



St. Francis Xavier Catholic School
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February 3, 2026

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

Welcome to St. Xavier Catholic 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 Catholic School.

Homecoming Brings Dress Up Days and Ram Pride



Homecoming Week will be February 2nd to the 7th. There will be dress up days throughout the week and on Friday there will be a basketball scrimmage, crowning of king and queen, and a cheer clinic performance beginning at 6 pm in the Municipal Building.

StuCo was in charge of planning Homecoming Week. Monday is blackout day, Tuesday is character day, Wednesday is PJ day, Thursday is mismatch day, Friday is Sunday best, and Saturday is the high school homecoming dance from 7 to 10 pm.

Mr. Augustine said, "I'm excited for Homecoming Week and all the dress up days and activities that show our ram pride."

The homecoming court is Class of 2029--James E. and Cassiel C.; Class of 2028--Joshua W. and Kaydence W.; Class of 2027--Dana D.; and Class of 2026--Charles Q. and Taylor S. –Taylor S.

FBLA Week—Honoring our Family Members



FBLA Week will end a 3-week streak of events. Following Catholic Schools Week, and Homecoming Week, FBLA Week will be from February 9-13 will promote the career readiness of all St. Xavier FBLA members.

FBLA, or Future Business Leaders of America, is the world's largest business career and technical student organization. For our chapter specifically, St. Xavier aims to expose the different career opportunities and occupation possibilities to all of its students in FBLA. This is done through FBLA meetings where speakers from different areas of careers come to talk about what they do. FBLA also goes on many trips to places such as the WIBW news station or even visiting an attack helicopter brigade at Marshall Airfield on Fort Riley.

FBLA Week is being held to highlight FBLA's mission and showcase student achievements in business. St. Xavier participates in this in a fun way as each day of the aforementioned week is a dress up day. Starting on Monday, February 9th, the dress up day will be career day-dressing up as the career you want to pursue. Tuesday is dress up for remote workday, Wednesday is college day-dress up for the college or technical school you're going to attend, Thursday is tacky tourist day, and Friday is professional dress day.

There is one more FBLA activity on February 26th, a district court judge, Courtney D. Carver, for the Eighth District covering Geary County will be speaking to FBLA members.

FBLA is very active at St. Xavier. –Janis C.

St. X Food Drive—Helping Those in Need in JC



The St. Xavier food drive has been a smashing success so far this year! Running from January 6 through January 30, the annual St. Xavier food drive raises donations for the local food pantry.

Students collected cans, non-perishables, and hygiene items, bringing in 2100+ items so far this year! Each week there is PreK-6 prize, and a 7-12 prize. The class that brings in the most items wins that week's prize. The prizes range from pizza and ice cream parties,

skipping a class, to shadowing a teacher for the day!

If the school beats the number of items brought in last year, everyone will win the overall prize, a day off of school! While competitions are fun, it is important to remember the true purpose of the food drive, giving back to our community. Students learn the importance of giving to others, and how we can help those around us.

“I am very proud to be in charge of the food drive this year; it is so important to give back to our community.” –Ms. Hagge. Thank you to everyone who donated this year, we appreciate your contributions. “St. Xavier school strives to help everyone in the community. Our families always show extreme generosity in every outreach event.” –Mrs. Whitaker. Keep up the good work rams! –Madison D.

Join Us for a Fun Open House!



Saint Francis Xavier School will be having an Open House on February 17th, 2026, from 5:00-7:00 pm. Any prospective families, current families, and anyone in our parish/community is welcome to join us. There will also be a barbeque meal provided with choices of smoked meat, sides, dessert, and drinks for \$10.

The purpose of the open house is for families to get the opportunity to look around the school and see all the options we have. During the Open House, families that are interested in enrolling can visit classrooms, meet teachers, and see students' work/projects. They can also enjoy a meal and connect with everyone at this school.

Mrs. Jahnke says, “I’m looking forward to having people in the building to experience the engaging learning environment and family atmosphere at Saint Xavier.” We can’t wait for everyone attending to see why this school is like a family. –Lathan N.

Freshmen Class Learning Different Career Choices at Manhattan Tech Open House



The freshmen class will be attending Manhattan Tech Open House. We are very excited to go there and have the opportunity to learn new things. At this Open House, we will be able to have hands-on experiences unlike other places. This is a great opportunity to learn more about different career options including nursing, welding, computers, etc.

Some of the goals of the Manhattan Tech School are to provide high quality hands-on-education that is affordable--not only for jobs dealing with tech but many

more opportunities. As a freshman, I am very excited for this field trip and can't wait for all the hands-on learning opportunities.

Here is a quote from Mrs. Becker about the field trip, "The students will have hands-on-occupation experiences in a variety of occupations at the tech school. It will give them an opportunity to ask questions about many career paths available to them." So, as you can tell, we are more than delighted to take a trip to the Manhattan Tech Open House. –Kennedi H.

Quick, Draw!—The Sheriff's Department Support!



Make sure you're not late on February 20th because the Sheriff's Department is coming down to hand out some high fives! Standing at the gym entrance, be ready to be welcomed by members of the community and show your appreciation for their support!

Both students and staff are excited for this day, saying it will build relationships with people outside of the school, while also teaching how important education is!

Students ranging from the grade levels of Kindergarten all the way to 8th grade can expect to see Sheriff's on High Five Friday. Mr. Augustine states, "I appreciate the support of the sheriff's department and their involvement in our community." which is a wonderful reminder for students to also show their appreciation to the Sheriff's on that day!

Alright rams, be ready to show these Sheriff's our quickest high fives, and show them why this town ain't big enough for the two of us! –Scott W.

Future Flyers—Ram Cheerleaders in Training



The middle and high school cheerleaders will host a Cheer Clinic on February 1st from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the school gym.

During the clinic, Pre-K through 8th grade participants will have the opportunity to learn a variety of cheers and chants from the cheerleaders. After the clinic, participants will show what they have learned by performing at the Municipal Building on Friday, February 6th, during the halftime of the basketball

scrimmage.

This event is designed to give younger students an exciting introduction to cheerleading and to have lots of fun! –Dana D.

A Senior Trip Inside the Human Body

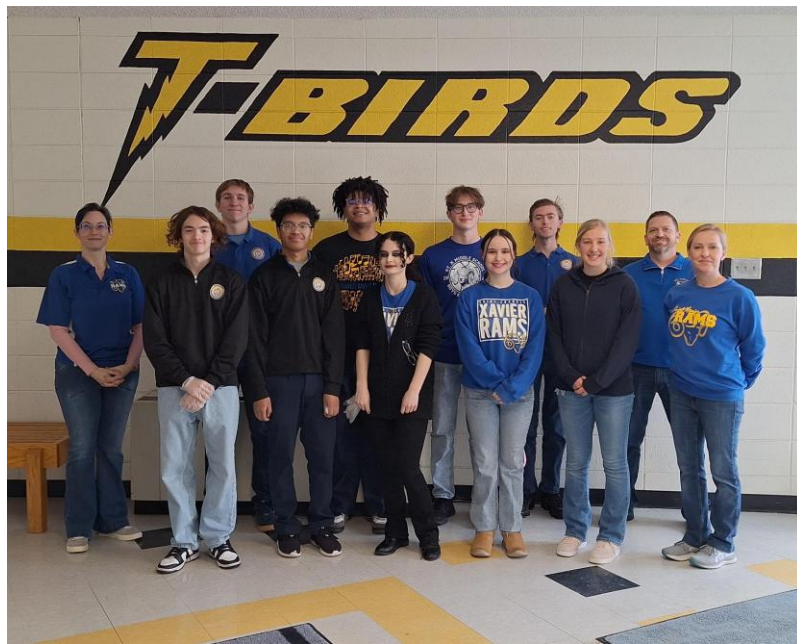


The senior class recently took an eye-opening trip to the Cloud County Community College Cadaver Lab on January 30th. The purpose of this trip was to give students the opportunity to learn more about the human body in a real hands-on experience.

The students enjoyed an early tour of the Technical Education and Innovation Center where they learned about Cloud's nursing programs. They met many mannequins, such as Hal and Victoria, who helped teach students about how to care for different kinds of people. They also got to enjoy a virtual reality experience as a field nurse.

Inside the Cadaver Lab, they got to dive deep into the anatomy and physiology of the human body. They got to see how our muscles and bones worked together, and they learned about the many different organs in the body. They even got to hold a few organs such as the brain, heart, and lungs.

Overall, it was a great experience for the class and the sponsors, and the senior class



would like to thank both Cloud County Community College and Mrs. Guthrie for the opportunity to have this experience. –Charles Q.



Sweet, Sweet Symphony

On February 3, students in 3rd-6th grades will enjoy an exciting field trip to Washburn University Concert Hall where they will see The Topeka Symphony

Orchestra. The trip will give the students a unique opportunity to experience live orchestral music and see firsthand how musicians work together to create powerful performances.

The students are given the opportunity to see a professional orchestra perform. During the visit, students will listen to a variety of musical pieces which emphasize tempo, as they also learn about different instruments in the orchestra, including strings, brass, woodwinds, and percussion.

The Saint Xavier music teacher, Mrs. Wiley, has expressed her appreciation for being able to take her students to see professional, live music. Live music is also a great opportunity for students, or for anyone, to learn. Mrs. Wiley added, “I am glad we have the opportunity to expose our students to great live music.”—Nick F.

Outstanding Rams—January



Congratulations to our January staff member of the month Mrs. Baseley! Mrs. Baseley is a truly exceptional educator who consistently demonstrates what it means to be a student-centered teacher. Her classroom is defined by a caring and thoughtful atmosphere where every student feels supported. She is a tireless advocate for her students, always prioritizing their best interests and

ensuring they have the tools they need to thrive both academically and personally. Her dedication often extends well beyond the final bell. On countless occasions, I have seen Mrs. Baseley working with students after school, providing the extra guidance and mentorship that makes a lifelong difference. This willingness to volunteer her personal time is a testament to her deep commitment to student success. Furthermore, Mrs. Baseley’s impact is felt just as strongly on the court as it is in the classroom. As our volleyball coach this season, she did an incredible job leading the team. We saw significant growth and development from every single player under her guidance. She has a unique ability to inspire discipline and improvement, making her an invaluable asset to our school’s athletic program. Because of her unwavering work ethic and her ability to inspire growth in her athletes and students alike, I am honored to nominate Mrs. Baseley for Teacher of the Month. Excellent work, Mrs. Baseley!

Congratulations to our January middle school student of the month, 7th grader, Macie G. Macie is a student who consistently stands out in our school community for all the right reasons. Macie's dedication to her education is evident to anyone who watches her navigate the school day. She approaches her responsibilities with a quiet discipline and a clear sense of purpose, consistently showing up ready to engage and give her best effort. It is clear that she treats her academic journey with a level of intentionality and seriousness that serves as a fantastic model for her fellow students. Her creative contribution to are equally impressive. Macie possesses a natural artistic flair and a unique way of expressing herself catches the eye of staff and students alike. It is clear that she pours a great deal of thought and heart into her creative endeavors, demonstrating a level of passion that goes well beyond the surface. Perhaps what strikes me most about Macie, however, is her cheerful personality. She has a natural ability to brighten any environment she is in. Whether it's a polite greeting in the morning or a kind word to a peer in the hall, her positivity is infectious. In a busy school environment, Macie's consistent kindness and upbeat demeanor provide a sense of warmth that makes our campus a better place to be. Macie represents the best of our student body: she is hardworking, exceptionally talented, and--most importantly--a genuinely kind individual. She is incredibly deserving of this recognition. Way to go, Macie!

Congratulations to our January high school student of the month, Freshman Cassiel P.! Cassiel is a great candidate for student of the month. She is very active in class and always willing to help out a classmate with assignments. Cassiel is a member of the St X Eco-team and Scholars Bowl Team, highlighting her love for knowledge. She is kind and thoughtful, always saying hello to everyone she comes across in the day. Cassiel's kind nature shines through when she works with the younger students in the school. She is hardworking and extremely polite and is a wonderful example of a St X Ram! Nice job, Cassiel! –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



Mr. Augustine dishes out the dough (in the form of donuts)!



Students and Spark gathered with Bishop Vincke at the Ignite for Life rally.



Kaydence W. mentors the trombones. Call her the Mr. Miyagi of brass.



Bishop Vincke getting the students involved in his homily.



Focused on the details and making it work.



Cardboard boxes are better than toys.



“God loves us this much and miles more.” Love library time.



Learning how to draw a snowman.



A very exclusive clubhouse.



Hard at work.



Focus, focus, focus.



Don't get too close—drone at work!



Go Rams!



Looks like they're having a deep discussion!



And they're off to the Polar Express.



Mrs. Thompson caught watching YouTube.



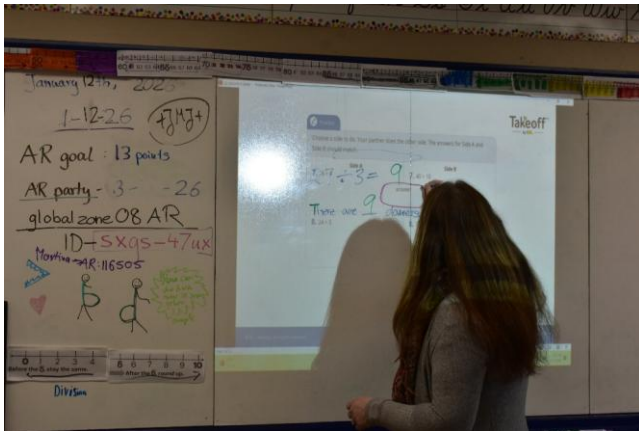
Midday nap time.



Congrats on your awards!



Wow, what a fun looking door!



I see we're learning math and biology.



4th grade learning their number lines.



Teagan B. tactically completing assignments (on time).



Bishop Vincke serving communion.



Please rise, Mass is starting.



Thank you for the Mass, Bishop Vincke!



FBLA students and speaker working on a drone—or is it a UFO?



Janis C. and Nick F. have had enough of Bernards C.



Bonnie and Clyde drive away from a crime scene.



The St. Xavier engineering class revealing their new helicopter.



The seniors are all Sunflowers and Rainbows.



Snack time at a scholars bowl and . . .



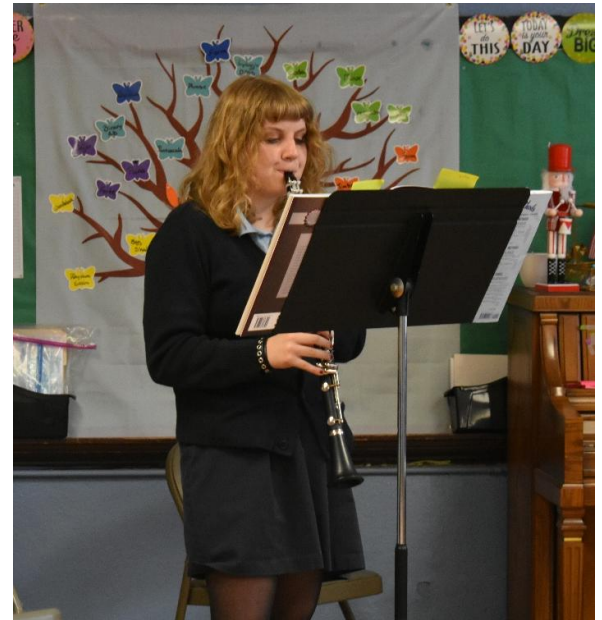
Prepare for takeoff!



Brain food for scholars bowl.



Pre K to the sky with their cardboard helicopter. Mya B. jazzing it up .



**EDUCATING FOR ETERNITY THROUGH
FAITH & REASON**

February 2026

RELIGIOUS THEME:

THE HOLY FAMILY

IMPORTANT DATES:

Feb 2nd- 6th - Homecoming Spirit Week

Feb 9th-13th - FBLA Week

Feb 16th - No School (PD Day)

Feb 16th- Mar 6th - Baby Bottle Campaign

BIRTHDAYS:

2-Mya Black (10th)

18-James Englert (9th)

20-Addyson Andersen (K)

20-Greyson Andersen (K)

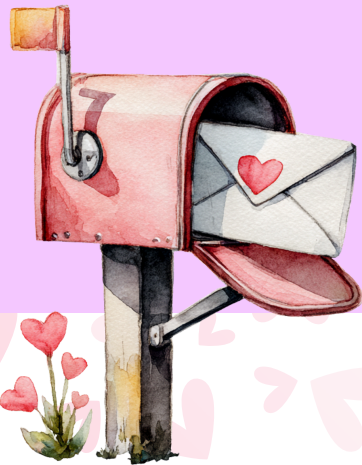
21-Amber Davis (Religion)

23-Andre Cavitt (5th/6th Teacher)

24-Taylor Hagge (K Teacher)

26-Luke DePaul (PK4)

28-Emberlyne Smith (3rd)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 2:00pm- PreK-8th Cheer Clinic	2 <u>Blackout Day.</u> 10:00am- Dorothy Bramlage Library Visits PreK 12:25pm- HS Scholars Bowl Practice	3 <u>Character Day.</u> 10:00am- 3rd-6th Grade: Topeka Symphony Orchestra 3:30pm- Children's Choir Practice	4 <u>PJ Day.</u> 9:00am- 8th Grade: Wolf House Museum 12:25pm- Junior Optimist Club 3:30pm- Chess Club	5 <u>Mismatch Day.</u> 8:20am- StuCo Meeting 12:25pm- MS Scholars Bowl Practice 1:30pm- Scholar Bowl Regionals @ St. John's Beloit	6 <u>Sunday Best Day. Modified Schedule</u> 7:50am- Rosary Club on the Stage 8:30am- Mass 12:25pm- HS Scholars Bowl Practice 2:50pm- Homecoming Pep Rally 6:00pm- Basketball Scrimmage	7 <u>Forensics Tournament at JCHS</u> 7:00pm-Homecoming Dance
Homecoming Spirit Week						
8	9 <u>Career Day.</u> 12:25pm- HS Scholars Bowl Practice 4:15pm- MS Scholars Bowl @ Corpus Christi; <i>Leave time:2:30pm</i>	10 <u>Remote Work Day.</u>	11 <u>College Day.</u> 3:30pm- Chess Club 3:45pm- Activities Meeting	12 <u>Tacky Tourist Day. Lincoln Forensics Tournament</u> 8:20am- Class Meetings 12:25pm- MS Scholars Bowl Practice	13 <u>Wall Street Day.</u> 8:30am- Mass 12:25pm- HS Scholars Bowl Practice	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>
FBLA Week						
15	16 <u>No School Professional Development Day</u>	17 3:30pm- Children's Choir Practice 5:00pm- Open House	18 8:30am- Ash Wednesday Mass 3:30pm- Chess Club	19 <u>Forensics Tournament at Sylvan-Lucas</u> 8:20am- Art Club 12:25pm- MS Scholars Bowl Practice	20 7:50am- High Five Friday 7:50am- Rosary Club on the Stage 8:30am- Mass with Bishop Vincke 12:25pm- HS Scholars Bowl Practice 2:55pm- Stations of the Cross	21 <u>Bennington Forensics Tournament</u>
22	23 12:25pm- HS Scholars Bowl Practice 4:00pm- MS Scholars Bowl @ Flint Hills; <i>Leave time: 3:15pm</i>	24	25 3:30pm- Chess Club 5:30pm- PTO Meeting	26 9:00am- Freshman: Manhattan Tech Open House 12:25pm- MS Scholars Bowl Practice 1:45pm- FBLA Speaker-Courtney Craver 5:30pm- School Council	27 <u>No School Food Drive Award</u>	28 <u>Confirmation Retreat</u> <u>HS Forensics @ Manhattan</u>

