



## Knights News - St. Patrick School

401 East F Street, McCook, NE 69001 ♣ 308-345-4546

<https://www.stpatrickmccook.com/>

November, 2025



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.



**Blessing of the pets on the Feast of St. Francis!**  
Lots of animals of many kinds came for a special blessing.

# Message From The Principal



Hello, November!

What a joy this school year has been so far! Our students are growing, learning, and finding their rhythm each day. They're building good study habits, taking on new responsibilities, and learning that success comes from hard work and dedication. As principal, I love reading our teachers' Friday updates—it's always exciting to hear about the wonderful things happening in our classrooms. We truly have an incredible team of teachers here at St. Patrick. We are blessed!

As the cool fall days start to turn into winter, I want to share a few quick reminders to help your child stay warm and safe:

- **Morning Arrival:** Our front doors open at **7:20 a.m.** Please don't drop students off before that time. Teachers begin their day at **7:30 a.m.**, so there's no supervision available earlier unless you've made special arrangements.
- **Dress Code:** Starting **Monday, November 3**, shorts are put away until **April 1**.

**Outdoor Recess:** We go outside for recess unless it's *bitterly* cold, so please make sure your child has a coat every day. The weather can be unpredictable this time of year—warm one day, freezing the next—so it's best to be prepared.

Thank you for trusting **St. Patrick School** with your child's education. It's such a privilege to partner with you. When home and school work together, our students benefit most. I appreciate all the ways you support us each day.

You and your family continue to be in my prayers.





★ ★ ★  
11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

**VETERAN'S**  
**DAY**

# **PROGRAM**

**Honoring All Who Served**

Tuesday, November 11th, 1:15

St. Patrick School Gym

Please join us.









# BLESSING OF A PET

*Watch Over and Protect*

PET'S NAME

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord God, and all your creatures! Amen.



















# Blessing of the PETs





BOXOFJOY.ORG



# Give Christmas Joy. **See Smiles Like This!**

BOX OF JOY IS A MINISTRY OF CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH

Our school is participating in *Box of Joy*; a Christmas gift ministry organized by local Catholic schools, parishes and groups nationwide. By packing Boxes of Joy with toys and other gifts, our parishioners will bless children suffering from extreme poverty by sharing the joy of Christmas and planting seeds of hope through the Gospel. Cross Catholic Outreach serves over 32 countries through this ministry.

Here is how you can help: drop off donations of school supplies, socks, small toys, or toiletries into the tote at the school lobby or take a box and pack it at home! You may also make a monetary donation to help cover the cost of shipping. (Each box costs \$10 to ship.)

Materials are available on the tables at the back of church or in the St. Pats school office. The deadline for returning your packed Boxes of Joy will be Friday, Nov 7th, or Wed. Nov 5th if you are just donating items to fill the boxes. Please bring your boxes to St. Pat's school office. Checks to cover the shipping should be made out to **Cross Catholic Outreach**, not the parish.

For more info, contact Project Leader Amanda Peterson or go to [Box of Joy | Cross Catholic Outreach](http://BoxofJoy.org)



Make Joyful Unto The  
Lauds & Antiphons



*O Come Let Us Adore Him*



Join the  
**Youth Choir**

for Christmas Eve Mass at  
St. Patrick Catholic Church.

*3rd-12th grade students*

**First Practice:**

**November 16 1:00 PM**

Contact Stephanie Gaulke: 785-626-0819  
Must commit to at least 2 practices.



Below is the Spirit Catholic Radio podcast link with an interview about our school. The interview with Father K, Mrs. Redl, and Shannon begins at minute 13.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/10-20-25-spirit-mornings-show/id1763746657?i=1000732713338>



## Thank You

to all the volunteers who helped make Fall Festival #51 a success!  
It was a beautiful day full of fun and fellowship  
which cleared more than \$40,000 for our school.

### 🍁 A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Fall Festival Donors 🍁

#### **\$500+ Flannel Friends**



CSI Cappel Sales  
Friend of St. Patrick School  
Mel & Jerry Miller

#### **\$350-499 Caramel Apple Club**

Southwest Nebraska Dental  
U-Save Pharmacy  
Walter Heating, Cooling & Construction LLC



#### **\$250-349 Pumpkin Patch Pals**



Webb Body Shop  
Friend of St. Patrick School

#### **\$125-249 Scarecrow Supporters**

Bieker Welding  
Bleu Flour Bakery  
Herrmann-Jones Funeral Chapel  
Southwest NE Physical Therapy  
Wal-Mart  
Weathercraft





**TO ALL STUDENTS, STAFF,  
TEACHERS, and PARENTS:**

The McCook Community College Women's Basketball team was a HUGE help in the success of Fall Festival. They filled in for shifts in order for games to continue going until 3:30 pm and even stayed for cleanup. Let's show them our appreciation by being their biggest fans on November 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. when they play the Casper College Thunderbirds in the Peter & Dolores Graff Event Center.



**McCOOK COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
WOMEN'S  
BASKETBALL**

VS

**CASPER  
COLLEGE**



- Nov 08 (Sat)
- 3:00 PM CST

**OVER**

**700**

**PAIR!**



**SOCKTOBER**

**OCTOBER 1st - OCTOBER 31st**

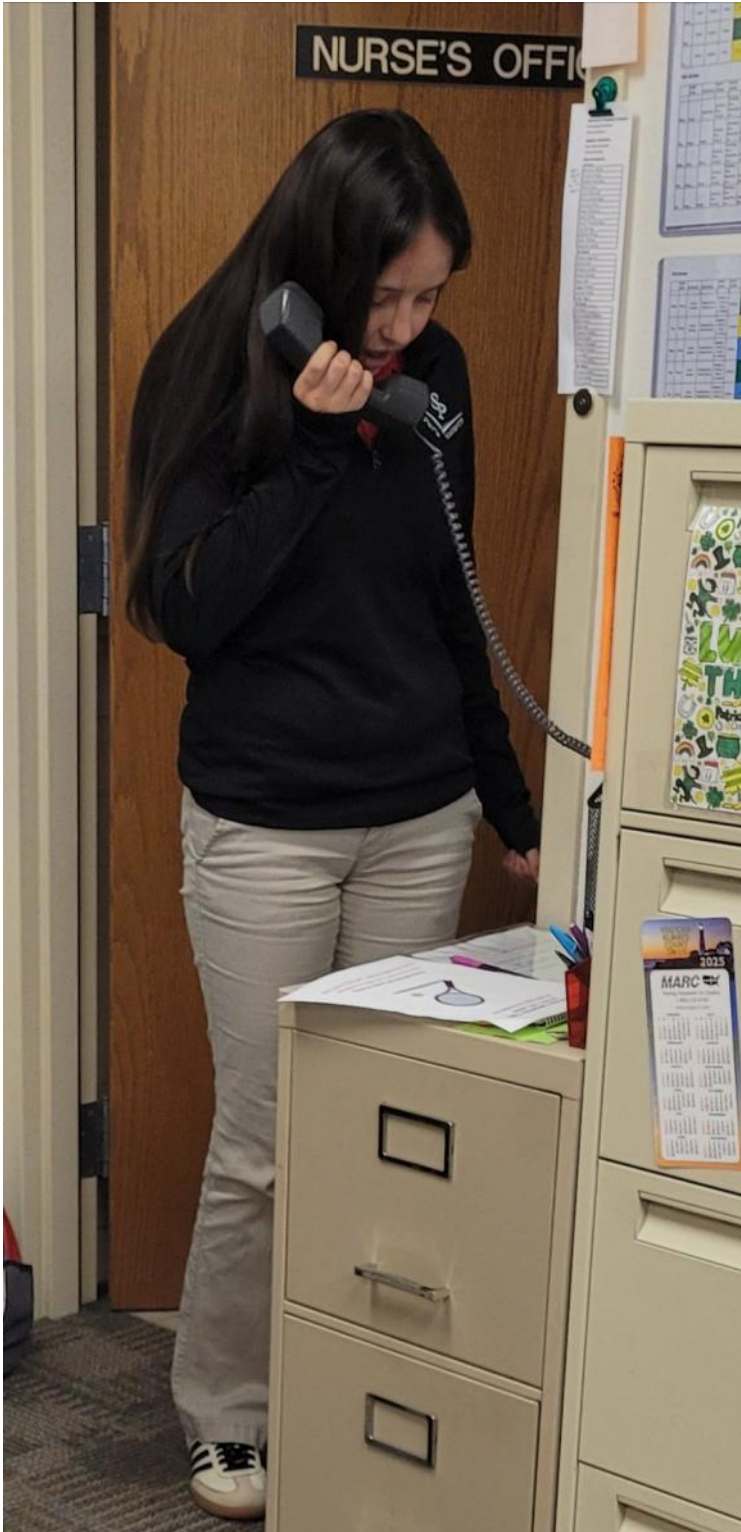
Thanks to all who contributed, the Socktober project organized by the 7th grade Stewardship Class was very successful! A huge thanks to Carniceria CB, LLC, Kinship Pointe, McCook Public Library, St. Patrick parishioners, St. Patrick teachers and families for contributing over 700 pairs of socks. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Stewardship students are proud of this project and will be donating the socks to the Family Resource Center, CASA, and Catholic Social Services.



# Saint Patrick Student Council



Student Council Historian, Galilea, left, and Class Representative, Vivie, below, giving morning announcements. Great job!





## Art Room News

Mrs. Deonne Hinz

This past month 7th and 8th grade art students participated in an educational field trip to Kearney, Nebraska, designed to enhance their understanding of the connections between history, culture, and the visual arts. Thanks to the generosity of Saint Patrick Church Alter Society and the Nebraska Arts Council we were able show the students various environments where art can helps connect us to the our past, present and the future.

Our first stop was in Holdrege, Nebraska's, Iron Horse Creative District. Students were able to look at Holdrege's newly developed arts district, featuring two of their public mural and outdoor sculpture garden. This visit provides real-world examples of community-based public art. We took the time to highlight the importance of creative placemaking, community identity, and how art can bring pride to a community.

Our second stop on the field trip students participated in a self-guided tour of The Archway, where students will examine how art, architecture, and sculpture are integrated into the historical narrative of Nebraska and the American experience. This tour will highlight the ways in which visual and structural elements communicate historical themes and provide an immersive learning environment. Student also did a scavenger hunt closely studying some of the sculptures features around the archway.

The third component of our trip took place at the Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA). Students toured the museum's permanent collection and special exhibitions, with a focus on the contributions of Nebraska artists. Following the tour, students participated in a structured art-making workshop on experimenting various techniques using the art media watercolor.

The final component of our field trip we stop to see a life size crane sculpture that was created by the artist Sondra Jonson of Cambridge, Nebraska she is an influential artist that creates life like bronze sculptures that primarily focus on religious themes. In our school, parish and community parks in McCook and Cambridge she several sculptural works on display. We were able to meet up with Sondra in her studio to see some of the projects she is currently working on as well as the clay cast of the crane sculpture we seen in Kearney.

It was a wonderful full day to see how art is all around us.

In the month of November students will be taking turns going to the High Plains Museum in McCook to see the Statewide Traveling Exhibit from the Sheldon Art Gallery in Lincoln, Nebraska. It will be a wonderful exhibit presenting art work from all the past and art education teachers from the University of Lincoln.



Group at the Iron Horse Sculpture Park in Holdrege NE





7th and 8th Grade Art Trip! Above, students gather outside of Sondra Jonson's Art Studio in Cambridge, Nebraska. Sondra has many art pieces displayed throughout the US. We would like to thank her for her generosity in sharing her time and allowing us to see how/where she creates her beautiful art pieces! Below: 7th grade boys at the restaurant display in the Archway Monument.







7th and 8th grade  
Art Trip to  
Kearney







Left: Annabelle. Above: Fr. Wehrs













Kali and Addy being silly with a sculpture in the Iron Horse Creative District in Holdrege, Nebraska



Student creating in the watercolor workshop at the MONA



# Saint Patrick

## Student Council





Third grade students  
pray the rosary.







SOUTHWEST NEBRASKA

# *Big Give* 2025 November 6th



To help us continue improving our curriculum,  
please use the QR code or click on the St. Patrick  
Elementary School link at [swnebiggive.org](http://swnebiggive.org).

Congratulations to the SW Nebraska Big Give on 10 years of empowering local organizations! Thanks to your generosity in recent years, we've successfully updated our K-5 curriculum with new Science and Reading materials, as well as Simple Solutions resources for grades K-8.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide a strong educational foundation for our students!



The Big Give committee will be hosting a soup supper on November 6th, to be held at McCook Christian Church from 5-7 pm and it is open to the public. Plan to attend and vote for your favorite soup! St. Patrick School will have soup at this event made by Father Kimminau.







Thank you to Shannon Corder, and the Fall Festival Committee for making it so much fun to sell raffle tickets. The Committee rounded up many prizes for the top Fall Festival raffle ticket student sellers. Shown here are just a few of the many winners: Left, Hazel; Below: Finley, and to the Rights: Brooklyn and Chase. The students sold in excess of **\$18,000** in tickets. What an amazing job these students do!



Due to hard work by students, parents, parishioners and donors, and especially the Fall Festival Committee, the event raised

**\$45,000**



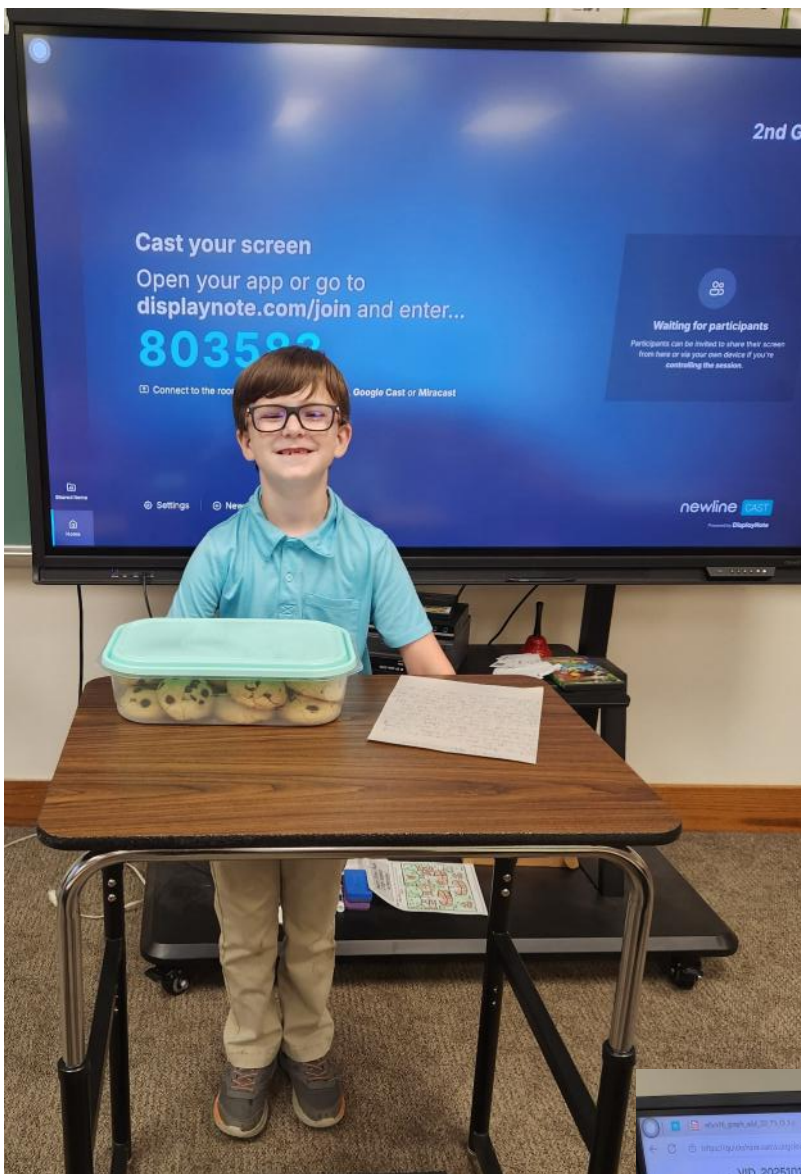




Mrs. Hinz and 8th  
grade class screen  
print t-shirts for Art Trip

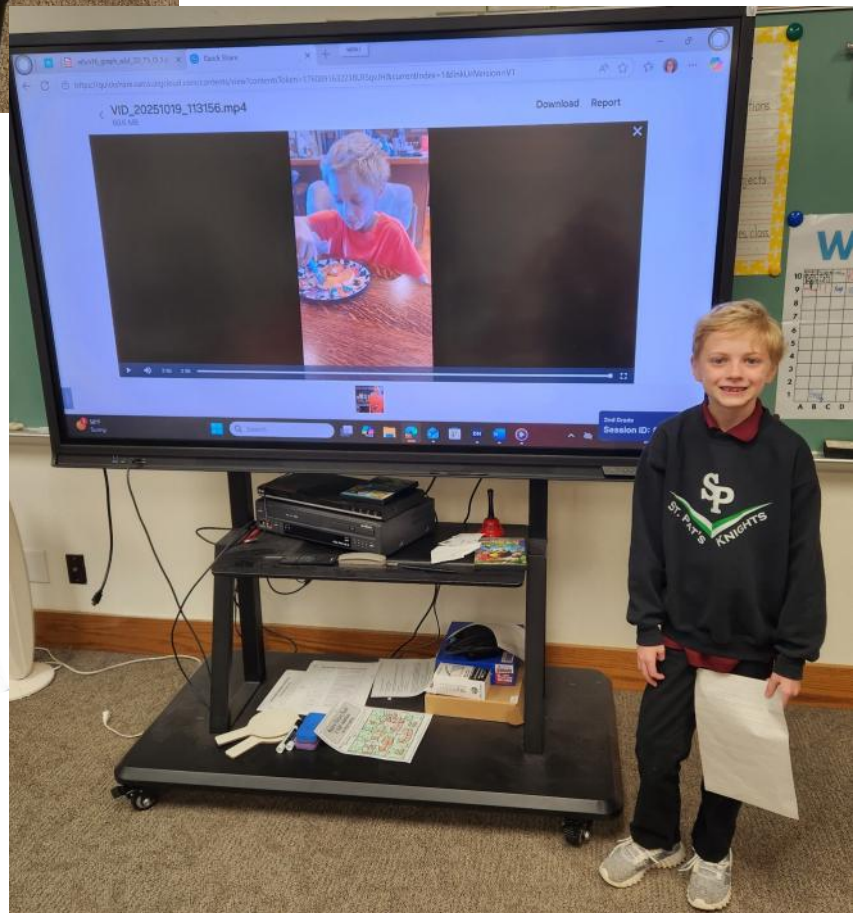
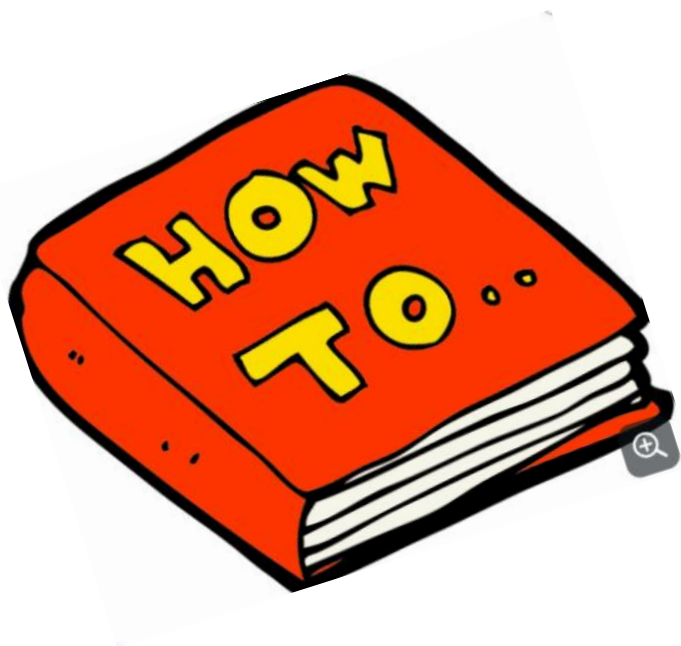






3rd grade students present their  
“How To” Articles.

Liam and Micah







Rachel

Evalyn and Rory







# BE A KNIGHT

Knights are:

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

Recently, Community Hospital Health Foundation held Concert for Healthcare which raises funds and awareness for local healthcare initiatives.

Makaylin, shown at right, and Lily, pictured below, helped make the concert a success with their helping hands. Thanks for being great Knights!







## Book Club

Mrs. Koebel—Librarian

Our second Book Club meeting was held on Thursday, October 23rd, and it was another wonderful time of connection, reflection, and fun!

The students' beautiful "Let Your Light" pictures, colored during our first meeting, are now displayed throughout the school — a cheerful reminder of the light we are called to share with others.

Our 4th and 5th graders discussed *Brave Like That* by Lindsey Stoddard — the very first novel our Book Club has read together! Several students have already finished the book, while others are still reading. We had a brief discussion about the main characters and the theme (without giving away any spoilers). So far, the book has been a hit and received great reviews from those who have finished it!

4th and 5th grade students who are still reading will have until after Thanksgiving to complete the book.

This week, we also continued exploring courage and kindness in action. Our focus was on spending quality time with friends without technology — and we had so much fun doing just that! Students played several new-to-them games, including *Tapple, Tenzi, and Taco vs. Burrito*.

We again enjoyed delicious snacks — homemade chocolate chip cookies baked by Mrs. Risenhoover.

As we wrap up, we again are so proud of our students for stepping into this journey with open hearts. We continue to pray that this Book Club is a place where stories inspire, friendships grow, and God's light shines brightly in all we do.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

— *Matthew 5:16*

We will not meet again until the SPRING.





*Please Join Us*



*St. Patrick School  
Christmas  
Music Program*

*Thursday, December 11th, 7:00 p.m.*





The 6th grade students have been studying all about Mexico. They then enjoyed lunch at El Puerto at the end of the unit.







Student Council Diaper Drive with Student Council Members: Brekkan, Celia, Lily, Vivie, Penelope, Annabell, Corbyn, Galilea, Ana, Kenlyn. Thanks to all who donated!





### St. Patrick's Volleyball Team Finishes an Incredible Season!

The St. Patrick's volleyball team had a fun and successful season this year, finishing with an **undefeated 8–0 record!** The team's hard work and teamwork paid off with an exciting victory at the Hitchcock County Tournament, where they were crowned champions.

We'd also like to recognize and celebrate our eighth graders who played their final season at St. Patrick's: Lily, Annie, Vivie, Penelope, and Kali. Their leadership and dedication have been an inspiration to their teammates, and they'll be greatly missed next year.

Congratulations to the entire team on an outstanding season—**Go St. Pat's!**



Front Row: Summer, Grace, Ariel, Kenlyn, Malia, Ana and Naomi

Back Row: Annie, Kali, Lily, Celia, Kylie, Vivie and Penelope

Not pictured here: Katelyn





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 Chicken Nuggets Vegetables Fruit Cookie Milk	4 Pork Steak Mashed Potatoes Vegetable Fruit Dinner Roll Milk	5 Italian Bake Vegetable Fruit Garlic Toast Milk	6 Chicken Tenders Waffles Sweet Potato Fries Fruit Juice Milk	7 PBJ or Tuna Salad Sandwich Salad Vegetable Fruit Milk	8
	10 Hamburger on Bun Baked Beans Sweet Potato Fries Fruit Milk	11 Chicken Legs Potatoes Vegetable Fruit Birthday Cake Milk	12 Deli Sandwich Salad Vegetables Fruit Milk	13 Ham & Rice Bake Vegetables Fruit Muffin Milk	14 Cheese Pizza Baby Carrots Vegetables Fruit Milk	15
16	17 Pulled Pork on Bun Baked Beans Sweet Potato Fries Fruit Milk	18 Sausage Pizza Salad Baby Carrots Fruit Milk	19 Turkey Mashed Potatoes Vegetable Fruit Dinner Roll Pumpkin Dessert Milk	20 <b>COOK'S CHOICE</b>	21 Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Vegetables Fruit Milk	22
23	24 Chicken Fajitas Beans Salsa Fruit Tortilla Chips Milk	25 Hot Dog on Bun Pork & Beans Sweet Potato Puffs Fruit Milk	26 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	27 <b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING</b>	28 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	29
30						





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 All Saints Day
2	3	4 Picture Re-takes and Basketball photos	5	6Big Give  Confessions  Kindergarten & 6th grades to Sheldon Art	7  Buddy Mass	8
9	10 Progress Reports  2nd & 8th grades to Sheldon Art Exhibit	11  Veterans Day Program 1:15  4th grade to Sheldon Art	12  2:00 Dismissal  2:15 Teacher Inservice	13	14	15
16	17	18  5th and 1st grades to Sheldon Art Exhibit  Unity Board	19 Safety Crisis Team Meeting 3:45  3rd grade to Sheldon Art Exhibit	20	21	22
23	24	25  Pantry Mass	26  Thanksgiving Vacation	27  Thanksgiving Vacation	28  Thanksgiving Vacation	29
30						