



November 13, 2023

Dear Lourdes Catholic School Families,

What a beautiful fall weekend we had! This weather is incredible and I will use the dry and warm temperatures as a great chance to conduct another fire drill this afternoon.

Today's Principal's Post is different. I need to talk to you about the new school and the campaign. PLEASE READ!!

### **St. Joan of Arc Catholic School**

#### **One Faith, One Family, One Future Campaign**

There is a lot happening with the new school! I shared a picture last week of the land as it is being prepped for construction. There have been countless meetings to plan and design the layout and to choose everything from flooring to sinks to types of windows and a HVAC system. We are reaching some design deadlines in the next week and we are working hard and fast! This is a VERY EXCITING TIME, but I need your help. To date, only 10% of school families have submitted their pledge form for the new school campaign. The deadline for these pledges is only 19 days away (December 2nd and 3rd). ***We are trying to reach the goal of every school family giving to this campaign. Not meeting our goals means scaling back on the project and cutting plans for the new school.***

**It is important to show the community that the people directly affected by this are 100% behind the project!**

Can you pause in your busy Monday to prayerfully consider how you will support this campaign? With the new legislation passing the ESA, this is going to save families a great deal of money. With the ESA covering up to \$7500/year for each child's tuition, consider contributing your current tuition amount. Also, ask your and your spouse's current employer if they offer a company match that will make your contribution go further.

Our children, community, and families for generations to come, are counting on your support for the new school. The Giving Tree in our courtyard was planted from a tiny acorn, many generations ago, and is now important to our kids. You have a chance, now, to plant a seed that grows much faster. We'll be in the NEW school in two years, but that needs to start today. It needs to start with each family doing what they can to help reach the goal.

I want to be able to go to meetings and to other donors and say "100% of our school families have given something to this project." Think of the power of that statement and the momentum it builds.

You can pledge to give over time, or you can write a check today, but please click on the link and be part of the future of Lourdes and St. Joan of Arc, just like you are a part of it now.

**If you are ready and have prayerfully considered your pledge, please click [here](#) to make that pledge.**

#### **Report Cards**

Report cards for the Quarter 1 Reporting Period were sent home on Friday. They are very different from what we are all used to. This change is taking place with the entire Diocese of Davenport elementary and middle schools, as I have explained in many notes home. If you have questions, I encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher. As a parent, you are the primary educator of your child, but you have chosen a partnership in this education with our school. The Report Card should be a meaningful tool that supports the cooperation between school and home and I hope you are able to understand the information that has been shared with you. Thank you for your patience during the transition to the new format for reporting progress.

#### **Vendor Fair**

A big thank you to Mrs. Heckinger for organizing the Vendor Fair on Saturday! The event was a huge success as \$1075 was raised to go towards the 7th and 8th graders trip to Washington DC this summer. Mrs. Heckinger's son is in 8th grade, so we need another volunteer to take over her spot next year! The next trip to Washington DC will be for the current 5th and 6th graders in summer 2026 when they are 7th/8th graders. **This means a parent or a team of parents of current 5th/6th graders—it's your turn!** Please let me know if you are interested in helping!

#### **Transportation Reimbursement**

Students who reside within BCSD **are now** eligible for transportation reimbursement because BCSD no longer provides bussing to Lourdes students. If you live over 2 miles from Lourdes in the Bettendorf School District you are eligible through BCSD.

Bettendorf (BCSD), Pleasant Valley (PV), Davenport (DCSD), and North Scott forms are provided at each of the links above. You may print the form out for the school district within

whose boundaries you live, and send it in to the address at the bottom of your form as soon as you can. You can also email a copy to the appropriate school district. The contact information can be found at the bottom of each form.

*December 1 is the hard deadline for the first semester, and we know from experience that the school districts do not make any exceptions.*

Please do not mail or send your form to Lourdes. They must be sent directly to the appropriate school district.

### **Spiritwear**

[Spiritwear](#) Orders for under the Christmas tree! The deadline to place orders is Thursday, November 16. Orders will be ready for pick-up at Lourdes on December 12. If this is a Christmas gift, please let your child's teacher know so they can secretly get the spiritwear home to you.

### **Service Hours Opportunity Wednesday**

Fall Clean-up this Wednesday, November 15, 2:30-4:30. Dress for the weather and be ready to help make our grounds beautiful!

### **Middle School Service Hour Opportunities**

Please take a look at opportunities for MS Service Hours (including the fall clean-up listed above!): <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AAAAB2BA6F49-45832881-msservice>

### **Preschool and PreK Christmas Program information**

Preschool and PreK [Christmas Program](#) information here!

### **Student Hunger Drive Rewards**

*Friday, November 17:* Pizza Lunch

*Tuesday, November 21:* School-wide PJ and movie day. NUT day rules will apply for pajamas. Movies will be chosen by classroom teachers.

### **Reading Counts**

Ask your student(s) about Reading Counts! It is a highly motivating, independent reading program that we use here at Lourdes Catholic School. It is used to encourage reading while we monitor and assess our students' progress in reading comprehension. Many of the books in our library have Reading Counts! quiz and you can search this website to see if any of the titles you have at home have a corresponding quiz:

<https://readingcountsbookexpert.tgds.hmhco.com/bookexpert/>

The Reading Counts! website also provides the reading level and point level of each book so we can choose books that best fit the needs of each student. Reading can happen at home, but the quizzes must be taken at school.

We will be starting an all school competition in January and hope to get everyone on board to see how many points the entire school can accumulate! Our goal will be to see our principal, Mrs. Selden on the roof by the end of the school year! Stay tuned!

### **Coat, Hat, Mitten and Scarf Collection**

Our 3rd grade classes and our school library are collecting items for those in need in our community. Please [donate](#) if you are able.

### **Outreach Thanksgiving Meal Basket Drive 2023**

Once again the Outreach Committee will be providing hungry families in our community with a basket full of nutritious meals this Thanksgiving. Please use this link to sign up to make a food donation:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054FA4AD28A1F85-45643854-thanksgiving>

Food may be left in the Gathering Space before or after Masses beginning November 4th, or 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. All food is needed by 9 a.m. Tuesday, November 14th for sorting and distribution. Monetary donations are always welcomed—please place them in the ‘Neighbors in Need box’ in the Gathering Space any time. There is also the opportunity to help sponsor a meal basket for one family: Use the link above to make a donation. Scrip will be purchased and the shopping will be done for you—this also benefits Lourdes Catholic School! Questions? Please call Angie Joers (563-505-5629) or Kelly Rashid (563-340-5619). Thank you for your generosity!

### **Toys for Tots**

The Student Council is once again asking for your generous support for this year’s Toys for Tots collection. Through the gift of a new toy or book, the Marines’ Toys for Tots program brings the joy of Christmas and sends a message of hope to America’s disadvantaged children. To date, Toys for Tots has distributed 652 million toys to 291 million deserving children.

Lourdes Catholic School will be collecting NEW toys, games, and books November 6 until November 17th. Please bring in any NEW and UNWRAPPED toys for kids of ALL ages and place them in the Toys for Tots boxes in our school. We are hoping to stuff the boxes with new toys for kids in need in our community.

Thank you so much for your support in the Toys for Tots campaign. Help spread Christmas joy and give generously.

Looking ahead to next week, there is no school on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday due to Thanksgiving.

Thank you for supporting Catholic education.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Katie Selden

### **Schedule for the Week**

#### **Monday, November 13**

8:00 Teacher Meeting  
11-2 8th grade visit to AHS  
2:00 Fire Drill #2  
3:20 Robotics

3:30 M/S Team Mtg. (Mrs. Selden and M/S Team)  
3:45-5 Volleyball practice  
5:30-7 Volleyball practice

**Tuesday, November 14**

9-11 Mom's Morning at SJV  
10:00 IEP Mtg. (Mrs. Selden, Mrs. M. Johnson)  
10:30 Parish Staff Mtg (Mrs. Selden)  
*Funeral and Luncheon*  
3:45-5 Volleyball Practice  
6:00 School Advisory Board Mtg. (Mrs. Selden)

**Wednesday, November 15**

8:05 Teacher Prayer  
9:00 All School Mass  
10:00 New Teacher Mtg. with Mrs. Miller (Mrs. Selden)  
WQAD Interview sometime late morning  
1:00 Enrollment Mtg. (Mrs. Gustafson, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Wermes, Mrs. Selden)  
**2:30 Early Release**  
2:30-4 Fall Clean-up Service Opportunity for students  
2:40-3:45 Catholic Identity and Mass explanation with Fr. Ben (all teachers)  
5:00 SCCS Board Mtg. at AHS (Mrs. Selden)  
6:30-8 First Reconciliation Workshop (2nd grade students + parents)

**Thursday, November 16**

9-2 Diocesan Administrators Mtg in Iowa City (Mrs. Selden)  
3:20 Robotics  
3:45-6 Volleyball practice

**Friday, November 17**

*Pizza Lunch for all students*  
9:00 Vision Screenings (grades 1, 3, 5, 7)  
1-3 SCCS Principals Mtg (Mrs. Selden)  
4-5:30 8th grade Volleyball practice