

ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY PARENT NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

stjohnsacademynd.org



Important Dates

- September 4th - Labor Day - No School
- September 15th - Grandparents Day Celebration - 1:15pm
- September 18th - Professional Development Day - No School
- September 27th - Prairie Waters Field Trip - Grades 6 & 7



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

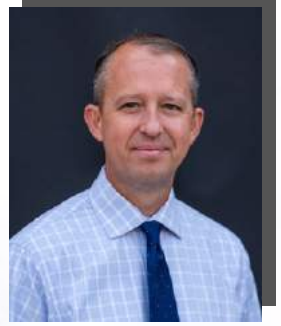
ST. JOHN'S



ACADEMY

Families of St. John's Academy,

With great joy and enthusiasm we welcome the students and families of the Academy to the 2023-24 school year! The start of a new year is a significant event for students, their families, and teachers alike. It marks the next chapter in a child's life and is the beginning of the next phase of the process of shaping a child's future.



This year, St. John's Academy celebrates the 133rd year of school offering a Catholic, Christ-Centered education. Throughout the school's history, the Academy has taken great pride in the opportunity and responsibility that lays with the school's faculty and staff. Each year, and to a great extent, each day, we as educators are provided an opportunity to make a difference in the life of our students. Recently, I stumbled across a quote from Archbishop Charles Chaput, who eloquently stated the fact that "each child is a universe of possibilities". This understanding is one that is shared by the teachers at St. John's Academy and is viewed as our great blessing to be trusted to partner with our families to bring those possibilities to life.

The enrollment of a child into a Catholic school is an investment in that child's future. This investment, made by your family, is one that we at St. John's Academy take seriously. As our mission statement states, we are committed to providing "academic excellence in a Catholic school environment to inspire lives reflective of the Gospel". To the staff of St. John's Academy this is not an after thought but rather the fuel that inspires our work. We are here to serve our families and to improve the world around us by preparing our students to thrive academically while growing in faith and virtue. It is our goal to not only prepare our students to become successful business men and women but also to help them grow in their ability to see the world through a Christian lens, to assist them in living out their lives in alignment with the God's will.

In today's world, it takes a team to operate a successful Catholic school. We are incredibly blessed to have gifted and committed faculty members who value their work over the size of their paychecks. Furthermore, we are blessed to have supportive families, benefactors, sponsors, and volunteers who make the academic opportunities at St. John's Academy possible.

As we begin the 2023-24 school year, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the continued efforts and support of St. John's Academy. This school is truly a remarkable place thanks to the efforts of those before us and those who continue to work for the betterment of the Academy today. It is a great privilege to work at St. John's Academy, to be able to witness these contributions. It is inspiring to see the love of Christ in our community and the commitment to spreading that love onto His children still exists today.

In alignment with Archbishop Chaput's statement, this school year possesses a vast amount of opportunity for our children. Each success, struggle, and setback is a gift from God to help them develop their talents and abilities and furthermore to help them grow in love and virtue.

On behalf of our Pastor, Fr. Chad Wilhelm, the staff of St. James Basilica and St. John's Academy we welcome our families to our school family and encourage you to fully participate in the academic and community opportunities that will be offered this school year. The Academy exists for the purpose of providing for children and sharing the love of Christ. An exciting adventure lays in front of us as we work together to shape our world for the better by partnering together to provide the children of St. John's Academy an education rooted in Jesus Christ! May God abundantly bless our students, families, and staff this school year!

In Christ,

Jeff Trumbauer
Principal – St. John's Academy



Mrs. Mahoney's Kids' Kingdom

Dear Kids' K School Families,

Play is one of the most important things you can do with your child. In fact, it's the most important way in which young children learn and develop! In Kids' K, students are encouraged to participate in a range of play-based learning opportunities. Whilst developing their understanding of the world around them, play helps them to communicate, share, and work as a team. Whether its in large group, small group, or pairs, our students gain valuable skills from interacting with their peers. Critical skills such as problem solving are practiced continually during active play. There are many reasons to spend time playing with your child. Beyond just bringing you closer (making them feel loved and valued, happy, and safe), play builds confidence and is essential to development because it contributes to the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being of young children. Play lets us practice and hone the vast array of school-readiness skills we're working on in Kids' Kingdom every day!

Much love to you all,
Mrs. Mahoney



Mrs. Gange's Kids' Kingdom



In September we are going to focus on learning about colors and our families. With families as a focus, I encourage each child to bring a family picture so we can make a class family book with all our families in it. It is so exciting to read a book and see your family in it. Our other focus is colors. Colors are so fun! Colors are everywhere, they are all over our school, home & the grocery store! At home, take some time and talk about colors that you might see & even start a simple game of eye spy with your kids!


Mrs. Gange

family
is
EVERYTHING





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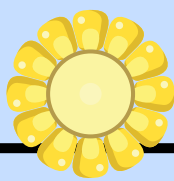
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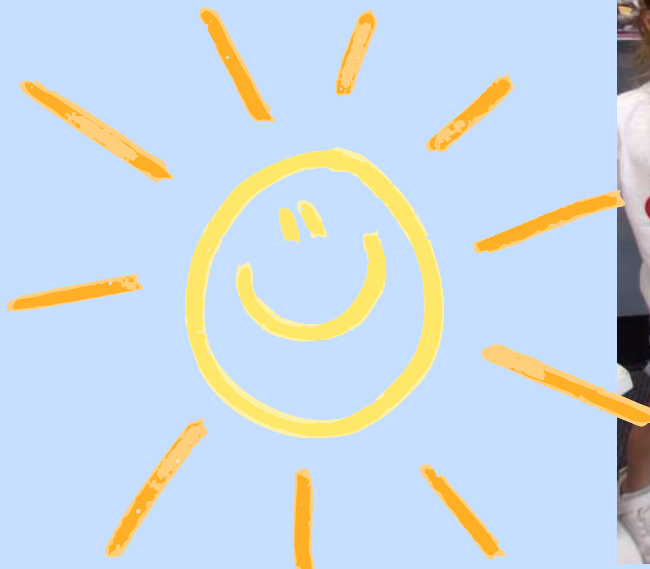
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Mrs. Neville's Pre-K

Pre-K is off to a great start this year!
We have been having so much fun getting into the school routine and getting to know our new friends. Some of our favorite activities are playing outside, exploring our classroom, going to PE, Library, and Music, and reading stories together!
We look forward to a fun, busy year together in pre-kindergarten!





SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY OF SAINTS

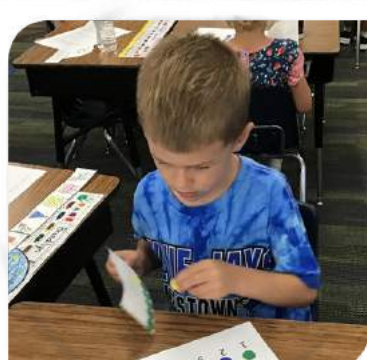
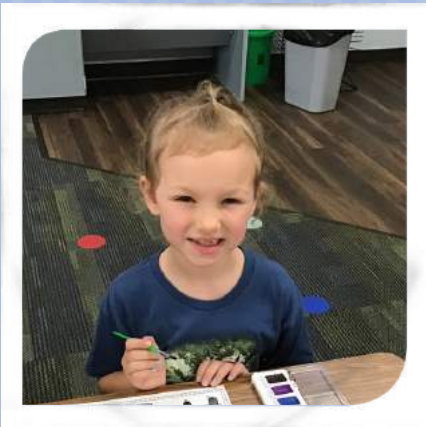
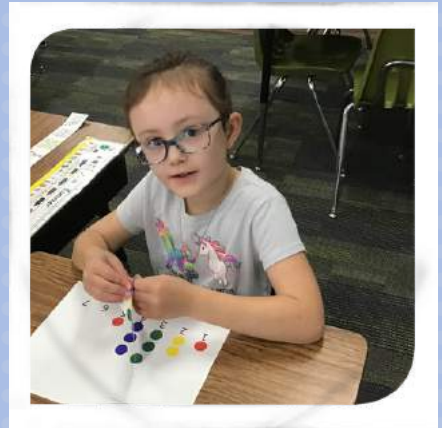
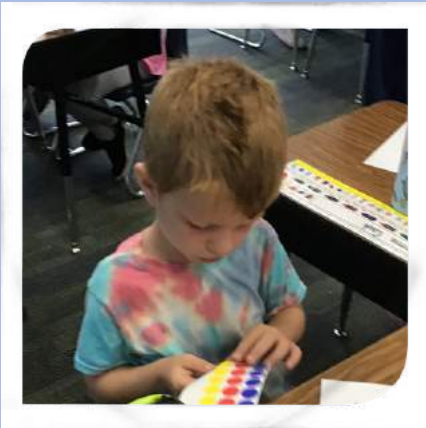


For more information on our Community of Saints program, visit:
www.stjohnsacademynd.org



Kindergarten

The month of August has the teachers getting the classroom ready for our kindergarten students. The first day of school is an exciting time for all. The students can't wait to sit at their desk and use all their new school supplies. The teachers can't wait to share their knowledge and watch their students learn. The beginning of the year focuses on getting to know everyone in our classroom. We also spend time learning the routines and expectations. Some favorite activities have been bingo, recess, library, PE, playtime, and watercolors. It is going to be a great year in kindergarten!



LIBRARY

Library



Thank you to all those that helped make the new library a reality! It has been fun sharing the new space with the students and staff as we begin this school year. As many of you know, the library underwent a remodel over the summer to expand the SJA Library. Stop into our October Book Fair during Parent Teacher Conference to take a peek!





First Grade



We are off to a fantastic start in first grade! We are settling into a routine and beginning to learn new expectations. We are excited to have a good year learning all kinds of things such as adding and subtracting, reading and spelling new words, all about our community, plants and animals, and of course the most important – all about Christ. We will try and ‘do small things with great love’ every day!



Not all of us can
do great things.
But we can do
small things with
great love.

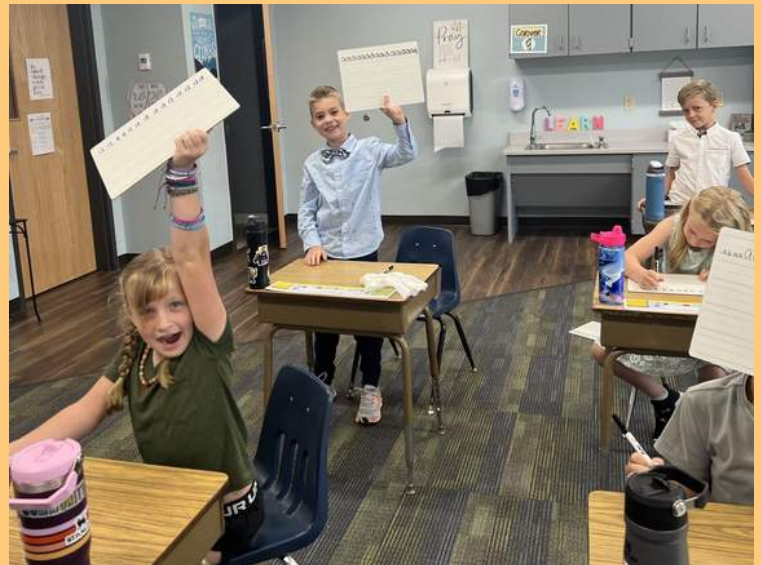
MOTHER TERESA



Second Grade



The 2nd grade classes are excited for this new school year! We have already started learning about many new things! In religion we are learning about God's gift of creation. In math, we are answering the question "what does it mean to do math?" In science, we are exploring Earth's landscape and in social studies we are understanding ways to be a good citizen within our community. Some of our favorite daily activities include visiting the chapel, participating in Go Noodle activities, and of course recess!! We are looking forward to building our relationship with God and one another!





Third Grade



Third Grade Update:

What have we accomplished so far?

- Identifying what MINDSET we want... which is GROWTH. We will keep growing this year.
- Having conversations about our love for Jesus.
- Practicing our 'Particular Examine' at the end of the day and how we can grow closer to Christ.
- Recognizing we are imperfectly perfect.
- Encouraging and building one another up!

Whew...more to come!



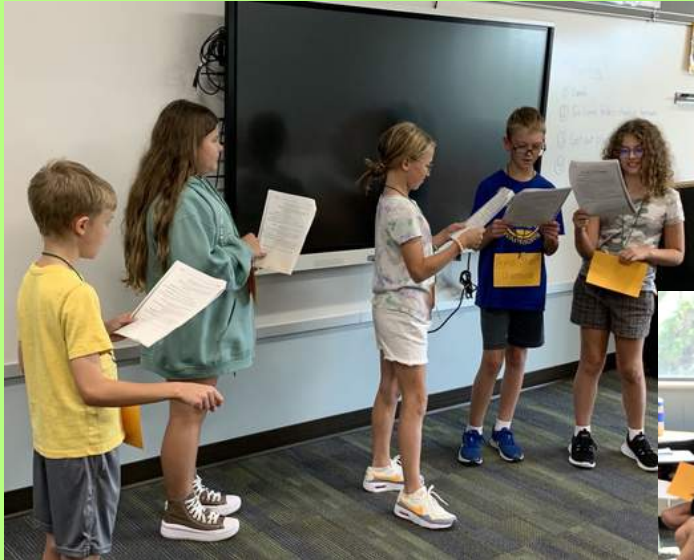
Back to
School



Fourth Grade



It has been a busy beginning of the school year in 4th grade. We have been busy learning new routines, especially the teacher! We dove right into our 4th grade curriculum, but we also found time for some different activities. The biggest hit was a "reader's theater" featuring two different silly plays based on popular fairy tales. The students really enjoyed learning the parts and acting out the plays for each other. There were many laughs and smiles on their faces.



friends

SEPTEMBER VIRTUES

Week of Aug 28: FAITH

Week of Sept 5: HOPE

Week of Sept 11: CHARITY

Week of Sept 19: TEMPERANCE

Week of Sept 25: JUSTICE



"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

SAVE *the* DATE

H.O.P.E. DINNER & AUCTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH 2023

215 5th St. SE Jamestown, ND 701.252.3397

Join Us

STJCHINESENEWID.ORG



Fifth Grade



We are off to a great start this year!

The kids are excited to be back and grow both in knowledge and in their faith. We will be learning about how to be Superheroes in the world which leads us to be “Saints-in-the-making!” We’ve already discussed many ways that we can achieve these goals so watch for us as we show all the wonderful things we can do. We have already completed one service project as we sent notes/treats to the UJ Football team before their first game. We will be celebrating our Baptism dates throughout the year, and will learn about walking/running with Christ throughout our life’s journey. Plus, we are reviewing all of our subjects as we get back into the swing of things.



We look forward to all that God has in store for us this year!



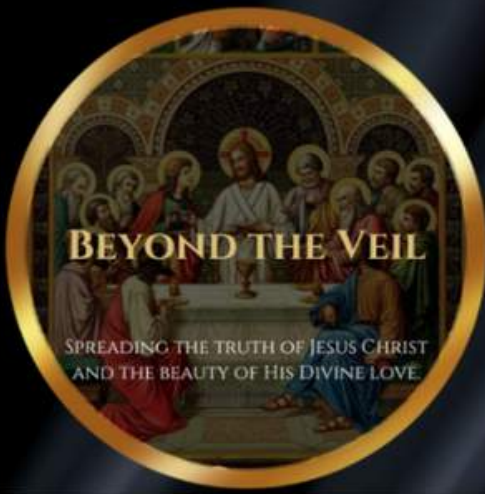
Middle School

We are excited to welcome 22 sixth graders to the Middle School! After the summer, we have marveled in the changes that occurred in three short months in our seventh and eighth graders. Did some of our parents feed their children Miracle Grow? 😊

Each day all of us in the Middle School are blessed to begin our day in the St. Joseph Chapel, lifting up our day to God with the Morning Offering, praying a decade of the Rosary, and sharing prayer intentions. It's beautiful to see our young adults willing to make themselves vulnerable as they share their prayer intentions.

Getting back to Miracle Grow, our sixth graders embarked on an art project that involved tracing their hands and feet. This resulted in many students marveling at the size of their hands, but especially their feet. For some, it was a struggle to fit these tracings on the 11" x 17" paper provided. Needless to say, this resulted in a lot of laughter. As teachers of 11 to 14-year-olds, one of the many things we love about this age group is their sense of humor. They are willing to be goofy with us and laugh at Mrs. Higgins's lame math jokes.





Exploring the invisible realities of the existence of God.

The Purpose

Beyond the Veil is an Apostolate to aid in our personal faith journey with the purpose of spreading Christ's truth, beauty, and love.

The Name

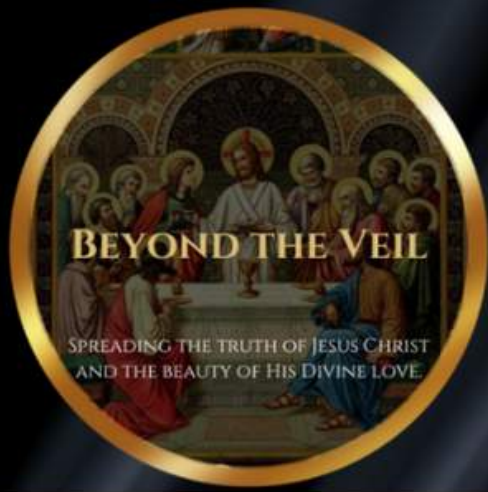
Before the fall of Adam and Eve, they could behold His presence, they could hear His voice, they could converse with Him freely. There was no veil between them and the Lord. After the fall, a veil was formed between God and man – our vision & intellect were darkened. But the good news is... Those who seek shall find... (Matthew 7:7-8) the Pearl of great price – (Matthew 13:45-46)

The Mission

Beyond the Veil's mission is to seek, find, and share evidence of God's truth, beauty, and love through a plethora of resources available and through sharing real-life encounters with Christ.

What's to Come

Beyond the Veil is a resource for individuals and families to turn to for information to assist in their faith journey's. Articles, testimonials, and faith forming ideas will be shared through this Apostolate.



Exploring the invisible realities of the existence of God.

Glimpses of Heaven

By Jeff Trumbauer

As the principal of a Catholic school, I have the great blessing of being able to speak about my faith and share experiences with students and staff members. As I was preparing to address the students for the start of the school year, I reflected upon a summer experience that my wife and I shared and how that experience closely resembles what I encounter as an employee at our Catholic school.

In early June, as my wife, Jodi, and I were returning from a conference in Dallas, Texas we realized we had a little spare time on our trip home. I remembered hearing about a religious sister whose body was discovered as being incorrupt 4 years after her death. Sister Wilhelmina was the foundress of a Benedictine abbey in Gower, Missouri. Four years after her death, the Benedictine Sisters of Mary, Queen of the Apostles wanted to relocate Sister Wilhelmina's body from her grave into a new building that was being constructed at the abbey to honor her work for the religious community that she founded. What they discovered in the process is that although the items in her coffin had completely decayed, Sister Wilhelmina's body and habit were relatively unaffected. The discovery was literally quite miraculous.

As news spread, people flocked to the abbey to see the miracle for themselves. By the time Jodi and I had arrived in early June, over 50,000 visitors had visited the quiet, little abbey in Gower.

The decision to veer off I-35 surpassed our expectations. Once off the interstate we took a winding, narrow country road that was filled with hills, lush green grass, and beautiful small farms. The abbey was difficult to see as we approached, because it was protected by mature old oak trees. Pulling into the long gravel driveway we saw a large stone building and church. Although the stone gave it an ancient appearance, it was clear that the buildings had been built in the last few decades. The abbey was surrounded by an orchard field with fruit trees, a huge garden with vegetables and flowers. There was a grotto with a statue of the Blessed Mother Mary next to a small pond. It was a very beautiful setting.

In the garden and orchard, the religious sisters were hard at work. Fully garbed in their habits, they were in the fields gathering fruit and vegetables, weeding, and mowing. It was visible that the work they were doing wasn't easy.

Shortly after we parked the car, the church bell began to ring, and the sisters made their way into the building. Jodi and I headed to the church where we understood Sister Wilhelmina's body was displayed. The church was breathtakingly beautiful with stained glass windows, wooden pews with hand carved end caps, and marble floors. The church was immaculately kept. Sister Wilhelmina's remains were inside the church, off to the side of the altar. We found her appearance as described. She looked as if she could have been living just days before, despite the 4 years that had passed since her death.

The sisters began to file in and found their place in the seats in front of the Altar. When all had arrived, they stood and began to sing the liturgy of the hours. The sound that came forth was the most beautiful music I had ever heard. They sang song after song until Mass began and then continued to sing throughout the Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that followed. Jodi and I sat in awe. Only later did we learn that these sisters were well known for being a premier choral group, whose music can be found in stores and on music apps.

Glimpses of Heaven Cont...

We participated in Mass, and to the best of our ability joined the sisters in worship of our Lord. It was an incredible experience to say the least. It was like God had given us a beautiful gift, a brief glimpse of Heaven as we watched these sisters work, and worship with all that they possessed. It was like God lifted a veil to give us a brief view of heaven itself.

As we left the abbey, Jodi and I were excited about the experience we had just shared. To witness these sisters live their daily lives of service and worship was inspiring to say the least. The realization that they had committed themselves entirely to God, living a life of prayer and service was incredibly moving. I highly recommend a pilgrimage to anyone who has a desire to see this for themselves. Reports of miraculous healings have been received and it appears that there's a real possibility that Sister Wilhelmina may be on track to become a canonized saint.

Months later, the memory of that morning in Gower still brings joy to both Jodi and me. We knew we had experienced something special.

CLOSER TO HOME

As I prepared for the school year, I reflected on the staff at our Catholic School, St. John's Academy. I was thinking about their work at the school. What their day consisted of, how they established their routines, and fulfilled responsibilities. I noticed some similarities to the religious sisters at the abbey in Missouri.

For our staff, their day also begins early, when it is still dark outside. Every teacher has their own morning routine, but for many, the day begins in prayer, offering God their work, their joys, and struggles. Prayers are offered for colleagues, students, and families. Mornings are often hectic as they prepare for the day ahead, many staff members have mastered the ability to multi-task as they simultaneously get their own families ready for work and school.

They drive to work and, like the sisters in Gower, enter a sacred space, a building built for the sole purpose of service and worship. As the day begins, they work quickly, hustling to make the final preparations. There is a sense of urgency but also joy in the air.

When the bell rings, the students fill the building, and the day officially begins. The teachers work diligently throughout the day, with very few breaks. As was the case with the Benedictine Sisters, you can tell through observation that the work is challenging, but that they love what they are doing. They pray, they sing, they worship, they spend their day laboring in service for love for others and God.

In the middle of the afternoon the bell rings and the children leave the building. The work for these teachers is not over. They then turn their attention to other matters, cleaning up and preparing for the next day, oftentimes working into the evening.

When they get home, they continue to serve as their focus shifts to the needs of their family and final preparations for the next school day. Before falling asleep, they give thanks to God for the ability to serve Him through their work. It was a wonderful thing to ponder. While I was deeply moved through the experience at the abbey, it dawned on me that each day, I can witness something just as beautiful at our school as I watch our staff make sacrifices to serve others, while worshiping God through their efforts as teachers. These teachers don't live in a religious community, but their lives mirror the daily offering made by the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of the Apostles.

Upon further reflection, it registered with me that this daily offering is not limited to teachers at Catholic schools or ordained religious. But it is available to all who are willing to commit themselves to loving and serving Christ. It was beautiful to realize that, like the Benedictine Sisters, businessmen and women, doctors, lawyers, salespeople, trade workers, teachers, etc. all over the world make a daily offering of prayer and service to God.

In a culture that appears to be brushing Christ aside, it was encouraging to recognize that in the two small communities I observed, a love of Christ is present. How could one not be filled with joy when we see that every day, throughout the world, an offering of praise, worship, and service is given to God. I absolutely loved my brief visit to Gower, Missouri and hope to return someday. However, I now realize that if I look close enough, I can see little glimpses of heaven through the love and service of the Christian brothers and sisters in my own community.



Aug-Sept. Breakfast 2023

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28 Breakfast Pizza Cereal Fruit	29 Muffin/Omelet Cereal Fruit	30 Yogurt Cereal Fruit	31 Egg Bake Bites Cereal Fruit	Sept.1 Caramel Roll Cereal Fruit
4 Labor Day No School	5 Cereal Bar Cereal Fruit	6 PancakeWraps Cereal Fruit	7 Poptart Cereal Fruit	8 Mini Long John Cereal Fruit
11 Breakfast Pizza Cereal Fruit	12 Poptart Cereal Fruit	13 French Toast Cereal Fruit	14 Yogurt Cereal Fruit	15 Egg Cheese Biscuit Cereal Fruit
18 No School	19 Cereal Bar Cereal & Fruit	20 Muffin Cereal & Fruit	21 Pancakes/Syrup Cereal & Fruit	22 Mini Doughnuts Cereal & Fruit

Aug-Sept. Lunch 2023



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28 Chicken Burger Baked Beans Ham & Cheese Sandwich	29 French Toast Stix Sausage Syrup Turkey Sandwich	30 Hamburger On Bun Corn Ham&Turkey Wrap	31 Chicken Nuggets Potato Wedges Sliced Bread Ham Sandwich	Sept. 1 Macaroni & Cheese Bread Stick Wow Butter &Jelly Sandwich
4 Labor Day No School	5 Spaghetti Bread Stick Turkey & Cheese Sandwich	6 Pepperoni Pizza Fruit and Veggies Ham&Turkey Wrap	7 Popcorn Chicken Mashed & Gravy Sliced Bread Ham Sandwich	8 Fish Burger Tarter Sauce Cole Slaw Wow Butter/Jelly
11 Hot Dog Baked Beans Ham & Cheese Sandwich	12 Tater Tot Casserole & Bread Green Beans Turkey Sandwich	13 Teriyaki Chicken Veggie Fried Rice Breadstick Ham&Turkey Wrap	14 Meatballs/Gravy Mashed Potato Roll Ham Sandwich	15 Pizza Sticks Spaghetti Sauce Wow Butter & Jelly Sandwich
18 No School Professional Development	19 BQ Rib on Bun Corn Turkey&Cheese Sandwich	20 Mini Corn Dogs Baked Beans Ham&Turkey Wrap	21 Taco/Bag Salsa Ham & Cheese Sandwich	22 Cheese Tortellini Bread Stick Wow Butter &Jelly Sandwich