

SAINT COLUMBKILLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



St. Columbkille Footnotes

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.

Updated May 2026



Academic Highlights	Religious Highlights	Social Highlights
Letter Identification	Daily Prayer	Pumpkin Painting Party
Number identification and counting	Learn the Glory Be, Angel of God	Trick or Treating
Play centers	Bible Stories	Christmas Party
Circle Time	Catholic Schools Week	Valentine's Day Party
Calendar	Learn about St. Francis of Assissi, St. Nicholas, and St. Patrick	Field Day
Arts and Crafts		
Write Their Name		
Shape and Color Recognition		

Parent Volunteer Opportunities: Class parties (pumpkin painting, Christmas, Valentine's), mystery readers



Pre-Kindergarten

Academic Highlights	Religious Highlights	Social Highlights
Fundations	Father Moser monthly visits	Pumpkin carving/painting party
Letter and sound identification	Daily prayer	Trick or Treating
Rhyming	Learn The Glory Be	Christmas Party
Number identification and counting	Bible stories	Valentine's Day Party
Patterns	Catholic Schools Week	Fourth Grade buddies - many activities throughout the year
Play centers	Learn about St. Francis of Assissi, St. Nicholas, and St. Patrick	Easter egg hunt with our buddies
Write their name		Field day
Circle time		Graduation
Calendar/weather		
Arts and crafts		

Parent Volunteer Opportunities: Class parties (pumpkin carving, Christmas, Valentines).



Kindergarten

Academic Highlights	Religious Highlights	Social Highlights
Literacy centers	Virtue of the Month	Field Trips: Pumpkin patch and Henry Doorly Zoo with 7 th grade buddies, Rose Theater
Skilled based reading groups	Circle of Grace	
Fundations	Daily prayer Mass twice a week	Classroom Parties: Christmas and Valentine's Day
Learn to write a sentence	Buddies with 7th graders	Charlie Brown Thanksgiving
Phonetic spelling	Priests in the classroom	Christmas Program
Write class books	Learn four prayers (Angel of God, Our Father, Hail Mary, & Glory Be)	Gingerbread Houses with our 7 th grade buddies
Number writing and identification	Devotional - Rosary (Focus on the decade prayers & Fatima Prayer)	100 th day of school celebration
Count to 100		Spring Tea
Counting by 10's	Learn Creation and Jesus' Love for our family	Warm Fuzzy Parties - 1 per quarter
Introduction to addition and subtraction	Saint Studies	
Time, money, graphing, 2D/3D shapes	The Holy Trinity The Holy Family	
Unit studies for science and social studies- Bugs, Animals, American Symbols, Magnets, Seasons, and Holidays	All Saints day celebration Learning Centers L-2	
Forces and Motion	Advent and Lent	
	Catholic Schools Week	
End of Quarter Assessments	Baptism	
STAR Early Literacy Testing	Liturgical Season of the Church	
	Lead Mass for the first time (April/May)	

Parent Volunteer Opportunities: Class parties (Christmas and Valentine's Day).



1st Grade

Academic Highlights	Religious Highlights	Social Highlights
<p>Reading and Writing: Building Independence</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>Mass buddies with 5th 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 2nd 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>Deacons in the Classroom</p> <p>Priest visit to the classroom</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>Fun activities with 5th Grade Buddies</p> <p>Entertain senior citizens at the Happy Club Luncheon</p> <p>Music Program</p>

Parent Volunteer Opportunities: Class parties (Christmas and Valentine's Day), health screening, and guest readers.



2nd Grade

Academic Highlights	Religious Highlights	Social Highlights
<p>Literacy Centers</p> <p>Math: Mastering standards on addition and subtraction, reading graphs and charts, and measurement.</p> <p>Science: Matter and its interactions. Ecosystems; interactions, energy, and dynamics. Biological Evolution: unity and diversity.</p> <p>Social Studies: Civic participation. Economics; exchange & markets. Geography; locations, places, & regions. History; people, places, & events.</p> <p>Weekly Scholastic Magazine</p> <p>STAR Testing - Reading and Math</p>	<p>Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion</p> <p>May Crowning</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>Deacon/Priests in the Classroom</p>	<p>Field Trips: Rotella's Bakery and Durham Western Heritage Museum, Fontenelle Forest, Rose Theatre</p> <p>Classroom Parties: Christmas and Valentine's Day</p> <p>Field Day</p> <p>Classroom Transformations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Camp Read-a-lot ● Dollar Diner ● Grinch Day <p>May Crowning Breakfast for students and parents</p>

Parent Volunteer Opportunities: Class parties (Christmas and Valentine's Day), weekly literacy centers, field trips, and quilt committee.



3rd Grade

Academic Highlights	Religious Highlights	Social Highlights
Science of Reading: Focus on comprehension and higher level thinking; chapter books	Apostles' Creed	Field Trips: Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City and Fontenelle Forest
Cursive writing	The Ten Commandments	Cox Kids Creighton Baseball Game
Begin using assignment notebook/planner	Parents organize May Crowning Breakfast	Sarpy County Weather Hazard Poster Contest
Four- digit addition and subtraction with 2 or more regrouping	Bible Journaling	Classroom Parties: Christmas and Valentine's Day
Multiplication and Introduction to division	Circle of Grace	Field Day
Archdiocese Math Assessments	Divine Mercy Chaplet	Apple and Math Day
Embryology (Chicken) unit	Mass twice each week	Genre Book Tasting
Recorder	Saints' Research Project	Donut/Pie Shop: Multiplication/Author's Purpose
STAR Assessment	Deacons in the Classroom	Camp Learn a Lot
Animal Research Project		
Book Report		

Parent Volunteer Opportunities: Class parties, and classroom visits.



4th Grade

Academic Highlights	Religious Highlights	Social Highlights
CKLA - Language Arts and Reading 2-3 Digit Multiplication Long Division Fractions Science: Life Science - plant and animal structures Earth Science - Earth's features, weather Physical Science - Energy, sound, light Nebraska History STAR Testing Archdiocese Assessments: Social Studies, Science, and ELA Spelling Bee	The Ten Commandments The Sacraments The Beatitudes Moral Conscience Seasons of the Church Works of Mercy Circle of Grace Divine Mercy Chaplet Deacons in the Classroom	Field Trip: Lincoln, NE to visit State Capital and Morrill Hall Pioneer Day - Portal School Sauter House & Courthouse Classroom Parties: Christmas and Valentine's Day Field Day Pre-Kindergarten Buddies

Parent Volunteer Opportunities: Class parties (Christmas and Valentine's Day).



5th Grade

Academic Highlights	Religious Highlights	Social Highlights
<p>CKLA</p> <p>Narrative, Descriptive, and Opinion Writing</p> <p>Fractions and Decimals</p> <p>Physical, Earth, and Life Science</p> <p>Exploration of Early American History: American Revolution</p> <p>STAR Testing</p> <p>Archdiocese Assessments</p> <p>Spelling Bee</p>	<p>Seven Sacraments</p> <p>Mass Buddies with 1st Graders</p> <p>Circle of Grace</p> <p>Fr. Moser Visits</p>	<p>Field Trips: Trick or Treating at Papillion Manor</p> <p>Gross High School Musical</p> <p>Classroom Parties: Christmas and End of Elementary Party</p> <p>Field Day</p> <p>Art Projects with 1st grade buddies</p> <p>Youth Frontiers Kindness Retreat</p>

Parent Volunteer Opportunities: Class parties (Christmas and End of Elementary), youth frontiers retreat, and class field trips.



Middle School

Academic Highlights	Religious Highlights	Social Highlights
<p>8 period day Schedule iPads STAR testing</p> <p>Archdiocesan Assessments: 6th - Language Arts, 7th - Math 8th - Language Arts, Science, & S.S.</p> <p>6th Grade Math - General Math Foundation, Literature - Novel Units, Short Story Units, Nonfiction Studies, and Vocabulary Expansion. Language Arts - 6 Traits of Writing, Writing Process, Public Speaking, & Grammar Concepts Science - Cells, Ecosystem, Biodiversity, weather & climate Social Studies Ancient World Civilization</p> <p>7th Grade Math - Pre Algebra/continuation of math foundation skills Literature - Novel Units, Short Story Units, Nonfiction Studies, and Vocabulary Expansion. Language Arts - 6 Traits of Writing, Writing Process, Public Speaking, & Grammar Concepts. Science - Cells, Ecosystem, Biodiversity, weather & climate Social Studies - Geography, & Medieval Civilizations</p> <p>8th Grade Math - Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Geometry (HS level) Literature - Novel Units, Short Story Units, Nonfiction Studies, & Vocabulary Expansion Language Arts - 6 Traits of Writing, Writing Process, Public Speaking, and Grammar Concepts Science - Forces & motion, sound/light. Body systems & science project. Social Studies - US History & Personal Finance</p>	<p>Theology of the Body Reconciliation Quarterly Eucharistic Adoration Circle of Grace Living Stations of the Cross Middle School Mass Choir Circle of Grace Advent Ceremony Catholic Schools Week</p> <p>6th Grade Socktober Focus on the Old Testament Focus on Types of Prayers Research Saints Priest in the Classroom Mass buddies with 3rd grade Create Marian Apparition Videos Advent Program</p> <p>7th Grade Introduce Confirmation Saint Wax Museum Mass Buddies with Kindergarten Service Projects Priest in the Classroom Mass buddies with Kindergarten Create Eucharist Miracles Website Advent Program</p> <p>8th Grade Confirmation Living Stations Plant and Care for Mary Garden Mass Buddies with 2nd grade Mass at the Cathedral May Crowning with 2nd grade Priest in the Classroom Confirmation retreat</p>	<p>High School Recruitment Days Crusader Walk Career Fair Veterans Day Celebration Field Day Christmas Party Sock Hop Student Council Robotics Service Days</p> <p>6th Grade Outdoor ED</p> <p>7th Grade Field trip to the Zoo with Kdg. buddies Hosts for 8th grade dinner and dance Youth Frontiers - Courage Retreat Gingerbread Houses with Kdg. Buddies</p> <p>8th Grade 8th grade vs. teachers volleyball game 8th grade dinner 8th grade fun day at the end of the year Leads Field Day for PK-4th grade Boston/NYC Summer Trip</p>

Parent Volunteer Opportunities: 8th grade dinner (run by 7th grade parents), Field Day (6th and 7th), Mary Garden (8th), and Parent Volunteers for clubs throughout the year.



Art and Library

Art	Library
<p style="text-align: center;">K-2nd Grade</p> <p>Exploration, Following direction, fine motor skills and creative effort. Did the student try? Did they follow directions? did they use materials safely? Creativity: Used original ideas. Craftsmanship: Took time, kept work clean. Effort: Stayed focused and completed the project.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3rd-5th Grade</p> <p>Introduction to Elements of Art, improved craftsmanship, and expressing ideas. Composition, handling of media, and effort. Understanding: Clearly shows understanding of concepts and instructions. Thoughtful organization of space. Handling of Media: Proper care and precision.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6th-8th Grade</p> <p>Technical skill, artistic voice, critical thinking, and refined craftsmanship.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Technical skill, originality, and self-assessment.</p> <p>Creativity/Originality: High level of personal expression. Craftsmanship/Skill: Neatness and precise technique. Message/Idea: Strong ability to convey a concept. Self-Assessment: Artist statement explaining the process.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Kindergarten & 1st Grade:</p> <p>Using the library and caring for books Distinguishing fiction and nonfiction Identifying parts of a book Reinforcement of Phonemic Awareness, fluency, vocab., & comprehension through read alouds Creating & collaborating through makerspace Information literacy skills with STEM integration Common Sense Media Education</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2nd & 3rd Grades:</p> <p>Organizing a library using alphabetical order Identifying parts of books & nonfiction features Reinforcement of Phonemic Awareness, fluency, vocab., & comprehension through read alouds Creating and collaborating through makerspace Online card Cataloging and Online Encyclopedia Information literacy skills with STEM integration Common Sense Media Education</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4th and 5th Grades:</p> <p>Organizing a library using the Dewey Decimal system Citing sources Exploring the characteristics of literary genres Creating & collaborating through makerspace Online card Cataloging and Online Encyclopedia Information literacy skills with STEM integration Common Sense Media Education</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6th, 7th and 8th Grades:</p> <p>Introduction to online databases Evaluating sources of information Citing sources Exploring topics of personal interest Creating & collaborating through makerspace News literacy Information literacy skills with STEM integration Common Sense Media Education</p>

Physical Education and Music



Physical Education	Music
<p>Each class begins with prayer and warm-up</p> <p>Kindergarten-2nd Grades: 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>3-5th Grades: 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>6th-8th Grades: 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>8th 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 K-5 participate in 2 general music classes per 8 day cycle rotation 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>Kindergarten Steady beat and characteristics of music.</p> <p>1st grade Beginning note values and pitches.</p> <p>2nd grade Continue note values and pitches. Instrument families</p> <p>3rd grade Pentatonic scale, sixteenth notes, and Soprano Recorder.</p> <p>4th grade Continue Soprano Recorder, syncopated rhythms, treble clef notes.</p> <p>5th grade Major scales, meter, and, advanced rhythms.</p> <p>6th grade Bass clef, composers. Music in video games..</p> <p>7th grade Parodies, genres, and music around the world</p> <p>8th grade Composing, rap, careers in music</p>



Glossary

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, Ceili Class Creation, and any other student activities.

All School Mass: Students in grades K-8 attend all school mass on Thursdays during the school year. Students sit with their mass buddies. Parents/community can attend mass and are asked to sit in the back of the church.

Book Boosters: This optional program offers the opportunity to contribute to the library book collection. Students and families may donate a book to recognize a student's birthday, to honor a teacher or staff member, or to mark a special occasion. A personalized book plate will be placed inside the front cover of the book, special recognition will be given to Book Boosters during library class, and they will have the honor of being the first patron to check out the book.

Catholic Schools Week: A week filled with special events celebrating Catholic schools. Activities include family Masses, special dress days, the Spelling Bee and Talent Show, Family Pizza Night, an 8th Grade Mass at the Cathedral, the annual 8th grade vs. staff volleyball game, a service project, and more!

Ceili: A Ceili is an Irish party and "Columb's Ceili" is held annually each Spring. 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 coordinated during art classes 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-4th grades attend class mass on Wednesday morning and grades 5th-8th 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 am. 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, 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 Wednesday 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. The dates can be found on the school calendar.

Crusader 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 6:30 am and After School Care begins at 3:15 and lasts until 6:00. The fee is \$5/day for morning care and \$5/hour for afternoon care. Students are provided outdoor play time



(weather permitting), snack, time to complete homework, and the opportunity for structured activity. The program is available on all days off of school excluding holidays, as well as in the summer.

Crusader Walk: Our biggest fundraiser of the year, the Crusader Walk attempts to put into practice the school's mission statement, "To help everyone take their next step to be more like Jesus". Students grow their minds by preparing letters requesting donations for the "Walk" portion of our fundraiser (Spring). During the Walk, students pray the Rosary, allowing them to exercise both their bodies and spirits.

Daily schedule:

6:30 a.m. Crusader Care opens
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
11:00 a.m. Lunch begins
12:45 p.m. Lunch ends
3:00, 3:15, and 3:20 p.m. School dismissal; After School Care program begins
3:40 p.m. Teachers and staff off duty; School office closes
5:30 p.m. Crusader Care program ends

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.

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; and pay tuition and fees.

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 prepay lunch 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 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-4) 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. 5th-8th graders 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 through student fees. Field trips can also be a great way for parents to volunteer.

Grading Policy: Please see **Report Cards**

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 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.

Inclement Weather Policy: In the event classes are canceled 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 canceled 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, or fill out the google form found on the school website. 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. Students' lunch orders must be received in the office by 8:30 AM.

Mass Buddies: Each of the upper grades (4-8) serves as Mass Buddies for the lower grades (PK-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: PK-4th, Kindergarten-7th; 1st – 5th; 2nd – 8th; and 3rd – 6th

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 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 meet classroom teachers, drop off school supplies, and complete the beginning of the school year activities, 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 zone (Orange, Yellow, Red, Pink, Green, and Purple) where they are to be dropped off and picked up. 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 402-339-0990.

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 emailed home a few days after the end of each quarter.

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 volunteers in or outside of the school for a school or parish related event (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 recertified (online) under the then-current policy. For more information visit the Omaha Archdiocesan Safe Environment web site: <https://archomaha.org/safe-environment/>

Saint Columbkille(521- 597): (sounds like: colum: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 9 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.

Signing into the school: All visitors, including parents, will need to report to the office 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 physical education, music, art, and library. Students will attend each special twice in a nine day cycle for 40 minutes each (spanish will be once in an eight day cycle).

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" is 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, theater, VBS, etc.)

Standardized Assessments: Tests that are administered and scored in a consistent or standard manner (ex: STAR testing and archdiocesan assessments). These tests provide one way of assessing student and teacher performance.

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.

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 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 (all year for students in grades 5-8). See the Family Handbook for the full uniform policy.

Wednesday Envelope: Every other Wednesday when school is in session, the Wednesday Envelope is emailed to school parents. This is our main channel for communication and for distributing forms and flyers to school families.

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