



Dear St. Celestine School Families,

It is with a great deal of excitement and anticipation that we start the 2026/27 School Year. We look forward to our 1st through 8th graders having their first day on 8/20/26. Our PreK and Kindergarten students have their first full day on 8/24/26.

The St. Celestine School staff has always been second to none and this continues into the new school year. We were blessed to have 100% teacher retention from the 2025/26 school year and this helps create continued stability and strength as we move into a new academic year.

Grade	Room Number	Teacher
PreK 3/4	110	Mrs. Alyssa Jelinek
PreK 4	109	Mrs. Paula Niklewicz
Kindergarten	113	Mrs. Michelle Doyle
Kindergarten	114	Mrs. Patti Jensen
1 st Grade	107	Mrs. Mary Guerrero
2 nd Grade	104	Ms. Anna Deavila
2 nd Grade	105	Mrs. Susan Petri
3 rd Grade	100	Mrs. Monique Mueller
3 rd Grade	101	Mrs. Christin Kamptner
4 th Grade	102	Mrs. Jennie Griffin
4 th Grade	103	Ms. Cosette DiVenere
5 th Grade	213	Mrs. Cara Schnoebelen
5 th Grade	211	Ms. Tina Addante
6 th Grade	205	Ms. Amy Roberts
6 th Grade	203	Mr. Don Shanahan
7 th Grade	206	Mr. Michael Rios
7 th Grade	202	Mrs. Leticia Orozco
8 th Grade	204	Mr. Sean Monahan
8 th Grade	207	Ms. Giovanna Gianfortone

St. Celestine's enrollment is over 370 students, the strongest in the area. This year promises to be a strong and positive year. With many new initiatives designed to support learners in every way. They include:

- PreK 3 and 4 year olds will be receiving daily immersion in Spanish instruction for 30 minutes per day as part of the Early Childhood Language Intensive Program (ECLIP) offered through a partnership with the University of Notre Dame. Research shows that exposure to and knowledge of more than one language leads to stronger literacy skills for learners.
- St. Celestine School has invested in a new Reading program for 3rd through 5th grade students. After thoughtful review of multiple reading programs, *Into Reading* was selected. This excellent Reading series transitions students from *learning to read* to *reading to learn* by focusing heavily on **advanced decoding, academic vocabulary, and deep comprehension of complex texts**. It prepares upper elementary students for middle school through rigorous text analysis and structured writing, skills that are crucial for Junior High.
- Our Junior High students will also be receiving instruction for a new literature program called *ThinkCerca*, a highly respected and effective program. This online platform combines printed material and digital materials to help build vital critical thinking and argument literacy. Students are guided through reading closely, making claims, backing them with evidence, explaining reasoning, and addressing counterarguments across subjects like language arts, science, and social studies.
- St. Celestine School students will continue to have the ability to participate in After School clubs. This year, the Junior High teachers are layering in additional club-like activities based on student interest as part of an ongoing effort to bring more experiential learning and relationship building to the Junior High experience. These opportunities will be part of the school day and will take place every other week. All Junior High students will be welcome and participation from session to session will be based on ensuring work is completed and students are making positive behavioral choices.

- St. Celestine School is in the process of redesigning its website and we are looking forward to launching early in the school year. The new site promises to be informative and visually engaging for our school community.

The school staff and I cannot wait to welcome students into a new school year. Many grades have spaces available, so if you are aware of a family in search of a school, please recommend St. Celestine School. Every family makes this school a stronger and better school. Thank you for being part of our community.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions. I can best be reached at sklich@stcelestineschool.org.

You are in my prayers. Please keep the school in yours.

With Gratitude,

Sheila M. Klich
Principal