



St. Francis Xavier Catholic School
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September 6, 2023

Fr. Kerry Ninemire, Priest/Superintendent
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. Xavier Catholic School.

The St. Xavier Yearbook will Capture the Year's Highlights!

CAPTURE YOUR MEMORIES IN THIS YEAR'S

ST. XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL, KS YEARBOOK!

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The school year is off to a running start!! So that you can remember all that happened during the 2023-2024 school year, purchase your St. Xavier yearbook now—you will receive a 10% discount if you purchase your yearbook by the end of September.

The yearbook must be purchased online. Look on at the graphic with this story to find the website and school number to order from Treering.

The staff is already working on the yearbook so remember to order early for that discount! –Mrs. Becker

Always Ready to Return to St. Xavier

Father Kerry has returned to Saint Xavier again after eight years and is now the new pastor and superintendent of St. Francis Xavier Catholic School.



Father Kerry expressed his thoughts on the strengths of our school, stressing our different cultures, inclusiveness, great teachers, and how each person is able to feel valued.

Father Kerry said, “I have been a priest for forty-eight years, and almost all of them have been involved with Catholic Schools, I am glad to say.”

When asked, “What could the students do this school year to strengthen our school and parish?”

Father Kerry said that he wishes that the school is strengthened through its service to each other but ALSO the larger community since when we are in service to others we grow. We welcome Father Kerry. –Janis C.

St. Xavier Continues to Make Improvements



Over the summer St. Xavier invested in more upgrades for the school. We have a new swing set installed. This upgrade allows for six people to swing at once!

We also have added to our equipment closet which houses our athlete uniforms as well as other equipment for sports. We installed metal shelves and repainted thanks to Testa

Enterprises.

We have a few more projects we plan to get finished during the school year. One of these projects is extending the playground border to cover our newly added swing sets. Along with this, we plan to switch out the mulch on the playground for sand.

In the future, we would like to be able to renovate our locker rooms from our ongoing fundraiser as well as put up a digital sign out front to display upcoming events in an easier fashion.

The upgrades from the playground have benefitted the students by giving them more equipment to enjoy. With these changes, it helps to bring more pride to our school. –Alyssa E.

Post-Secondary Information for Saint Xavier Students



Seniors are enjoying their last year of high school and anxiously making post-secondary decisions. There will be two different colleges coming to our school for the seniors and juniors in September. K- State will be coming on September 6th and Benedictine on September 14th. These visits will be required for all juniors and seniors to attend.

There will also be colleges, technical schools, and other visits for the juniors and seniors. See Mr. Augustine to make arrangements for your visits.

Mrs. Becker and Mr. Augustine will both be helping with the FASFA information. Mrs. Becker will give out all the information to Seniors who are wanting to learn more about financial aid. In the end, it is up to the seniors if they want to apply for any scholarships or not. If parents have any questions about financial aid or post-secondary education, please contact Mr. Augustine. –Sierra S.

Saint Xavier Students go Clubbing



With the beginning of the 2023-2024 Saint Francis Xavier Catholic school year, different clubs are opening up for students as the year goes on. Such clubs as the newly formed, “Junior Optimist International” which is open to 7th grade and above, and “Future Business Leaders of America” (FBLA) which is only open to high school, are open for students to join.

Other clubs such as the Origami Club, Chess Club, Board Game Club, and Rosary Club are not yet open for students to join; but as the year goes on, they will be. Most clubs are open for middle and high school, but some clubs are exclusively for high school.

Mr. Becker is the sponsor for the Chess and Board Game Clubs, Mrs. Becker is the sponsor for FBLA, and Mrs. Coughlin is the sponsor for the Origami Club. Forensics/Drama will begin in January for those who are interested. Other opportunities for students will be announced in the future. There is something for everyone! –Noah F.

Mrs. Salazar Jumps into Action at ST. X!



Mrs. Salazar is St. X's new 2nd Grade teacher. She has multiple degrees in Education with a special emphasis in Reading Specialist. She is currently working to get her EDS in Administration and Supervision at Liberty University. She has a 9-year-old daughter and a wonderful husband who is retiring from the military after 2 decades.

Mrs. Salazar decided to become a teacher so she could teach the kids to have a strong foundation in learning. She worked in business and thought "if she could teach something to an adult, why not a kid?"

One thing Mrs. Salazar is impressed about our school, despite being here for such little time, is the relationship between the teachers. They have a very close bond and a large amount of comradery in their workplace which brings a morale boost to the job!

An important thing that Mrs. Salazar wants students to remember is that they should never stop learning. There are so many things in the world that can peak one's curiosity and it's important to always keep on the lookout for a new opportunity to learn.

Mrs. Salazar was born and raised Catholic and it is a very important facet of her life. Her family and household abide by Catholic beliefs.

Mrs. Salazar's words of wisdom are to always listen to adults. They have been through many experiences throughout their lives and can be wonderful teachers in their own rights when it comes to informing the next generation about what to expect in their day to day lives.

Mrs. Salazar enjoys many things outside of teaching. She has a group of friends with whom she rides motorcycles! She likes to read books, watch movies, and spend time with her daughter.

Mrs. Salazar's favorite thing to enjoy while teaching is a kid's "A-ha" moment. It can be difficult to see a kid struggle with their school work, so seeing them finally get a light bulb realization moment is something that she quite enjoys.

In the spring, she is looking forward to assisting in the Forensics/Drama program at St. Xavier. –Jayden L.

Mrs. Rodriquez is Ready and Excited to Begin the School Year!

Mrs. Rodriquez is the new 3rd grade teacher at St. X. She has been teacher for 2 decades and has a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice as well as her Elementary



Education Certificate, both from the University of Houston. She also holds a Master's of Education in Leadership and Administration from the University of Houston.

She has a loving husband as well as a son, who will be a student at the school this year!

Mrs. Rodriguez decided to become a teacher because she wants to make sure the younger generations have access to a good education that will stay with them throughout their lives and help them to succeed.

Though Mrs. Rodriguez hasn't been at the school for a very long time, she does appreciate how much the faith is respected. This gives her a sense of pride in knowing that good Catholic education can be taught.

Mrs. Rodriguez wants her students to always remember that no matter where they are in life, that they can always learn and have faith in teachings. This leads to them having good problem-solving skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.

Mrs. Rodriguez always appreciates her faith because it provides a good framework for her life. It also allows her, as well as other people, to make good choices and help them to lead happy lives.

When asked if she had any words of wisdom, Mrs. Rodriguez said that she wishes for everyone to be respectful to everyone they meet, as well as simply being kind.

Outside of teaching, Mrs. Rodriguez enjoys spending time with her family and walking her two dogs. She also enjoys traveling, especially Europe, due to its rich history.

The thing that Mrs. Rodriguez enjoys most about teaching is that, regardless of what happened during the year, the next year will always be different than the last, which is something that not a lot of professions have the luxury of. –Jayden L.

A St. Xavier Ram Welcome to Mrs. Winstead



Mrs. Winstead will be teaching Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Anatomy to the high school students at St. Xavier. She earned her Bachelor's from the University of South Carolina. Mrs. Winstead expressed that the reason she decided to become a teacher was because the National Science Foundation paid

for her degree in exchange for 4 years of her teaching.

Although she has only been here for a short amount of time, Mrs. Winstead stated that she is impressed how caring the students are for one another. Mrs. Winstead stated that she wants the students at St. Xavier to know “That your development as a person is just as important as your academic development.”

When asked “How does religion shape your life?” her response was that religion gives her perspective.

Some words of wisdom from Mrs. Winstead are “When in doubt count to ten.” –Kaycie G.

Building Knowledge with Mr. Testa



Randy Testa has rejoined the St. Xavier family as the 7th-8th grade Science teacher. He returned to the staff to share his love of science with his students. Randy earned his BSE at Emporia State University, and also owns his own construction company. He also has two children, a son and a daughter.

Randy is very involved in his religion and says that it is a very high priority in his life. He has been a parishioner since 1997, and is happy that he can speak about his faith freely in his class.

Since the beginning of this school year, Randy has been impressed with his students’ respect and their willingness to learn. If there is one thing that he would like students to know, it is that, “If you’re willing to put in the work, you will find success.” –Miguel W.

Mr. Keating Excited to be a St. Xavier Ram Again!



Alumnus John Keating is returning to St. Xavier. He is teaching 7-12 Social Studies classes and serving as the Activities Director. Mr. Keating earned his degree from Kansas State University. His first teaching position was at St. X in 1992. He has been in education for 31 years.

Mr. Keating decided to become a teacher, so he would have the opportunity to come back and work with young people in a sports setting. He also decided that he wanted to work with students in the classroom to build relationships and be a positive role model.

When asked what has impressed him the most at St. Xavier, he stated that the staff is very friendly, cordial, professional, and have a deep devotion to the school and to God. This provides positive role modeling for the students.

He stated that religion and God are important in all things . . . including education. God will be a huge part of students' lives now and forever. Mr. Keating keeps his faith strong by scripture reading, praying, attending Mass, and realizing the role that the Eucharist and Catholic faith have in his life.

John's hobbies include reading, golf, basketball, and cheering on the KC Chiefs and KSU teams.

When asked for advice for others, he said "Be yourself. It's OK to laugh with the kids and at yourself." –Mrs. Becker

Mrs. Weigel's Dedicated Religion Life



"I started teaching after college to earn money for graduate school. But when I was in graduate school, I missed teaching. So after school, I went back to teaching."

"I am impressed with the commitment and devotion of the faculty and staff. I've never seen a school where people work so hard for the students. I want them to remember the deep truths, so they'll always know their purpose in life."

"My dependence on God is the basis for my entire reality. I am my best self to the extent I allow Him into my life."

Some words of wisdom from Mrs. Weigel are, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." –Aristotle

"Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire."— St. Catherine of Siena

"Exercise your mind, think hard thoughts, and seek truth. Your life will be better for it." --Naythan H.

Mrs. Davis adds "Teacher at St. Xavier" to her Job Description



The St. Xavier Parish Evangelization Director Amber Davis is the new 7th – 8th grade religion teacher. She has a Bachelor's in Science from Fort Hays State University. She likes to garden, take walks, participate in pilgrimages, reading, and spending time with her family.

She decided to become a teacher to help children grow and learn. She has been most impressed by the students' curiosity and willingness to learn. She wants students to remember St X by the positive impact it can have on their life. Religion gives her a strong foundation in life.

She says that the best advice is not to give any advice. –Taylor S.

Welcoming Mrs. Breidenstein into the Ramily!



Jessie Breidenstein joins the St. Xavier staff this year as the 1st grade teacher. She graduated from Wichita State University with a Bachelor's in Elementary Education. Her hobbies include puzzles, board games, walking, and spending time with her family.

She became a teacher because she loves watching the kids connect to what they learn, enjoys their creative stories, and absolutely loves seeing the kids' excitement when they figure something out in class that they didn't know before.

The amount of kindness, helpfulness, thoughtfulness and how we act like one big family is what has impressed her the most about St. Xavier. She wants the students at St. X to remember about their education at our school that education is not a solo thing; you need to work together to be able to learn together.

Religion has shaped her life with decision making and by making choices not just for her but also for others, such as family, friends, and her students. Her words of wisdom are to "Never Stop Learning."

Teaching has taught her life lessons such as "We are always learning no matter how old we get or where we go--we will always learn something new." Last, but not least, her favorite quote is "Every Cloud has a Silver Lining." –Dani E.

Jahnke Family is Honored at the K-State Football Game!



This year, K-State will host "Celebrate Agriculture Day" on September 23, 2023. The program will happen during the K-State Football game against Central Florida, the UFC Knights.

We are proud to announce that the Jahnke Family has been chosen as Geary County's "Celebrate Agriculture Family of

the year.” They were chosen for this honor by the Geary County Extension Agents. They will be recognized on the field and partake in waving the Powercat flag as the team takes the field.

Congratulations to the Jahnke family—your St. Xavier Ram Family is very proud of you! –Hana M.

**Salina Diocese Motto for this School Year:
"Lord it is good that we are here." –Matthew 17:4**

St. Xavier Catholic School's Photo Gallery



Seniors working on their college courses. Grade 2 sharing their love with Rowdy.



4th grade having fun in class.



Learning is fun in PE class.



Award presentations at the Pep Rally.



Mathew working on his Spanish I.



Rowdy the Ram with the 5th and 6th grades!



9th Grade working on their project and inspecting the science lab.



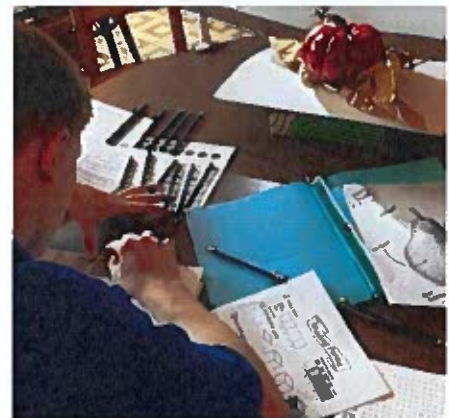
Jakob P. after placing at a cross country meet.



Rowdy the Ram strikes a pose.



Want to play a game of chess?



Nathan H. diligently working on his art.



Noah F. asking about Rosary Club.



Mrs. Dinsmore enjoying her planning period.



Anatomy students looking through the microscopes.



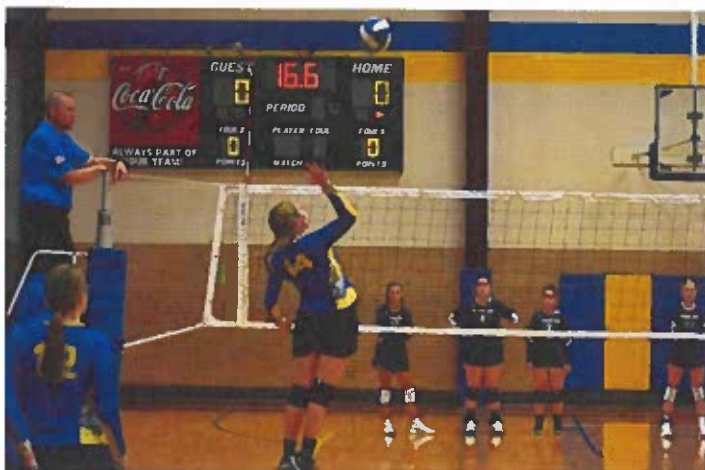
Band students playing at their first pep rally.



First cross country meet at Tescott.



First high school volleyball game.



Game focused player!



Janis C. tags a student with a pool noodle.

**EDUCATING FOR ETERNITY THROUGH
FAITH & REASON**

September 2023

Religious Theme: The Lord's Prayer

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3					1 *7:45am- Rosary Club *8:30am- School Mass & Adoration	2
4	4 *Labor Day- No School	5 *Math MAP Testing *5:30pm- MS & HS VB @ SVHE	6 *Math MAP Testing *7:40am- Junior Optimist Club *12:23pm- KSU College Visit	7 *Math MAP Testing *7:40am- Staff Meeting *8:20am- Class Meetings	8 *Math MAP Testing *7:45am- Rosary Club *8:30am- School Mass	9 *9:00am- MS VB Tournament @ Chapman
10		12 *5:00pm- HS VB Tri @ Onaga	13 *3:45pm- Activities Committee Meeting	14 *8:20am- StuCo *12:23pm- Benedictine College Visit *4:00pm- HS CC @ Northern Heights *5:00pm- MS & HS VB vs FHCS	15 *7:45am- Rosary Club *8:30am- School Mass	16
17	18 *4:30pm- MS & HS VB @ Heritage	19 *5:00pm- Taco Tuesday Feed	20	21 *8:20am- Art Club *8:30am- StuCo Officer Conference *4:00pm- HS CC @ Wabaunsee *4:30pm- MS & HS VB vs Chief *Jeans & Spirit Wear Day	22 *7:45am- Rosary Club *8:30am- School Mass	23 *9:00am- HS VB @ Wakefield
24	25 *4:30pm- MS & HS VB vs Heritage	26 *HS VB Tri @ Peabody-Burns *Vision & Hearing Screening	27 *5:30pm- PTO Meeting	28 *8:20am- FBILA Meeting *4:00pm- HS CC @ Council Grove *5:00pm- Recruitment Meeting *5:30pm- School Council	29 *7:45am- Rosary Club *8:30am- School Mass *Trash Bag Fundraiser Ends *3:10pm- Ice Cream Friday	30 *10:00am- HS CC @ Junction City *5:00pm- MS & HS VB @ Veritas

