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April 8, 2026

*Father Peter O'Donnell, Pastor
Father Vincent John, CMI, Associate Pastor
Father Kade Megaffin, Associate Pastor
Shawn Augustine, Principal*

Welcome to St. Francis Xavier School's Newsletter published by the High School Mass Communication Class. The Newsletter will be published several times a year with our purpose to inform you concerning personnel, students, and events at St. Francis Xavier School.

5th Grade Shadow Day

**5th Grade
Shadow Day**

Saint Francis Xavier School will be having a 5th Grade Shadow Day on April 17th with students from St. Andrews, Abilene; they will be shadowing our current 5th and 6th graders. The goal is for the students to have a connection with each other and see if any of them would like to come here. Father Peter even mentioned how, "You never know how it can plant seeds for Abilene families to consider St. Xavier's School."

On the day of the shadowing, 5th and 6th graders will gather in Building C at 9:15 am to meet the 5th graders of St. Andrews and be divided into groups where there'll be 3 stations to go through. At 10:45 am, they'll have music class with Mrs. Wiley and head to the gym at 11:30 am for instructions for lunch and recess. At 12:05 pm, the students will load up in vehicles and head to 5th Street Park for recess. Finally, at 12:35 pm, recess is over and Abilene students will go to Hildebrand Dairy while St. Xavier's students head back and resume their classes.

We can't wait for the students of St. Andrews to come and see how great our school is. Let's hope they'll like it and consider coming here in the future!

–Lathan N.

It's Official—St. X is a Kansas Purple Star School



St. Francis Xavier School was recognized as a Kansas Purple Star School by the Kansas State Board of Education during its meeting on March 10, 2026.

The recognition was approved unanimously following a presentation from school leaders, staff, and military families who

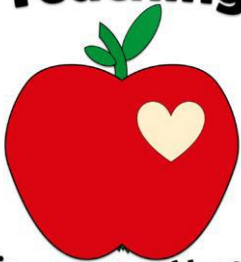
shared how the school supports students connected to military service. With this recognition, St. Francis Xavier becomes the first private school in the State of Kansas to apply for and receive the

Purple Star designation, an honor recognizing schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to supporting military-connected students and their families.

–Mrs. Jahnke

Teacher Appreciation Week--Thankful for our Teachers

Teaching



... is a work of heart

Teacher Appreciation Week is a week dedicated to honoring our teachers for all the amazing and hard work they do. We will be celebrating this May 4-8.

This week is particularly important because our teachers work very hard throughout the school year. In and out of the classroom, the teachers put in so much work. From lesson planning to supporting students, our teachers do an excellent job. So now we get a chance to show them how much they mean to us.

The plans for this week are undisclosed but should be a real big surprise. The group that helps with this event is PTO, Parent Teacher Organization. The PTO does an amazing job at helping out our school.

A comment from Mrs. Smith, Co-President of PTO, says, "We appreciate them every day, but on Teacher Appreciation Week, we get to do something special. XOXO." –Kennedi H.

On the Scene with the Rams: Inside Crime Scene Investigations



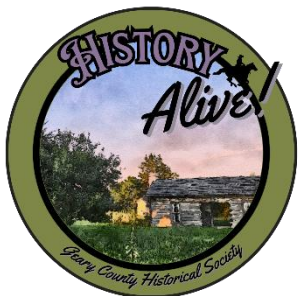
On March 23rd, FBLA had a special visit from Special Agent Smith, Special Agent Rodriguez, and Special Agent Stradley. With the intention of introducing our students to the law enforcement world, they also wanted to begin building their community outreach.

They first covered different items that were specifically used in crime scene investigations. Items like floorlights, UV lights, or the different types of fingerprint gathering methods, are all different ways to find the identity of a criminal. However, even the person investigating can leave evidence, so they wear special gear kits that cover every facet of their body from head to toes, everything is covered!

Then, after showing all of the crime scene investigation items, Special Agent Rodriguez began showing his police gear to the students. Common items for police officers--handcuffs, flashlights, and guns--were all shown to the students. However, Special Agent Rodriguez had more items, which were more uncommon than the others, such as emergency tourniquets and glowsticks.

First, a huge thank you to the Special Agents who came out that day to show their professions to the students. Mrs. Smith stated, "The kids seemed very interested in how evidence is gathered at a crime scene, which is certainly not concerning in the least *laughs.*" Now the question is, will the Saint Xavier Rams follow this career path? Only time will tell. –Scott W.

St X Rams Travel Back in Time!



On April 17th, all 7-12th students will be immersed in the lifestyle and ways of the people of the late 19th century! Specifically, St X students will be going to the "History Alive" event presented by the Geary County Historical Society.

The event, which entails a weekend of living history, showcases how people, specifically in Kansas, lived on the frontier of America from the 1840s to the 1880s. As a result, some things that students will be able to see are frontiersman, civil war soldiers, and homesteaders. All of these roles are filled by reenactors who educate those who'd like to learn with interesting topics such as fur trading, how to build a tipi, black powder rifles, or even hatchet throwing, which students can participate in themselves.

St X students attended the same event last year and had fun alongside learning the intriguing and important history of living in early Kansas. Mrs. Thompson, the history teacher, is thankful to have such an event for students. It is a great way to teach history by getting out of the classroom and seeing it firsthand. –Janis C.

FBLA Welcomes Junction City Mayor to our April Meeting



Members of our school’s Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) group are looking forward to an upcoming visit from our city’s mayor, Terry Butler, who will be speaking at a special meeting on April 20. The event is expected to provide students with valuable insight into local government, leadership, and the importance of serving the community. Butler will discuss her role in running the city, including working with local officials, making important decisions, and overseeing city services. She is also expected to share

what a typical day looks like in her position and the challenges and rewards that come with being a public leader.

In addition to explaining her responsibilities, Butler will talk about the importance of community service and how individuals, especially students, can make a positive impact. She plans to encourage FBLA members to get involved in their communities, volunteer their time, and develop leadership skills that will benefit them in the future.

Students will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about careers in public service. The visit is anticipated to be both informative and inspiring, giving FBLA members a closer look at how leadership and service go hand in hand. Mrs. Becker says, "I am always excited to have individuals in the community come and visit with our students about their roles in the community. It is an opportunity for others to see our wonderful staff and students." –Charles Q.



Glow Crazy at the Neon Dance

The dance for PreK through 5th grade and 6th through 8th grade is on April 30th. It is supposed to provide a fun event for the students that they love.

PTO is sponsoring the dance, and the theme is glow crazy party.

The dances will be held in the school cafeteria. Students PreK through 8th can attend the dances.

There is no official dress code, but it is encouraged for students to wear neon clothing. Mrs. Smith says that she looks forward to hosting the event for the students each year. –Taylor S.

“Lights! Camera! Auction!”-It’s Auction Time!



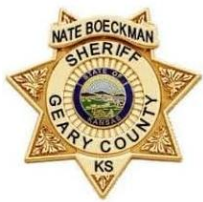
This year's St. Francis Xavier Auction is being organized by Mrs. Testa, Chairperson, and will be held in the school gym on April 18th. Our theme for the auction this year is “Lights! Camera! Auction!”

Any adult who buys a ticket for \$60 can attend and participate in this year's event which will include a photo booth, various games, raffles, and both our silent and live auctions. Food will be provided by Bella’s and will include various Italian foods.

A St. Xavier alumnus, Kevin Wilmott, will be speaking at the auction about how St. Francis Xavier School has been such an important part of his life and career.

Mrs. Testa shared that, “With faith as our foundation, and generosity in our hearts, the action will enable us to invest in the future of our children.” Our goals for the evening are to have fun and enjoy fellowship, as well as raise \$100,000 dollars to go towards our parish school. –Dana D.

Down to the Station



On March 26, FBLA took a trip down to the Sheriff’s Office in Junction City, Kansas. All thanks to Major Dan Zoeller, Corrections Administrator at Geary County Sheriff’s Office and also St. Xavier alumnus, who organized the trip for us, FBLA was able to learn more about our local law enforcement.

FBLA was given a tour throughout the Sheriff’s Office and instructed about the history of the building, the process people go through once they get in trouble with the law, and also the many uses of law enforcement equipment. Some examples of what we saw were looking inside of a holding cell, being shown how a search is conducted, and seeing a taser be deployed on a test dummy, which many of us have not seen before.

In the end, FBLA was given challenge coins as a gift and took a picture with Sheriff Boekman. After learning about the ins and outs of law enforcement, FBLA

left appreciating all that law enforcement does for our community. The trip was exciting, educational, and, “So fun it felt criminal.” as one student put it. –Nick F.

Outstanding Rams—March



Congratulations to our March teacher of the month Mrs. Whitaker! Mrs. Whitaker is an exceptional preschool teacher whose genuine love for her students shines through in everything she does. She consistently creates fun, engaging activities that spark curiosity and make learning a joyful experience for

every child. Beyond academics, she thoughtfully teaches her students how to be kind, respectful, and responsible individuals. Her classroom is a nurturing environment where children feel safe, valued, and inspired to grow. In addition, Mrs. Whitaker is always willing to support her fellow staff members, making her a truly invaluable part of the school community. Excellent work, Mrs. Whitaker!

Congratulations to our March middle school student of the month, 7th grader, Cassie S.! Cassie is a friendly, positive student who shows respect for staff and students. Cassie does well academically and always works to do her best in everything that she is involved in. She strives to do well in extra-curricular activities such as volleyball and scholars bowl. Keep up the good work, Cassie!

Congratulations to our March high school student of the month, Sophomore Josh W.! Josh is consistently respectful and a pleasure to have in class each day. Josh is actively involved in a wide range of extracurricular activities and builds strong, positive relationships with both staff and fellow students. He exemplifies the true Ram spirit through his character, dedication, and positive demeanor. Way to go, Josh! –Mr. Augustine

**Salina Diocese Motto for this School Year:
"Together let us be disciples of Jesus on Mission."**

St. Xavier Catholic School's Photo Gallery--Memories



Wonder what game James is playing....



Kassidy J. and Charles W. serving as altar servers.



Father Vincent following along for Stations of the Cross.



Comfortable couch, cool looking chess board, what more can you ask for?



Looks like we have our very own train conductor!!!



Team work makes the DREAM WORK!!



Wow he's reading two books at the same time!



Wonder if they could see anything under there.



Woah, the bell must have been loud.



Nick, Janis, and Kassidy waiting to go zip-lining on the senior trip.



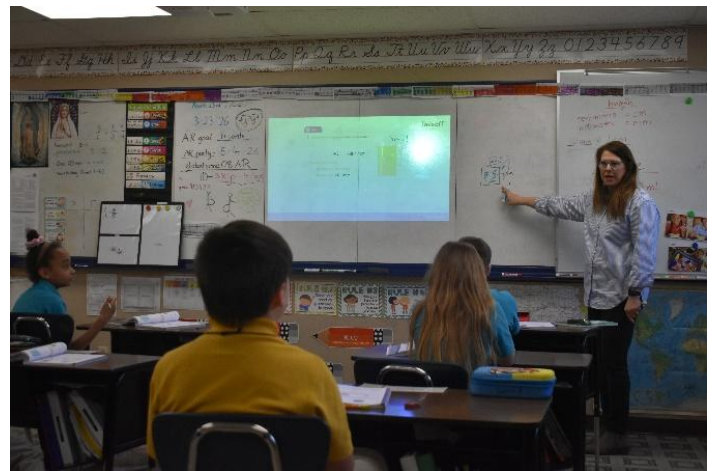
Mr. Augustine straps St X alumni Dan Zoeller to the restraining chair!



The St X senior boys and Father Kade pose with the most venerable Buc-ee Beaver.



STX students learn about criminal forensics. Father Kade is too tough.



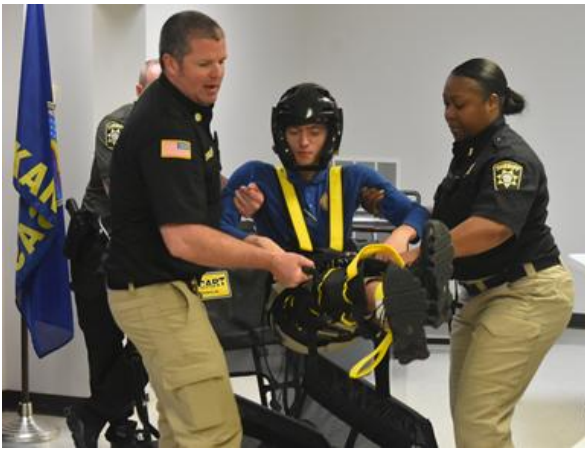
What move shall I make?

Working on 3rd grade math.



We made a city.

Volunteer at Sheriff's Office.



I swear I'm fine.



Macie G. featuring Willie the Wildcat.



Don't poke yourself! Kennedi H. masters the art of Phlebotomy.



What's going on?



Sing loudly!



Arts and crafts time.



4th grade puts on a show!



5th grade channels their inner Picasso. Math Rounds: A Scholar's Worst Nightmare.



Even though Rowdy, Jr. wants to come along with the forensics team to tournaments, he can't since he's so young. Maybe when he's older he can join the team. Rumor has it that he's going to be doing a serious solo and a comedic duo. Wonder who his duo will be. Maybe it'll be his older counterpart, or maybe there's a secret second Rowdy, Jr.... For such a small guy, he sure does have a lot of secrets. Maybe that's why he wants to join the Dramatic Rams; he'd make a great actor.

**EDUCATING FOR ETERNITY THROUGH
FAITH & REASON**

April 2026

Religious Theme:
Blessed Sacrament

Important Dates:

Modified Schedule: 1 & 10

Apr 1: 7th-8th & 10th ELA Assessment

Apr 1-2: 5th Grade Science Assessment

Apr 7-8: 8th & 11th Science Assessment

Apr 8-9: 5th & 6th State ELA Assessment

Apr 13-14: 3rd & 4th State ELA Assessment

Apr 13 & 15: 7th, 8th, & 10th Math Assessment

Apr 15: Purple Up Day

Apr 15-16: 3rd & 4th State Math Assessment

Apr 20-24: 2nd-12th ARK Assessments

Apr 27-30: 7th-11th MAP Reading Assessments

Birthdays:

3-Nicholas Weaver (5th)

14-Ameliana Shields (PK4)

14-Isabelle Breidenstein (4th)

22-Jolene Palmer (PK3)

28-Nicholas Fields (12th)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 <u>Modified Schedule</u> 12:25pm-Junior Optimist Club 1:20pm-K-4 Guided Adoration 2:55pm-5th-12th Holy Half Hour in Church 3:30pm-Chess Club 6:30pm-First Communion Retreat	2 8:20am-StuCo Meeting 1:00pm-MS Track @ Tescott 3:00pm-HS Track Meet @ Mission Valley	3 <i>Good Friday</i>	4
No School - Easter Break						
5 <i>HAPPY EASTER to Every Bunny</i> 	6	7 <u>Track, Cheer, Choir, & Band Pictures</u> 3:30pm-Children's Choir Practice	8 3:30pm-Chess Club 3:45pm-Activities Meeting 6:30pm-Confirmation Rehearsal	9 <u>Wamego Forensics Tournament</u> 8:20am-Class Meetings	10 <u>Modified Schedule</u> 8:30am-Mass 3:00pm-HS Track @ Wakefield 3:05pm-School Divine Mercy Chaplet	11 KSHSAA Regional Music Festival (HS Only) @ Tabor College
No School - Easter Break						
12 11:00am-Children's Mass Choir	13 10:00am-Dorothy Bramlage Library Visits PreK	14 <u>HS Forensics @ Wakefield</u> 1:00pm-MS Track @ Cottonwood Falls	15 <u>5th Grade Shadow Day, Purple Up Day.</u> 3:30pm-Chess Club 6:30pm-Communion Rehearsal	16 8:20am-Art Club Meeting 9:00am-Blood Drive 12:30pm-HS Track @ Northern Heights	17 <u>7th-12th History Alive</u> 7:50am-Rosary Club 8:30am-Mass	18 5:00pm-Auction
19	20 8:20am-FBLA Meeting Speaker: Mayor Terry Butler	21 3:00pm-HS JV Track Meet @ JC 3:30pm- MS Track @ Holton 3:30pm- Children's Choir Practice	22 3:30pm-Chess Club 5:30pm- PTO Meeting 5:30pm- Confirmation Celebration	23 5:30pm- School Council	24 <u>State Assessments End</u> 8:30am-Mass 12:30pm-HS Track @ Solomon	25 KSHSAA State Music Festival (HS Only)
26 2:00pm-First Communion Celebration	27 9:00am-MS Track @ Valley Heights	28	29 3:30pm-Chess Club	30 8:30am-Junior and Senior Law Day 9:40am-8 th Grade Trip to Starke House 3:00pm-HS Track @ Manhattan 5:00pm-PreK-5 th Dance 7:00pm-6 th -8 th Dance	1 	2