

Dear St. Rose Families,

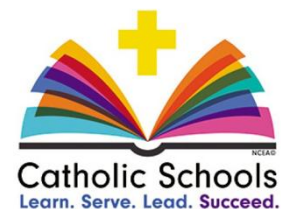
As a teacher this has always been one of my favorite quotes; it seems we begin the school year and all is new and a year of opportunity stretches out before us. Before we know it, the holiday breaks begin, then midyear tests are on our minds, and the day comes when we find that we have put our mark on the first half of the year! We look back and we celebrate what we have accomplished together as a community; and mostly we celebrate how our children have grown and achieved, while putting Christ at the center of all they do! Our students have seen many successes during the first semester and together we have continued moving forward our community, with its sixty-year history and promising future!

This morning we had a school-wide assembly to usher in the second half of our year together! We talked about how far we have come on our journey during the first half of the school year; and about the exciting things ahead. Our K-2nd grade students left with the task of drawing and writing about what they love about St. Rose. Our 3rd-8th grade students are busy setting goals for the second half of the year. The highlight of course, was the announcement of our Catholic Schools Week Celebration! This afternoon, I am writing to share our plans for that week (January 27-February 1) and on behalf of our children, extend a personal invitation to you to join us for the school community events we have planned. We will send out reminders and updates as that week progresses.

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! We hope as you look through the calendar of events, for the week of January 27th, that you will plan to join us, for as many as you can.

Our kick-off actually begins a little early! Since our children have worked so hard during the first half of the year, we thought it would be fun to bring everyone from preschool through 8th grade together for a challenge and to compete in a **Knowledge Bowl!** Please join us on **Friday, January 25th, at 1:00pm in the Gathering Hall.** More details will be sent home in a separate email.

Sunday, January 27th, is the official first day of Catholic Schools Week, and we are proud to open our doors to the bigger community to take tours and learn more about why we all love St. Rose School! Our **Open House is 1:00-3:00pm** that day. If your child would like to be a part of the day, please contact their homeroom teacher. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Laura Moulder advancement@srles.com or Karen Coppola admissions@srles.com Please help us get the message out through your social media networks, and if you know of a place for a yard sign, stop in and pick up one or two in the main office!



Monday, January 28th, is **St. Rose Spirit Day!!** Students dress down in RED and WHITE, for a donation of one nonperishable food item. As the cold weather sets in the 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! That day we will also bring our school spirit to the **Gathering Hall at 1:00pm for our Pep Rally**; we will again introduce our basketball teams, visit with Ramsey our mascot, and catch the spirit from our enthusiastic and talented cheerleaders! Of course, the children will tell you there is one more exciting thing happening that day...**our annual PIG RACES!!** Please join us and cheer for your favorite racing pig!

Tuesday, January 29th, is **Community Outreach Day!!** We will show appreciation to our community helpers and leaders, as well as share our school community. Students will be writing letters of appreciation and sharing the importance of Catholic Education with our town leaders, as well as those who serve us. Our bus drivers will be greeted that day with a special token of our appreciation for taking us, safely, between home and school each day! We are inviting our Community and Diocesan leaders to our school for coffee with Mr. G; and our student ambassadors will be giving tours so they can see our classrooms and meet our students.

Wednesday, January 30th, is **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 no homework/test/quiz day for them; but, that's not all...we have some other surprises in store! We will also have our **8th grade vs. Staff Beach Volleyball Game at 1:00pm in the Gathering Hall**...and our students know you can't have a beach volley game without being dressed in beach attire! So, this is **a free dress down day in beach attire (no swimsuits, the pool is closed for the season!! Attire should be school appropriate—no tank tops, short shorts, please see the handbook for guidelines)**.

Thursday, January 31st, is **Celebrating Vocations Day!!** This is the day we ask our children, not what they want to be when they grow up; but what problems, do they want to solve, how do they want to contribute? Catholic schools prepare children to use their God-given talents to their fullest later in life. We will spend the morning visiting with parents who would like to share their career stories and help our children see, more fully, the connection between what they are learning today and how it will help them make a difference tomorrow! Representatives, from our middle school, will be traveling to the Booth Library to read and craft with preschoolers from our town.

For this **I need your help!** I am asking any parents who would be interested in visiting our school that morning (**9am-11am**) **to speak with our K-5 students**, to please contact me, bokuniewicz@srles.com. Depending on the response, we will coordinate this as an assembly or classroom visits.

Friday, February 1st, is **Teacher, Staff, and Volunteer Appreciation Day**. This is also our last day of Catholic Schools Week so we will end with a **"Celebrating Families"** theme and a special event that evening. Both of these are being planned and **hosted by our HSA**. Please watch your email for announcements and more details.

As we end Catholic Schools Week, we will close the week with a special *prayer service* of thanksgiving and celebration of our faith. We hope you can join us that morning *at 9:00am in the Gathering Hall*.

What better way to get the second half of our school year underway! Please join us during the week as we celebrate our students, our families, and share our blessings with the community!

In all that we do, and the many blessings we share each day; our children know best, that we are joined by faith and prayer! They experience the joy and peace of being able to rejoice through prayer and when needed, pause to rely on Christ through prayer. So as we begin the second half of the school year together, let us join in a prayer of thanksgiving and hope, for the memories we have created and those that await us.

*Dear Lord, as we prepare for this new semester,
make us ready, attentive, and available to hear you.*

*Thank You for the gift of being able to rise each day
with the assurance that You walk through the day with us.*

*Thank You for the gifts of creativity and uniqueness,
and the energy to put them to good use.*

*May all that we are today, all that we try to do,
all our encounters, reflections,
even the frustrations and failings
all be placed in your hands.*

*May the work we do and the way we do it,
bring new hope, new life, and courage to all
we come in contact with this semester.*

*We thank you, Lord, for bringing us together
as students, parents, teachers, administrators, staff;
as a community of learning, in faith, hope, love, and joy.*

Amen

I look forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week with our St. Rose Community; and I hope you will accept this invitation to join us throughout the week!

Kind Regards,

Mrs. Mary Jo Bokuniewicz

Dean of Student Life