



CCS LINES

October 2024



Safe Schools

The school year has gotten off to a smooth start and in a blink of an eye we have already reached October.

I am grateful for the work that our principals and teachers and support staff have done to provide a safe and welcoming environment for our students each day.

As we know, school is not always safe in some areas of our country. News this year has brought us school shootings in Georgia and in Omaha. These provide a stark reminder that we must be vigilant in providing safe environments for everyone associated with our schools.

Each year myself, our principals and a member of local law enforcement do a security assessment of each of our four buildings. We identify the areas of strengths for each location and then identify areas of possible improvement.

Parent Teacher Conferences/Fall Break

The end of the first quarter is Friday, October 11. The elementary schools have no school on the 11th. Scotus will have a 12:07 dismissal.

CCS Fall Break is scheduled for Friday, October 18 through Tuesday, October 22. There will be a staff in-service on Tuesday, October 22 and classes will resume Wednesday, October 23.

Parent teacher conferences will be held at the following times.

St. Anthony: Oct. 14: 3:30-6 (K-6th),
Oct. 17: 1:30-7:00 (K-5th)

St. Bonaventure: Oct. 16: 3:45-7:00,
Oct. 17: 1:30-7:00

St. Isidore: Oct. 15: 4:00-7:30, Oct.
17: 1:00-7:00

Scotus Central Catholic: Oct. 16:
2:00-8:00

The Shamrock Green Room Podcast

This partnership is vital to the safety of our schools.

From these assessments we build plans to improve our security. Our schools practice lockdown drills just like we would for tornadoes or fire. By creating emergency operations plans we have a blueprint for how to respond in a time of crisis.

Please continue to pray for our schools.
-Jeff Ohnoutka, CCS Executive Director

Purchase Scrip

We are extending an invite to all Columbus Catholic Schools families and staff to purchase Scrip. What is Scrip? Our elementary schools purchase gift cards at a discounted rate, you purchase the gift cards from our schools and your money goes back to the school!

[Click here to download the form](#)

Gift Card (Scrip) Fundraising Explained

Buy gift cards for groceries, gas, going out to eat, and so much more!

Thank you for participating in our annual Gift Card (Scrip) Fundraising!

Help our school! Help our Parish!

We buy gift cards at a discount. Ex. We purchase a \$100 gift card for \$95.

We sell the gift cards at face value. Ex. We sell the \$100 gift card for \$100.

The school makes a profit on the sale of the gift card. Ex. We make a \$5 profit.

[Join the Scotus Booster Club!](#)

The Shamrock Green Room Podcast is a podcast dedicated to all Shamrocks. Whether that's a current student, teacher, alumni, or supporter, we want to hear their stories on why Scotus is a special place in education.

Our new episode for October is with former Scotus Activities Director, teacher and coach teacher, Gary Puetz. You can listen to that [here](#).

Our students have created a few podcasts titled the *Shamrock Student Sessions*, which you can listen to under the same channel on Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

Please consider subscribing at the links below.

[Apple Podcasts](#)
[Spotify](#)
[YouTube](#)



Jeff Ohnoutka honored at Archbishop's Dinner For Education

On Thursday, September 12, Columbus Catholic Schools Executive Director Jeff Ohnoutka was honored as the Archdiocese of Omaha Rural Administrator of the Year.

The event was held at the CHI Health Center in Omaha. Ohnoutka was

We are extending an invite to all Columbus Catholic Schools families and staff to join the Scotus Booster Club.

The Scotus Booster Club is made up of current parents, alumni, parents of alumni, community supporters, Scotus staff, coaches and activity sponsors.

As a service organization, our mission is to fundraise and provide volunteer support for Scotus Central Catholic.

[Click here to join](#)

YOUR VOTE MATTERS.

Initiative Measure 434
Except when a woman seeks an abortion necessitated by a medical emergency or when the pregnancy results from sexual assault or incest, unborn children shall be protected from abortion in the second and third trimester.

For
 Against

Initiative Measure 439
All persons shall have a fundamental right to abortion until fetal viability, or when needed to protect the life or health of the pregnant patient, without interference from the state or its political subdivisions. Fetal viability means the point in pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the patient's treating health care practitioner, there is a significant likelihood of the fetus' sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures.

For
 Against

Take this reference guide into the voting booth with you on Election Day.

Use this ballot guide to help you vote **AGAINST** the abortion extremism in **Initiative 439** and vote **FOR** the preservation of common-sense laws in **Initiative 434**.

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selected to be one of the speakers during the event.

Jeff was accompanied by his wife of 32 years Deb, and his five children. There were also CCS board members, staff and priests at the event to support Jeff at the event.

Congratulations to Jeff!



Jeff Ohnoutka receiving his award during the Archbishop's Dinner for Education on September 12.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE OCTOBER LUNCH MENU](#)



Notes from the Principals

As the weather begins to shift towards fall, we also begin to wrap up the first quarter of the school year. It's hard to believe how quickly the school year goes by!

It has been a great start to the year, and students quickly got back into school routines. Everyone is working hard and looking forward to their next STAR test to see if they can get a new ATB (All Time Best) Score! For school improvement goals, we will continue to work on improving our Reading comprehension scores. Things you can do at home to help your child include: setting aside reading time for your family. Kids should do some comfort-level reading every night! Parents are great models- parents who enjoy reading often have children who enjoy reading. Have a print-rich home. Bibles, newspapers, books, magazines, recipes... all these give your children opportunities to read different types of text and will

help build their decoding and comprehension skills.

During September, students participated in Priesthood Sunday by writing a class prayer for Father Joe. Students read their prayers during mass, and Father Joe was presented with a book of all the class prayers and artwork. Thank you to the St. Isidore Vocation Ministry team for organizing this special gift and including the students in a writing project!

Parent-Teacher Conferences are in just a few weeks, (October 15 & 17) and it's a great time to work together as a team to reflect on how the beginning of the year has gone. We always appreciate parents making the time to come visit, share information, celebrate the successes, and discuss any needs or concerns. We value your partnership, and see you as a key part of our team! Please set aside time to make it to conferences, or contact your child's teacher if an alternate time is needed. Thank you!

Student field trips are approaching! Sixth graders will visit the State Capitol Building and Memorial Stadium in Lincoln on October 1st. Kindergarten students will go to Vala's Pumpkin Patch in Gretna on October 9th. Third graders will visit Edgerton Explorit Center in Aurora on November 21st. Remember that any parents who want to include their name in a drawing to be a chaperone for a field trip must be Safe Environment certified. **The next Safe Environment class will be held on Thursday, Oct. 24 at 5:30 PM at Scotus High School.** Contact Laurie at 402-564-7165 if you need help registering.

www.omaha.cmgconnect.org

Thank you to all of our staff, students, parents, volunteers, and parishioners for making St. Isidore School a wonderful place to be!

-Amy Evans, St. Isidore Principal



Hello from St. Anthony's! It is hard to believe that in just a couple of weeks, the 1st quarter of this school year will be over. It has been a great start to the school year. Fall is a busy time for us as most of our classes take their field trips. The 3rd and 4th graders went to the State Fair and enjoyed learning about agriculture in our state. They attended mini-sessions on a variety of topics, and enjoyed the entertainment.

The 1st-2nd graders will be going to Morrill Hall in Lincoln and participating in the program *Max Goes to the Moon*. Our 5th-6th graders will also be going to Boys Town and the Cathedral in October. The students enjoy their field trips, and they are so excited to tell me about them when they get back. October is the month of the Rosary so we will be making Rosary books, going on a Mysteries of the Rosary scavenger hunt, and praying the Rosary in our classrooms and as a whole school.

In September, we started partnering with Bank of the Valley for Banking in Schools. We are so excited with this partnership, and it is off to a great start. We

are grateful for their willingness to add our school to this program.

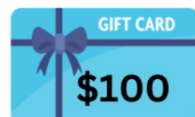
Thank you for the many ways that you support our Columbus Catholic Schools. We are beyond blessed.

Upcoming Events -

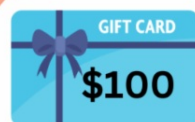
October 2 - Sweet Harvest fundraiser, 10-7

October 5 - Angel Choir sings at 5:00 Mass

-Amy Sokol, St. Anthony Elementary Principal



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**Help our school!
Help our Parish!**

ADVANCEMENT

Consider supporting the CCS Annual Appeal

Financial support is instrumental in helping us provide a well-rounded education that emphasizes not only academic excellence but most importantly spiritual growth and service to others. It is through the generosity of donors like you that we are able to fulfill our mission of helping each student know God, love God, and serve God. This year's Annual Appeal looks to raise \$225,000+ to address the following needs.

1. Donations will fund critical IT support across our four schools, enabling us to provide students and teachers with the latest technology, including new hardware, software, and essential licenses.
2. Your generosity will strengthen our Campus Ministry, which plays a vital role in mentoring students and nurturing their spiritual and personal growth through leadership development, faith-based activities, and team-building.
3. In addition, your support will contribute to the overall budget, allowing us to address ongoing needs and maintain the high quality of our educational programs.

Your support, no matter the size, will make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and the future of our faith community. Please consider donating today at the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

Save the Date: FBLA Food Feud

During the week of October 7th - 11th, FBLA will be hosting a food drive for the 12th annual food feud between the Scotus and Lakeview chapters. Each year the chapters collect over 3,000 items which are donated to local organizations.

Please bring items to the football game vs Lakeview on Friday, October 11th. FBLA members will be taking items from 6 until 7. There will be a SUV at the main entrance on the west side of the stadium with an FBLA sign near it to drop off items. Thank you for your support!

SCOTUS VS LAKEVIEW
FOOTBALL GAME

FOOD FEUD

FANS ATTENDING THE GAME MAY
BRING CANS OF FOOD TO THE
MAIN ENTRY OF THE STADIUM.



Signing up for Service Opportunities

If your students are looking for service opportunities, reminder that upcoming and ongoing opportunities are posted on our website. See the link [here](#) or contact our Campus Ministry staff.

Molly Wallish Kelly Koranda
Tyler Linder
Nate Tenopir

We try to keep this updated with different school, church, and community needs that students can take advantage of.

Join a Rock Talk Group For the 24-25 School Year!

Offer the gift of your time to invest in our teens and join the awesome team of RockTalk leaders! RockTalk started two years ago at Scotus as a movement to connect our students & teachers with Catholic adults in our community (Parents, especially!).



Growing stronger in their faith, the groups spend time sharing prayer, discussing the upcoming Sunday gospels, and getting to know each other. Co-Leaders meet with their group of students one Wednesday a month at the school, the last hour of the day.

Please email [Sarah](#) for more information!



Journalism Photos For Sale

Do you want to support our awesome Journalism students and get a photo of your son or daughter during a school day? How about an action shot from a volleyball game or a pep rally? We are starting to upload fall activity photos online.

Click [HERE](#) to see the albums.

If you would like to support Scotus Journalism and purchase photos, you can use the order form [HERE](#). Let [Mrs. Rusher](#) know if you have any questions!

Your support is greatly appreciated and helps fund our journalism department to purchase new cameras, software and more.

CCS Calendar of events and meetings:

- Quiz Bowl - Wed. Sept. 2, Young Women's Quiz Bowl at Seward
- 250 Club/Booster Club Meeting - Wed. Oct. 2, KC Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Campus Ministry Meeting - Thur. Oct. 3, Little Theater, 7:30 a.m.
- Harvest of Harmony Parade - Sat. Oct. 5, Grand Island
- Life Chain- Sun. Oct. 6, 1:00 p.m.
- Revolution - Sun. Oct. 6, Dowd Activity Center, 4-9 p.m.
- All School Rosary- Mon. Oct. 7, Dowd Activity Center, 3:00 p.m.
- Dress Down Day - Thur. Oct. 10
- Campus Ministry Meeting - Thur. Oct. 10, Little Theater, 7:30 a.m.
- Early Dismissal (12:07 p.m.) - Fri. Oct. 11
- HOSA Meeting - Mon. Oct. 14, Little Theater, 7:30 a.m.
- FBLA Meeting - Tue. Oct. 15, Room 209, 7:30 a.m.
- St. Isidore Home and School Meeting - Tue. Oct. 15, Cafeteria, 7-8 p.m.
- Early Dismissal (12:07 p.m.) - Wed. Oct. 16
- Parent Teacher Conferences - Wed. Oct. 16, 2-8 p.m.
- NHS Meeting - Thur. Oct. 17, Little Theater, 7:30 a.m.
- NO SCHOOL/Fall Break - Fri. Oct. 18 - Tue. Oct. 22
- Service Retreat - Wed. Oct. 23, Omaha
- StuCo Meeting - Wed. Oct. 23, Room 126, 7:40 a.m.
- JH Girls Basketball Meeting - Wed. Oct. 23, Little Theater, 7:45 a.m.
- NHS New Member Induction - Thur. Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m.
- Marching Band in the Norfolk Parade - Sat. Sept. 21
- Rock Talk - Wed. Oct. 30, 2:30 p.m.

To see the full calendar of Shamrock events for October, click [here](#).

[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)

October Guidance & Careers Information

Senior Updates:

- Many applications for college scholarships open on October 1st. Encourage your senior to look into scholarships that are being offered at colleges they are interested in attending. If they need help- schedule a time to visit with Ms. Brichacek or Mrs. McPhillips!
- Scoir has been introduced to the senior class- this is where transcripts for applications can be requested! An email regarding more specific information has been sent out to all senior parents.

Scholarships:

- Scholarships will be posted on the following website. Scholarships are sorted by their due dates.

- <https://sites.google.com/colcath.org/scholarships/home>

FAFSA Updates:

- Where to begin? You and your student will need to create an FSA ID!
 - Student and parent need an FSA ID to fill out the FAFSA application.
 - **[Click here to create your FSA ID.](#)**
- The FAFSA application will open in December!

Save the DATE:

ALL Juniors will be take the PSAT on October 16th! More information to come!

COLUMBUS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Columbus Catholic Schools

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tdahl@colcath.org

columbus-catholic.org

Connect with us



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