, begin with celebration! Today, I am sharing our plans for Catholic Schools Week at St. Rose.

The many things we have achieved the first half of this year wouldn't be possible without your support, cooperation, dedication, and most important your belief and trust in

Catholic Education! This year's theme is Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence.

Service. We will weave this theme throughout our week and activities; we hope, as you look through the list of events for the week, you will be with us in spirit!

Sunday, January 31st---Celebrating Your Parish Day

Catholic schools benefit all year long from the religious guidance, prayers, and support parishes provide. At St. Rose we have been immensely blessed to have Monsignor Weiss shepherd all of us, especially our children, in the ways of our faith! What a perfect way to celebrate by joining with your family and watching the Live Stream of a Mass; it's the inspiration we can all use during these times!

This is also the official first day of Catholic Schools Week, and we are proud to open our doors, virtually, to the bigger community to take tours and learn more about why we all love St. Rose School!

Monday, February 1st---Celebrating Your Community Day

We always kick off Catholic Schools Week on Monday with our SRS SPIRIT! Students and Staff DRESS DOWN in RED and WHITE for a donation of two nonperishable food item. As the cold weather sets in and amidst the pandemic, our food pantry needs to be restocked more often; this is a great opportunity for your child to have fun while helping us serve those in need! A big part of Catholic education is learning the importance of service to others; fostering the values and faith gained by being blessed to have a Catholic education.

Our food donations will go to Faith Food Pantry; a ministry located right on our St. Rose Campus. This is just the beginning of our community involvement and service for the week! Some of our middle schoolers will be spending time on Monday creating craft bags and how-to videos to be sent to C.H. Booth Library in Newtown to be shared with young readers visiting the library. They will also be making story time videos to be shared on Wednesday, by the library, to celebrate National Read Aloud Day!

Our annual PIG RACES will take off that day too!! We will be safely competing two classes at a time in the Gathering Hall; and as we move through the brackets look forward to seeing which PIG will emerge victorious! If time runs short, we will take some races over to Wednesday for the final heats.

We begin Monday morning, as we do with all things, with prayer. Following prayer, we welcome a new tradition, The SRS Spirit Stroll, led by our school leaders, the Class of 2021. While our younger students line the hallways, with pom-poms, our 8th graders will take the Spirit Stroll through the hallways to the cheers of their peers and young friends as they are announced over the PA!

Tuesday, February 2nd---Student Appreciation Day

We love and are very proud of our students and are happy to have a day to show them in an extra special way! This is a day that is well deserved by our student population! Our students have met and exceeded so many expectations, in all ways, this first semester; so we are thrilled to bring this day to them to let them know, we did notice and we are grateful for each and every one of them!

We begin with a DRESS DOWN (our Preschoolers through Grade 2 are invited to wear PJ's) Grades 3 through 8 are invited to wear something comfortable because...the gift of a relaxing afternoon with MOVIE TIME and SNACKS is on the lesson plan of the day!

With all this excitement how can they concentrate on assessments?! So, this is a no tests, quizzes, or assessments day!!

Of course after such a strenuous day of being honored we can't expect them to do homework! So, this is also a no homework evening!

Wednesday, February 3rd--- Celebrating the Nation

This the day we let others know the value of Catholic education, especially our government leaders; but, we also want to thank our leaders and Newtown community for their support of our Catholic school. We have been blessed in many ways by the support of our town and so we are getting involved and giving back! To show our thanks to Newtown, students and staff will DRESS DOWN in BLUE.

Students will be involved in service projects and writing thank you notes to our town and government leaders for their support during the pandemic. We also want to thank local stores and businesses for being on the frontlines, staying open so that we can continue to meet our daily needs; and we can't forget our bus drivers! Classes will be making cards and writing letters to be distributed throughout the Newtown in the coming weeks.

We are also giving back on this National Read Aloud Day as our student's story time videos are shared by the Newtown Library. We will also be making bookmarks to be shared throughout the community and to go with books for our schoolwide service project (see details below).

Thursday, February 4th---Celebrating Vocations Day

We celebrate our priests, deacons, and religious sisters and their dedication to instilling and encouraging young people to follow in Jesus' footsteps. The children will join in a special prayer that morning to bless our priests, deacons, and religious sisters.

By focusing on faith, knowledge, and service, Catholic schools prepare children to use their God-given talents to the fullest later in life. Our students go on to do amazing things and make a difference in the world! Today, we celebrate their dreams of what they can accomplish as they

grow; so, today is DRESS DOWN/UP as “What You’d Like to be When You Grow Up”.

Classes have the afternoon to celebrate their gifts and talents with special activities. We also want to take today to remember those frontline heroes, those who have worked to points of exhaustion in these 10 months to care, inspire, and comfort so many. Our older students will make treat bags and our younger students will be making cards and writing letters to say thank you!

Friday, February 5th---Celebrating Faculty, Staff, and Volunteers

This is also our last school day of Catholic Schools Week so we will end by showing appreciation for the many who have dedicated themselves and supported our efforts in bringing Catholic Education to our students during the school year! Throughout the day we will be finding little ways to say, “thank you and we appreciate you for all you do for our St. Rose family”! All of our parents volunteer in some way, so we will be offering a special prayer for parents and guardians that morning. Watch your child’s backpack for a special message that day.

Friday is DRESS DOWN in YOUR TEACHER’S Favorite Color(s). We are also closing out the week with Friday Afternoon Fun! Our younger crowd will be enjoying some FriYAY Fun in their classrooms. Our school leaders will be having a little Family Feud!! As you know we traditionally have a sporting competition between our 8th graders and faculty during this week; with the safety restrictions we have put this on hold (better days are on the horizon!). Yet, we can’t let the week end without a little friendly competition between the two! So during the afternoon, we will be hosting The SRS Edition of Family Feud starring our Class of 2021 vs. the SRS Faculty!

Saturday, February 6th---Celebrating Families

Parents, guardians, and other family members play a vital role in Catholic education. Not only do they volunteer at the school, they instill values and expectations for academic excellence in their children at home. We hope that you celebrate with your SRS student(s) and have a fun filled family day to end the week of activities!

The last school year hit a major turn in March and many of us thought by now we’d be “back to the usual”. We don’t know when we will be there again, we keep the light of hope burning; but, what we have been fortunate to have, as a member of a Catholic School Community is the opportunity to see the goodness, even in the difficult times we are facing. We have found creative ways to do things near and dear to our hearts, we have added new traditions, and we have found many blessings, that maybe, in some ways, we were too busy to take notice of at the time. The gift of time, and the slowing of the busyness of today’s world, has given us a chance to reflect. We have much to be thankful for; we have much to be proud of; and we have each other to lean on. Most importantly we have these precious children, gifts from God, to love and care for, who each day remind us, through the smiles and joy in their eyes, and their perseverance, not to give up, because anything is possible when God is by your side!

Happy Catholic Schools Week St. Rose Family! What better way to get the second half of our

school year underway?

The week was planned and then came the weather forecast! In the event that we are impacted by the weather next week:

If we have an early dismissal, dress down will go as planned and any afternoon activities will be rescheduled for the week of February 8th.

If we have a delay, the day will go as planned regarding dress down and activities.

If we have a cancelation, the day we return will be as planned; the dress down and activities for the canceled day(s) will be rescheduled for the week of February 8th.

I think that should cover all the bases!! We look forward to a week of celebration with or without snow!!

Kind Regards! Stay Well!

Mrs. B

Dean of Student Life

Our St. Rose School Service Project



During these past 10 months, while their lives have been turned upside down and sideways, our children have been blessed with the treasure of loving families. In celebrating that gift, this Catholic Schools Week, we have chosen a schoolwide service project to help support the children who are waiting to be blessed with a family of their own. We will be collecting items, to create bags, for children who are in foster care and supported by the Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families.

The Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families (CAFAF) makes a difference in the lives of foster, adoptive and relative caregivers by providing support, training, and advocacy. The Alliance works in partnership with child welfare professionals and the entire community to nurture child safety, well-being, and stability.

We have provided the list of items that we would like to collect during the week with plans to have our 8th graders assemble gift packs with these items, for children in foster care, the week of February 8th. I would like to thank you in advance for your donations and for supporting our efforts in celebrating the love of family, we are blessed to know, by providing for those, who we pray, will celebrate the same very soon!

The foster care system provides for children ages 0-18

Here are the items we are asking our families to donate. These can be sent into the school with your child, or dropped off at the front entrance of the school during Catholic Schools Week.

Preschool through Grade 2:

Diapers

Formula

Stuffed Animals

Crayons

Grade 3 through Grade 5:

Toiletries

Books

Toys

Grade 6 through Grade 8:

Toiletries

Books

Games

We also welcome donations of the following items:

Duffel Bags

Blankets

A donation receipt is available in important links in this newsletter