



Family Folder - Wednesday, September 17, 2025

From Fr. Reither

The goal of any Catholic School is that students will be strengthened in their Faith in Jesus Christ. A common question I get asked by parents (and Grandparents) is how can I keep my kids practicing the Faith after they leave home. Sometimes I hear the lament of parents: "I did all the right things, I sent my kids to Catholic School, CCD, got them Confirmed and now they never pray or go to Church. What could I have done differently?" While there is no one size fits all answer to this complex question nor is it appropriate to blame parents for everything, studies have been done to see what has worked for families that have passed on the Faith. The first of these is having what is called spiritual conversations in the home. Topics of the faith (prayer, saints, morality) should be just as valid/common as any other topic of conversation (job, sports, hobbies etc.). These spiritual conversations help children to see that the Faith isn't just a box we check on Sundays or something that is only used in School, but has a real-life application.

Thanks again parents for all that you do in bringing your children up in the Faith and know of my prayers for you. The Church is also in celebration as two new witnesses of keeping the Faith in modern times were formally canonized as saints in the past couple of weeks: St. Pier Giorgio Frassati & St. Carlo Acutis. Both of these saints proclaimed Christ in the modern world and had a deep devotion to the Eucharist. May their example and intercession continue to inspire the youth in our own times!

Student Council Elections: The students and staff have exercised their constitutional rights and voted! The choice for President was a surprising equal vote for both Shelby and William. They will serve as co-presidents. Keilana will be our Vice-president and Dekker will be our Treasurer. Lorenzo volunteered to be our Secretary. Everyone will also work as Representatives for the student body. We'll hold our first meeting this week. Congratulations to all!

Vision Screening: **September 25 (Thursday)**, Emily from the Vernon County Health Department as well as Lions Club members Tom Jeffers and Jennie Nickelatti will do hearing & vision screening at St. Charles school starting with the vision screening as soon as the students arrive – Hearing will follow. Enclosed is a letter Emily regarding the hearing screening and a note on the Lions Club vision screening.

Flu Vaccine Clinic: Vernon County Health Department will be scheduling Immunization Clinics in October. We will give you more information when we receive it from the Health Department.

PTO (Jessie Cina): Attached are the meeting minutes from Monday, September 15 – please read through.

Next Meeting: TBD Early October at 5:15 PM in the gymnasium.

Take-Aways:

- * Save the dates for **Trivia** – October 4th!
- * Return **Retreat Fair** sign-up sheet enclosed;
- * Let a PTO officer know about the **PTO Text Chain**!
- * If you have an idea for **field trips**, we are open to hearing them!
- * **Questions/concerns:** please text 608-780-1148 OR email me at (Jessie) at jbutterfly12384@gmail.com

Snacks and Birthday Treats: We do have students with an allergy to peanuts and dairy. To be safe, **any treats should be free from peanuts and not be a dairy product such as ice cream.** Please remember that any snacks brought to school should be on the more nutritious side, rather than more to the just-sweet side. If you are planning treats for the whole school please avoid foods with nuts and nut products

Inclement Weather Reminder: We will keep the children indoors at the end of the day if the weather is too rainy or cold. Please come into the school to pick up your child if you don't see anyone out on the playground. We will follow De Soto's announcement for any school closings. You can always check the news channels for closures (keep in mind that the announcement will be for De Soto schools, NOT St. Charles school), sign up for a text directly from De Soto schools, **(see instruction below to sign up for Message Alert)**, or wait for an email from Mrs. Hytry. If school has to close early for any reason we will notify you through email and follow your emergency pick-up plan that you filled out in your school packet.

De Soto Area Schools Message Alert Information: Jackie Kreuzer at De Soto Area Schools would like the St. Charles families to send an email to her at jkreuzer@desoto.k12.wi.us with the name and number that you would like to use for messages for inclement and/or other school closures. Jackie will input them manually to make certain they get in the system. Please let her know if you are NOT receiving the messages.

St. Charles School Packet Materials: Thank you to all of you who have sent in all the packet materials for this year. Please complete any paperwork you still have as soon as possible as we need it to complete forms on our end.

RedLouLibraray reminder: RedLouLibraray has a set up a library here at St. Charles School where they donate books all year long for students to check out and read! The Great River Roadhouse has selected RedLou Library as the recipient of the pizza of the month donation. For the **entire month of September** if you order the pizza of the month from the menu a portion of the sales from these pizzas comes back as a donation to RedLou Library. Stop by and have a pizza of the month and help contribute to RedLou Library. If you choose not to have a pizza of the month you can donate to RedLou Library in a RedLou tip jar. Ask at the drink counter. RedLou Library will be at the Roadhouse each Friday in September. Thank you.

St. Charles School Directory: The St. Charles School Directory is **enclosed again**. Please let me know if there are still corrections to make and/or if you **don't** want the phone number included that is listed. Thank you.

Future Pirates/De Soto Youth Football (2-5th grade): This was sent out email yesterday to Grades 2-5 and a paper copy is enclosed if you need one to complete – you can return to the office and they will be sent to Ev Wick

The Second-Hand Shack (Ellen Michuta): The Second-Hand Shack is located in the log cabin building at the intersection of South Avenue and 13th Street. Longtime employee of Thrifty Pickins' & Buckles, Sarah Studinger is the owner/operator of this new business. Sarah is passionate about supporting the community by donating a portion of her profits to local non-profits and veterans. She has chosen to start this venture with St. Charles PTO. Instead of taking donations all the way to West Salem, we can drop off clean, gentle used items to this closer location. With the change of ownership at the West Salem store, we appreciate this new funding opportunity from outside the St. Charles community. The PTO benefits through your purchases, volunteer hours and donations. Due to space limitations, please contact Sarah (608-615-1005) for donation times, acceptance and exclusions. Thank you to Sarah Studinger for partnering with the St. Charles PTO.

SHOP.... VOLUNTEER...DONATE...REPEAT

Scrip (Megan Olson): **Scrip (Megan Olson):** If you have questions, please feel free to contact Megan at mjtrussoni@gmail.com.

Taking care of the body God gave us: With the daily temperatures changing as we move into Autumn please have your child dress in layers to be comfortable at school. A sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket can be kept at school just in case. Watch the weather to see if shorts are appropriate to wear.

Hunger Knows No Season: Please join us in collecting for the local food pantry every Tuesday! This is sponsored by the Middle School Student Council. The food items will support the St. Matthew's Food Pantry.

St Charles Facebook Page: Like" the St Charles Facebook Page for updates and events occurring at school.

Handouts:

Student-Family Directory (back to back b/b)
Vision & Hearing Screening (Lions Club & Health Department Information) (b/b)
PTO Retreat Fair Sign-Up Sheet (1/2 sheet)
Future Pirates/De Soto Youth Football Sign Up (Grades 2-5) (b/b)

Dates to Remember:

September : all month focus on peace as the first Fruit of the Spirit
September 25: Vision & Hearing Screening
September 26: No School, Diocese of La Crosse teacher in-service
October 4: Trivia Night
October 10: Adoration @ 2:30 PM
October 16: Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 17: Reconciliation for 3-6th graders
October 31: No school, Teacher In-service

Birthdays:

September 07: Peter Albrecht

PTO Meeting - Minutes
September 15, 2025

Attendees

Jessie Cina, Crystal Lavey, Ashley Eckes, Mrs. Hytry, Megan Olson

Officers for the 2025-2026 School Year:

President: Jessie Cina (608-780-1148 or jbutterfly12384@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Megan Olson

Secretary: Crystal Lavey

Teacher's Report

Amazon lists are live!

Shared to social media, still have a few classroom needs and a lot of art needs.

Field Trips

Discussed possible fall trip to Aquinas or Viterbo to see a play – Fr. Reither will see if St. Charles will receive an invite, this will not be until November/December

Eagle Bluff (4th-6th grade): Aiming for end of February/beginning of March

Catholic School's Week & End of school: Brainstorming!

Treasurer's report

We currently have \$31,956.41 in our checking and \$4,879.94 in our savings. Our events last year were a huge hit! THANK you to all our families who helped make this a success!

Business

Yearbook

Orders for 24-25 school year will be place shortly after 9/29

For 25-26 year, please share pictures with Jessie/Kelly AND upload them directly to Shutterfly!

The Shutterfly account is for anyone to upload pictures directly from their phones or computer to Shutterfly to take out the middle man. All you need to do is download the app or go online to Shutterfly.com

Sign in with

user name: stcharlespto@outlook.com

Password: Yearbook!

(Fyi name on account is Saint Charles)

Click upload and click whatever pictures you want and save to timeline or a folder

This makes the creation of the yearbook significantly easier if the pictures are already there!

Reminder: 6th graders will be making their own videos at home for graduation.

Retreat Parade – 9/27

Handing out popsicles (already purchased) – need cooler(s) that will keep popsicles cold for several hours! Let Jessie know if you have one that can be borrowed for the weekend

Let Jessie know if you are able to help out. Kids will walk and hand out popsicles, adults can walk behind kids with scissors to help with opening right away.

Back of school

Discussed chicken coop area and planning a cement space for a shed. Measurements and more details to come
If you would like to be on the PTO Text Group/Chain, please let a PTO officer know and we will add you! This is for parents who would like to provide their opinion between meetings!

Upcoming fundraisers! Save the Dates!

Trivia – 10/4 (Saturday)

Will serve soups and sandwiches

Drinks same as last year (Soda, juices, beer)

Next trivia will be 12/6 (Saturday)

Halloween Dance

Discussed this as a free event idea with snacks and dancing for the community. Maximum 2 hours, light decorations.

Discussed 10/31 vs. 11/1. More details to come.

Winter Movie Night

Discussed this as a free event or sell concessions, play a movie on the projector in the gym, have popcorn/candy/drink available. More details to come.

Other fundraisers

Sip N Paint: will confirm with Kelly a date in January/February

Fish Fry's: Save the dates now! 2/20, 3/6, 3/20

Potato prepping Thursday night beforehand and we will definitely need extra potato prep help on Thursday, 3/5 😊

Spring Carnival: 4/26 (Fri-Sun is set up, event and take down)

Special dates/Celebrations

Discussed upcoming special staff dates

Next Meeting:

TBD Early October, 5:15 in the gym.

Take-Aways:

Save the dates for Trivia!

Let a PTO officer know about the PTO Text Chain!

If you have an idea for field trips, we are open to hearing them!

Vernon County Health Department

Protecting and Promoting a Healthy Community Since 1921

318 Fairlane Drive (Co Hwy BB) PO Box 209 Viroqua, WI 54665-0209

Phone 608-637-5251 FAX 608-637-5514



9/17/2025

Dear Parents,

Vernon County Health Department, along with the local Lions Club, will be offering Free vision and hearing screenings for your children attending St. Charles School on **Thursday October 25th**. These screenings can identify children who have vision and hearing issues that may interfere with their ability to learn.

This screening is optional. Children in 4K to grade 5 will be screened each year, plus any other children referred by school staff. Any child who has a parental request **not** to be screened, will **not** be screened.

Children that do not pass the vision or hearing screen will have a letter with findings sent to parents/guardians.

Thank you for helping your child receive appropriate education opportunities by ensuring their vision and hearing is not impaired.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at the number provided above.

Thank you,

Emily Olson, RN BSN
Public Health Nurse/ Deputy Health Officer

LIONS

VISION SCREENING

Dear Parent / Guardian

Every child need regular vision screening and the American Academy of Ophthalmology suggests "that during childhood, babies up to age 2 should have vision screening during regular pediatric visits, and screening every one to two years ages 3 to 9."

To effectively address vision issues in children, Spot, a revolutionary automated vision screening technology has been developed to quickly detect indications of the most common treatable sight threatening conditions in children such as: **refractive errors** (nearsightedness, farsightedness, unequal power and astigmatism), **amblyopia** (lazy eye), **strabismus** (crossed eyes) and a comparative analysis for unequal refractive power (**anisometropia**) and unequal pupil size (**anisocoria**).

By using the latest technology for this screening. Our local Lions Clubs are taking a leadership role in the community to identify vision issues. Many of these vision issues can hamper your child's ability to learn. The prevalence of vision issues as a profound social impact:

80% of what a child learns until age 12 is **visually acquired**

25% of school age children **have a vision issue**

Unlike other ailments, **pain is not associated with vision issues**

Children with vision issues **do not have a reference point for good vision.**

Kids love how easy Spot is. The screening is performed from a comfortable distance of about 3 feet away, similar to having a picture taken at home with a digital camera. It takes only a few seconds to administer, and is quick, safe and fast.

Automated screening does not replace a complete and comprehensive eye examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist, nor can it detect all eye diseases or conditions. Screening determines if your child requires the attention of a vision care specialist.

Retreat Fair Sign-up

Sept 27th Parade is at 12 PM

Fills up fast and would like everyone there by **10:30** to help decorate the float and get set up.

If you know you're able to make it please put names and return slip below. If you're not sure now but day of you can, please just come! We'll plan to meet in the same area – first right as you get into Retreat and in the yard on the left.

Kids _____

Parents _____

Cooler to use _____

Return to school office by 9/23 please



Future Pirates/De Soto Youth Football

We are happy to announce that we will be offering youth football to students entering 2nd through 5th grade. Each night will consist of a fundamental period and games. The varsity football players will be working with our youth program to fulfill their community service hours.

2025 Future Pirates Schedule

Wednesday, September 24

Wednesday, October 1

Wednesday, October 8

Wednesday, October 15

All dates will start at 6 PM in The Pit. All sessions will last one hour

Please sign the attached waiver. No students will be allowed to participate until their paperwork is filled out. I have also included information for the Remind messaging service (remind.com/join/desotoyfb) in case we have any weather related issues or schedule changes.

This is not a babysitting service. Any behavior/attitude issues will lead to removal from the program. Please have transportation arranged for your child prior to each session.

Feel free to contact me with any additional questions that you might have.

Go Pirates!

Coach Ev

ewick@desoto.k12.wi.us

Waiver

_____ has my permission to participate in the 2025 Future Pirates program. I agree that my child is physically capable to participate in all activities involved with the camp. I also agree to hold harmless any camp staff member for any injuries or illness arising from participation in the 2025 Future Pirates program. Any students who have issues with sportsmanship or poor attitudes will be removed from the program.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Emergency Contact Information

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Phone # _____

Emergency Contact

Name & Phone #

Does your child have any medical conditions that we should be aware of? If so, please list them below.