



Knights News - St. Patrick School
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<https://www.stpatrickmccook.com/>



September, 2025



ANNIVERSARY OF OUR STAR JEWEL OF A SCHOOL

Our Mission Statement: In gratitude for God's goodness to all generations, our mission as St. Patrick Catholic School is to meet the needs of our students, families, and community for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.



Mrs. Redl and Patrick visited the 3rd grade students on one of our first days in school for the 2025-2026 school year. It was so very good to see everyone again.

What's Happening in



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This year in P.E. 2nd through 8th grade are doing moving stretches. Only a couple of stretches do we stand stationary to do. This way students get moving sooner in class as we move to warm up. We will again be doing Physical Fitness Testing, looking at core strength, agility, endurance, and speed. We are starting on volleyball skills in 2nd through 8th grades and have some really good volleyball players both girls and boys. Kindergarten is working on gross motor skills and personal space while 1st grade is practicing catching and throwing with partners and in games.

Mrs. Gerver—K—8 Physical Education

And in the



It feels like autumn! I love summer but I'm also ready for some nice fall weather. The kitchen is getting back into the groove. We have had some wonderful donations of sweet corn, cucumbers, zucchini and Colorado peaches and pears. Thank you to everyone who has generously donated to the lunch program.

As school gets back in full swing please remember to send money for your student's lunch account. We are a nonprofit so rely on timely payments to accounts so that we can pay our staff and bills. It's helpful to us and I think easier for you if you send money on a weekly or biweekly basis. That helps eliminate the shock of a large bill later.

As a reminder with costs rising we had to raise the price for milk and seconds. It is now \$0.75 for seconds, milk with cold lunch or extra milk with hot lunch. If you do NOT want your child to have seconds please send a written note and remind your child. We do not want to embarrass anyone.

Reminder: If you qualified for free or reduced-price lunches last year, you must reapply by September 29 to ensure no interruption in your status. Unless you have received a letter from me THIS SCHOOL YEAR confirming your eligibility, you will return to paid status on September 29 until I receive a new application for this year. If you have any questions or need an application, please call 308-345-5542.

Mrs. Slattery—Head Cook

St. Patrick School

CLASS OF 2026



Back Row: Corbyn, Galilea, Kalli, Annie, Vivie

Front Row: Penelope, Ruth and Lily

Looking Back



by Mrs. Becky Rel, Principal

As the school bell rings at the start of summer vacation, St. Patrick School prepares to commemorate a significant milestone: the 40th anniversary of its current building. This year marks four decades since the first class entered the new facility on August 28, 1985.

St. Patrick School's history dates back to September 18, 1918, when the school welcomed its first group of sixty students. Over the years, the school expanded its offerings, adding eighth grade in 1919, ninth grade in 1922, tenth grade in 1923 and eleventh grade by 1933. However, all high school classes were phased out in 1934. By 1970, with 192 students enrolled, grades four through eight underwent departmentalization.

Plans for the new school building were officially approved in 1983, with a parish fundraising effort yielding \$287,000 over three years. The remainder of the funds required for the new facility came from the Mary Brady Estate trust fund, bringing the total construction cost to \$1,334,000. Construction started in the summer of 1984 and was completed by May of the following year. A community effort saw around 120 volunteers come together to transfer furniture, equipment, and supplies from the old school to the new location—a task that took less than two hours. After sixty-seven years of providing Catholic education to 10,647 students, the old school was ultimately demolished to make way for the progress.



Our school enrollment may not have reached the heights of previous years, but the support and belief from our school families in our mission remain strong. As the only diocesan school west of Holdrege, we are fortunate to have exceptional students who have thrived beyond our four walls. Many teachers from McCook Public Schools recognize St. Patrick graduates among their top achievers. From Quiz Bowl champions to influential leaders in both academics and athletics, our public school educators are well aware of the caliber of a St. Patrick School graduate. Over the years, our alumni have pursued diverse paths, becoming two priests, one seminarian, lawyers, doctors, dentists,

engineers, and numerous other professionals who are making a positive impact in their communities.

I am honored to serve as the principal of St. Patrick School, the jewel of southwest Nebraska. Numerous outstanding educators and priests have contributed to our mission of education and nurturing our students. Visionary leaders such as Msgr. Hain, Fr. Gadiant, Fr. Houlihan, Fr. Seiker, Msgr. Vap, Msgr. Tucker, Fr. Brethour, and Fr. Kimminau served our school as superintendents and Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs). These remarkable men guided our parish and school through both challenges and triumphs, always following God's will. While it is impossible to name every assistant pastor who has instilled a love for service in our students, their impact is immeasurable. Additionally, countless educators and staff members have enriched our school community with their selfless dedication and passion for their work. Together, we have invested our time, talents, and treasures to ensure that St. Patrick School continues to flourish and grow in southwest Nebraska.





BE A KNIGHT

Knights are:

- ◆ Brave
- ◆ Self Giving
- ◆ Honorable
- ◆ Faithful
- ◆ Hard Working
- ◆ Fair
- ◆ Respectful
- ◆ Humble



The 3rd grade Knights say
"Look What We're Learning"
while pointing to their work in
Math. Great Job!!



Partnerships are Important

By Shannon Corder, Development Director

St. Patrick School will be celebrating its 40th anniversary in the current school building at 401 East “F” Street, McCook, NE during the 2025–2026 school year.

Anniversaries are a time to reflect on the past. Over the past four decades, our school has embraced change to meet the needs of the times. Current updates and changes include (but not limited to!) the addition of a **dedicated math intervention program combined with reading intervention**, a new playground for Little Knights Preschool thanks to the generosity of the **Knights of Columbus**, and some **remodeling in the school to better support modern learning environments and student needs**.



St. Patrick School supporters care—and they’ve responded in many meaningful ways to make these changes happen.

Partnerships with the community, St. Patrick School alumni, G.I.F.T. Gala donors, our parish, and unique contributions—such as the gift of the 1948 Chevrolet Fleetmaster Coupe from Vickie Malleck and her late husband, Griff—have all come together to support our mission. These acts of kindness and generosity are helping us “meet the needs of our students and families for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.”

Thank you for all your support to our school and parish. Here’s to another wonderful 40 years!



TAs this year for Mrs. Fritsch are: Asher Wilson, 2022 St. Patrick School alum along with Ty Junker who are both at MHS now.

News from Shannon Corder, Development Director

- Natalie Smith is volunteering her time to work up a family photo directory. Thank you, Natalie! Please pick up a form in the office.

- **SAVE THE DATE: #51 Fall Festival** will be October 12th 12-4pm on the church grounds. **NEW** this year will be mini-golf! Other activities will include inflatables, carnival type games, food in the outside Snack Shack, ham and potato dinner in the church basement, BINGO, "Ce Ce/Patrick Corner" which is a mini Farmer's Market, face painting, mule rides by long time parishioner, Lee Janssen, live and silent auction, and **MORE!** Stay tuned for more info regarding parents helping with 1-2 hour shifts for games and students selling raffle tickets.

- The volunteer sign in binder is now in the office. Families who log at least 20 hours will receive a \$250 tuition scholarship. If you have any questions at all, please contact Shannon 308-345-8871. As the volunteer handbook states, it is a work in progress, so feel free to let Shannon of your ideas! Thank you for your commitment to our school!



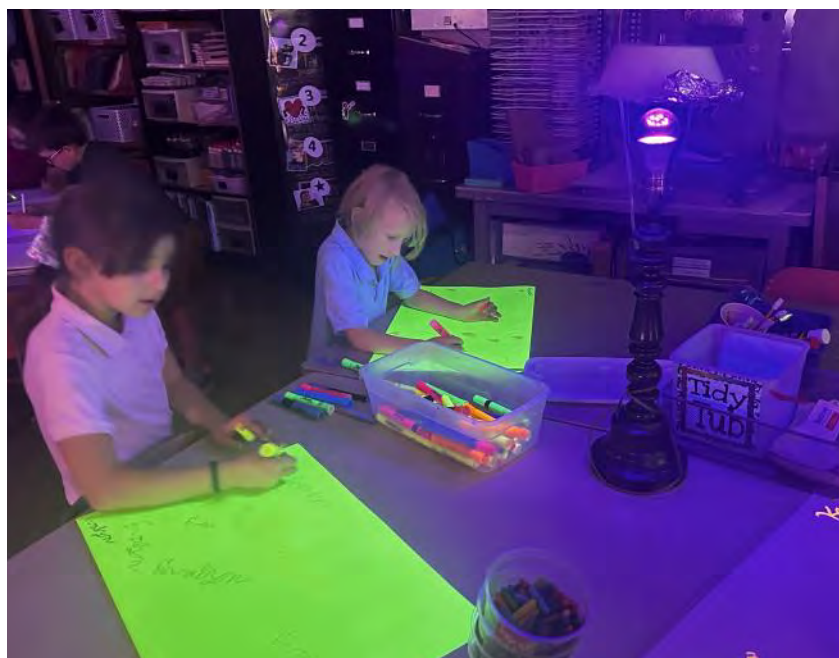
The St. Patrick's girls' volleyball team has been working hard. Our first game is Thursday Sept 4th in Bartley. We have (5) 8th graders Vivie, Annie, Penelope, Kali (4) 7th graders Kylie, Celia, Naomi, Ana (6) 6th graders Katelyn, Ariel, Kenlyn, Milania, Summer, Grace. Our **NEW** assistant coach Whitney Schoenemann has jumped in running. She is helping these girls be successful leaders and athletes.

Every week we add a new bible verse to the wall as part of our Testament Tuesday. They are challenged to memorize these verses and share them with family, friends and faculty. Wednesdays we have "What's the word", they share something from mass that pertains to them as a student, friend and athlete.

Thanks to Cindy Duggar and Father Kimminau they enjoyed pizza after practice Thursday night. **GO KNIGHTS**

Kindergarten and 3rd grade Art students creating art projects using black light and light reactive markers.

Right: Evanyn and Rachel, right
Jackson, below



Above: Joseph and Avery





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 LABOR DAY	2 Sausage Pizza Salad Baby Carrots Fruit Milk	3 Goulash Vegetable Fruit Muffin Milk	4 Sloppy Joe on Bun Beans Vegetables Fruit Milk	5 Omelet Breakfast Cookie Hashbrown Fruit Juice Milk	6
7	8 Hamburger on Bun Baked Beans French Fries Fruit Milk	9 Spaghetti and Meatballs Vegetable Fruit Garlic Bread Milk	10 Deli Sandwich Salad Vegetable Fruit Milk	11 Chicken Fajitas Beans Salsas Fruit Tortilla Chips Milk	12 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Vegetable Fruit Milk	13
14	15 Pancake Wrap Yogurt Hashbrown Fruit Juice Milk	16 Chicken & Rice Casserole Vegetables Fruit Muffin Milk	17 Mandarin Orange Chicken Fried Rice Vegetables Fruit Dinner Roll Milk	18 Hot Dog on Bun Pork & Beans Vegetable Fruit Milk	19 Cheese Pizza Salad Baby Carrots Fruit Milk	20
21	22 Pulled Pork on Bun Baked Beans Sweet Potato Fries Fruit Birthday Cake Milk	23 Scalloped Potatoes Ham Vegetable Fruit Dinner Roll Milk	24 Mini Corn Dogs Vegetables Fruit Milk	25 COOK'S CHOICE	26 PBJ or Tuna Salad Sandwich Salad Baby Carrots Fruit Milk	27
28	29 Chicken Nuggets Vegetables Fruit Cookie	30 Walking Taco Beans Salsa Fruit				



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 No School— Labor Day	2 Preschool begins	3	4 Confessions after Mass VB at Bartley vs SW at 2:00	5 Buddy Mass	6
7	8	9	10 Volleyball at DC/S Benkelman 3:00 Central Dismiss at 2:00 pm Faculty meeting @ 2:15	11	12	13
14	15	16 VB HOME vs. Hitchcock Co 2:00	17	18 School & VB photos 	19	20
21	22 Progress Reports	23	24 VB HOME vs. Maywood/ Hayes Center 2:00	25	26	27
28	29	30				