

WOLF HOUND NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Start Of Third Quarter**
January 4th, 2026
Students return energized as third quarter begins with learning and growth.
- **SDCS Field Day**
January 4th - 5th, 2026
Students shine as Field Day opens our season of exciting school events.
- **Daddy Daughter Dance**
January 9th, 2026
Memories sparkle as Daddy Daughter Dance brings joy, laughter, and magic.
- **SEL Parent Event**
January 14th, 2026
Families come together at our SEL event strengthening connection and community.
- **Martin Luther King Day**
January 19th, 2026
School closed as we honor Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy.
- **SDCS Open House**
January 25th, 2026
Parents invited to Open House showcasing classrooms, students, and community.
- **FSA Cultural Fair**
January 25th, 2026
Our Cultural Fair brings families together to celebrate traditions worldwide.
- **Catholic Schools Week**
January 25th - 30th, 2026
Honoring faith and excellence throughout Catholic Schools Week together.



Academic Spotlight

Exploring Future Careers Winter Elective Panels

We were truly blessed to welcome a wonderful group of parent volunteers and alumni who returned to campus to serve as panelists for our Winter Middle School Elective Panels. Their time, insight, and encouragement provided our students with meaningful real-world connections. Our students did an outstanding job presenting their final projects, demonstrating confidence, creativity, and thoughtful problem-

solving skills. These panels highlighted the importance of career readiness, real-life problem-solving, and exploration, aligning with our goal of allowing students to discover future career paths and identify areas of personal interest, while building communication skills, perseverance, and collaboration. Most importantly, these experiences support our mission of forming students as servants of God.

Leading With Faith

As we begin this new semester, I am grateful for the energy and hope our students and families bring to Saint David. We look forward to wonderful moments together at Wolfhound Family Fest, our March Carnival, and the many celebrations that strengthen our community. Spiritually, we also prepare our hearts for Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent in just a few short weeks. Let us grow in faith, service, and joy together this year.

- Fr. Ryan Saunders - Pastor



Teachers Feature

Inspiring Young Artists

In this lesson, students were immersed in the artistic and intellectual revolution of the Renaissance, with a focus on the rise of Realism. They examined how artists such as Leonardo da Vinci closely studied the natural world and human anatomy to capture both the individual and the divine within the earthly realm. After analyzing masterpieces including the Mona Lisa and Renaissance

self-portraits, students created their own realistic portraits using careful observation and measurement. Through charcoal techniques, they practiced modeling form, building value, and creating depth. This project highlighted how Renaissance realism reflected a renewed appreciation for humanity and the beauty of God's creation.



Wolfhounds In Action



Our girls stayed focused and engaged during Physical Education, leading stations with health and fitness exercises. They practiced teamwork and leadership while learning important concepts about staying active, making healthy choices, and building lifelong wellness habits.



Club Corner

Band

Band Club brings music to life through performance and practice. Students learn a variety of musical pieces while developing rhythm, technique, and teamwork. They explore musical concepts and instruments while working together to create sound. This club encourages a love of music and builds confidence through collaborative performance experiences.

"I like playing music. It sounds good to listen to."
Matthew (1st Grade)

Coding Club

Coding Club engages students in exploring the computer coding side of technology and problem-solving. Students learn the basics of coding, algorithms, and digital logic while building interactive projects. Through hands-on, STREAM-based activities, members strengthen critical thinking and creativity as they use technology to design, create, and innovate.





Understanding Others

This month, we are proud to recognize students who exemplify the virtue of understanding! These individuals were thoughtfully selected by their peers and educators for demonstrating empathy, patience, and a willingness to listen and learn from others in their daily actions.

Congratulations to our Student of the Month recipients for embodying understanding and shining as compassionate role models in both faith and life!

iReady Snapshot Scores, Growth, Highlights

We are excited to share that our recent i-Ready diagnostic has been completed, with overall reading scores showing positive growth. Student data reflected progress across multiple domains. Moving forward, our continued focus will be on strengthening math domains to support ongoing improvement. We are proud of our students' hard work and look forward to building on this success together.



Academic Spotlight

Motion Meets Learning Gravity At The Bowling Alley

Saint David's fifth graders explored the exciting world of physics and the forces of motion on a hands-on field trip to the local bowling alley. Students focused on concepts such as gravity, friction, and momentum as they observed how bowling balls moved down the lanes and interacted with pins. Using careful observation and measurement, they applied classroom knowledge to real-world examples, predicting

outcomes and testing their ideas. This community-based learning experience allowed students to see physics in action, collaborate with classmates, and deepen their understanding of motion.



Teacher Feature

Shaping Earth's Surface



Seventh-grade students explored the rock cycle, erosion, and deposition through a hands-on stream project. They researched how water shapes Earth's surface and how rocks change over time. Using their findings, students created 3D models to represent stream processes and landforms. This project encouraged collaboration, critical thinking, and real-world connections to Earth science concepts.

The Principal's Pawprint

A new year invites us to set goals, embrace challenges, and remain open to all that God has planned for us. Together, as a faith-filled community, we will continue to support one another, celebrate successes, learn from our experiences, and trust in God's guidance every step of the way.

- Michelle Chimienti - SDCS Principal





Community Corner
Kindness Grows
Spreading Positivity Together

Thank you to our fourth- and fifth-grade students who participated in the Kindness Project, and to Ms. Fitzsimmons for making World Kindness Day so special. Students painted rocks with messages of kindness, encouragement, and positivity, which were added to our Kindness Tree. This growing display celebrates how small acts can make a big difference. Classes and clubs are welcome to add rocks throughout the year—please stop by and be inspired by our students’ creativity and care, and join us in spreading kindness every day.



Faith Formation

Faith In Our Community

Preparing Our Hearts Together

Our school community joyfully gathers in Mary’s Garden to celebrate the blessing of our Nativity scene. This meaningful tradition reminds us of the true reason for the season and the importance of faith, reflection, and togetherness. Father joins us to bless the Nativity, while two students from each grade level are chosen to lay hay in the manger, symbolizing preparation and anticipation for the coming of Baby

Jesus. Through prayer, reverence, and shared participation, students grow spiritually while building a strong sense of belonging, unity, and gratitude within our Catholic school family. This special moment encourages compassion, service, and hope as we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ. It is a cherished tradition that connects generations of students through faith and love.



Academic Highlight

Tiny Hands, Tall Trees

During the month of December, our Pre-K students had a wonderful learning experience at our church Christmas tree lot! They explored different types of trees and learned about their growth cycles. Back in the classroom, students put their creativity to work by designing their own “stores.” They brainstormed products, set prices, created prototypes, and made colorful posters. This project integrated STREAM learning—science, technology, religion, engineering, art, and math—while encouraging problem-solving, collaboration, and innovation. Students then paired with older grades for a special shopping experience, applying their skills in a fun, hands-on way.



Holiday Shop

Our FSA Annual Christmas Store was a wonderful success! A heartfelt thank you to all parents for their generous contributions, which made this special event possible. Students had an amazing time shopping for their loved ones, carefully selecting gifts with thoughtfulness and care. It was a joy to watch their excitement and consideration as they picked out items, learning the joy of giving. This festive tradition not only spread holiday cheer but also created lasting memories for our students and their families.

Christmas Countdown

Exciting Dress Up Days

Our Christmas Countdown dress-up days were a huge success! Students showed their festive spirit with daily themed outfits, and everyone enjoyed visits from special guests, all dressed to match the countdown theme. These fun-filled days brought excitement, school spirit, and plenty of smiles throughout our campus, creating lasting memories for students, staff, and families alike..



Faith formation & Community Outreach

**Hands Of Service
Coming Together To Serve**

Our recent School-Wide Service Learning Day was a tremendous success! A heartfelt thank you to our parent volunteers who helped support and guide students at each station. Students actively engaged in a variety of community outreach projects, including veterinary services, cancer and hospital support, and assisting the homeless population. This event highlighted the power of school-wide partnerships and collaboration. Our eighth-grade students proudly carried on the tradition of running the stations, beginning with prayer and explaining each focus area. They demonstrated leadership, guiding younger students while fostering empathy, service, and a strong sense of community throughout the school. It was a wonderful opportunity to live out our faith and strengthen our school family bonds.



Teacher Feature

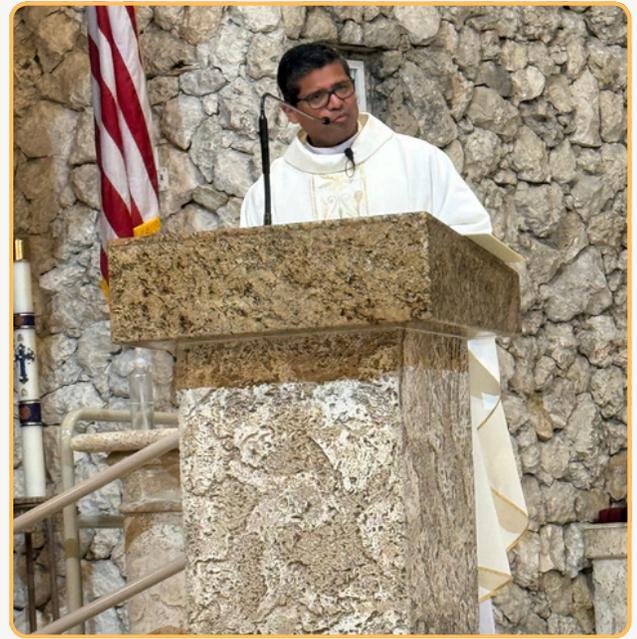
Jolly Holiday Visit

Students in Pre-K through 2nd grade enjoyed a festive celebration filled with holiday cheer! Father Ryan shared the story of the birth of Jesus, helping students reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Following the story, Santa and Mrs. Claus made a special visit, spreading joy and giving each student a small gift. Students also enjoyed singing holiday songs, sharing laughter, and taking pictures with Santa, making the morning a joyful celebration of faith, community, and the magic of the season for everyone involved.

Teacher Highlight

Songs Of The Season

Our Christmas Concert was a wonderful celebration of music and holiday cheer! Thanks to our amazing music teacher, Mrs. Nolan, students performed a variety of songs, including selections in different languages. The concert began with a special band highlight, connecting all our musicians and setting a joyful tone. It was a delight to see students showcase their hard work, talent, and holiday spirit, creating a memorable evening for families and the school community.



faith Formation

Life As A Wolfhound Means



Being Playful

The 8th-grade boys were playful, enjoying joyful, spirited, and silly Christmas-themed games.



Being Thoughtful

Our Pre-K students showed incredible thoughtfulness as they created handmade cards for those who are sick.



Being Energetic

Students channeled their energetic spirits during recess to focus on improving their skills.



Being Warm

Middle school students demonstrated warmth as they guided younger students through projects.

Called To Serve

We were blessed to welcome Fr. Milton Martínez, Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Miami, to our school. During his visit, he shared with students the many vocations in the Catholic Church and discussed how we can pray for discernment in following God's calling for our lives. He emphasized the importance of every vocation in nurturing our faith and traditions.

Fr. Martínez's words truly touched the students, inspiring them to reflect on their own gifts and how they can serve others. His engaging stories and heartfelt message left a lasting impression, encouraging students to embrace their faith and consider God's plan for their lives. We are deeply grateful for his visit.

From Our Pack To Yours

Click on the images below to access helpful parent resources and tips for supporting your Wolfhounds at home!

