



July, 2026

Dear Parents,

We are just over halfway through summer. I recall well in the midst of the summer as a little girl asking my mom, "Mom what can I do?" Sometimes she had ideas, sometimes not. I also recall a time when my cousin came to stay for several days. (I had no sisters, and we were good friends, so it was a real treat.) We had been outside much of the morning with the farm hydrant on intermittently as we were making a dam down the way. We were probably 5 years old or so. Mom called us in for lunch and as we walked into the house, I remember saying, "Let's hurry up and eat so we can go back and work on that dam thing!" Well, my older brothers found that statement hilarious. I remember looking at them with a puzzled expression, then figuring out what they were laughing about and putting my hand over my mouth in shock at what they had heard. It can be hard to balance giving kids time to be bored. The human person benefits from "boredom" which can spark interests and help the mind grow and tinker with things and thoughts. There's also the adage....an idle mind is the devil's workshop.... but then came computer games, social media, YouTube and all the rest, providing an immediate refuge for any idle moments. I don't think they help us much with human formation. To sum it up, we are praying for you this summer, that you may find the balance of activity and non-activity that will help your kids grow. If you are in the neighborhood, send them over to make a visit to church. There is often a game going on in the parking lot, too, which could be an added bonus activity.

Blessed summer to you all. We will see you in about six weeks.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Sister Mary Michael'.

Sister Mary Michael

OSN - Opportunity Scholarship of Nebraska is on the verge! OSN is a Federal Tax Credit program that allows you to donate to private school scholarships at **no expense** to you! The potential here is great! In 2025, the U.S. Congress passed a new federal tax credit to fund scholarships nationwide. OSN looks forward to serving as a Scholarship Granting Organization when the tax credit goes into effect January 1, 2027. Any taxpayer with federal income tax liability will be able to contribute up to \$1700 to OSN. Those contributions will then be used to fund K-12 private school scholarships for Nebraska kids. The potential here is great! Visit <https://www.nebraskaopportunity.org/giving> to stay informed about this Scholarship and how you can help! See attachment for more information.

Building updates:

In addition to the usual cleaning, we have recarpeted three more rooms and refurbished wood trim and classroom sinks in two additional rooms. With the assistance of the Diocesan Technology Office, we have updated the projectors and Smart Boards with Newline touchscreen monitors. The "Little Flowers" have renewed and beautified the corner island on our playground. It was in need of some help, and it has been loved back into life. Thank you.

Thrift Shop: A big shout out to the Thrift Shop and a sincere thank you to them for supporting our school! Would you please consider working a shift there? Here's the signup link: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/70a0f49a4ab2fab9-weekend> Generally, capable fifth graders would be able to accompany you. Older students who have been there before can be on their own. It is good to see so many of the slots filled, but there are still a good number available. Summer is a great time for our Junior High students to fill their required Thrift Shop hours. If you have questions, talk to Renee Cunningham, the connection between the Thrift Shop and our school. Renee's number is 402-610-3153. What a great way to practice the works of mercy of the Church.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Immunizations and Physicals:

Students entering Kindergarten and Seventh grade and all New Students MUST turn in their physical forms and updated immunization records to the school office **before or on August 17th**. State Law requires these are on file before the first day of school.

Sports Physical Forms:

All 8th grade students participating in our Lincoln Catholic Schools League must have a physical/sports physical on file. The form is due before the student is allowed to practice. The 7th Grade Physical form due before the first day of school will suffice for 7th grade sports participants. Our athletic director will send an email regarding how to participate in the Catholic Youth Sports League, and information including how to sign-up, pay fees, fill out waivers and other important paperwork needed.

School Pictures and Jayhawk Jumpstart for Grades Preschool- Gr. 8: Monday, August 17th

3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. School Photos in Kaczmarek Hall. Picture guidelines are as follows: *“No writing/pictures except a small logo is permitted on clothing. Sleeveless shirts are not allowed. Jewelry and make-up regulations remain the same as for a normal school day.” (taken from pg. 8 of school handbook.)* Students out of dress code will be required to retake their picture on retake day.

5:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. Cookout provided by the Knights of Columbus in front of the school. Grilled Hamburger or Hot Dog with chips and a water bottle will be provided by our Saint Teresa Knights of Columbus Fitzgerald Council 833. Thank you, Knights, for your support and a meal for our School Families during our Jayhawk Jumpstart.

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Classrooms are open for students to meet their teacher and drop off school supplies. Class Lists will be posted by the front office and outside the A/B split classrooms.

Items due by August 17th:

- Physicals and Updated Immunizations Record (Preschool, K and 7th).
- Original birth and baptism certificates with raised seal for incoming students.
- Prescription medication and OTC meds in original containers clearly labeled with child's name, with completed Medication Permission form
- Yearly Updated Asthma and Allergy Action Plans
- Payments for Breakfast and Lunch
- Free and Reduced Breakfast & Lunch application

First Day of School K-8th Grade and Preschool Open House:

Tuesday, August 18th: K-8 students arrive at school between 7:45 a.m.-8:00 a.m. Regular school hours are from 8:05 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Students not in their classroom at 8:05 are counted tardy. Dismissal is at 12:00 p.m. this first day of school. (the only other noon dismissal is the last day before Christmas). Breakfast Program will begin on the first day of school, serving between 7:15 a.m. to 7:35 a.m. each school day.

Preschool Open House: Tuesday, August 18th from 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Regular preschool sessions begin on Wednesday, August 19th.

Extended Day Program:

Enrollment is now open: As a service to our Saint Teresa School families, we offer an afterschool program with a mission to provide a safe, positive, and fun environment for our students. The program will begin immediately after dismissal, at 3:20 p.m. and runs until 5:30 p.m. To secure a spot in the program for your children, please email Grace Vinton, director of the program at Grace-Vinton@cdolinc.net We will contact you with the payment information.

Volunteers:

We welcome parents and volunteers to help in our school throughout the year. Before you volunteer for classroom activities, field trips, coaching a sports team or club, etc., you must be up to date with your Diocesan Safe Environment Training and Background Check. Effective Jan 1st 2025, all volunteers are required to complete training at the beginning of the year, with renewal requirements yearly. Background checks are valid for five years; Safe Environment training must be renewed every year in January. If you are not up to date with your training, log onto the CMGConnect website <https://cmgconnect.org> and complete the necessary training. Please contact the School Office St.Teresa-School@cdolinc.net if you are interested in volunteering, or if you have questions on background checks or Diocesan Safe Environment Training. More information is available on the school website, <https://stlfschool.org> under 'Parent Information > Volunteers and Field Trip Chaperones'.

Used Uniform Closet: We are accepting gently used and laundered uniforms, especially jumpers and skirts. Please drop off any donations during our open summer office hours, Wednesday mornings, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

Visit our school website, <https://stlfschool.org> to view important Back to School information, Including:

- Yearly Updated Asthma and Allergy Action Plans
- Prescription medication and OTC permission forms
- School Supply List
- Art Supply List
- Tentative Yearly School Calendar
- August 2026 School Calendar
- August 2026 Breakfast & Hot Lunch Menu
- Free & Reduced-Price School Meals Family Application 2026-27
- Service Hours Log with Thrift Shop required hours and Link to sign-up
- School Handbook, with uniform guidelines and other important information
- Summer Adoration Celebration
- 5th – 8th grade Back to School Pool Party
- SCRIP order form and SCRIP Tuition Rebate Program

May God bless you and your family as you prepare for the upcoming school year!