



*St. Francis Xavier Catholic School*  
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*January 17, 2024*

*Fr. Kerry Ninemire, Priest/Superintendent*  
*Shawn Augustine, Principal*

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*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. Xavier Catholic School.*

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## **St. Xavier Auction Theme**

### **Kentucky Derby—April 20, 2024, 5:00 pm**

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## **Science Department Welcomes a New Teacher**



With the departures of Mr. Testa and Mrs. Winstead at the end of first semester, there has been a new addition to Saint Xavier's Ramily. Mrs. Guthrie has joined the staff and is teaching 7th-12th grade science. Mrs. Guthrie decided to begin teaching at Saint Xavier because she really enjoys science, and there was a need for a science teacher at St X.

Mrs. Guthrie has several different areas of science she has experienced and worked in. These include medical lab, chemistry, microbiology, hematology, transfusion services, and autopsies. She is very excited to get to know her students and to be able to understand their learning styles and adapt to help her students better understand and learn science.

Some of Mrs. Guthrie's favorite hobbies are reading books such as science fiction and apocalyptic related topics. She also enjoys spending her time quilting. She has had some interesting jobs--one is being a part of the Army for 8 years. She also worked as an autopsy assistant during this time.

Mrs. Guthrie has been a part of the school for a while; her kids have been attending St X for a few years. She loves the atmosphere and environment the school has to offer for children. She thinks the small class sizes help for more one-on-one time with the students and allows them to better understand the subject being taught to them.

The students are all starting to love Mrs. Guthrie and are happy to have another fun and interesting science teacher for the second semester. –Alyssa E.

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## MAP Testing is on the St X Map



MAP testing is once again coming to our classrooms. MAP testing, or “Measures of Academic Progress,” is a test that helps determine a student’s academic success in the subjects of math, reading, language usage, and science. St. X administers both the reading and math. All the grade levels will be completing the testing a few times a year. Kindergarten through sixth grade will be completing it three times a year while seventh through twelfth grade will be completing it twice a year.

The reading and math testing will assess a student’s academic progress and show grade level skills. This will help teachers and parents understand where their students are academically.

Mr. Augustine explained that this will, in the end, help students learn where their strengths and weaknesses are when it comes to these areas and how to continue to grow and improve. –Jayden L.

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## Competition for a Cause



The annual food drive is from January 4th to February 2nd. PreK through 12th grade will be competing throughout the month of January to bring in the most canned goods and non-perishable food items.

Two groups: PreK-6th and 7th-12th will compete over the next four weeks to win prizes for bringing in the most food items.

For the elementary group, whichever class wins round one from Jan 4th – Jan 12th will win a Spirit Wear and Jeans Day. For round two Jan 16th-Jan 19th, the top group will win a Pajama Day. Round three winner Jan 22nd-26th will win a Movie/Snacks Day. For the final round, round four Jan 29th-Feb 2nd the winning

class will have a Dance Party with Rowdy the Ram. Whichever class has the highest percentage overall between Jan 4th-Feb 2nd wins a Pizza Party!

For the 7th-12th grade students, they will also have four rounds. The first round from Jan 4th-Jan 12th, the class with the most, wins a Spirit Wear and Jeans Day. For the second round Jan 16th-Jan 29th, the top group will win a Pajama Day. Round three Jan 22nd-Jan 26th consists of skipping a class for the winning class. For the fourth round Jan 29th-Feb 2nd, the winning class will win a Late Homework Pass for any class. Then, finally the highest percentage overall will win a catered lunch from a local restaurant!

All of the food goes to the Geary County Food Pantry. The goal for this project is 2000 items.

Ms. Hagge wants students to learn from this project how to give back to their community. Ms. Hagge believes that the students enjoy this project because it lets them compete and work together as a team. She thinks it's a good project for students to participate in because it gets them involved in their community, and it shows them how fortunate they are in life. –Dani E.

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### **Get Ready! Buzz In!**



Our Saint Xavier Catholic School scholars bowl team was going to host a home scholars bowl meet on Tuesday, January 9, but the original date was changed because of the weather. The meet was rescheduled for Thursday the 18th of January. Other teams such as Thomas More Prep and Saint John's Beloit were planning to attend our meet. However, the new date would not work for the participating teams.

After the regular season is over, our team will travel to Leroy, KS, on the 1st of February to participate in regionals. If our team places in the top three at regionals, they will move on to state. This year's state championship will be held in Frankfort, KS.

Good luck to our team! –Noah F.

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### **St Xavier Celebrates Homecoming Week**



Homecoming week starts on the 29th of January with the homecoming basketball game vs. Heritage on the 30th. There will also be a pep rally this day at 2:50 pm.

The high school will vote on a king and queen during the previous week and the results will be announced and royalty crowned during half time of the high school boys basketball game.

The high school homecoming dance is on February 3rd, at 7:00 pm, and the theme is Murder Mystery. Special dress up days for the students during the week will be posted soon. It will be an exciting week for our Ramily. –Sierra S.

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## **Everyone's Favorite Book Fair is Back!**



Every year at St. Xavier Catholic School the book fair is held to show the kids the new books that have come out and allow them the opportunity to purchase them. This not only encourages students to keep reading, but it also helps our school with funds for our own new books for the library. Besides cash, our school also receives Scholastic funds which are also used to buy new books for our library to keep our inventory fresh.

Usually the book fair is held during the Fall; but this year, it is being held near the start of spring and will be running from March 3rd to 8th of 2024. This change is to see if there may be any differences in the kinds of books available and how well it is received by potential customers.

This book fair once again will have FBLA helping by scanning books, making sales, and more; it is sure that FBLA will be a big help with the book fair this year. For parents, it will be best if they come in on March 7th or 8th since that is when parent teacher conferences will take place. –Janis C.

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## **All The World's a Stage–The Forensics Season Begins!**



Forensics is a KSHSAA sanctioned activity. There are several categories in which one can compete. The two main categories that the four participants from Saint Xavier compete in are Humorous Solo and Duet. Both categories have a participant memorize a piece of literature and then perform it in front of a judge.

The Forensics season begins January 27th, and ends in May. The tournaments that Saint Xavier participants are going to have not been fully determined yet. Despite this, there will be many opportunities to compete. To letter, a participant must participate in five tournaments.

At the end of the Forensics season, all participants perform their pieces during the Fine Arts Showcase in May. This season's goal is for everyone to improve in their categories and for everyone to make it to State Champions for the second year in a row. –Miguel W.

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## **Training Future St Xavier Cheerleaders**



The cheer clinic will be on Sunday, February 11th from 2-4 pm and the high school cheer team will be instructing the participants. Both boys and girls in preschool through 8th grade can participate.

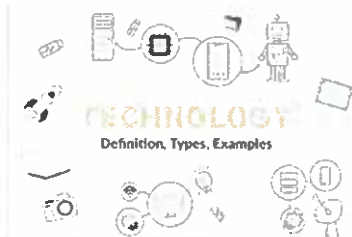
The purpose of the clinic is to teach students a few basic techniques/principles of cheerleading and to promote school spirit. The cost of the clinic is \$30.00 and that includes a t-shirt that you can wear all year to show school spirit.

The participants will perform at halftime of the high school boys' basketball game on February 16. They will learn the basic fundamentals of cheerleading. They will also teach them 4 chants, as well as jumps, tumbling, and the use of poms and signs. In addition, they will also learn the warm-up and stretching routine.

The main goal is a fundraiser for the high school cheer team but another goal is to have a fun event for children while teaching them the basic fundamentals of cheerleading. –Taylor S.

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## **Technology at its Finest**



One of the major goals of Saint Francis Xavier Catholic School is to continue to update our technology available to students and staff. Some of the updates include receiving funds for teacher laptops, student Chromebooks, and student iPads.

Recent funds received from Emergency Connectivity Funds (ECF) enabled St. X to purchase 55 iPads and 140 Chromebooks! We were also able to purchase 10 teacher laptops for half price.

This is going to help the St. Xavier students and staff continue to move towards more diversity in projects with more available technology. –Naythan H.

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## **Salina Diocese Motto for this School Year:**

**"Lord it is good that we are here." –Matthew 17:4**

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## Outstanding Rams—December



Congratulations to our December teacher of the month, Mr. Testa! Colleagues shared that Mr. Testa is a caring person who builds good relationships with students and expects the very best of them. When asked if he could teach 7th and 8th grade science this school year, Mr. Testa was willing to take on this position along with his other obligation of running his own construction business. Mr. Testa does a great job of balancing teaching, his business, and family. He has been a blessing to have in the classroom as well as the leader of maintenance projects at the school. Thank you, Mr. Testa, for a great semester. We wish you all the best.

Congratulations to our December middle school student of the month, 8th grader, Joshua Welter. Joshua has grown from his 7th grade year to his 8th grade year by being more engaged in class, participating more, and working to keep his grades up. He manages being the only male in his class very well, and that's no small feat. Joshua has not only improved in the classroom but has been an integral part of the middle school boys' basketball team. Keep up the good work, Joshua!

Congratulations to our December high school student of the month, sophomore Charles Quinton. Charles works hard and does well academically. He is a good example to others by being involved in both academic and athletic events throughout the school year. Even though Charles is highly involved in activities, he does a nice job of keeping his grades up. Charles puts in a great deal of effort into all that he does. Nice job Charles! –Mr. Augustine

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## St. Xavier Catholic School's Photo Gallery

### Scenes from the Band and Choir Christmas Concert.



Phann B. at the Christmas concert.



The clarinet section being featured.



Becky P. performing a trumpet solo.



Love those Christmas songs!

Scenes from St Xavier's Baby Jesus Shower.



11th grade religion class.



4th grade working hard.



A marshmallow building-how well will it do in an earthquake.



The high school cheerleaders at the pep rally.



The HS boys basketball team going over strategy during a timeout.



Students at the pep rally.



The chess club introduced.



PreK dying water using candy canes. PreK Christmas party.



6th grade working independently.

Scenes from St Xavier attending Mass.



Janis C., Mrs. Weigel, Bernhards C., and Father Kerry during Mass.



Students are always eager to answer Father Kerry's questions during Mass.



Having the perfect winter snack!



MS cheering away at a basketball game! Nick F. attempting a free throw.



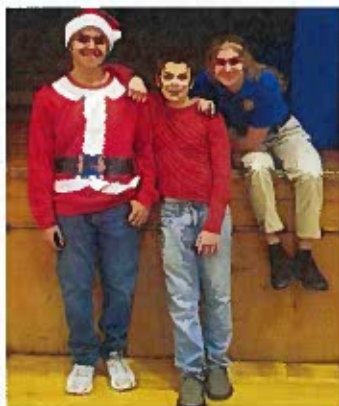
Kaydence W. preparing for tip off at a home game.



HS boys taking time out to work on the game plan.



A crystal snowman made in chemistry class.



Festive for Christmas.



Congratulations, Dani E.



Mrs. Weigel speaking to PreK about Mass.



Biology class working on a dissection.



Preschoolers opening Christmas presents.



Sophomores doing work in history class.



First graders diligently doing their classwork.

**EDUCATING FOR ETERNITY  
THROUGH  
FAITH & REASON**



# January 2024

## Religious Theme: Catholic Schools Week

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> *Christmas Break – <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>2</b> *Christmas Break – <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>3</b> *8:30am – Professional Development/Work Day – <b>NO STUDENTS</b>	<b>4</b> *First day of Second Semester *Food Drive Begins *8:20am – StuCo Meeting *4:30pm – MS BB vs. NEK *6:30pm – HS Boys BB vs. NEK	<b>5</b> *7:50am – Rosary Club *8:30am– School Mass followed by Adoration	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> *MAP Reading Testing K-6 *4:30pm – MS BB @ Flint Hills Christian	<b>9</b> *MAP Reading Testing K-6 *4:00pm – Home HS V & JV Scholars Bowl	<b>10</b> *MAP Reading Testing K-6 *7:40am – Junior Optimist Club Meeting *8:30am – Student of the Quarter and 3 <sup>rd</sup> –5 <sup>th</sup> Honor Roll *National Guard Recruiter in Cafeteria during 7-12 Lunch *3:45pm – Activities Meeting *5:30pm – Auction Meeting	<b>11</b> *MAP Reading Testing K-6 *8:20am– Class Meetings	<b>12</b> *MAP Reading Testing K-6 *7:50am – Rosary Club *8:30am – Mass	<b>13</b> *9:00am – HS V & JV Scholars Bowl @ Beloit St. Johns
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> *MLK Day – NO SCHOOL	<b>16</b> *MAP Math Testing K-6 *4:30pm – MS BB @ SVHE *6:30pm – HS Boys BB @ SVHE	<b>17</b> *MAP Math Testing K-6 *4:00pm – HS Scholars Bowl @ Flint Hills Christian *5:30pm – Finance Subcommittee Meeting	<b>18</b> *MAP Math Testing K-6 *8:20am – Art Club	<b>19</b> *MAP Math Testing K-6 *7:50am – Rosary Club *8:30am – Mass	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> *School Choice Week *4:30pm – MS BB vs. Solomon	<b>23</b> *School Choice Week *5:00pm – HS Boys BB vs. Herington	<b>24</b> *School Choice Week *7:40am – Junior Optimist Club Meeting *5:30pm – PTO meeting	<b>25</b> *School Choice Week *8:20am – FBIA Meeting *4:15pm – HS Scholars Bowl @ Kaw Valley *5:00pm – Recruitment Meeting *5:30pm – School Council	<b>26</b> *School Choice Week *7:50am – Rosary Club *8:30am – Mass *3:10pm – Ice Cream Friday *HS Boys BB Tournament @ SVHE	<b>27</b> *HS Boys BB Tournament @ SVHE *9:00am – Chess Club @ TMP
<b>28</b> *11:00am – Catholic Schools Week Mass	<b>29</b> *Catholic Schools Week	<b>30</b> *Catholic Schools Week *2:50pm – Pep Rally 4:30pm – MS BB vs. Heritage *6:30pm –HS Boys BB vs. Heritage *6:30pm - Homecoming Crowning	<b>31</b> *Catholic Schools Week *1:30pm – Bishop Vincke Celebrating School Mass	