

# THE MONTHLY MESSAGE



## Message from the President

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to October! I hope this newsletter finds everyone staying safe and healthy. Thanks to all of you for your flexibility, patience, and grace during this school year. Whether your child is in person or remote, I appreciate you making sure your child is connecting and learning. While some situations may not be ideal, we at least have to try and do our best. I am grateful for the staff and teachers for doing their best and going above and beyond so the students can learn.

The monthly newsletter is meant to inform and communicate with parents all the happenings throughout the school. I will try my best to get the newsletter sent out at the beginning of every month. While you receive information from your child's teacher or principal, I believe it is important to make sure you are aware of all the happenings from the different departments.

Have a wonderful month! Stay safe and healthy!

### Save the Date:

**October 16**

Founder's Day!!

Check out our website  
for more details.  
[srsdeaf.org](http://srsdeaf.org)

**October 23**

Teacher Workday -  
No School

**October 26-30**

Fall Break!! - No School

**November 25**

Parent Teacher  
Conference - No school

**November 26-27**

Thanksgiving Break! -  
No School



# Through My Eyes, Around the School

Making connections and checking in with each other is important all the time but especially during these times. I try to stop in and check out the happenings in the classrooms. Here is what has been captured and seen through my eyes the past month.

Sometimes you just need to get on their level and play. Being outside, getting fresh air and getting creative is one of the best ways for a child to learn.



The Campus Ministry team held a prayer service for the beginning of the school year. Everyone was able to watch it live in their classrooms or from home. The theme focused on Hopes and Fears.

# Preschool: Getting into the routine:

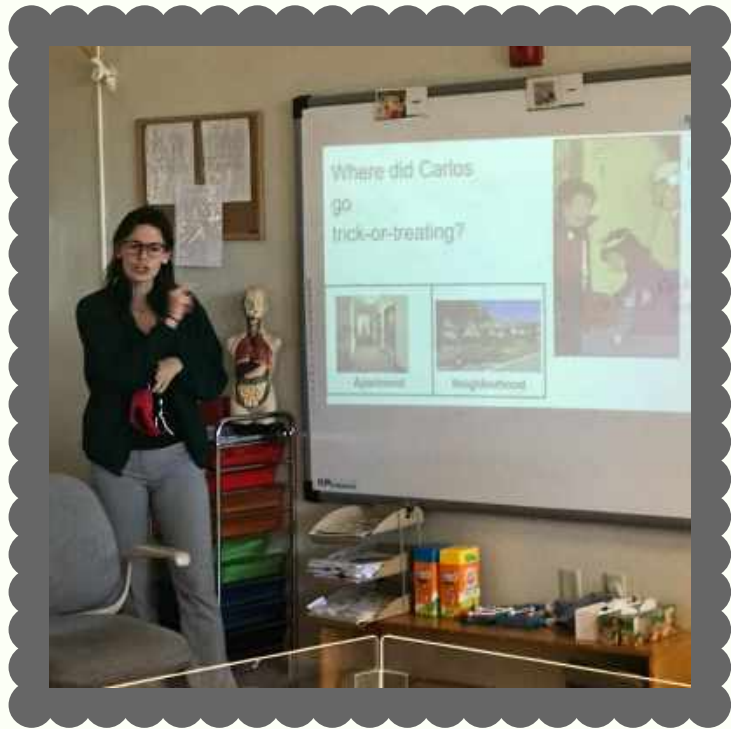
- Speech Collab
- Patterns
- Letter Recognition



K-2 Learning Vocabulary:  
Fingerspell the word and  
sign the word.



Working on Reading  
Comprehension and  
answering questions of  
who, what, and where.



7th - 12th grade in person  
and classroom learning.





7th - 12 grade learning about the national debt.

As Mr. Adam was teaching, the students could see the numbers continue to rise in real time.

Speech Therapy in Action!



## Food Service

All breakfast and lunches are free to students through the end of December! Crazy morning and can't pack lunch? No worries, the school has you covered at no additional cost. Any questions can be directed to Neka Freeze at [nfreeze@srsdeaf.org](mailto:nfreeze@srsdeaf.org).



An anonymous donor is providing snacks to all students through the month of December! Thanks to this person for keeping our students' bellies full and brains energized for learning.

## Nominate Teachers and Staff

### Random Acts of Ice Cream:

<https://www.hudsonvilleicecream.com/random-acts/>

### Hometown Hero through B105.1 or Q102:

<https://b105.com/b-105-1-homeroom-heroes-for-9-24-20/>

<https://www.wkrq.com/contest/q102-homeroom-heroes/>

\*Hometown Hero Contest Ends on November 20, 2020.

## Counselor's Corner

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!! Yes, there are many unique changes to this school year; but we are all together in this. The School Counseling Program at St. Rita is here to give support to you and your child. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time ([bhodes@srsdeaf.org](mailto:bhodes@srsdeaf.org)).

We are doing a new thing this year - we will be utilizing a SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) curriculum in the classrooms this year. We are using the curriculum from the Second Step Program. The goal of the Second Step SEL curriculum is to help students to excel in and out of the classroom. The program will focus on emotion management, situational awareness, and problem solving skills. If you want to learn more, go to [secondstep.org](http://secondstep.org).

I look forward to working with you and your child this year.  
Bethany Hodges, School Counselor

## Development

This department is responsible for raising money and awareness. COVID has added some unexpected expenses to this year's operating budget totaling over \$60,000. The development team works on direct mailings, fundraising events, grants, social media, and sharing the stories of the school and its successes with others. They can't do it alone. Make sure you share the school's website and follow on social media outlets to help spread the word about St. Rita. Do you know someone who wants to learn more about St. Rita or do you have business contacts in the community who are looking to support our mission?

Please reach out to Hap Durkin at [hdurkin@srsdeaf.org](mailto:hdurkin@srsdeaf.org) so we can make a connection.

# Reminders!!

- If you need reminders for your children about some dos and don'ts for this year, check out the St. Rita School for the Deaf YouTube channel for the latest videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB1LWkliMRrERQ26Tv7dn-w>
- Take it slow and watch the arrows: Please make sure to obey all speed limit signs (Speed Limit is 5 miles per hour) and watch where you are going while driving on school grounds. Also, be extremely careful at the light when turning left out of the driveway - some people on Glendale Milford Rd are not paying attention and running the light. Before you turn, take a few extra seconds to make sure it is safe.
- There will be times that the school will need to go to full remote learning very quickly. Please make sure you read notices from the school via email and text so you have the latest information. Update Final Forms if anything changes in regards to your contact information.
- If your child is not feeling well or showing any symptoms or signs of not feeling well, please keep them home. This is for the safety of your child and the rest of the school.
- As part of the efforts to keep everyone safe, the school has a contact at the Hamilton County Health Department in regards to COVID-19 and contact tracing. If you receive a call from someone at the Health Department, it is because your child or you have come in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. This is part of their protocol. The following is a dashboard you can click on to see reported cases in all schools in Ohio. This is compiled and completed weekly not daily.

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/schools-and-children/schools>