





OCTOBER 2023 ORA ET LABORA

THE ST. BENEDICT CLASSICAL ACADEMY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October Highlights:

The month of October was a busy month! Students enjoyed lots of nature walks to the Charles River and outside time on the schoolhouse play yard. There was no school on Columbus Day, October 9th.

On October 12th, parents of SBCA students in Grade 5 & 6 gathered for a Middle School Information night. Starting next school year (Fall 2024) we are expanding our program to Grade 7, followed by Grade 8. Headmaster Boren, Director of Development Curriculum Karen Celano, Dean of Students Alex Newsome, and Assistant Head of School & Director of Enrollment Hadley Keefe presented on the unique aspects of our middle school program and highlighted what students will by gain completing the logic phase of classical Catholic their education here at SBCA. Deo gratias!

On October 13th, students in Grades 3-6 participated in a Children's Holy Hour at Holy

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Cross Cathedral in Boston, hosted by the Archdiocese. On Saturday, October 21st, we hosted our Fall Admissions Open House. Despite heavy rain, over 30 families joined us to explore our community. (FYI Admissions applications are due on February 1st!)

First trimester progress reports were sent home earlier in the month in preparation for Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday, October 26th. There was no school on conference day or on Friday, October 27th for a Faculty Retreat.

The SBCA Parent Guild also hosted many fun fall events: apple picking at Berlin Orchards, Family Movie Night on the turf, and Trunk or Treat!

November Preview:

Our All Saints Day Parade will take place on November 1st. School is closed for Thanksgiving Break, starting with an Early Release on November 21st, until the 24th.

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HIGHLIGHTS

UPCOMING

November

- 1 ALL SAINTS DAY CLASS PARTIES
- 10 NO SCHOOL (VETERANS DAY OBSERVED)
- 17 ADORATION & CONFESSION
- 21 HOUSES OF FAITH MEETING; NOON DISMISSAL
- 22- NO SCHOOL (THANKSGIVING24 BREAK)

LOOKING AHEAD

December

- 1 BENEDICTINE GUILD MEETING
- 8 SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION; REPORT CARDS SENT HOME
- 13 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CONCERT
- 15 NOON DISMISSAL
- 18 CHRISTMAS BREAK



VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: FAITH



ART OF THE MONTH: *COLOSSUS OF CONSTANTINE*

This early 4th century giant statue honors the Emperor of Rome, Constantine, and the ushering in of Christianity. Taken from the Greek word *christos*, the first two letters x and pbecome a symbol for "Christ". It is said that Constantine saw this symbol, known as *Chi Rho*, before an important battle. He heard the words, "in this sign you will conquer".

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH: JOHANNES BRAHMS

Our composer of the month, Johannes Brahms (1833-1897), was a German composer and pianist who composed many symphonies, concerti, piano music, and choral works.





SAINT OF THE MONTH:

ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

Saint Therese of Lisieux was a saint of the late nineteenth century who was known for her piety and simplicity of life. She died a Carmelite at age 24 and is the patron saint of foreign missions. St. Therese's feast day is October 1st.

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Curriculum Corner SINGAPORE MATHEMATICS

Welcome to the Curriculum Corner! In this new section of our Ora et Labora Newsletter, we will highlight a different aspect of our curriculum each month, sharing a glimpse of how our academic program at SBCA joyfully leads our students to the True, the Good, and the Beautiful in every discipline.

WHY DOES SBCA UTILIZE THE SINGAPORE APPROACH?

Though the Singapore approach was not originally developed within the classical education tradition, its goals and pedagogical methods align beautifully with the classical approach. The classical tradition holds that children learn first through their senses, then begin to identify patterns of causality that show the relationships between their sensory experiences, and then are able to derive abstract principles based on those patterns.

Singapore math applies these principles to the study of mathematics. Using a "concrete to pictorial to abstract" approach, Singapore math helps students move from manipulating physical objects, to representing that manipulation pictorially, and then to expressing that pictorial representation with the abstract symbols of numbers and notation. The Singapore approach aligns with classical education because it allows for dynamic Socratic discussion in the math classroom.

I love math! We learned number bonds where you have to split up the number, and it's easier for me to add & subtract!

FRAN, GRADE 2

While this method of teaching may seem less efficient than simply teaching students how to manipulate abstractions, the goal is to teach students the *why* behind the *how* - thus empowering them to grasp more complex concepts as they progress through their study of math. (Jon Gregg, lecturer in mathematics at Hillsdale College, explains the approach beautifully in his YouTube video <u>here</u>.) This method has already generated demonstrable results here at St. Benedict Classical Academy, where students have achieved, on average, a 12% score increase in mathematics and a 20% score increase in quantitative reasoning on the CTP exam since the curriculum was introduced.

While the Singapore approach is quite different than the way many adults in the US today have been taught math, we believe it aligns not only with our classical mission, but also our Catholic one, for it enables students to see how math beautifully reveals the ordered *logos* of the world, lovingly created by a rational God.

