

SVdP Specials
Back to School Night 2022

Music

Music education is provided in our Catholic school for many reasons! The most important reason is for the formation of the children in musical knowledge and skill which is essential for praying with music and participating fully in the Mass, the source and summit of our faith. Music education in a Catholic school unites the children with the community, helps children recognize their gifts and talents, and enculturates students in music from the Catholic heritage. Catholic music education also helps develop in students a love of music which is true, good, and beautiful.

Music Performances

Students in each grade level will participate in music performances and/or events throughout the school year. Mass choir is open to students in 6th-8th grade for the first half of the year, and will practice during Connections. 4th and 5th graders will have the opportunity to participate in Mass Choir during the second half of the school year, with times to be determined. We will be offering an extracurricular music class this year; details are in process to be finalized and will be communicated soon via the Friday Forecast.

Grade Level performance/event dates are listed below! Details specific to your child's grade level will be sent closer to the performance.

Friday, November 11, 1:30pm - **6th Grade** provides music for the SVdP Veteran's Day Program
Thursday, December 16, 6:00pm - **K-2** Family Christmas Caroling Event
Thursday, March 30, 6pm & Friday, March 31, 1:30pm - **8th Grade** Passion Play
Thursday, April 20, 1:30pm and 6:00pm - **7th Grade** Musical
Thursday, May 11, 6:00pm - **3rd-5th** Grade Spring Concert

Music Assessment

Students are evaluated in music class each day with a 5 point daily grade. The grade is based on student performance in the five Music Curriculum Strands (Music Theory, Music Performance, Music History, Catholic Music, and Music Habits and Dispositions). The total number of points earned will be divided by the total number of points possible to determine your child's grade.

Contact Mrs. Smeltz - Email is best! I can be reached at ksmeltz@svdpk8.com

ART at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School:

The goal of the art program at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School is for students to encounter beauty through each of the four areas of learning: art making, art literacy and visual communication, art appreciation, and art connections. Encountering beauty sparks wonder, awe, and joy in the life of the student. Wonder and joy naturally lead the heart to God. Students will gain a love and appreciation for art that they will carry with them to enrich their lives. In addition, the art curriculum is designed to incorporate many mediums such as: drawing, painting, printmaking, weaving/textiles, ceramics, and much more. Students will learn the art literacy of the elements and principles of art so as to be able to assess artwork that is good, true, and beautiful. Students will study art from historical movements and periods, well known artists, cultures, and Sacred Art. Inspired by their study they will create original works of art.

Art Assessment:

Students will be assessed in art on the four areas of learning with each art production they create: art making, art literacy and visual communication, art appreciation, and art connections. In addition, students will demonstrate and be assessed on craftsmanship, ability to solve problems, effort, and following directions. Student produced artwork is 80% of their final grade and 20% of their grade is class participation.

Artwork and Art Show:

Grades K-5 will bring home an art portfolio at the end of the year with all of their artwork. Grades 6-8 will bring their artwork home periodically and at the end of the year.

Artwork is collected and stored at school for the Catholic Schools Art Show. The top artwork in each grade will be selected to be displayed at the Catholic Schools Art Show. There will be a communication in the Spring of the students' artwork that has been selected.

Mark your calendars! St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Parish and School will be hosting this year's Catholic Schools Art Show!

- Friday, April 14-16, 2023
- More details to come!
- Volunteers Needed-Sign up will be coming soon!

Thank you for the opportunity to create and wonder with your child. I am looking forward to an amazing year. Please feel free to contact me, Mrs. Thomason, for questions or concerns by email at nthomason@svdpk8.com.

Physical Education

Overview- Students will get to participate in many classic PE games along with many new PE activities. Students are evaluated on their own personal progress and not against their peers. Students are not required to participate if they are sick or injured, and in addition please let the front office know of any illness or injury that would hold a student back from PE class.

Grading- Students will be graded on Participation, Sportsmanship, Respect, and Listening. I will let students know when their grade is falling due to a lack of one or more of the above listed attributes.

Game/Activity Suggestions- A student may submit a plan for a game from their imagination or a known game. If the game is feasible and aligns with the standards, the game can be played in the grade level.

Progress Monitoring- this year the students will get to see their running scores in the Pacer once each trimester. If the students put forth a good effort and are not injured, most students will see their running improve by the end of the year.

Volunteer Opportunities: Check Friday Forecast- periodically we will look for volunteers for sports related events. This may include an 8th Grade versus Teacher game, Field Day, etc.

Contact- feel free to reach out kchristensen@svdpk8.com

SPANISH

At St. Vincent de Paul the students are learning Spanish as a world language subject. Studies show that learning a second language at a very early stage in child development can be very beneficial. This increases cognitive control and by constantly switching back and forth between two languages, bilingual children tend to be better multi-taskers, problem-solvers and creative and critical thinkers. Children need Spanish words and phrases to be repeated many times in order to incorporate the words and phrases into their long-term memories; this is a fundamental strategy for learning Spanish in my classroom.

This school year I will be teaching grades 1st-8th, once a week, for 30-50 minutes depending on the grade level.

My teaching is aligned with the curriculum from the Archdiocese of Denver which is rich in these aspects:

LANGUAGE (listening, speaking, vocabulary, grammar, reading, and writing).

RELIGION (prayers and songs appropriate for mass)

CULTURE (identify customs and traditions in Spanish speaking countries)

I am using “Calico Spanish” for 1st-2nd grade students and “Viva El Español” for students in 3rd-5th grade. These programs contain video stories, songs, creative lessons, and fun activities. They come with practice workbooks which facilitate basic Spanish concepts.

For 6th-8th grade students I am using the “Realidades” program. It is based on communication, comprehension, practice activities, grammar, and cultural perspectives and strategies for success.

Grading policies for 3rd-8th graders are broken down into four categories: vocabulary quizzes, tests, homework, and participation (bell work, class work, and exit tickets). One grade will be inputted into the grade book once every four classes.

It is my privilege to be a part of the learning formation of your children. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

My email is: smccracken@svdpk8.com

Susana McCracken