



**Principal Post #18: A Message from Dr. Kozlowski
January 7, 2026**

Happy New Year 2026! I pray that you and your family have had a blessed and healthy start to the new year. Our faculty started 2026 in retreat on Monday and as part of our day, we surprised them with a trip to Horizon Cinemas to see the movie, "David." This movie tells the story of David and celebrates his trust in God, having courage to overcome fear, and how humility can guide us in our everyday lives. It was a wonderful message for our faculty to hear and see. We shared the song, Follow the Light, with our students during our Epiphany prayer service and will use this song as a frame of reference as we forge ahead with our school year. You can hear and see the song [HERE](#). I hope it is as inspiring to you as it was to all of us.

As part of our celebration for Catholic Schools Week 2026, St. Stephen School will be hosting a "Career Day" on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 beginning at 8:30 am. We are looking for enthusiastic professionals in our school community that would be interested in creating and presenting a 10-15 minute interactive presentation for our students. We anticipate this event lasting about two hours with students rotating between a variety of presenters so that they can learn about multiple careers. If you would be interested in presenting your career to our students, please fill out the link [HERE](#) by Friday, January 16, 2026. Participants would need to have their VIRTUS training be current in order to participate. If you have any questions about this event, please reach out to Ms. Sara Morales (smorales@sss.school.org). We appreciate your consideration.

As we finish our planning for Catholic Schools Week, we are looking for any individuals that have a talent with juggling or balloon making. If you have this talent or know someone who has this talent, please let me know. A full schedule of events and activities associated with Catholic Schools Week 2026 will be released on Tuesday, January 20, 2026. CSW 2026 is held from January 24 - 30, 2026.

Finally, while it feels like winter has just begun, we are excited to let you know that registration for St. Stephen School Summer Camps 2026 will be released this Friday, January 9, 2026. We encourage you to take a look at the offerings from our faculty and hope that your child chooses to spend part of their summer with us!

Grace & Peace,
Dr. Marianne Kozlowski

Additional Information:

Getting Ready for Mass: You can access the video related to the reading below.

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 10/11): <https://youtu.be/NXt526DMIDg>

From the Health Suite

Every year during this time we see an uptick in illnesses. One way that we can keep our school healthy is to know why your child is out sick and if they have a diagnosis from a doctor. Please continue to inform Mrs. Elliott (nurse@sss.school.org) as well as your child's homeroom teacher when your child is absent from school, regardless of the reason. Our faculty and staff are working diligently with students on hand washing, proper ways to use and dispose of tissues, and are being vigilant with disinfecting desks, tables, and doorknobs.

Using Planners for Homework

As we set goals for our students for this new year, many have been very honest that they are not writing down homework because they think they can remember or are "just having my mom check Google Classroom or websites" for what I need to do. We are working to build responsibility in our students, particularly those that receive traditional grades. All students in grades 3-8 received their new planners yesterday and teachers are purposefully giving students time to write down their assignments. Please encourage your student to reference their planner and not to over rely on you as parents to tell them their homework. Building this capacity in our students now will pay off in the long run for their time management as well as their independence.

Upcoming Dates:

January 12: Artists for Musical Production

Mrs. Peach is looking for artists to assist in set design and painting for the upcoming school musical in grades 5-8. She will be painting on Mondays until 4:00 pm beginning on Monday, January 12, 2026. If interested, please fill out this form [HERE](#).

January 12: Talent Show Forms due to Mrs. Campbell & After-school Meeting

Students in grades 4-8 who desire to participate in the Talent Show, being held during Catholic Schools Week, need to pick up a permission slip from Mrs. Campbell. The completed and signed permission slips are due back to her by January 12, 2026. Mrs. Campbell will also be having an after-school meeting for those students until 3:45 pm on January 12.

January 14-16: Winter MAP testing

Students in grades 2-8 will participate in the electronic MAP testing in the areas of reading, math and language. MAP testing will be completed first thing in the morning on these days. There is nothing that your child needs to do to prepare, but we do ask that you have a conversation with your child to take this seriously and to make sure that they eat breakfast before they come to school on these days. The winter MAP results will be sent home with your child after the testing window closes.

January 19: No school for students and faculty - building closed due to Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday

January 20: Catholic Schools Week 2026 schedule of events and activities released via email and in paper form. This is also the Feast Day of St. Sebastian, patron saint of athletes and sports. Students can wear their SSS PE sweatpants and an athletic team/sport shirt/sweatshirt. It can be a professional team/athlete/sport or a personal one that they play. Sneakers or tennis shoes. No cost for participation. Students who prefer not to participate can wear their regular Tuesday uniform.

January 23: Interims for trimester 2 sent home electronically (grade 3-8) or in paper form (prek - grade 2). This is the half-way point of the second trimester.

In Our Community:

Once an Eagle, always an Eagle!

We're gathering stories and accomplishments from our incredible alumni to share on social media. Whether it's you, your child, or another Eagle you know, we'd love to hear about it!

Share your update or nominate a fellow alum here: <https://forms.gle/mx3jGMMEPBJEckcJA>

Let's celebrate the amazing things our Eagles are doing out in the world!