

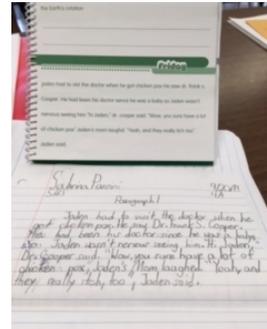
SACRED HEART NEWS

OCTOBER NEWS

Welcome to the first edition of Sacred Heart News! This monthly publication will let our reader know what is happening at Sacred Heart. Each edition will focus on a different academic skill and how it is implemented in the classroom.



Writing skills include typing, which is taught in our state-of-the-art computer lab. Students as young as those in 1st through 3rd grades are learning typing skills during computer lab class.



FOCUS ON WRITING

Our focus this month is writing in all of its forms. It is well-known that writing is a skill that is necessary across the curriculum. Students at every level practice writing with emphasis on the idea that writing is not a one-time activity. All students learn that the process of writing is just as important as the end product.

Our 4th grade classes are working through the process by practicing paragraph writing. They are taught how to begin a rough draft, proofread, edit, and complete a final draft. Students learn how to recognize spelling and grammar mistakes, use proofreaders' marks and correct their work. In connection with the reading curriculum, students are learning how to take notes from their reading and write book reports.



SMALL BLESSINGS

Our PreK and Kindergarten children begin the writing process through fine motor activities that help develop skills such as holding a pencil or crayon. Coloring for them is a writing skills. As the year progresses they move onto writing letters and their name. The process is gradual and continues as they grow and learn.



FIRE PREVENTION

The Lyndhurst Fire Department made a visit to Sacred Heart children in Grades PreK to Grade 3. They spoke about fire safety and showed the children their gear so that they would not be afraid of firemen.



5th & 6th graders are focusing on writing a strong paragraph with a main idea and topic sentence. Students write numerous drafts as they continue to edit their work for organization and flow. Writing exercises include picture prompts, written prompts, sentences for new vocabulary words, research writing, and creative writing. Students have begun public speaking exercises and presenting their writing in class.

How do we encourage writing in 7th and 8th grades? Our language arts teachers, Mrs. Canal and Ms. Klein have found that students at these grade levels enjoy responding to opinion pieces and current event picture prompts. To satisfy this interest, students are directed to the *New York Times Learning Network* which brings the world into the classroom. Students are directed to choose a picture prompt, an opinion piece, or current events article to read, gather their thoughts and respond in writing. MLA formatting is used in all writing at the 7th and 8th grade levels.

Proper research and the writing of research papers is important in the upper elementary level. 7th graders are introduced to the process and production of an MLA style research paper. 8th grade continues with the process by learning to choose an appropriate topic, ask a relevant question for research, and write a thesis statement in response to that question. Students also learn about note-taking, proper in-text citations, and how to create a works cited page. The goal is to have our students ready for high school and beyond.



STUDENT COUNCIL



Our 2019-2020 Student Council Officers

President: Leah DelPiano

Vice President: Jack Gilmore

Secretary: Jennifer Rankin

Treasure: Colin Wiss

TEACHER FEATURE

SHS welcomes Ms. Beth Ann Coleman to our faculty and school community. In the past we have known Ms. Coleman as our after school instrumental instructor. We are proud to now have her as part of our school community as the classroom music teacher for PreK through 8th grade.

Hopefully your children have come home to tell you of some of the wonderful things they are learning in music class. Ms. Coleman is teaching our students how to read notes and the rhythm that matches these notes. As the year progresses, she will be introducing recorder lessons, rhythm and dance moves, writing music and so much more.

Our choir and Mrs. Rooney are also pleased to have Ms. Coleman join them at our Masses and other school events.. We are fortunate to have Ms. Coleman as our music teacher and look forward to some sweet sounds coming from, her room..

Ms. Coleman, thank you for sharing your talent with us.