

St John's Specials Newsletter



From the Art Room Easel

It has been snowing in the art classroom! Grades PreK-4 have been busy creating snowmen, snowflakes, and snow covered pine cones! We are using paint splatter, sponge blotting, watercolor, and salting techniques to create these projects. Grades 5-8 are creating snowflake scenes on canvases with tempera and acrylic paints. We are starting Art Museum projects where each student gets to choose a museum anywhere in the world and create a powerpoint presentation to their class. The goal is to create excitement about the many different types of art museums around the world. This project is due Feb. 2, 2026. Please ask your child to show you the report guidelines and grading criteria that will be sent home. Also have your child practice their oral presentation with you at home. This will better prepare them for their presentations.



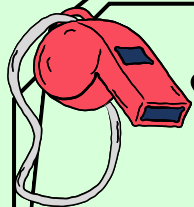
In Tune with Music

We have been busy in the music room delivering powerpoint presentations on medieval and classical composers. Students in grades 5-8 were able to be the presenters for 15 minutes and highlighted their chosen composer. Musicians' lives, accomplishments, and music were celebrated. The most interesting part was the critical thinking skills that sparked questions among the students and prompted further research and answers delivered by the presenters!

All students in grades PreK-8 did amazing work rehearsing and performing in Lessons and Carols! A special thank-you to our Schola directors and students!

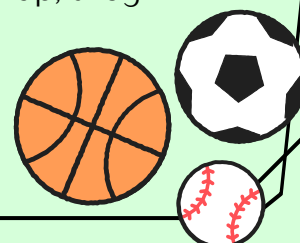
Dynamics in Music vocabulary that we are exploring through songs are piano, forte, fortissimo, crescendo, decrescendo, and, pianissimo!





Stretching into Physical Education

Our students are having a wonderful time with Mr. O in physical education! Our younger students are continuing to develop their fine and gross motor skills by learning to pass, catch and navigate obstacles in addition to doing group activities. Our older students are continuing to learn how to work with each other and use teamwork skills to play games. It hasn't been nice enough weather to take the students outside, but when it begins to warm up, they will be having gym class outdoors in our field.



The Spanish Steps



¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español de nuestra escuela! Our Spanish students have been very busy working on building their vocabularies in order to speak more fluently! In the younger grades (K - 2) we are continuing to learn basics like counting and saying hello and goodbye. The 3rd grade is working on learning their shapes. 4th - 6th is continuing strongly with learning about the calendar, seasons and weather. Our 7th grade girls are continuing to learn cognates, definite and indefinite articles, as well as vocabulary that pertains to family and the classroom. 8th grade is working on reviewing pronouns, reviewing the verb "to be", conjugations of -AR verbs, using the verb "to like" with activities, and learning characteristics.





Typing through Technology

iPad Activities: Since September K-2 students used our iPads which still have engaging apps such as Abby the Monkey, which offers phonics based activities. Also available to them are Grade appropriate Learning Games put out by RosiMosi.

Keyboarding: This essential life skill is covered in all classes. K-2 students will explore the keyboard via a website called "Kidz Type" For Grades 3-8 I use the "Dance Mat Typing", which offers engaging step by step lessons starting with the "home row". From there the students can gradually achieve "touch typing" a proficiency that allows them to type without looking at the keyboard. Oh! Did I mention that I do cover the keyboard in Grades 3-8? No worries.. They will thank me someday!

3d Printing: My favorite subject to cover with them is 3d printing. SJS was able to acquire a Bambu multi color printer which can crank out any well designed project. During Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, the kids design their own "prints" in two different ways. So far, Kindergarten through Grade 3 students will decorate a black and white template on paper i.e. pumpkins, turkeys. I later convert the files in a way that their creations can be printed on our Bambu. Grades 4 through 8 have been designing their projects using the "Tinkercad" website where they learn the ins and outs of designing 3d objects. From there the files are converted and sent to the printers.

Please note that all K-8 students should bring home their projects.

Coming up.....Coding for all!



Our Students in Action

