



SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR *Special Needs*

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week: United in Faith and Community

Each year, Catholic Schools Week is a special time at Saint Catherine Academy, as we celebrate the value of a Catholic education. This year's theme, "United in Faith and Community," reminded us of the importance of faith, friends, and shared values.

Throughout the week, students and staff participated in activities that reflected the spirit of unity and joy. Each day featured a different theme, allowing students to express themselves in various ways. Classes decorated their doors and bulletin boards with faith-filled messages and artwork.

One highlight of the themed days was the dress-up spirit days, during which students and staff dressed in fun and creative outfits. From wearing their favorite color to a fun costume to representing their favorite sports team, each day brought laughter and social interaction.

In addition to festive attire, students engaged in group activities to promote teamwork and community. Mini Golf To-Go came to our Center and set up a mini-golf course in the gym allowing students to enjoy a fun challenge at their own pace. We also held a special prayer service that provided us with the opportunity for reflection and thanksgiving, reminding us of the blessings of Catholic education and the importance of faith in our lives.

"Catholic Schools Week is a wonderful way to recognize our faculty, students, and families as we grow together in faith. Saint Catherine Academy is the hallmark of Catholic education; allowing for each student to grow into their personal best," said Mrs. Lanni, Director of Education.

This week-long celebration was not only about dressing up in fun outfits; it was a



reaffirmation of the values that shape us, the friendships we have, and the faith that guides us. At Saint Catherine Academy, we are grateful for the gift of Catholic education, and the strong community that makes our school a place of learning, love, and inclusion.

[Click here for a short video.](#)



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

From Our Hearts to Theirs



At Saint Catherine Center, we believe that sharing kindness and love is at the heart of everything we do. This Valentine's Day, students from the Academy and adults from our day program partnered with Foundations in Faith to craft heartfelt cards to share with retired priests from the Diocese.



With colorful paper, stickers, and plenty of care, each card became a unique expression of gratitude and joy. The activity was a fun opportunity for students and young adults to showcase their artistic skills while spreading kindness and love.



The Valentines, filled with warm wishes and thoughtful designs, will be delivered to retired priests at Queen of Clergy as a small but meaningful reminder of how much they are valued. This project allowed our community to come together and remind these priests they are cherished in our hearts.

Celebrating the Year of the Snake

The Adult Program welcomed the Lunar New Year with a festive celebration filled with learning, creativity, and fun! This year,

2025, marks the Year of the Snake, a symbol of wisdom, intuition, and transformation in the Chinese zodiac.

To start the celebration, participants learned about the history and traditions of the Lunar New Year. They discovered how this day is celebrated around the world with family gatherings, fireworks, foods, and celebrations that bring good fortune.

After the lesson, everyone used their creativity for hands-on crafts. Using paper plates, the young adults painted and decorated colorful snakes, showcasing the symbol for the year ahead. They also made red lanterns out of construction paper and glitter, recognizing the traditional decorations that light up homes and streets during the Lunar New Year.

The room was filled with excitement as everyone proudly displayed their handmade crafts. To end the celebration on a sweet note, each person received a fortune cookie.

It was a wonderful way to welcome the Year of the Snake, bringing everyone together in the spirit of celebration and creativity. Happy Lunar New Year!



Foundations in Education Innovation and Leadership Grant Award

Saint Catherine Academy is pleased to announce a grant award from Foundations in Education for "Ready, Set, Read," a multimedia mobile library project submitted by Mrs. Lisa Lanni. We are grateful for Foundations in Education's continued support.



Foundations in Education is an independent non-profit initiative created to assist the Diocese of Bridgeport's ongoing mission to support Catholic education in Fairfield County. Now in its eighth year, the grant program promotes excellence in Catholic education by helping teachers' creative projects, innovation, and professional development. Grants funded through this program are designed to support transformative initiatives that benefit multiple grade levels and have a lasting impact on student learning.



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