

ST. JUDE OF THE LAKE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

January 2024



*Challenge the Mind.
Inspire the Spirit.*

St. Jude of the Lake
Catholic School is
a Catholic community
dedicated to fully
preparing children for
their future by developing
their faith, mind,
and character.



CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

*LET THE HOLY SPIRIT SET
YOUR GOODNESS IN MOTION.*

GREETINGS FROM ST. JUDE OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND WELCOME TO THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR



Since its founding in 1954, St. Jude has provided the absolute best elementary education to our students, Kindergarten through 8th Grade. We are so excited our Middle School is complete and going strong! Throughout our proud 69-year history, St. Jude of the Lake has been a place where students are intellectually ambitious, engaged, and curious about the world in which they live. Our students are faith-filled, compassionate, creative, and filled with desire to meet new challenges. We proved our excellence does not stop no matter what life throws at us. Today, it has been more important than ever to protect the health and

well-being of our students, families, friends, and parish and school communities. It is at the heart of our beautiful faith that allows us the opportunity to pray to God **TOGETHER** for peace, grace, comfort, strength, and courage each day. This community is incredible. Over the last several years, **TOGETHER** we grew even stronger in our faith, and as a family and community. **TOGETHER**, we made remarkable things happen! **TOGETHER**, we did an amazing job thinking out of the box, keeping the students our priority, our staff loved, and our community well taken care of to make these years the **BEST** possible for everyone. We are an amazing Peng**WINNER** Family!

On any given day, our classrooms are full of activities and ideas that challenge and inspire our students. Our amazing teachers work hard to create an exceptional learning environment for our students. Our major focus on leadership begins in the classrooms of our youngest students and culminates through Middle School when our oldest students take on the responsibility of being the school's student leaders.

Throughout the year, exciting things are happening in our classrooms and around our community! We encourage you to get involved early by joining our Early Catholic Family Life-Parent Pray and Play Group, Home and School Advisory Committees, numerous volunteer opportunities with school activities, and taking an active role in your child's education. You are the best gift you can give your child. You are your child's most important teacher. Spend time with your child. The elementary years go quickly, but they are among the most important and fundamental years of your child's life. It is my desire to keep the focus on increasing student achievement and doing whatever it takes to help **ALL** our students be successful and enjoy coming to school each day. I believe that learning should be fun and that an elementary school should pave the way for a lifetime of learning.

Whether you are a first-time visitor or are already a member of our community, I encourage you to explore our St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School website (www.stjudeofthelake.org) and check us out on Facebook and Instagram to discover the activities and programs happening in our classrooms. Come see our campus and feel the excitement and energy our children emulate every day. Take a tour, meet our faculty, and staff, and see for yourself why we call this **OUR HAPPY PLACE**. Please do not hesitate to let us know if we can be of any assistance. We are here to help you and, most importantly, to help your child be successful!

Thank you for choosing St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School and allowing us to walk this journey hand in hand.



ST. JUDE OF THE LAKE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

VOLUME 1, NO.4

EDITOR:

Carrie Hackman
Stephanie Jakoblich

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:

Carrie Hackman

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Stephanie Jakoblich
St. Jude of the Lake Staff

PRODUCTION SERVICES:

Press Sure Print, Inc.
2607 6th Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418-2858

MAGAZINE DESIGN:

Damon Lacey
Lacey Creative LLC
www.laceycreative.com



TO CONTACT THE EDITOR:

St. Jude of the Lake
Catholic School
600 Mahtomedi Ave Mahtomedi, MN 55115
(651) 426-2562
www.stjudeofthelakeschool.org

St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School
Magazine is published annually.

St. Francis of Assisi is celebrated throughout the world as a follower of Jesus who exchanged earthly possessions for heavenly rewards. He is often pictured praising the Creator in communion with the created world, members which he called by family titles like "Brother Sun" and "Sister Moon." He preached to birds and made friends with a wolf, but the greatest companionship he enjoyed was with his brother friars. In writing about the gift of these companions, he exclaimed "the Lord gave me brothers!" Ordinary men like brother Brother Leo and Brother Angelo became the first followers of Francis and members of this new religious movement of the 13th century that was rooted in a fraternal way of life with Jesus at the center.

The line "the Lord gave me brothers" has been an inspiration to me in living close relationships with other brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ. I feel this strong sense of family connectedness when I walk the halls of our school and witness the bonds between students and teachers alike. It's been said that the greatest gift that you can give a child is a sibling, and with the addition of our 8th grade this year, we are certainly working on a Full House! The blessing of growing our Catholic school back to its K-8 capacity has finally been realized thanks to you and so many other supporters! As the number of students climbs, our mission continues as we offer families an opportunity for a great Catholic education in a setting that feels more like a family than a school.

With the addition of an 8th grade and full Middle School experience, we also have implemented a "house system" that groups students with peers from different grade levels. This unique system for our Middle School students provides opportunities for peer leadership, a fraternal way of learning and growing, and deepening friendships. I have been grateful for the brothers and sisters the Lord has given me as mentors and friends that have made me into the person that I am today, and I am thrilled to give our students similar opportunities. Thank you for the investment you make in our family at St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School. Your impact will be felt for generations to come!

Fraternally Yours,

Fr. Chad VanHoose
Pastor





THANK YOU FOR
VOTING US #1

BEST

OF THE PRESS

VOTED BEST:

- CHURCH
- SCHOOL
- PLACE TO GET MARRIED
- TEACHERS



MRS. SHANNON VITULLO
(GLOBENSKY)



MR. CHARLES SCOBBA
(FINALIST)



ST. JUDE OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES FOR 2023-2024

We have a strategic plan that is a working and always evolving document. The current strategies and action steps we are concentrating our efforts on are listed below. *We are coming to the end of our 7-year school strategic plan cycle this year. We will be going through re-accreditation in the Spring and will be implementing a new school strategic plan upon completion of the process.

- **Expand our marketing efforts and enrollment strategies to increase and retain enrollment.**

We continue to increase our visibility in print and social media and continue to make great strides in building our partner relationship with St. Jude of the Lake Discovery Center. Our Penguin Power is shining bright!

- **Develop a school-wide professional development plan.**

As a staff, we are looking at and researching a variety of professional development opportunities in the areas of reading, math and science. We have implemented a Staff Development Series each month to introduce and facilitate innovative and engaging ideas that the staff takes ownership of and is excited about.

- **Identify consistent means of funding for professional development and provide progress reports.**

Future funding ideas are a crucial part of the business plan shared with all potential donors. A deliberate effort is being made to provide all our stakeholders and families with up-to-date information that is going on in our school. We are currently working on growing our school endowment fund.

- **Investigate different and sustainable funding models to support educational programs.**

We are being very diligent and aggressive in fundraising and our school endowment efforts. We have a team of enthusiasts identified and who are willing to help cast out our net and build up financial sustainability.

- **Use assessment data in a consistent manner to guide curriculum and instruction decisions.**

We are more deliberate in our communication with students and parents on state - wide standards, curriculum and strategies. We are using, several different methods of assessment to help us better serve our students needs with and to help create their personalized learning plans. These efforts include better use of technology, collaboration with other teachers and a variety of hands-on assessment tools.





**AT ST. JUDE OF THE
LAKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL,
WE INTEGRATE
RELIGION THROUGHOUT
EVERYTHING WE DO.**

We believe religious education provides our students the best, most well-rounded academic experiences. Our mission extends beyond teaching children fundamentals; we also help them strive to be virtuous, well adjusted, compassionate people.

Through fostering spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development, St. Jude's prepares its students with a strong foundation to equip them for success in both the present and the future.



EXCITING NEWS!

This year has been truly remarkable! St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School enthusiastically embraced the addition of a complete Grade 6-8 Middle School, welcoming 50 middle school students. Our Penguin Power is indeed shining brightly!

Our Middle School introduced the "House System" this year, uniting students and staff in fostering a stronger, faith-centered community. Each student is randomly assigned to one of four Houses: **HOPE, COURAGE, FAITH, or CHARITY**, represented by a unique color, saint, and Bible verse. Students and staff engage in friendly House competitions, service projects, and **LINKS** (Life Involves New Kids of Skills) sessions, fostering personal growth and community involvement. Additionally, we have planned engaging religion retreats, providing students with meaningful opportunities to deepen their spiritual connections. Join us in this journey to build a closer-knit school community!





CATHOLIC SCHO

Those who remember attending Catholic Schools will remember Catholic Schools Week as a week full of palpable joy found celebrating the school within our school walls! Catholic Schools Week reminds us to pause and reflect on the God-given gift of each one of our students and families, the source of our joy and reason this is our **HAPPY PLACE!**

The week highlights the mission of Catholic schools as a hands-on faith-based education that supports the whole child academically and spiritually and prepares our students for success, all while having a ton of fun!





SCHOOLS WEEK

Each day students can participate in a themed dress up day, service projects, Pop-Ups, and super fun school community building events. We kicked off the week with an awesome Alumni Event- Walk Down Laker Lane and wrapped the week up with our much anticipated St. Jude of the Lake Carnival.

Catholic Schools are blessed to have the unique opportunity to not only prepare good students, but good people.



SAINT JUDE'S RELIC VISIT:

A DIVINE MOMENT FOR OUR PATRON SCHOOL

A Memorable, Faith-Filled Experience for Our Students!



On September 20th, our church and school had the incredible honor of hosting the relic of Saint Jude Thaddeus, Apostle and the patron saint of our beloved Church and School! The visit of Saint Jude's arm was a profound moment of faith and devotion that left a lasting impact on our students and all who attended.

Saint Jude, known as the patron of the impossible, is the saint we turn to in our most desperate moments, when all else seems lost. His arm, venerated in Rome for centuries, embarked on a pilgrimage across the United States, making stops in 100 cities. We were blessed to be one of those stops.

The history of Saint Jude's relic is a testament to the enduring power of faith. From his martyrdom in Beirut to the crypt in the original Saint Peter's Basilica and now resting beneath the main altar of Saint Joseph in the current Basilica, Saint Jude's journey has been a source of inspiration for countless pilgrims.

Our students were deeply moved by this unique opportunity to connect with the Apostle of the Impossible. It's a reminder that even in our most challenging moments, faith can light the way and bring hope where there seemed to be none. To God be the Glory!

Thank you to everyone who joined us in this memorable experience, and let us continue to carry the faith and the spirit of Saint Jude with us in our daily lives.

To learn more about the relic of Saint Jude and the tour across the United States, visit: www.apostleoftheimpossible.com





Our Family Faith Formation Program began on September 27 and classes are held every Wednesday from 4:15 to 5:30 pm. We are in full swing, building a strong religious foundation and deepening the faith in our youth.

We're proud to use the transformative Word of Life program as our curriculum. This program is designed to help children, teachers, parents, and families discover their authentic religious identity empowering them to reinvigorate their participation in the church's life and mission.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM:

STRENGTHENING FAITH, BUILDING TOGETHERNESS

We have each class spend time volunteering in the Mahtomedi Food shelf which is on our campus as well as during the food drive during Advent and Lent. We also support the Giving Tree which helps single mothers in need during the Christmas season. This is one way we teach the kids to live out the Gospel by serving others.

We invite parents to join us for three **Parent Night & Family Dinner events** on November 15, January 24, and April 10. These gatherings promise to be not only spiritually enriching but also great opportunities for building stronger bonds within our community.

Together, we're shaping a stronger, more deeply connected future for our youth.





PRESCHOOL

St. Jude Discovery Center (STJDC) has been a cherished partner with us and we're excited to continue this wonderful partnership. Their program consistently excels in creating a meaningful learning experience for our preschool and pre-kindergarten students. This program offers our children the valuable opportunity to develop their social skills while reinforcing their Christian values. The STJDC staff has been doing an incredible job to nurture the whole child. Their longstanding commitment to our school community is truly appreciated, and we're looking forward to many more years of collaboration!

The St. Jude of the Lake Discovery Center is a non-profit, Christian-based early childhood experience for children ages 16 months to five years old. If you would like more information or to share contact information, please reach out to enroll@stjudeofthelake.org.



EXITING NEWS AT ST. JUDE OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL!



We're thrilled that St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School is now proudly able to offer a diverse array of athletic programs and sports teams

for our students. Over the past year, our talented athletes have participated in five thrilling sports: soccer, volleyball, basketball, hockey, and swimming.



With the expansion of our Middle School, we are delighted to introduce additional sporting opportunities like cross country and golf.

In a remarkable achievement, both our Girls' volleyball and Boys' soccer teams have triumphantly secured spots in the playoffs this year. Congratulations to our dedicated and hardworking athletes and coaches!



GREETINGS

TO ALL OUR ST. JUDE OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL ALUMNI!



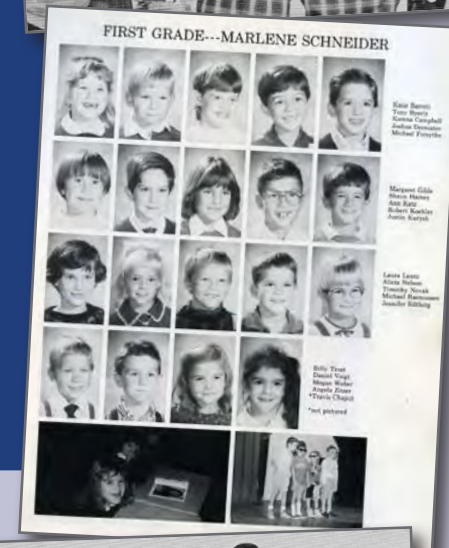
We're excited to stay connected with our former Lakers and keep you in the loop about what's happening at our Parish and School. Your connection is important to us and helps strengthen our community.

To reconnect or stay updated, visit our website at www.stjudeofthelake.org. Click on the "ALUMNI" tab in the upper right-hand corner to share your information with us.

For daily updates, throwback pictures, and more, follow us on Facebook and Instagram. It's a great way to reminisce about the good old days!

Help us find the other Laker Alum. If you're ever in town, join us for a tour. Don't forget the second Saturday in September for our parish-wide CornFest event. Drop by our Alumni Tent and say hello - we'd love to see you and catch up.

Thank you for being a part of our St. Jude of the Lake family. We can't wait to hear from you soon!



Second Grade -- Mrs. Alder

Brian Berken	Christopher Johnson	Lisa Ochs
Jennifer Bohaty	Melissa Johnson	John Pechman
Steve Brown	Peter Kaiser	Robert Pechman
Michael Buczynski	Timothy Krey	Steven Schemitsch
Cheryl Charpentier	Tracy Marshall	Melissa Studtmann
Tamalin Fox	Katherine Marston	Heather Sullivan
Sean Glide	Colleen McLean	Scott Whelan
Timothy Gunderson	Kris Mike	Kristen Wiberg
Jacqueline Hance	Sarah Miller	Kate Wlaschin
Lisa Henschell	Lynn Mishuk	Benjamin Zink
Michelle Jennings		



PENGUINS IN OUR PRIME CURRICULUM PROGRAM

At St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School, we're committed to creating inspiring and engaging learning experiences for everyone on our lifelong learning journey together.

Our curriculum is hands-on and faith-based, incorporating various subjects and resources to provide a well-rounded education. We teach Word Of Life Religion, Rua Woods Theology of the Body, literacy skills using SuperKids and Reading Side By Side, language arts, handwriting, Envision math, FOSS Science Next Generation, STEM, and TCI Social Studies.

This year, we're excited to continue offering on-site counseling through the Phoenix Institute, thanks to the Catholic School of Excellence Grant called "Peace of Mind". This grant not only provides counseling but also supports staff development, offers parent education, monthly videos, and on-site presentations.

For grades 3-8, we've introduced the Studio 3:16 Program, which is an entertaining educational series based on gospel passages. It helps students discover Christ and strengthen their virtues, faith, and understanding of truth. Middle school students are enjoying the Amplify ELA curriculum and the Northern Lights Series from the Minnesota Historical Society. Additionally, we're excited to introduce the Social Institute program, which helps students navigate social media and prioritize their health and wellness.

All our students participate in Mass, Library, STEM/Technology, Art, Music, Physical Education, and Spanish classes weekly. We utilize technology extensively, including iPads, SMART boards, Apple TVs, coding opportunities, STEM challenges, and 3-D printing.

In addition to our dedicated staff, we have support staff to assist students in reinforcing concepts and skills at their own pace. We also offer various programs such as service learning, Lego robotics, the LINKs Program (Life Involves New Kinds of Skills), Engineering Is Elementary, and even an outdoor classroom.

It's clear to see that there's a lot of "Penguin Power" shining at our school, and we're excited to continue this educational journey with you!

PENGUIN PROGRAM PERKS

- Archdiocesan-wide Science Fair • Archdiocesan-wide Performing Arts Fair • Archdiocesan-wide Mass and Rosary Pilgrimage • Weekly Mass
- On-site piano, guitar, ukulele lessons, and new Rock-like band experience • Student Government (Middle School only) • Middle School Fun Nights • Religion Retreats (Middle School only) • Math Masters • Lego League • Catholic School Week of AMAZING FUN! • Catholic Athletic Association Sports Programs (volleyball, soccer, basketball, hockey, baseball/softball) • Field trips • Seasonal concerts • Art Club • STEM Club • Choir • Altar Serving • Cheer Team • Annual play production
- Scouting • Swimmers • Youth Sport Clinics



TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM



This year, we were honored to secure the Minnesota Watershed Grant once again. Our students have been enthusiastically involved in the Minnesota Trout in the Classroom program, creating a dynamic riverbed right within our classrooms to nurture over 100 trout eggs into mature fingerlings. As part of this immersive experience, the students embarked on a memorable excursion to Stillwater's Browns Creek for the exhilarating release of the grown trout. What's more, as a part of this program, our school has been buzzing with exciting activities, including immersive field trips where students get to don waders and collect bugs in Browns Creek, learn to go ice fishing on White Bear Lake, enjoy thrilling snowshoeing adventures, and even learn the art of crafting their own fishing lures. Stay tuned for more incredible updates from our vibrant school community!





EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO OUR TABLE!

St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School, in partnership with the **MINNDEPENDENT**, is proud to continue their Aquaponics Program - All Are Welcome to the Table. Through sustainable farming to raise fish and vegetables in an integrated, soilless system, this amazing opportunity will engage staff and students in a collaborative, community-embedded mission that provides a unique hands-on integrated STEM learning experience and food source that can benefit the community for years to come.

On September 27, 2023, our students welcomed 75 tilapia fingerlings to our Science Lab, and they are growing up so fast! The students have also planted a wide variety of planting to grown in the raft gardens such as lettuce, beans, strawberries to name a few. We are also growing a variety of veggies upward in our vertical gardens and a variety of plants in the Green House outside. What do we do with the crop? We share with the St. Jude of the Lake and Mahtomedi Food Shelf and our community!



CELEBRATING excellence: YOU'RE INVITED!

ST. JUDE OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND



**ST. JUDE OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND
NO MATTER THE SIZE. YOUR GIFT IS A PERFECT FIT**



HELP US SECURE EXCELLENT CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

WHY ADD YOUR GIFT?

Your gift allows us to keep growing, retain great teachers, be innovative and ensure stability and longevity for the future.

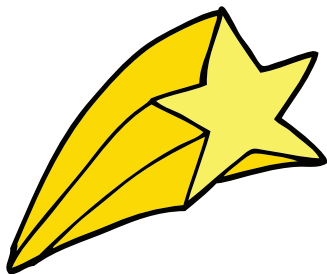
HOW TO MAKE AN IMPACT

For **financial gifts**, please use the enclosed envelope. **Spread the word** about our wonderful school to family and friends! Please keep out school, our students and staff in your **prayers**.



WE ARE GRATEFUL

Thank you for your support in prayers and financial gifts. Your generosity will help ensure Catholic School education continues for many generations.



**GIVE TODAY TO ADD YOUR FOOTPRINT TO THE LASTING
LEGACY OF ST. JUSE OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL**



ST. JUDE OF THE LAKE SERVE-A-

Our 7th Annual school-wide **SERVE-A-THON**, held on October 27th, 2023, was a resounding success. This event embodies our commitment to fostering Christ-like qualities in our students and promoting community engagement. The **SERVE-A-THON** is a crucial part of our curriculum, emphasizing active service as integral to our students' development. It empowers them to apply classroom lessons to real-life situations while addressing community needs. During the event, our students participated in "30 Days of Random Acts of Kindness," investing their time and talents to make a positive impact.





THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL SERVE-A-THON

This aligns seamlessly with our faith-based curriculum, reinforcing our values. Importantly, **SERVE-A-THON** is our sole sponsored fund-raising activity. Your support not only benefits our students but also helps us serve the community. This event highlights our students as active doers, living our core values. We are immensely proud of our students' dedication to making a positive impact. Your partnership in nurturing responsible, compassionate individuals is invaluable.



"WE ARE THE MUSIC MAKERS; WE ARE THE DREAMERS OF DREAMS."

ST. JUDE OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL THEATER PRESENTS



MARCH 1-2-3, 2024

WATCH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS.

Have you *HERD* about our theater program at St. Jude of the Lake? Our all-school play, *The Lion King Jr.*, was GRRR-EAT! The cast was *PURR-fectly* amazing. Many thanks to our magnificent director, Kyle Schwartz, and his team of professionals for being so generous with their time and talent to help us get our performers ready and provide guidance on pulling the production all together. More thanks and kudos to everyone that had a hand in this production or any of the production in the past. What an awesome experience and memory for all of us!

Extra thanks to all the parents and staff that shared all their gifts to make this production the *MANE* event. This is a unique experience that takes many hours and hands to pull it all together. Additional gratitude to Ann Clark, Ben Corbett, Jonquil Shipman, Jeff and Lynn Bartol, and the amazing crew of volunteers. It was no small task to build a stage and coordinate an all-school production. This group is/was truly awesome-Thanks for leading the efforts!



10. STYLISH UNIFORMS:

At St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School, we require school uniforms, fostering a sense of order and discipline. Beyond that, they level the playing field, ensuring that all students, regardless of their background, appreciate the elegance of navy-blue pants, jumpers, shorts, polos, and sweatshirts.

9. A SPLENDID EXPERIENCE:

Our students relish the chance to bond through communal activities like weekly Mass, May crowning, All Saints Day Masses, Ash Wednesday, Lent activities, Stations of the Cross, and the Living Rosary. We also celebrate important sacraments together, including Reconciliation, Communion, and Confirmation

8. CSW EXTRAVAGANZA:

Catholic Schools Week is the highlight of our year! It's a week of pure joy within our school walls, a time to reflect on the gift of our students and families, making our school our happy place.

7. AFFORDABILITY SURPRISE:

Catholic education may seem expensive, but we have generous donors who passionately support it, making it attainable for your family. Before dismissing it, explore the possibilities.

6. WE GUIDE & LEAD:

We encourage our students to put their faith into action by sharing their gifts, serving others, and being doers, not just hearers.

5. PARENTING MORAL SUPPORT:

While parents are the primary teachers, we provide independent affirmation of the moral values you instill in your children. Plus, attending weekend Mass with friends makes it a breeze!

DISCOVER THE TOP TEN REASONS TO CHOOSE

St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School for Your Child(ren):

4. DEDICATED EDUCATORS:

Our teachers and administrators are a league of extraordinary individuals. They're passionate, dedicated, and deeply caring, shaping your children's lives through academic and moral guidance.

3. ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:

We take pride in personalized learning, with small class sizes and 1:1 technology, fostering effective and efficient learning.

2. PLANTING SEEDS OF FAITH:

Catholic education sows the seeds of faith, nurturing a well-formed conscience in your child, which may lead them back to the Church and the love of Jesus Christ in adulthood.

1. AN INCREDIBLY HAPPY PLACE:

St. Jude of the Lake isn't just a school; it's a thriving community rooted in shared beliefs. We nurture your child's mind, body, and spirit, celebrating faith as an integral part of life. It's a place where happiness abounds, learning flourishes, and personal growth thrives! Come and be a part of it!



ST. JUDE OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL BLESSING BOX



Our Blessing Box is a simple yet heartwarming concept. It's there for anyone passing by who might be going through a tough time. Inside, you'll find bags filled with personal hygiene items and prayer cards lovingly crafted by our students. Please note, this isn't a food shelf, but rather an opportunity to grab what you need to make your day a bit easier. We understand that tough luck can strike anyone, even if it's just for a day or two.

At our school, we believe in the power of making people feel better as they navigate challenges. Our motto is that you might not be able to change someone's situation, but you can certainly change the way they feel while going through it. Our community is incredibly generous, offering their time, talents, and treasures. We come together as a parish and school community, supporting one another in prayer and action. This service project is beautiful because it has no boundaries; anyone can lend a hand or find help, and it's entirely driven by our students. They take charge of assembling the bags and ensuring the box remains stocked throughout the school year.

This invitation is open to everyone, and the warm feeling of paying it forward is something everyone who participates experiences. So, please, feel free to stop by our Blessing Box and make someone's day a little brighter!





THANK YOU

The St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School Community would like to use this time to express our heartfelt gratitude for the continued prayers, support, and financial gifts we have received over the years. The dedication, devotion, and overwhelming commitment throughout the years have been a tremendous blessing to us. We cannot thank everyone enough!

Specifically, to our parents, families, friends, and greater community, thank you for your continued support. We are blessed to have your partnership, time, and prayers at St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School. We continue to get stronger and stronger as a faith community. You help make **OUR HAPPY PLACE** even **HAPPIER**.

To our **AMAZING** students, thank you for all the energy, smiles, love of learning, joy, advice, ideas, and trying your best. Your **PENGUIN POWER SHINES BRIGHT EVERYDAY!**

In the last year, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our community, we have been able to revamp the Upper Commons Middle School with a new learning area and an additional staff restroom. The transformation of this space is nothing short of remarkable.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Archdiocese and Catholic Schools Center of Excellence for their continuous support, guidance, and generous contributions not only to St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School but to all Catholic Schools within the Minneapolis/St. Paul Archdiocese and now across Minnesota.

Throughout the school year, we have been sharing our journey with you, our students, families, parish, alumni, and the wider community through various channels, including church bulletins, school newsletters, local newspapers, and our social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram). We invite you to continue walking alongside us as we continue to narrate the story of the school we fondly call **OUR HAPPY PLACE!**

On behalf of myself, Father Chad, the faculty, staff, and school community, it is great with love that we thank you and continue to hold you up in prayer!!



ST. JUDE OF THE LAKE SUPER SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

HOME AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE (HS)

PURPOSE: The Home & School Committee is a parent-run organization with the purpose of enriching the Catholic School experience for St. Jude of the Lake community, families, students, and staff by supporting our school's mission statement, building a strong sense of community spirit, and expressing appreciation to those committed to our school.

You are invited to get involved in the Home & School Committee. Parent volunteers help support a variety of activities throughout the school year. Whether your schedule allows you to volunteer on a routine or periodic basis, there's always a way for you to make a difference! For more information, please contact Hollie Ciresi or Gina Anderson. Your support is vital to the ongoing success and value of St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School.

EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

FUNDRAISING -

CORNFEST: Help run the Kid Zone game and activity area.

SERVE-A-THON: Support the school's Serve-A-Thon fundraiser and our students in their Random Acts of Service project and collections for our Blessing Box.

SPIRIT WEAR SALES: Great opportunity to expand your St. Jude Spirit Wear collection and help support our school. A portion of proceeds are given back to school.

BUTTERBRAIDS: Help organize our Butterbraid fundraiser sales and distribution.

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE: Annual event held at the school that helps raise funds which will support school program funding needs.

RESTAURANT NIGHTS: Events held at local restaurants to help raise funds which will support school program funding needs.

SPRING DINNER: Help gather donations and volunteer the night of the Spring Dinner in our school-sponsored raffles and market.

HUNDREX FEEDBACK: Participate in consumer feedback to earn money for the school.

PASSIVE FUNDRAISERS: Box Tops for Education, Kowalski's Groceries for Good Causes

SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS -

CSW BOOK FAIR: Week-long event that creates Scholastic dollars to help support supplies needed in our classrooms and school library.

CSW CARNIVAL: Held during school as a special treat for students at the end of CSW, and in the evening as a partner event with SJDC.

SENIOR DAY/SPRING CONCERT: Help make this day special as we host our Grandparents and local seniors to brunch while the students perform.



SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

PURPOSE:

The School Advisory Council's primary purpose is to foster academic excellence, faith development and the advancement of the school community, in accordance with the School Mission Statement and the SAC Bylaws

WHO WE ARE: 10 Council Members

- Each person serves a 3-year term with rotation of 1/3 of the membership each year
 - SAC Chairperson
 - School, Parish, and Alumni Members
- Enrollment & Marketing Coordinator

WHAT WE DO: Meet monthly to review initiatives and coordinate activities

- Work directly with Principal and Parish Leadership
- Advise on school policies and budget
- Participate in strategic planning
- Act on initiatives with additional volunteers and resources to support the school

OUR EFFORTS THIS YEAR:

- School Endowment
- Formalize alumni relations program
- School Strategic Plan

LEADERSHIP: • 2022-2023 Chairperson – Bill Mahoney 2023-2024- Matt Busek

MEMBERS: Lauren Auge, Matt Busek, Hollie Ciresi, Ben Corbet, Sarah Johnson, Lynsey Simmet, Bre Young, Fr. Chad VanHoose (Pastor), Carrie Hackman (Principal)

MORE INFORMATION: • Contact: Bill Mahoney at bill.mahoney@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS

traditionally begin their terms in August. Please come for a visit anytime.

Thank you to all who have served, are serving, and are considering future membership of the council.

Meetings are every second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm at St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED, ARE SERVING, AND ARE CONSIDERING FUTURE MEMBERSHIP TO THE COUNCIL



NWEA TEST SCORES



At St. Jude of the Lake, we believe in the power of continuous academic growth. Our students take the **Northwest Evaluation Association's (NWEA)** standardized tests known as **The Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)**. These computer-administered tests help us measure each student's learning progress over time, reported in RIT units.

The RIT scale provides a stable measure of student performance, much like feet and inches, allowing us to accurately gauge achievement levels regardless of age or grade. We're thrilled to share that our students have shown exceptional performance, with average scores in math, reading, and language usage surpassing the national average.

For Spring 2023, our Language Usage Assessment revealed that forty-nine percent of students in grades 2-5 scored at the 60th percentile. In the Reading Assessment for kindergarten through seventh grade, an impressive sixty percent scored at or above the 60th percentile. Additionally, sixty percent of our students in kindergarten through seventh grade* scored at or above the 60th percentile in the K-12 math assessment. Notably, every student who took the Algebra 1 Assessment scored at or above the 89th percentile. In the Science Assessment for grades three through seven, an impressive sixty-six percent of our students scored at or above the 89th percentile.

SPRING 2022 Grade	Norm RIT Value Math	SJL RIT Score Math	Norm RIT Value Reading	SJL RIT Score Reading	Norm RIT Value Language
2nd	189.4	192.9	185.6	189.8	188.4
3rd	201.1	202.3	197.1	195.6	198.3
4th	210.5	218.4	204.8	206.5	205
5th	218.7	226.2	211	212.8	210.2
6th	222.9	233.5	215.4	223	N/A
7th	226.7	232.4	218.4	225.8	N/A
7th (Algebra 1)	RIT Not Available	266	-----	-----	-----

NWEA 2020 Norms

We're incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication shown by our students and teachers. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or want to learn more!

***8th Grade added in Fall 2023.**



BUDGETING

School Budget 2022 - 2023

School Year 2022-2023

Financial Report

Revenue

Tuition and Fees	\$ 1,149,191.73
Other Revenue	\$ 179,933.77
Fundraising	\$ 88,794.84
Parish Support	\$ 140,750.81
Grants	\$ 51,075.00
Total	\$ 1,609,746.15

Expenses

Staff	\$ 1,182,343.73
Program Expense	\$ 141,039.72
Instructional Supplies	\$ 105,086.31
Administrative	\$ 87,933.24
Building	\$ 93,343.15
Total	\$ 1,609,746.15





GROWING SUPER READERS

Our SuperKids reading curriculum has been a success with our K-2 students for six years now. The students really identify with the adventures of their SuperKids character friends each school year.

Our second graders recently brought their favorite SuperKids characters to life through gardening fun. Guided by their beloved SuperKids book character, Ms. Blossom, the students happily planted daffodil bulbs, eagerly awaiting their springtime bloom.

With beaming smiles and giggles, they eagerly dug their little hands into the soil, channeling the adventurous spirit of the SuperKids they adore. Ms. Blossom, who holds a special place in the SuperKids tales, is confident that her students will grow and "blossom," just like the bulbs under her watchful eye.

As we wait for spring's arrival, join us in anticipating the vibrant transformation of both our daffodils and our little SuperKids, all set to bloom in a colorful display of growth and friendship!



OUR SOLAR SUITCASES MADE IN AFRICA!

**EXCITING
NEWS FROM
KENYA!**

The Solar Suitcase crafted by our Middle School students last spring has found its home in Meru, Africa, thanks to fantastic partners at WISE.

Most of the schools had no or limited access to electricity, which impacted student learning and the times the students could study at the schools.

The Solar Suitcase built by students at your school was installed with others at schools in Mumias, Kenya. With the addition of the Solar Suitcases to light the classrooms and offices, the students will have extended times to study and prepare for state examinations.

The teachers will be able to prep for lessons for an extended time and charge their mobile devices without having to travel long distances. Many of the schools will see increased attendance. They will also use the Solar Suitcases to learn about solar energy.

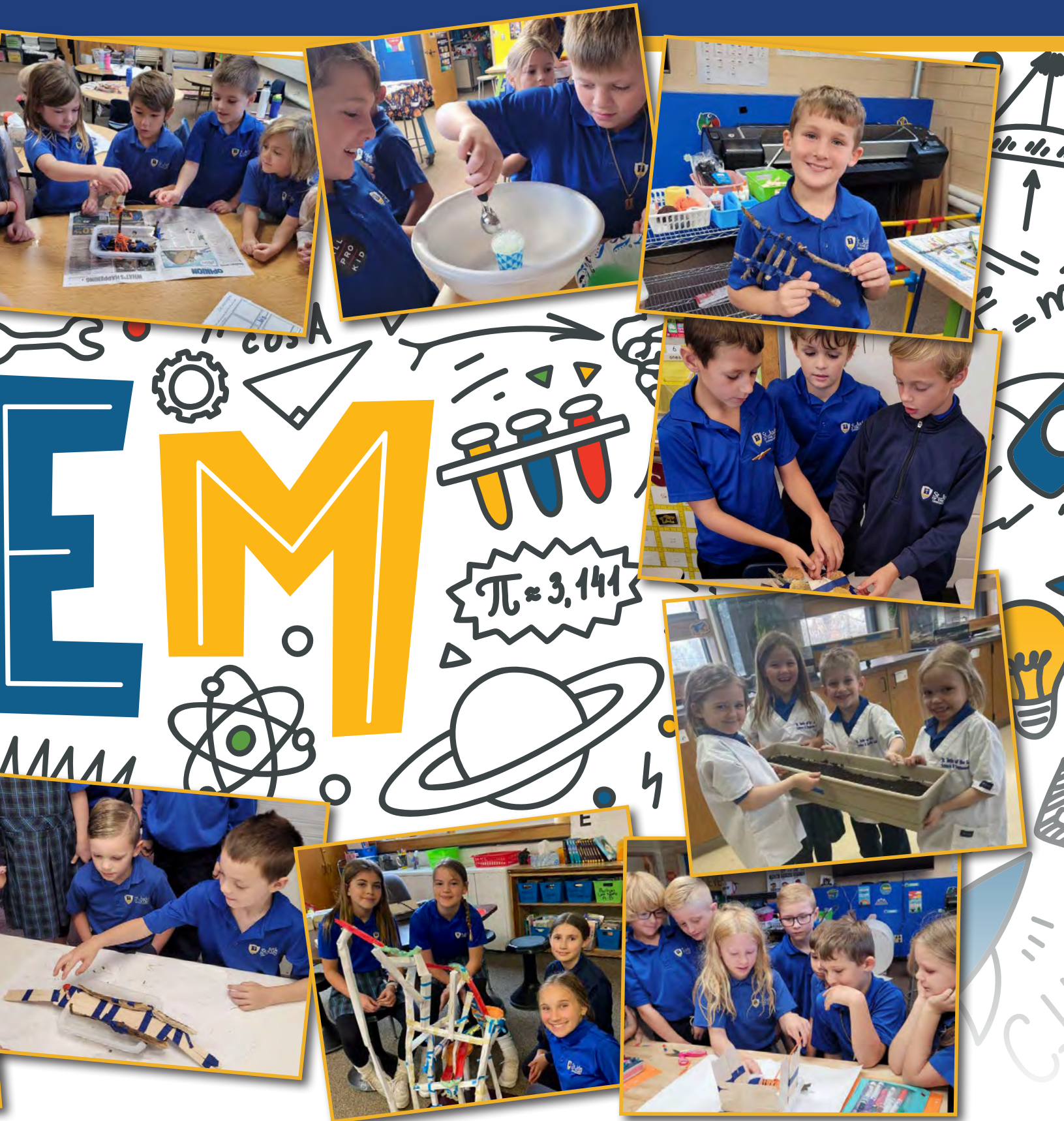
This game-changing Solar Suitcase will brighten the future of students in the school with safe and efficient study time with clean LED light. More students continuing their education journey, reaching high school and beyond.





Our **STEM** curriculum and resources make an incredible difference for our students, inside and outside the classroom. Our commitment to math, science, engineering, and technology allows are students to be innovative, creative, engaged and





motivated. It is the hands-on approach that truly excites our students about learning. They are **EXPERIENCING LEARNING** every day!





At St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School, we're truly impressed by the dedication of our school families and the remarkable achievements of their students in the classroom. As they prepare for the next phase of their education, we want them to feel valued, loved and supported. Our community is committed to helping students achieve their academic dreams both now and into the future, offering a variety of merit scholar**GIFTS**. Applications are available in the school office and on our website, and awards will be applied accordingly upon notification.

TRUE PENGUIN POWER

This is a merit scholar**GIFT** for currently enrolled students based on the number of years attending St. Jude of the Lake Discovery Center and School. For every year they are a student at St. Jude of the Lake, the student will receive \$50 towards post-8th Grade tuition. If your student plans on attending Hill-Murray, after graduation, Hill-Murray will match the total amount dollar for dollar. If your student will be attending another academic institution, the monies will be applied to their graduation year tuition. Simply have your student fill out the application and turn it into the office **BEFORE JUNE 1, 2023** to be eligible for the completed school year. The penguin dollars are non-transferable and not payable in US dollars.

THE PENGUIN PIONEER SCHOLARSHIP

This scholar**GIFT** is available to those students wishing to attend Hill- Murray after 8th Grade Graduation from St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School. Applications **MUST** be filled out by the student. The awarded dollar amounts will vary from year to year and will not exceed \$1000 per student.

THE CLARK JOHN EDWARD SCHULTE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholar**GIFT** fund was created in memory of Clark John Edward Schulte. Clark attended St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School and Mahtomedi High School. He became an Eagle Scout for Troop 433. After high school, he went on to become a Bulldog at the University of Minnesota- Duluth. Following his college graduation, he worked as a mechanical engineer at a leading healthcare company. Clark was an outdoorsman, who loved to go camping, fishing, hiking and singing by the campfire. More than anything, Clark put his family at the center of his life. Clark was known for his faith, generosity, friendship and love for all things outdoors. In establishing this scholarship, Clark's family and friends wish to recognize the impact a Catholic education and the love of a community made in his life.



CLASS OF 2024!

Graduation marks a moment of joy and contemplation, highlighting the profound influence of faith-based education on our students. In collaboration with St. Jude of the Lake, our parents proudly witness their children, now St. Jude graduates, embodying the following qualities:

- A strong believer shaped by the Catholic Faith community
 - A proficient communicator
 - A thoughtful and innovative thinker
- A self-motivated, accountable, lifelong learner
 - A team player contributing to society
 - A compassionate family member
 - A responsible global citizen





ST. JUDE OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL
600 MAHTOMEDI AVENUE
MAHTOMEDI, MN 55115

Non-Profit Org
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #9
Willernie, MN 55090

We Strive to ensure our students are inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who understand and respect the multi-cultural world in which we live.

We do this by providing a nurturing environment in which all students have the opportunity to pursue their individual intellectual abilities and discover their unique gifts.

We are committed to academic excellence, worship, and service to others; our students achieve a deeper awareness of their responsibility to God, community, the world at large and themselves.

Approved by the School Advisory
and Parish Councils - 2013, 2022, 2023



KEEPING PLUGGED IN WITH OUR PENGUINS IN 2024

WALK DOWN LAKE LANE

Saturday January 27, 2024

Mass begins at 4:30pm

Get-together immediately following

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

January 28th – February 2nd

Carnival will be during school on Friday, February 2nd

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, February 27th

6:30pm-7:30pm

ALL-SCHOOL PLAY PRODUCTION

March 1-2-3

Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory

EGG-CEL-LENT EVENT

Wednesday, March 20th

4:00pm-6:00pm

Gymnasium

SENIOR DAY AND SPRING CONCERT

Thursday April 25th

Mass and social breakfast to follow