

Handbells at St. Francis Cathedral School

The music curriculum of Saint Francis Cathedral School now includes handbells for students in grades 7 and 8. Pictured are 8th grade students ringing bells as part of their music class. Also included are pictures of students ringing for the Opening Mass of Catholic Schools Week. Ringing handbells teaches many music concepts and puts them into action.

Some comments about ringing from our 8th grade students follow:

“I enjoy ringing handbells because they require teamwork in order to make such beautiful music. Ringing handbells has taught me how to read music more efficiently and how much effort must be put into playing the instrument correctly.” Elizabeth N. 8B

“Throughout this school year, Mr. Mahoney has worked with us developing several skills relating to handbells. He encourages us as we play; we’ve been taught how to read music, elements of music theory, and the importance of teamwork and cooperation.” Megan L. 8A

“I like playing handbells because when playing, the sound is smooth and brings out the character of the music. One thing I learned from handbells is the different techniques of ringing such as plucking, thumb damping, and ringing into the table.” Allen Q. 8A

“I enjoy playing handbells because I get to play an instrument during music class rather than just singing or listening to music. I have learned that everyone can learn to play an instrument because all the 8th grade boys have learned to play the handbells well.” Nathan Z. 8A

