



St. Denis – St. Columba School

A Holy Ground of Loving and Learning

Catholic Schools Week 2021

Shine Like the Stars

Week of February 1-5, 2021



This week is Catholic Schools Week, and we celebrate US and all the ways in which our School is special. Although Covi-19d has deprived us of many of the “extras” that enhance our school, you don’t have to search far to find a reason to celebrate! Here are just a few of the many reasons to celebrate this year at SDSC!

- The leadership of the Archdiocese and the generosity of donors helped SDSC open its building on time for in-school and remote learning on September 8th, and we have operated nonstop since!
- Our ability to acquire additional Smart Boards and Chromebooks has enabled our students to continue to learn despite the challenges of our “new reality.”
- Our Faculty has adopted and improvised new ways of teaching so our students can continue to learn and grow as they should no matter where they are!
- Our parents/guardians have become our partners in education in unprecedented ways. They have contributed to our educational successes by supervising remote learning, becoming technology troubleshooters and converting spaces in their homes to makeshift classrooms!
- Our parents/guardians have taken extraordinary measures to help keep everyone in the building safe and healthy! As a result there have been no documented cases of person to person Covid-19 transmission at SDSC. In addition, we have not had to close a single day due to Covid-19 infections!
- Our students have done very well following all of the health and safety rules in school. They rarely complain about the sacrifices they have to make in regards to comfort, socialization and learning.
- And through it all, SDSC continues to “make the grade!” Our Class of 2021 students are receiving full and partial scholarship offers from our Hudson Valley Catholic High Schools!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK ACTIVITIES!

Monday-Tuesday (February 1st-2nd) Lift UP and Dress DOWN!

Let’s LIFT UP the needy in our community! Bring in a monetary donation, non-perishable food item or a personal care item for the poor and enjoy a DRESS DOWN NUT Day! Collection bins will be in the school lobby for students to leave their donations upon arrival. All items and donations benefit our on-site St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry.

BONUS: Enjoy some extra recess time with your class today!

EXTRA BONUS: If it snows, bring snow gear (boots, gloves, hats, scarves, etc.) and play in the snow!

Wednesday-Thursday (February 3rd-4th) WACKY WEEKDAYS!

Add PIZZAZZ to your school uniform with wacky and colorful accessories: hats, socks, ties, sweaters, hairpieces, etc.

BONUS: How Sweet It Is! Celebrate how “sweet it is” to be a Catholic School with ice cream and fresh baked cookies.

Thursday and Friday (February 4th-5th) Care for the Sick and Lonely

With the help of Mr. Leguizamon and Mrs. Lemieux, the students will record songs and create messages of love, hope and joy for the sick and inbound in hospitals, nursing homes, etc.

BONUS: Start your weekend fun early with a half day of school on Friday!

IMPORTANT: Chromebook Care



We are fortunate as a school to have enough Chromebooks to be able loan them to students who need a device at home. Unfortunately, we are seeing problems with some of the loaned devices due to misuse and improper care. Parents/guardians are responsible for the care of all loaned devices. Charges will be assessed for damaged, dirty or broken devices. In most cases the damage is preventable. Most problems are caused by consumption of food/drinks while using the devices. Help us keep our devices in good working order! No Chromebook should be out during snack or lunch time. The Chromebooks are to be used **ONLY** for learning purposes and not for personal use or entertainment!

IMPORTANT: Attendance on ZOOM classes in the Afternoon

It has come to my attention that some students are not signing on to ZOOM in the afternoon or are signing on, but are not present or participating. This is a reminder that **all videos must be on during class time**, and all students must be in full view of the camera during class time or they will be considered absent during that time. The entire face of the student must be visible on the ZOOM!

IMPORTANT: Students with their Chromebooks and Devices

All devices need to be fully charged for class each day whether the student is home or in school. PLEASE NOTE that going forward all students, **must have two fully-charged devices available to them when they are taking a test remotely**. This is so that the teacher can view the students as they are taking the test and can assist them as needed.

UPCOMING FRIDAY COHORT SCHEDULES

Please be aware of the schedule for Fridays in February.

Friday, February 5 th	½ Day for Students – Gold Cohort	Friday, February 19 th	Green Cohort
Friday, February 12 th	½ Day for Students – Green Cohort	Friday, February 27 th	No School for Students

You could be eligible for Covid Tuition Assistance!

Has Covid-19 impacted your family financially in anyway? You could be eligible to receive a one-time award from The Inner City Scholarship Fund to assist you with tuition. The criteria for an award is fairly broad and includes items such as increased childcare expenses, reduction in income (reduced hours, furlough, etc.), expenses for internet access/technology, Covid related medical expenses, costs associated with caring for an infected or quarantined person, etc. Awards will be made to eligible families until the funds are depleted. See the attached flyer for more details.

REPORT CARDS will be distributed next week. Please be sure your Tuition and Lunch fees are up to date!

As we anticipate the release of the second quarter report cards, please be sure that **all your financial requirements, including tuition payments, lunch tickets, and all school fees are current before student report cards are released.**

Lunch IOUs

We understand that students forget or lose their lunch tickets so we allow them to charge their lunch and pay later. Our Hot Lunch Program is not a “for profit” venture and to keep the cost so economical it is important that we collect for each lunch that we serve. A school’s worth of IOUs adds up! Please be sure to check with your child to be sure that there are no outstanding lunch IOUs. Emails were sent out Friday to families who have lunch IOU’s. Thank you!



Financial Assistance Requalification Letters – THIS WEEK!

If you *currently* receive financial assistance through the Archdiocese, you will receive an e-mail **this week** inviting you to **apply for aid for the 2020-21 School Year**. In order to be considered for financial aid, you must enroll for the 2021-22 school year, complete the requalifying application online through link provided in e-mail, pay the financial aid application fee, and submit all required documents. We encourage families to complete the process as quickly as feasible. *Be aware that the challenges of Covid have impacted fundraising to support financial aid. Thus, it is critical to complete your application for financial aid immediately. Financial aid is awarded on a “first-come, first-served” basis.*

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To Everything there is a Season and a Time for Every Purpose under Heaven

Let us continue to keep in our prayers the many among us who are sick and suffering.

A TIME TO HEAL: Kathleen Alvarez (*Grandmother of Tristan Alvarez-Vasquez*), Mrs. Boulton, Colleen Carey (*aunt of Landon and Braeden Tompkins, Joseph Troy*), Christian Dill (*Grand-nephew of Sr. Cherree*), Mrs. Dillon, Claire Novack (*Family friend of Mrs. Sheridan*), Tonjia Minotti (*Mother of Robbie, Gr. 4*), Debbie Sauerhoff (*Mrs. Spera’s sister-in-law*), Brenda VonBurg (*Grandmother of Hudson, Gr. 7*) and for the many who are sick and suffering in mind, body or spirit in this year.