

# St. Columbkille Footnotes: Walking Together in Faith

## St. Columbkille Catholic School, Papillion, NE



St. Columbkille Families: Please enjoy reading over the *St. Columbkille Footnotes: Walking Together in Faith*. The School Advisory Council, along with the faculty and staff has compiled this information to help inform you about your child's years at St. Columbkille. This document gives an overview of religious, academic and social highlights for each grade level. Following this information, there is a glossary of *frequently used terms* for the school community.

This document was made to *supplement* the St. Columbkille School Handbook. Please refer to that handbook for all school policy and student expectations. This document will be updated yearly to address changes and modifications to the school and its community. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the School Advisory Council through the Contact Form on the school webpage.



# Kindergarten

Academic Highlights	Religious Highlights	Social Highlights
Literacy Centers	Mass buddies with 7 <sup>th</sup> graders	Field Trips: Pumpkin patch and Henry Doorly Zoo with 7 <sup>th</sup> grade buddies
Guided Reading Groups	Learn four prayers (Angel of God, Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be)	Classroom Parties: Christmas and Valentine's Day
Benchmarking	Lead Mass for the first time (end of April or May)	Christmas Program
Handwriting Without Tears	Learn Creation and Jesus' Love and Our Family	Thanksgiving Feast
Learn to write a sentence	Learn Stations of the Cross during Lent	Gingerbread Houses with our 7 <sup>th</sup> grade buddies
Number writing and identification	All Saints Day Collaborative Learning Centers K-2	100 <sup>th</sup> Class Day
Counting by 2's, 5's and 10's	Daily prayer	Spring Tea
Math Journals	Mass twice a week	Dr. Seuss Day Reading Activities
Phonetic spelling	Catholic Schools Week	Critters On the Move
Write a nonfiction book		Rose Theater
Unit studies for science and social studies- Bugs, Animals, American Symbols, Magnets, Seasons, Space		
Unit assessments in math and reading		

**Parent Volunteer Opportunities:** Class parties (Christmas and Valentine's Day), Thanksgiving Feast, Art Reach (prep and classroom help), classroom visits, and Ceili auction project



Academic Highlights	Religious Highlights	Social Highlights
<p>Reading and Writing: Building Independence</p> <p>Writing books</p> <p>Math: Addition and Subtraction through 12</p> <p>Story Problems</p> <p>Telling time and counting money</p> <p>Collecting and organizing data using graphs and tables</p> <p>50 States Postcards: States and Capitals</p> <p>Begin Nightly Homework (M-Th)</p> <p>Weekly Spelling Words + Test</p> <p>Science lesson on light, sound, and plant and animal life</p> <p>Pizza Hut Book It Program</p> <p>Archdiocesan assessment alternating years on Language Arts and Social Studies</p>	<p>Mass buddies with 5<sup>th</sup> graders</p> <p>Mass twice each week</p> <p>Focus on the Saints</p> <p>Learn about the Eucharist and the mass: Preparing for the Sacraments in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade</p> <p>All Saints Day Collaborative Learning Centers K-2</p> <p>Advent Ceremonies and Lessons</p> <p>Stations of the Cross during Lent</p> <p>Focus on the Rosary and Mary in May</p> <p>Responsible for class masses: Carry the Cross, read petitions, and gift bearers</p> <p>Parish Deacons visit/teach religion occasionally.</p>	<p>Field Trips: Gifford Farm, Rose Theater, and Children’s Program with the Omaha Symphony</p> <p>Classroom Parties: Christmas and Valentine’s Day</p> <p>50 States Party</p> <p>Marble Parties: approximately one per quarter</p> <p>Art Projects with 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Buddies</p> <p>ArtReach lessons/one per quarter</p> <p>Entertain senior citizens in February at the Happy Club Luncheon</p> <p>One Music Program with the 2nd Grade (usually in the fall)</p>

**Parent Volunteer Opportunities:** Class parties (Christmas and Valentine’s Day), book groups, volunteers needed for literacy centers, Art Reach (prep and classroom help), health screening, classroom visits, and Ceili auction project



# 2nd Grade

Academic Highlights	Religious Highlights	Social Highlights
<p>Daily Five</p> <p>Guided Reading</p> <p>Math: Mastering standards on addition and subtraction, reading graphs and charts, and measurement.</p> <p>Social Studies: Family Heritage, Famous Heroes</p> <p>Science: Matter and its interactions. Ecosystems; interactions, energy, and dynamics. Biological Evolution: unity and diversity. Earth's place in the Universe. Earth's systems.</p> <p>Writing: 6 traits</p> <p>Handwriting: Mastering print</p>	<p>Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion</p> <p>May Crowning and Breakfast for students and parents</p> <p>Four parent and parent/child sacrament preparation meetings</p> <p>First Holy Communion quilt workshop</p> <p>Mass buddies with 8th graders</p> <p>All Saints Day Collaborative Learning Centers K-2</p> <p>Circle of Grace</p> <p>Formal and Informal Prayer (Archdiocese Assessment)</p>	<p>Field Trips: SAC Museum, Rotella's Bakery and Durham Western Heritage Museum,</p> <p>Classroom Parties: Christmas and Valentine's Day</p> <p>Field Day</p>

**Parent Volunteer Opportunities:** Class parties (Christmas and Valentine's Day), Art Reach (prep and classroom help), classroom visits, quilt committee, and Ceili auction project



Academic Highlights	Religious Highlights	Social Highlights
Daily Five	Apostles' Creed	Field Trips: Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City and Skate City
Reading: Focus on comprehension and higher level thinking; chapter books	The Ten Commandments	Weather Hazard Poster Contest
Six-trait Writing	Parents organize May Crowning Breakfast (Room parent will solicit help for this event)	Classroom Parties: Christmas and Valentine's Day
Cursive writing	Pray rosary every day after lunch	Field Day
Begin using assignment notebook/planner	Bible Journaling	Intergenerational engagement at Welcov Assisted Living
Four- digit addition and subtraction with 2 or more regrouping	Circle of Grace	Apple and Pumpkin Day
Multiplication and Introduction to division	Divine Mercy Chaplet	Flat Stanley Project
Archdiocese Math Assessments	Mass twice each week	
Embryology (Chicken) unit	Saints' Research Project	
School Wide Writing Assessment		
Recorder		
Inventors Project		
STAR Assessment		

**Parent Volunteer Opportunities:** Class parties, Art Reach (prep and classroom help), classroom visits, and Ceili auction project



# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Academic Highlights	Religious Highlights	Social Highlights
<p>Daily Five</p> <p>Guided Reading</p> <p>2-3 Digit Multiplication</p> <p>Long Division</p> <p>Science: Life Science - plant and animal structures</p> <p>Earth Science - Earth's features, weather</p> <p>Physical Science - Energy, sound, light</p> <p>Nebraska History</p> <p>Social Studies: State Reports</p> <p>STAR Testing</p> <p>Archdiocese Assessments</p> <p>Spelling Bee</p> <p>Geography Bee</p>	<p>The Ten Commandments</p> <p>The Sacraments</p> <p>The Beatitudes</p> <p>Moral Conscience</p> <p>Seasons of the Church</p> <p>Works of Mercy</p> <p>Circle of Grace</p>	<p>Field Trip: Lincoln, NE to visit State Capital and Morrill Hall</p> <p>Pioneer Day - Portal School Sauter House &amp; Courthouse</p> <p>Classroom Parties: Christmas and Valentine's Day</p> <p>Field Day</p> <p>Fishing Trip at the end of the school year</p>

**Parent Volunteer Opportunities:** Class parties (Christmas and Valentine's Day), Art Reach (prep and classroom help), classroom visits, and Ceili auction project



# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Academic Highlights	Religious Highlights	Social Highlights
<p>Guided Reading</p> <p>6+1 Traits of Writing</p> <p>Introduction to Fractions and Decimals</p> <p>Begin Spanish</p> <p>American History: American Revolution and Civil War</p> <p>STAR Testing</p> <p>Archdiocese Assessments</p> <p>Spelling Bee</p> <p>Geography Bee</p>	<p>Seven Sacraments</p> <p>Mass Buddies with 1<sup>st</sup> Graders</p> <p>Family Life Study</p> <p>Archdiocese Assessment</p> <p>Theology of the Body</p>	<p>Field Trips:</p> <p>Trick or Treating at Papillion Manor</p> <p>Classroom Parties: Christmas and Cinco de Mayo</p> <p>Field Day</p>

**Parent Volunteer Opportunities:** Class parties (Christmas and Cinco de Mayo), Art Reach (prep and classroom help), classroom visits, and Ceili auction project



Academic Highlights	Religious Highlights	Social Highlights
<p>8 period day Middle School schedule</p> <p>Technology Integration through 1:1 Chromebook Program</p> <p>STAR testing</p> <p>Archdiocesan Assessments: 7th - Language Arts and Math 8th - Religion, Science, and Social Studies</p> <p>Academic Competitions: Geography Bee, Spelling Bee, Science Fair, Archdiocesan Math Contest, MathCounts</p> <p><b>6th Grade</b> <b>Math</b> - General Math Foundation <b>Literature</b> - Focus on nonfiction, review of story elements, and making personal connections to literature. <b>Language Arts</b> - 6 Traits of Writing and the Writing Process <b>Science</b> - Cells, body systems, weather and climate. <b>Social Studies</b> - Focus on map skills, geographical terms, regions around the world</p> <p><b>7th Grade</b> <b>Math</b> - <b>Literature</b> - Analysis of literary works and expansion of vocabulary focusing on roots, prefixes, and suffixes</p>	<p>Theology of the Body</p> <p>Quarterly Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p>Circle of Grace</p> <p>Middle School Mass Choir</p> <p><b>6th Grade</b> Focus on the Old Testament Focus on Types of Prayers Research Saints</p> <p><b>7th Grade</b> Introduce Confirmation Saint Wax Museum Mass Buddies with Kindergarten Service Projects including the Stephen Center &amp; Retired Veteran's Home</p> <p><b>8th Grade</b> Confirmation Trinity Archdiocesan Assessment Mass Buddies with 2nd grade Advent Ceremony Living Stations Mass at the Cathedral Service Drives May Crowning with 2nd grade</p>	<p>Lockers</p> <p>TEAM Time</p> <p>High School Recruitment Day</p> <p>Christmas Party</p> <p>Student Council</p> <p>After School Clubs: Robotics, STEM, Yearbook, Math, Book Bowl (7th &amp; 8th), CruSingers</p> <p><b>6th Grade</b> Outdoor Ed. DARE</p> <p><b>7th Grade</b> Field trip to Zoo with Kindergarten buddies Hosts for 8th grade dinner and dance Courage Retreat</p> <p><b>8th Grade</b> 8th grade vs. teachers volleyball game 8th grade dinner 8th grade fun day at the end of the year</p>

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**Language Arts** - Six Traits of Writing, the writing process, fiction and non-fiction writing, poetry, and public speaking

**Science** - Ecosystem biodiversity, chemistry, and cycling of matter. Science Fair (every other year)

**Social Studies** - Ancient civilizations, focusing on historical people, events, and cultures

### **8th Grade**

**Math** - Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Geometry (Skutt HS on-line)

**Literature** - novel studies, short story units, nonfiction study

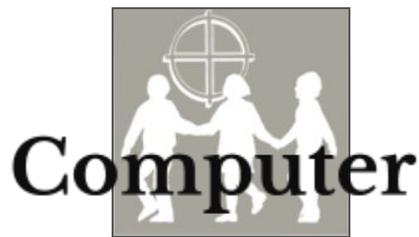
**Language Arts** - Six Traits of Writing, the writing process, writing many essays and poems. Public speaking

**Science** - Forces and motion, evolution, sound and light. Comparative animal dissection. Science Fair (every other year)

**Social Studies** - America: from earliest inhabitants up to the Constitution plus topics such as economics and politics, Physical Geography

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**Parent Volunteer Opportunities:** Class parties (Christmas and After Easter), Art Reach (prep and classroom help), classroom visits, and Ceili auction project



Grades K-4	Grades 5-8
<p><b>Kindergarten:</b> Intro to parts of the computer Hand-eye coordination with the mouse. Single-Double click Location of keys on the keyboard Reinforce curriculum with educational software</p> <p><b>1st Grade:</b> Type text, and use shift, enter, backspace keys Using a Log in ID and password Reinforce curriculum with educational software Typing a URL into a browser Computer Coding</p> <p><b>2nd Grade:</b> Inputting longer strings of text Use web tools for creating books and comics Enrichment of academics through websites Develop familiarity with keyboarding technique Computer Coding</p> <p><b>3rd Grade:</b> Receive Google Accounts Use Google Docs and Google Slides to selecting/highlighting text, formatting font, size, color, alignment and spell check, paragraph alignment, line spacing, cut &amp; paste Digital citizenship lessons Enrichment of academics through websites Computer Coding</p> <p><b>4th Grade:</b> Continue developing skills using G-Suite. Keyboarding skill development Enrichment of academics through websites Archdiocesan Circle of Grace lessons in internet safety Computer Coding</p>	<p><b>5th Grade:</b> G-Suite skills - adding Google My Maps Keyboarding skills Enrichment of academics through websites Digital citizenship lessons SCRATCH Programming</p> <p><b>6th Grade:</b> Word Processing and Presentation skills Google Sites Email etiquette Keyboarding skills Digital citizenship lessons Enrichment of academics through websites SCRATCH Programming</p> <p><b>7th Grade:</b> Introduction to Spreadsheets Creating graphs from data Word Processing Formatting business letters Video creation and editing Keyboarding skills</p> <p><b>8th Grade:</b> Media Literacy Digital Safety-Citizenship Intellectual Rights-Creative Commons Web creation tools - (ie Piktochart, Canva) Keyboarding skills 3-D Design</p>

# Spanish and Library



Spanish	Library
<p>Introduction to the language and culture of Spanish speaking countries All classes (K-8) correspond with Sister School, Santa Eulalia in Guatemala</p> <p><b>5th Grade:</b> Topics taught: Alphabet, numbers to 50, calendar, using SPN-ENG dictionary, colors, farm animals, shapes, greetings, Dia de los Muertos, Navidad, body parts, pronouns, me gusta, telling age, focus on Mexico</p> <p><b>6th Grade:</b> Review previous topics, weather/seasons, numbers to 200, clothing, school subjects/supplies/commands, house, zoo animals, articles/plurals, adjectives, prepositions of location, fruits/vegetables, focus on Spain</p> <p><b>7th Grade:</b> Review previous topics, numbers to 1,000, telling time, AR/ER verbs, ser, gustar, punctuation, family and descriptions, querer, jugar + sports, ir, music, all food and ordering, focus on Central America and Caribbean</p> <p><b>8th Grade:</b> Review previous topics, AR/ER/IR verbs, I have/need, writing complex sentences, ir + a, moods, venir, possessive adjectives, ser vs estar, sizes, poder, transportation, focus on South America</p>	<p><b>Kindergarten &amp; 1st Grade:</b> Emphasis on use of library and caring for books Introduction to different part of books and different genres Parents are invited to come in and read birthday books Introduction to Golden Sower program</p> <p><b>2nd &amp; 3rd Grades:</b> Students are introduced to using online database Discussion continues on parts of book and genres Emphasis places on fiction and non-fiction Award winning literature are shared with students</p> <p><b>4th and 5th Grades:</b> Introduction of the Dewey Decimal System Emphasis on how to use the nonfiction section of the library effectively Shelving of fiction and nonfiction books All students are introduced to award winning titles and encouraged to read multiple selections.</p> <p><b>6th, 7th and 8th Grades:</b> Students continue to work on using the library effectively to find information Students are encouraged to explore various genres in their reading Award winning titles are shared with the students</p>

# Physical Education and Music



Physical Education	Music
<p>Each class begins with prayer and warm-up</p> <p><b>Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> Grades:</b>                      Fundamental locomotor skills and body mechanics are explored through rhythmic activities,, simple games, chasing and tagging games, exercises, and manipulatives Using opposing sides when throwing (i.e. step with the opposite foot) is taught and practiced every year                      Knowledge that the heart is a pump that brings oxygen and nutrients to working muscles understanding of sportsmanship, and what it means to be part of a team</p> <p><b>3-5<sup>th</sup> Grades:</b>                      Develop physical skills through sports including volleyball, basketball, football, basketball , cup stackings, and other team related games.                      Team building activities involving problem solving. As team sports become more prominent, sportsmanship is also discussed and expected                      Cardiovascular fitness continues on t</p> <p><b>6th-8<sup>th</sup> Grades:</b>                      Team building activities continue to help build trust and achieve mutual goals.                      Cardiovascular fitness continues with learning the difference between a fit and unfit heart                      Team sports continue with focus on proper technique and improved performance.</p> <p>8<sup>th</sup> grade year ends with the class running the annual Field Day as group and station leaders.</p>	<p>All students in grades K-8 will perform one music program a year to show family and friends the skills they are learning in Music class.</p> <p>Students participate in 2 general music classes per week where they sing, speak, dance, play, and move.</p> <p>Through music students are exposed to history, literature, science, time signature, note values, etc.</p> <p><b>Kindergarten</b>                      Steady beat and characteristics of music.</p> <p><b>1st grade</b>                      Beginning note values and pitches.</p> <p><b>2nd grade</b>                      Continue note values and pitches.</p> <p><b>3rd grade</b>                      Pentatonic scale, sixteenth notes, and Soprano Recorder.</p> <p><b>4th grade</b>                      Continue Soprano Recorder, Hexatonic scale, syncopated rhythms, treble cuf notes.</p> <p><b>5th grade</b>                      Continue Soprano Recorder, guitar, chords, advanced rhythms.</p> <p><b>6th grade</b>                      Continue recorder and guitar, modes, and intervals.</p> <p><b>7th grade</b>                      Uncommon time signatures, major key signatures, and chord progressions.</p> <p><b>8th grade</b>                      Mixed and polymeter, functional harmony, cadences, minor key signatures, and blues scale.</p>



**Activity Fees:** A one-time fee that is assessed to each child at the beginning of the school year. This fee covers such things as field trips, classroom parties, HSA Dues, and the Ceili auction basket. The fee will vary from grade to grade depending on the year's activities.

**Crusader Kid Care Program:** Before/After School Care is a program administered by the school that supervises school children before and/or after school. Before School Care begins at 6:45 and After School Care begins at 3:15 and lasts until 6:00. The fee is \$5/day for morning care and \$4/hour for afternoon care. Students are provided outdoor play time (weather permitting), snack, time to complete homework, and the opportunity for structured activity.

**All School Mass:** The entire school body will attend the all school mass on Thursdays during the school year. Students will sit with their mass buddies. Parents/community are invited to attend mass, and asked to sit in the back of the church.

**Birthday book club:** An optional program for students to purchase a book for the library that will then have their name and birth date on the inside cover. For grades, K-2, a parent or guardian can come to the library to read the story to the class on or around the child's birthday or half-birthday (if the child has a summer birthday).

**Catholic Schools Week:** A week filled with special events celebrating Catholic schools. Activities include special dress days, Bible Bowl, Spelling Bee and Talent Show, Family Pizza Night and the annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade vs. staff volleyball game.

**Ceili:** A Ceili is an Irish party and "Columb's Ceili" is held annually in March. This night is a celebration of our parish heritage and our patron saint. The night is filled with friendship, community and celebration featuring a silent and live auction fundraising event for our parish community.

**Ceili Auction Items:** Each class creates a project for auction at the annual Ceili. These projects are generally coordinated through the room parents and are in high demand at the silent auction.

**Circle of Grace:** Through the Circle of Grace program, adults assist children and youth in recognizing that each of us lives within a Circle of Grace that holds our very essence in body, mind, heart, soul, and sexuality. Students are taught to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual and sexual boundaries; recognize when boundary violations are about to occur; and demonstrate how to take action when boundaries are threatened or violated.

**Class Mass:** Students have the opportunity to attend two celebrations of the Holy Eucharist each week. Kindergarten-4<sup>th</sup> grades attend class mass on Wednesday morning and grades 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> attend class Mass on Tuesday morning. The entire school attends Mass on Thursdays. Mass begins at 8:15 am, but on Holy Days of Obligation the entire school attends Mass at 10:00. Parents are invited to attend the Masses and may sit toward the rear of the church. For class Masses, the students sit with their classmates and during the all school Mass, students sit with their buddies. Each grade level takes turns preparing and participating in school Masses through reading, participating in the choir, serving, and bringing up the gifts.

**College Gameday:** During the college football season, students may wear a college team shirt along with jeans, athletic pants, or uniform bottoms on the Friday before a Husker **home** game.

**Columbkille Chronicle:** The Columbkille Chronicle, the school newsletter, is sent out with the Thursday Envelope. The newsletter gives details on upcoming events and other important information from the Office. All parents should get in the habit of checking the newsletter every other week.

**Daily schedule:**

- 6:30 a.m. Students can come to Crusader Kid Care
- 7:30 a.m. Teachers and staff on duty
- 7:45 a.m. Students may enter building and report to classroom
- 8:00 a.m. Classes in session
- 8:10 a.m. Attendance and lunch count to office
- 11:10 a.m. Lunch begins
- 12:35 p.m. Lunch ends
- 3:15 p.m. School dismissal; After School Care program begins
- 3:30 p.m. Teachers and staff off duty; School office closes
- 6:00 p.m. Crusader Kid Care program ends

**Discipline with Purpose:** The Discipline With Purpose program focuses on 15 discipline skills which are taught and used as a framework for making decisions about a person's growth in self-discipline. Teachers focus on various skills throughout each grade level. The self-discipline skills are:

1. Can listen.
2. Can follow instructions.
3. Can ask questions when something is not understood.
4. Can share.
5. Can be trained in the essentials of social skills.
6. Can work cooperatively with others.
7. Can understand and explain the reasons for rules.
8. Can select and develop procedures for accomplishing an objective.
9. Can be trained to be a leader.
10. Can learn the essentials of good communication skills.
11. Can set your own schedules and time limits.
12. Can work together to resolve problems.
13. Can take the initiative to resolve problems of mutual concern.
14. Can distinguish fact from feeling.
15. Can sacrifice from a motive of love.

**Dress Down Days:** Occasionally, students are allowed to wear clothing of their choice to school. Appropriate dress is still required, and full details of the Dress Down Day Policy are found in the Family Handbook.

**Enrichment Program:** After school activities offered to students in grades K-8 to enhance the school curriculum. Activities are led by parent volunteers and/or teachers and may require a fee. Registration is limited and takes place at the beginning of the school year. Please see the school website for current enrichment activities offered. Parents are encouraged to volunteer to share their talents and interests by sponsoring Enrichment programs.

**Enrollment:** Acceptance or rejection of any application for enrollment of any student or potential student is the responsibility of the administration. As a condition of enrollment/re-enrollment, each family/child must: abide by parish and school policies, abide by rules and procedures; annually renew their stewardship commitment (parishioners); pay tuition and fees; and annually complete required parent service hours.

**FACTS:** This is our Student Information System. It includes an electronic form of communication where teachers post student grades. Each family will need to sign up for their FACTS account. School correspondence is sent out through FACTS. Parents may also deposit money into their family account online through FACTS.

**Family Life Education:** Age appropriate instruction in family life, relationships, abstinence, and human reproduction. This is taught by a team of doctors, priests and teachers to fifth and sixth graders and their parents.

**Field Day:** A yearly event held toward the end of the school year where the 8th graders lead the younger students (K-5) in a variety of games around the school property. Games vary each year, but can include dodge ball, tug-of-war, water relays, and a marble run. Sixth and seventh grades walk to Halleck Park and have a separate day of fun.

**Field trips:** Each class has differing field trip opportunities and the cost of these trips is generally covered thru student fees. Field trips can also be a great way to take part in service hours for the younger grades.

**Grading Policy:** Please see **Report Cards**

**Guided Reading:** An instructional approach where teachers work with students who demonstrate similar reading abilities. Student groups, based on reading levels, read and analyze books together. Groups are fluid and students may change groups as they progress through the school year.

**Home and School Association (HSA):** The St. Columbkille Home School Association) is an organization of parents, teachers, and administrators of St. Columbkille School. Every family with children enrolled in the school pays dues and is a member of the HSA. The HSA meets periodically throughout the school year and is active throughout the school.

**Homework:** Students in St. Columbkille Catholic School should expect regular and increasing amounts of homework with age. The child's ability as well as work habits will cause the amount of homework to vary. If parents find a child is consistently spending an excessive amount of time each night on homework, a parent-teacher conference should be scheduled to monitor this situation.

**Honor Roll:** Students in grades 7 and 8 are eligible for honor roll. Students who make the Honor Roll must have all A's and B's in Academic areas and 3's and 4's in Work Habits or DWP Skills on his/her report card. Students who have A's and B's in all academic courses and 3's and 4's in Work Habits or DWP Skills will earn High Honors.

**Inclement Weather Policy:** In the event classes are cancelled because of inclement weather, the closing of the school will be announced on Radio Station KFAB (1110 AM) and local television stations. St. Columbkille will follow BOTH the Omaha Catholic Schools closing and/or the Papillion/LaVista Public Schools closing announcement. If EITHER is announced, St. Columbkille will not be in session. If school is cancelled once it is in session, upper grades will be dismissed following normal procedures. Primary students, however, will be dismissed only to their parents unless parents have provided other instructions in writing (on the school emergency form).

**Illness policy:** When your child will not be in school for any reason, please call the school before 8:30 a.m. or send an email to [attendance@saintcolumbkilleschool.org](mailto:attendance@saintcolumbkilleschool.org). Students who have been ill with a fever may not return to school until they have been fever free for 24 hours without medication.

**Lunch Program:** St. Columbkille participates in the Federal School Lunch Program and offers healthy meals every school day. The school contracts with Westside Nutrition Services to supply hot lunches and milk to students. Lunch prices are set each year, and meals may be paid for either online or through the school office. Parents are welcome to have lunch with their children and may order a hot lunch by calling the school office no later than 8:05 AM. Students lunch orders must be received in the office by 8:30 AM.

**Mass Buddies:** Each of the upper grades (5-8) serves as Mass Buddies for the lower grades (K-3). The Mass buddy will walk to church with the lower grade student during all-school Mass and will sit with them to model proper Mass behavior and participation. Mass buddy grade pairs are as follows: Kindergarten-7<sup>th</sup>; 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>; 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>; and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

**Music in Catholic Schools(MCS):** Beginning in the 5th grade, St. Columbkille School partners with MCS for our band program. MCS faculty come to St. Columbkille 2 days a week during the school day to give music lessons. This is a parent pay program.

**Open House:** Prior to the beginning of school, families are encouraged to attend Open House. Families will attend a Prayer Service and then adjourn over to the school to meet classroom teachers and complete beginning of the school year activities, such as the lunch/milk payments, Home and School Association dues, Crusader Kid Care sign up, and learn about enrichment and volunteer opportunities offered through St. Columbkille.

**Parking and student drop off:** Each grade is assigned a door (North, South, East, and West) where they are to be dropped off. If you have students in multiple grades, you may drop them all off at one door. The Traffic Safety section of the School Family Handbook has more details. The most important thing to note about drop-off is that the four sides of the school are for drop-off only from 7:30 to 8:00 AM. If you need to park or get out of your vehicle, please park on a side street or in the church parking lot.

**Recess:** Regular periods of play (either outside or inside weather permitting). Vary per grade level.

**Religious formation:** St. Columbkille Parish believes that parents are the primary educators of their children and that parish programs simply supplement the education that parents provide. Young parishioners who do not attend the parish grade school are given the opportunity to enhance their learning in faith through the Religious Formation Program. The program offers three options for time and approach: Monday or Wednesday evenings throughout the school year or an intensive two week program during the summer. The Religious Formation Program uses the same classrooms that the grade school students use during the day. More information can be found on the parish website or by contacting the Religious Formation Office at 339-0990.

**Report Cards:** The skills taught at each grade come from the Archdiocesan standards and the Nebraska Department of Education standards. As students progress through their learning, they are assessed on each skill on their report card. Not every skill is assessed or taught every quarter. Report cards are given out at the end of the first quarter conference to parents who attend. At the semester, reports are sent home with students. During the third quarter, conferences are held at the halfway point in the quarter so that students have ample time to improve grades before report cards are sent home. Fourth quarter reports are sent home with students on the last day of school.

**Restaurant Nights:** Some local restaurants sponsor a “St. Columbkille Restaurant Night.” On designated days, these restaurants donate a portion of their proceeds from St. Columbkille families back to our school.

**Sacramental Preparation:** Sacraments are taught as an integral part of the school’s curriculum. Second graders prepare for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Parents attend four preparation meetings: two for parents and children together, and two for parents only. First Reconciliation is usually scheduled in February and First Holy Communion in late April. Second-graders and their parents make a keepsake quilt as part of the preparation for First Holy Communion and workshops are available to assist in the project. Second graders lead the May Crowning ceremony and following this event, attend a breakfast with their parents in the Social level of the church.

Preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation begins in seventh grade. There are three service projects required: one individual, one within the parish, and one within the community. Students also attend a retreat. In eighth grade, parents and children attend three workshops, with the opportunity to meet in small groups for discussion. There is also a sponsor-student meeting. Confirmation is generally scheduled during the month of May.

**Safe environment training:** “Circle of Care,” a training program for adults in creating Safe Environments for children, is the Archdiocesan response to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Any adult who has regular contact with children or young people (volunteers, coaches, teachers, etc.) must undergo an initial training session and a background check. The certification is valid for five years, after which time the adult must be re-certified (online) under the then-current policy. For more information visit the Omaha Archdiocesan Safe Environment web site: <http://www.archomaha.org/pastoral/se/index.html>

**Saint Columbkille**(521- 597): (sounds like: column:kill). Our patron saint is one of the three great saints of Ireland and was the first missionary to Scotland. Born in 521 in Donegal, Ireland to a family connected to kings and princes, Columb was a man gifted with incredible talents. He wrote poetry and music, established churches and monasteries, preached the gospel and painted manuscripts. From an early age, Columb seemed destined for the priesthood. His family sent him off to study under the future St. Finnian; and at Clonard Abbey, he surrendered his princely claims, became a monk and was ordained. He spent the next 15 years preaching and teaching in Ireland. By the time he was 25, he had founded 27 Irish monasteries and some 40 churches. His work for the Church gained him the addition of “kille” to his name. Columb means “dove” in Gaelic and kille is “church”, so he came to be known as the “church’s dove”. Columb lived, with every ounce of his energy, the commission of Jesus to “go and make disciples.”

**School Advisory Council (SAC):** SAC is a 12 member council that serves as an advisory to the Pastor and administration on policy issues at St. Columbkille. There are three permanent ex-officio members (Pastor, Principal, and Vice Principal) and 9 appointed members from the parish at large. Meetings are scheduled at the beginning of the school year and are open to the parish and school community. More information can be found in the School Family Handbook and on the school website.

**School calendar:** The yearly school calendar is established by the administration during the spring semester for the upcoming year. It is located on the school website and is subject to change.

**School competitions-** A variety of academic, art, and music competitions are offered throughout the school year. These individual and team competitions are organized by teachers and parent volunteers.

**Service Hours (Stewardship Hours):**The parish requires each family to participate in service hours. To operate an outstanding school at a minimum cost requires help from many volunteers. Research shows that what separates a Catholic Education from its public counterpart is not simply the faith formation component, but the community that is built between teachers, students, and parents. For these two reasons, the school requires each family to participate in service hours. Those hours are organized and tracked by a HSA subcommittee with support from the parish Stewardship Office.

**Signing into the school:** All visitors, including parents, will need to report to the office, check in on the computer, and wear a visitor’s name tag while in the building. All entrances to the building are locked. Visitors will need to use the main entrance.

**Specials:** Specials include bi-weekly attendance in music and physical education classes. Students also go to the library and computer lab once a week.

**Speech and language services:** Speech and language services are provided by Papillion-La Vista Public Schools to students who have qualified for services. A certified Speech and Language Pathologist provides services as needed on site to students in both individual and group settings.

**Spirit Day Attire-** On spirit days, which are specified by administration, students are allowed to wear a St. Columbkille Spirit Wear shirt or sweatshirt with jeans, athletic pants, or uniform bottoms.

**Spirit Wear:** Clothing with reference to St. Columbkille that is purchased from the school or athletic office, or is part of any St. Columbkille school or parish event (i.e. academic competitions, theatre, VBS, etc.)

**Standardized Assessments:** Tests that are administered and scored in a consistent or standard matter. These tests provide one way of assessing student and teacher performance. Standardized testing is administered to third through eighth graders in the fall. The results are interpreted and shared with parents.

**Stewardship Committee:** Group of individuals who coordinate various school or parish volunteer groups that fall under the Home and School Association. These would include such committees as textbook loan, uniform exchange, Art Reach, lunchroom duty, Box Tops for Education, Turkey Bingo, teacher appreciation and others. Please direct any questions or comments to the Stewardship Coordinator.

**Tardy Procedure:** School begins at 8:00 AM and all students arriving in the classroom after the 8:00 AM bell will be marked tardy and must report to the office for an admission pass.

**Tithing:** It is the mission of the parish to form disciples. A disciple of Jesus gives back his or her first fruits to God in gratitude for the many blessings they have received. In the tradition of scripture and church experience, the expected first fruits given to God amount to 10% of the take home income. The local parish receives 5% while the Archdiocese and other charities receive the other 5%. The parish financially operates all its programs on tithing. School tuition is used to support tithing, but is kept extremely low by parishioners practicing the spiritual discipline of tithing. The goal of the Pastoral Council and Finance Council is to eliminate all tuition, but this can only be done if all parishioners, especially those with children in the school, truly tithe. An easy formula for Sunday giving at 5% is to give each Sunday one dollar for every thousand of yearly salary. So if you make \$75,000 a year, then the Sunday tithe would be \$75.00. If you make \$30,000 a year, then the Sunday contribution would be \$30.

**Thursday Envelope:** Every other Thursday when school is in session, the Thursday Envelope is emailed to school parents. This is our main channel for communication and for distributing forms and flyers to school families. We try to be paperless as much as possible.

**Turkey Bingo:** Each November the HSA hosts a Turkey Bingo fundraiser in the Social Level of the church. Bingo games are played and there are prizes for winners. This is a fun and popular event open to all adults and students.

**Uniform guidelines:** All school uniform items must be clean, neat and free of holes. Compliance with the school dress code is the responsibility of parents. Students will wear navy shorts/skorts/pants/jumper along with a red or white shirt, and a red or navy sweatshirt. The school faculty and administration shall enforce the school dress code. Shorts can be worn during Daylight Savings time. See the Family Handbook for the full uniform policy.

**Uniform exchange:** The Uniform exchange is run by the Home and School Association (HSA) as a service for parents who wish to buy, exchange or consign school uniform pieces in wearable condition. Several times a year during HSA meetings, parents will open the uniform exchange room off the gym and parents may buy uniform pieces. There are three ways that uniform exchange works. 1) Parents may consign items and when those items sell, the HSA mails the parent a check. 2) Parents may exchange/trade uniform items for items of equal value. 3) Parents may donate uniform items. Proceeds from these sales remain with the HSA funding projects designated by the HSA.

**Yearly Fundraiser:** Each fall, the Home and School Association sponsors one major fundraiser. All families are encouraged to participate.

