

Catholic Schools Week 2020 January 26 - February 1

Discover the Benefits of Catholic Education...



Join us as we celebrate our Catholic Schools during Catholic School Week. For an activities schedule near you, contact your local school.



https://jacksondiocese.org/ find-schools/



ANNUNCIATION SCHOOL

223 North Browder Street, Columbus, MS 39702 www.annunciationcatholicschool.org

CATHEDRAL SCHOOL Pre-K4 701 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street, Natchez, MS 39120

www.cathedralgreenwave.com

thru 8th Grade

(662)328-4479

JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1, 2020

Pre-K3 thru 12th Grade (601)442-2531



COLUMBUS – With the help of eighth grade student Patrick Doumit, Bishop Joseph Kopacz blesses Annunciation school's new expansion and students on Thursday, Nov. 21.

"Expectations are high in this Christ-centered environment where children are encouraged to reach their full potential. Working at ACS after my retirement from a previous school has been wonderful! I have truly found a second family of peers who make coming to school very special. My faith is strengthened daily as I am surrounded by a family of strong believers who strive to make Christ the center of ALL areas of learning."

- Cindy Prewitt, third-grade teacher

Perrin Makofski, parent

"We love the family atmosphere, the diverse <mark>wa</mark>ys the teachers teach so that each student learns to love learning, and the respect the kids have for each other and their teachers. We love how the kids grow not only in academia but in faith. There are also lots of opportunities to "get the wiggles out" for the younger kids with numerous physical activities each day. When I pick my kids up from school they always say, "Today was the best day ever!" I never have to ask how their day was, they actually want to tell me all about it. We could not be happier and our family is beyond grateful for the entire staff and all the wonderful friends that have been made. This to us is the perfect school."

TRADITION:

Each year since 1986, the students in the third grade class have created a time capsule. The biggest difference in our time capsules and the classical type time capsules is these will not be buried. They will be stored away on our school's campus. The time capsules follow the students through the remainder of third-grade then all the way through eighth-grade. At some point during their eigth-grade year, the time capsules will surface and an opening celebration will be had.



NATCHEZ – Cathedral school first grader Annie Maxwell and senior Olivia Waycaster walking in to the traditional Opening School Mass at St. Mary Basilica.

"As Catholics, we knew that our daughter would attend Cathedral School. When she started in preschool, we immediately felt like a part of the family. That feeling led me to join the faculty the next year. I am currently serving as Assistant Principal and enjoy spreading the Catholic faith and love to all of our students."

- Jennifer Haile, Assistant Principal, Grades 6 - 12

"When our son was two, my husband and I embarked on the search for our son's future education. We were eager to find classrooms where kids were engaged in their work and teachers who were happy. We wanted a philosophy that was both traditional and progressive and a school with teachers and a principal with similar goals and a common vision of how to reach them. Most of all, we wanted a school that would be willing to love our child unconditionally for the next 14 years. This May, that 2 year old will be a 2020 graduate from Cathedral! Cathedral has been the place where every student is known well, cared for, and respected, where each student is a member of a "family." A school where every student is challenged, supported to achieve ambitious goals, and most importantly, loved! Cathedral has been wonderful for us! '

– Tye Murray, mother of Parker Murray, class of 2020

TRADITION:

Ring Day Mass – The junior class marks the milestone of receiving their class rings with liturgy, song and having their rings blessed at this traditional Mass held at St. Mary Basilica. After Mass the junior class has breakfast in St. Therese Hall then off to their junior retreat.



HOLY FAMILY EARLY LEARNING CENTER

8 Orange Avenue, Natchez, MS 39120 http://hfsnatchez.weebly.com/

ST. PAUL EARLY LEARNING CENTER 3 years thru Pre-K5 (601)442-3947

5969 Highway 25, Flowood, MS, 39232 www.saintpaullearningcenter.com

JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1, 2020

Infants thru Pre-K4 (601)992-2876



NATCHEZ - The passion play at Holy Family is a Lenten tradition. The students act out the entire passion of Christ, based on the gospels, including the resurrection.

"Children at Holy Family Early Learning Center continually amaze me with their capacity for learning, happiness and growth."

- Sister Dymphna Clarke, educator

"It is wonderful to have my children wake up every morning excited about going to school, meeting their friends and enjoying learning."

"I love going to Holy Family because we do lots of work."

Kaiden Prater, student

Neifa Hardy, parent

TRADITION:

Kindergarten students are prepared by Faye Barnes during the Lenten Season to present in drama and song the Last Supper, passion and death of Jesus to parents and parishioners. The students take this play very seriously and put their hearts into the production.



FLOWOOD - St. Paul Early Learning Center uses play to help children with early developmental goals.

"I love the staff and the babies. It is just a good atmosphere to work in." - Janice Gilbert, celebrating 20 years at St. Paul

"I am so thankful for St. Paul Early Learning Center. The love they show our children is unmatched and can be felt as soon as you walk into the building. I am also so pleased with the education the students are receiving. The Christian-based curriculum ensures that they are not only learning what they need to know to be successful in school, but in life as well. They are truly supporting us in developing well-rounded, Christ- loving children." – Lee Pambianchi, parent

"I like Center Time at St. Paul because I learn lots of new things."

- Collin Tolliver, Pre-K5 Class

SERVICE

During Catholic Schools Week the school collects items for disadvantaged children. During Thanksgiving the school collects food for local food pantries and for Christmas collect books for Blair E. Batson Children's Cancer Clinic.

TRADITION:

Every year all the children participate in a Christmas program. The babies are angels and their parents bring them up to the altar; the other children play characters in a Nativity play. The highlight of the program is when everyone joins together to sing "Happy Birthday Jesus." It is such a joyous celebration.



HOLY FAMILY Early Learning Center LEARN so we can LJVE so we can LOVE!

8 ORANGE AVE Natchez, MS 39120

CALL: 601-442-3947 or 601-304-2388 FAX: 601-442-3973



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ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL

150 Florence Avenue, Clarksdale, MS 38614 http://seseagles.com

Pre-K3 thru 6th Grade (662)624-4239

SISTER THEA BOWMAN SCHOOL

1217 Hattiesburg Street, Jackson, MS 39209 www.theabowmanschool.com Pre-K3 thru 6^h Grade (601)352-5441



CLARKSDALE – Second-grade students carry loaves of bread to Mass in honor of St. Elizabeth of Hungary's feast day. The bread is donated to The Care Station, a local soup kitchen and food pantry.

"I love SES! It feels like home and family. I'm an SES alum and feel honored to be teaching here. I love seeing growth in each child over the school year."

- Andrea Farris, second-grade teacher

"Sending my children to St. Elizabeth was an easy choice for me, and it was also the best choice. St. Elizabeth is our home away from home. It is such a comfort to me that during the hours I have to spend away from my children, they are not only being nurtured academically and spiritually, but they are being LOVED. Most importantly, Jesus is the very heart of our school. His presence is in each and every classroom."

– Erin Alderson, parent of three SES students

"Jesus is at my school."

– Bowen Alderson, kindergarten student

SERVICE:

Students will be composing postcards during writing class and sending them to St. Elizabeth church parishioners and will take service field trips during Catholic Schools Week 2020. Students will volunteer a few hours at our local food bank and animal shelter.

TRADITION:

BINGO and Hamburger Supper Night is a long-standing tradition during Catholic Schools Week. School and parish families come together for a night of food, fellow-ship, games and prizes to celebrate OUR catholic school!



JACKSON – Fifth and sixth-grade religion students at Sister Thea Bowman school reflect on their completed class rosary project. Students worked to design a large colored coded rosary to help explain parts of the prayer.

"When I enter STB, I know and feel welcomed and excited for the day. Parents are extremely helpful in working with the school and their children. The school staff work well together and assist each other in every way."

- Christopher Payne, Social Studies and Technology teacher

"The Principal gives STB School a genuine, honest and safe feeling that you know that your child is in the best care for eight hours. The teachers are great with all the students. I love how the school instills character in our children and informs students of the importance of Jesus and their education."

- Anita Means, fifth-grade parent

SERVICE:

At Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School we believe: "Where much is given, Much is expected." We must pay it forward through our service projects. Student Council Members prepared Christmas joy bags with socks, caps and gloves for each person who came to the Stewpot Community Center for a meal. The students assisted in setting the tables, preparing beverages and singing Christmas Carols while everyone enjoyed their meal. Our STB parents lent a helping hand too in preparing plates and serving the food.

TRADITION:

Each year every student in the school has a part to play in portraying the Christmas Story of Jesus' birth with dramatic speaking parts, custom costumes, Christmas singing and praise dancing.



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL

2607 Hwy 82 East, Greenwood, MS 38930-5966 www.sfgw.org Pre-K3 thru 6th grade (662)453-9511

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ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

308 New Mannsdale Road, Madison, MS 39110 www.stjoebruins.com 7th thru 12th grade (601)898-4800



GREENWOOD – St. Francis of Assisi students perform "Keeping Christ in Christmas." Pictured left to right, Allison Jones (second grade), Christopher Villasana (fifth grade), Sandra Chavez (fifth grade) and Katorrica Richards (sixth grade).

"Following your own lead allows you to know your own path and gives you the strength needed to remain purpose driven and focused." – Gail Griggs, music teacher

"Christian Education enhances the whole child.

- Latoye Zinn, parent

"The greatest weapon you have is your education! I love learning at St. Francis and all of the activitys we do to support the community."

- Devin Munford, student

SERVICE:

Students participate in many worthwhile projects at St. Francis School, including International Box of Joy, holding food drives for the Leflore County Community Food Pantry, Pennies for Patients and fundraisers for the Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation.

TRADITION:

Sister Kathleen's pre-K class studies modes of transportation every year. The unit ends with an exciting day when huge trucks, tractors, garbage trucks, police and fire vehicles visit the school campus.





stfrancisgreenwood@gmail.com 662.453.9511



MADISON – St. Joseph students display the total raised at the eight hour Bruinthon fund raising event.

"I am so grateful that in a Catholic school we not only have a class in Theology, but all the teachers here are able to share their faith with their students and, therefore, allow them to grow not just physically and academically but spiritually, so they can become the person God created them to be."

- Mariland Hendley, 10th grade theology

"Catholicism is part of my identity. Catholic education has allowed me to further my knowledge of both the physical and spiritual world. It has trained me and my peers to become scholars and disciples, and I am forever grateful for this aid on the road toward eternity."

– Hannah Dear, senior

SERVICE:

Feeding the poor and marginalized is a community need that the St. Joe family holds in high regard. The senior classes, beginning with the Class of 2018, wanted to do something different to leave their mark. They banded together to complete their community service impact with a food drive called Reaching Out and Helping Others. This drive is an opportunity for St. Joe students and families to give back to their communities and local churches by collecting and providing food for children over the summer who might not otherwise have food. Last year's project was bigger than the previous year, and it provided food to eight local parishes who contribute to various food pantries in the community.



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(On left) JACKSON – Music is fun for Pre-K students at Sister Thea Bowman school. Amber Lewis enjoys tapping out the musical notes on the floor model keyboard while fellow Pre-K classmates eagerly await their turn. (Photo courtesy of Deacon Denzil Lobo)



VICKSBURG Catholic School Performing Art students Sarah Pratt, Taylor Chewning, Reed Bourne and Bryce Chapman perform for their fellow students during class. (Photo by Lindsey Bradley)

MADISON – St. Joseph students Brennan Teeter, Celeste Hall and Marshall Runnels sort and count items for parish food pantries. (Photo courtesy Tricia Harris)



FLOWOOD – The "Creepers" at St. Paul Early Learning Center love story time. (Photo by Susan Irby)



CLARKSDALE – On St. Nicholas's Feast Day, St. Nicholas (parishioner, Woody Joseph) visited students at St. Elizabeth school for movie night. St. Nick posed for photos and is seen here reading "The Night Before Christmas." (Photo by Sarah Cauthen)



GREENWOOD – Students at St. Francis school perform the Christmas classic the "Twelve Days of Christmas." Pictured left to right, Caila Gomez, Maycee Jones, Kamaree Grayson, Alex West and Yareli Martinez. (Photo courtesy of St. Francis school)

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MADISON - St. Anthony students prepare snack bags for the homeless. (Photo by Michele Warnock)

NATCHEZ - Cathedral school first grader Annie Maxwell and senior Olivia Waycaster walking in to the traditional Opening School Mass at St. Mary Basilica (Photo by Cara Moody Serio)



MERIDIAN – St. Patrick school, fourth grade student Noah McCaffrey presents his Creative Contraption to the judges of the Knights of Columbus- Council 802. (Photo by Celeste Saucier)



MADISON - Assisi Learning Center students use outdoor activities to develop motor skills on their new playground. Pictured left to right, Camden Killingsworth, Hayes Willis and John Auden Gardy. (Photo by Sister Paula)

HOLY SPRINGS Students at Holy Family school live the motto: "We embrace technology!" (Photo by Laura Grisham)



JACKSON -St. Richard first grade student, Charlie Garner, learns about measurements. (Photo by Meredith Mc-Cullough)

VICKSBURG CATHOLIC SCHOOL

1900 Grove St/ 1400 Hayes St, Vicksburg, MS 39183 St. Francis Xavier Elementary St. Aloysius High School www.vicksburgcatholic.org

Pre-K3 thru 12th grade (601)636-2256 (601)636-4824

JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1,2020

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

395 West Street, Holly Springs, MS 38635 www.hfamilyschool.org Pre-K thru 8th grade (662)252-1612



VICKSBURG – St. Francis Xavier Elementary student, Vaylor Smith is blessed by Father PJ Curley during school Mass.

"I have been with Vicksburg schools for over 30 years. Truly, the greatest gift is the time I get to spend with these children."

– Shelley Nosser, teacher

"As a parent, I am extremely grateful for the Catholic education my children have received at Vicksburg Catholic School. VCS offers a comprehensive academic and religious environment, where each student is given the opportunity to succeed and grow intellectually and spiritually. Catholic education also instills a strong sense of community in students and the importance of serving others. We really are...1school 1 family!" – Cathi Verhine, parent

"Even though I am new to VCS, I feel like I have always been here. It feels like home" – Cooper Madison, student

SERVICE:

Students volunteer at the Good Shepherd Community Center, Vicksburg Family Development, the THRIVE mentoring program and in the Warren County Children's Shelter. They also participate in prayer labrynth and Operation Christmas Child.

TRADITION:

The Food Basket Project – VCS students and families donate thanksgiving food items for baskets that are donated to families in need during the Thanksgiving season. This was a tradition started by Sister Fatima over 20 years ago.



"My Catholic education has helped me put God first in everything I do."

Wally Wibowo, Class of 2014 (MIT Graduate, Aerospace Engineering)

Join us for #CSW1920!

Vicksburg Catholic School will host the 2nd Inuagural Mayor's Economic Development Update

Monday, January 27 11:00 AM

Open House Wednesday, January 29 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

VICKSBURG CATHOLIC SCHOOL 1900 Grove Street • Vicksburg, MS 39183 601-630-9762 • www.vicksburgcatholic.org



HOLLY SPRINGS – Students at Holy Family pose for a picture before they start their school day.

"I like being in a small environment where talking and learning about Jesus is a part of our curriculum."

- Shirley Daughtery, teacher for 44 years

"Holy Family School has gone above and beyond for my child. It is not only a school: Holy Family is a family. Everybody makes you feel welcome as soon as you pull into the parking lot."

- Daria Covington, parent

"I like the teachers at Holy Family because they are the best teachers ever. I love going to Mass because we learn about God's teaching and that we shouldn't take anything for granted."

Kristil Byers, sixth-grade student

SERVICE:

Garden Café Servers, Annual Can Good Drive, St. Jude Math-A-Thon, St. Jude Trike-A-Thon, delivering food to the less fortunate and collecting toiletries and winter apparel for Native Americans on the Lower Brule Indian Reservation.

TRADITION:

Boxed goods and warm meals are delivered to senior citizens living near the school during Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

1501 V.F.W. Road, Greenville, MS 38701 Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary St. Joseph Middle/High School www.ourladyoflourdesschool.org www.stjoeirish.org

Pre-K3 ASSISI EARLY (662)334-3287 (662)378-9711

thru 12th grade **LEARNING CENTER** 4000 West Tidewater Lane, Madison, MS 39110

Infants thru Pre-K4 (601)856-9494

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GREENVILLE - All Saints Day Mass at St. Joseph Church, pictured from left to right: Clayton Hensley, Chris Tonos, Father Aaron Williams, Frank Joseph Serio, Greg Fore and Kent Tonos.

"Life time of Christian faith and service, and lasting friendships because of the fundamental values I received from my Catholic education both as a student and educator." - Sandra McGaugh, teacher for 59 years

"St. Joseph Catholic School is a great fit for our family. For us, it's a diverse group of families who are joined for the same reason. We all want a great education for our children where they have opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities. Most importantly, we all want these things in a Christ-centered environment. Our school is different in the best way and it doesn't take someone who walks in the door long to see what a great thing we have at St. Joe and Lourdes."

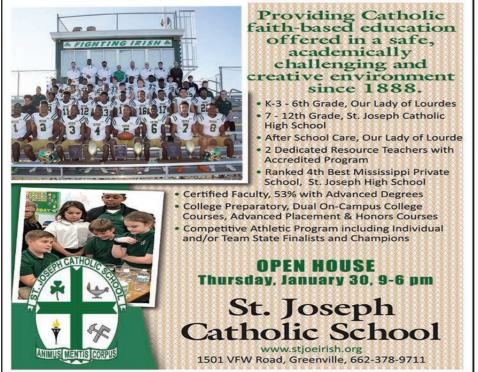
J. Meyer, parent

"St. Joseph has provided me with many opportunities that are helping me to have a bright future. The learning environment is amazing with students who are polite and positive. Along with the stellar academics each grade is required to take, students are required to study the Catholic religion. Our religion classes help students to stay in touch with our faith as they strive towards their personal and academic goals."

Matthew Stark, student

SERVICE:

The school hosts an annual St. Vincent De Paul coat drive and canned food drive and angel tree.





MADISON - Assisi Early Learning Center students pose for a photo after receiving a blessing for their stuffed animal "pets."

"The Assisi Early Learning Center has been a blessing to our family. We visited every place in town, but no other compared to the quality of Assisi. During our first visit to Assisi, we were told that after attending Assisi, our daughter, Pheebie, would be ready for any school anywhere. That has proven to be more than the truth. It has exceeded our expectations, and has been done with genuine love and Christian values. From the moment we walked into the front doors, we knew we were home. Assisi was warm, the curriculum unmatched, and the quality of the staff was genuine. Sister Paula and every staff member are loving. Our daughter, Pheebie, is eager each day to go to school. That is a great feeling as a parent made only possible by AELC!"

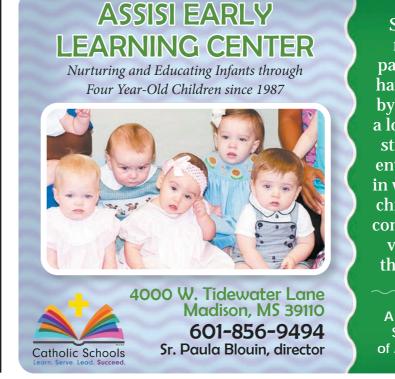
Julee and Rick Fava, parents

SERVICE:

During Catholic Schools Week, we read and study the story Stone Soup. Along with discussing the values of this story, our four-year old classes make Stone Soup for the whole school which is a service to the school. The idea is that when we all share a little, we can feed a village.

TRADITION:

We are serving second generation children – parents who have graduated from AELC are bringing us their babies; eleven families so far!



Serving a need for parents who have to work by providing a loving, safe, stimulating environment in which each child can become the best version of themselves.

A ministry of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

ST. RICHARD SCHOOL

100 Holly Drive Jackson, MS 39206 www.strichardschool.org

Pre-K3 thru 6th Grade (601)366-1157

JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1, 2020

ANTHONY

SCHOOL 1585 Old Mannsdale Road, Madison, MS 39110 www.stanthonyeagles.org Pre-K4 thru 6^h Grade (601)607-7054



JACKSON – Kindergarten students, Andrew Compretta and Drew Simmons, read during library time at St. Richard school.

"Catholic education provides a complete education- not just academically, but also including the ideals of trust faith, understanding and compassion. As a teacher, I've grown in the cultivated interaction with my peers and the ever presence of faith and support among us. As a parent, I have watched my children grown in compassion and faith in a very inclusive environment that encourages individually through a hands on learning approach and spiritual teachings."

– Ilana Schuetzle, pre-K4 teacher (parent of an elementary student)

"What makes me feel special about St. R is that when I walk through the front doors, I feel welcomed, special, and safe. I have been here since kindergarten. Every year has been a blast! I say this because all of my teachers I have had, I have loved. Especially Mrs. Cockrell! She was the best! She was so nice. She made me believe in myself. I also loved Mrs. Pitts. She was so much fun. She makes learning easy. Thank you creator of St. R and thank you Mrs. David."

- Cray Luckett, student

TRADITION:

St. Richard puts on a major Thanksgiving Feast every year. A church parishioner provides a traditional Thanksgiving meal and each family is invited to purchase tickets for the feast, come as a family during a designated time assigned to their child's house and enjoy a schoolwide feast. The students make placemats and table centerpieces in their art classes for several weeks. It's always a great tradition of family and fellowship that happens just before the hustle and bustle of the end of the semester.





MADISON – Deacon Cesar Sanchez plays the guitar as Miss Anabeth Hannan's kindergarten class joins in singing spiritual song.

"What greater gift could we give our children than to provide them with an education that is rooted in the single most important thing in this life: faith in Our Lord, Our Father, Our Savior. It is such a blessing to work in a place where I am able to help children grow in their Catholic faith everyday."

– Amy D'Alfonso, Pre-K3 teacher

"As a parent of two children attending St. Anthony, a strong Catholic education is important to our family. In looking at the world around us, the moral compass provided to our children will be invaluable as they move through life. The fact that they get to start their day in prayer every morning is a blessing. Additionally, our kids have learned so much about our faith from their teachers, and they have the confidence to share their faith with complete strangers. "

-Ryan Beard, parent

SERVICE:

Students contribute money during the season of Lent to purchase healthy snacks, lunches and breakfast foods for 45 disadvantaged students at Pisgah and Oakdale Elementary schools. This project provides the opportunity for students to pack grocery bags with food items so that these students have enough food to eat while they are home for the weekend. Classes take turns packing the bags during the weeks of Lent and some write cheerful notes of encouragement and love to place in the bags. The students enjoy this hands-on project which provides them first-hand experience in helping their peers who do not have their basic nutritional requirements met.



ST. PATRICK SCHOOL

2700 Davis Street, Meridian, MS 39301 www.stpatrickcatholicschool.org

Pre-K thru 7th Grade (601)482-6044



JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1, 2020

Pre-K4 thru 8th Grade (662)349-0900

Rae Davis, teacher

- Quinn Thurman, student



MERIDIAN - Fifth graders, Laney Palmer and Bryson Jackson, use their critical thinking skills for problem solving: how to support four textbooks with only a few index cards.

"St. Patrick's school is so much more than an education. It is an experience. It encompasses every aspect of the student's growth. It empowers them to be all that they ever dreamed they could be. It exposes them to a multi-cultural environment that is embraced." – Melanie Pressly, first grade

"Our trepidations melted away as we began to see the passion the administration had for not only academics, but for the children entrusted in their care. The atmosphere of learning and love within the walls of this school is unmistakable. We can't begin to truly express our passion for St. Patrick school and the peace our family has found there. The best way we can sum things up, is that we wished we would have joined this family sooner." Reverend Matt Farmer, parent

SERVICE

The school choir visited Poplar Springs Nursing Home and sang Christmas Carols to the residents during the holidays; students create "Love Bags" filled with necessities for the homeless and deliver them to the local soup kitchen; the last Friday of every month, students contribute \$1 to wear jeans, the profits are donated to a local charity each year; each classroom participates in "Fill the Mayflower," a canned food drive; this year, students are volunteering at local daycare facilities and reading to the children. **TRADITION:**

During Advent, students gather in an assembly every Friday and sing the Advent song; Each year for Catholic Schools week, the entire school and student's families parade to City Hall to meet with the Mayor of Meridian who gives an official Proclamation of Catholic Schools week.



601.482.6044 www.stpatrickcatholicschool.org



SOUTHAVEN - Sacred Heart second-graders sample beans they planted during the last school year.

"The students at Sacred Heart school have several opportunities throughout the school year to serve members of the greater community. It is a source of pride for me to be a part of a school community that strives to be the hands and feet of Christ."

"Sacred Heart School is a wonderful and nurturing school. Besides the close family environment and the diversity of the student body, Sacred Heart teaches our children what it truly means to be followers of Jesus Christ by treating everyone fairly and taking care of one another." ART -Kristy Bennett, parent

"I love Sacred Heart School because I receive a great education, and I get to learn about my faith at school."

SERVICE:

Each month we send 20 middle school students to volunteer at the Sacred Heart Southern Missions Mobile Food. The students help package food boxes and load cars for over 500 families in need. **TRADITION:**

The first day of school our students line a path in gym ready with pompoms for the eigth-grade to run in on their last first day to the tune of the school song. Once the eigth-graders are in the gym, middle school teachers call each one of them up to present them with their eigth-grade school jersey. The students may wear the jerseys with jeans every Friday.



a dozen reasons to choose Catholic Schools

