



August 1, 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health, enjoying their summer and excited to begin a new school year.

We have a number of new staff members joining us this year. I hope that you will join me in welcoming them to our school. New staff includes:

Tracey Stachnik returns to Saint Brigid as our middle school science teacher. Tracey previously taught several PE classes, Life Skills and worked in the lunch room. Tracey is excited and we are delighted for her to share her love of science with our students!

Sandra Goik brings 13 years of third grade classroom experience to our third grade class. She taught previously at Holy Trinity School and Akron-Fairgrove Schools.

Luke Cusack is our Director of Communications, Technology and Marketing.

Chris Buchalski will teach computers to our K-6 graders. Chris has a background in Chemical Engineering and has most recently served as our school librarian. She also serves as technology teacher at Blessed Sacrament.

Kim Scott will lead our K-5 science lab STEM lessons. Kim has worked with Airport Community Schools with their STEM science and has published many lessons on TeachersPayTeachers.com.

Diana Ball is moving to a part time position as a staff member and will teach middle school performance arts and library.

Kristi Sinicki will be teaching middle school math and religion this year. Kristi formerly subbed in this position and taught fourth grade last year.

A reminder that our first grade teacher Amanda Buchman was married at the end of last year. She will be going by Amanda Heminger as the school year begins.

First Day of School: Tuesday, September 4, 2018 is our first day of school. The day begins with Mass at 8:30 a.m. in the church. Please plan to attend this

liturgy with your child (ren). New families will be welcomed in a special way. Then students and teachers will be dismissed from the parish hall to the classrooms. All parents are REQUIRED to attend the parent meeting which follows.

Playground/Lunchroom Supervision:

Andrew Reed returns this year as our playground supervisor. We are in need of one on other adult each day on the playground. Corie Van Sumeren and Rachel Mitchell return as our food service director and cook, respectively. We are also in need of lunchroom monitors. These monitors are needed between 11:05 and 12:35. If you would like to volunteer for either of these positions one day a week for the year or each day please contact Laura Wilkowski or Tracey Shark **ASAP**.

Junior Science: This after school “STEM” program is open to Saint Brigid School students. This year, the program is divided into 2 sections. The first section will take place in October/November. The 2nd section will take place in January/February. A flyer with more information is attached.

School Uniforms: The students are required to begin the school year wearing uniform clothing. Shorts may be worn on non-mass days until October 1, 2018.

PTO Meeting: PTO meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 pm. All parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

After School Care Program: Andrew Reed is the Associate Director of After-School Care program. Jenna Coates and Sara Groth are the After School Care Aides. After-school care begins with our first day of school, September 4, 2018. After school care registration forms can be found at <https://stbrigid-midland.org/school/after-school-care/> and should be completed prior to the beginning of the school year. There is an annual process fee of (\$40.00) **per family** at time of enrollment. The cost per student is \$5.00/hour.

Nut Free Environment: Saint Brigid School is a **NUT FREE** environment. There are no nut products of any kind, allowed in the building. Many of our students are highly allergic to various nuts. The school lunch program offers a Sun Butter sandwich for those students who would like something similar to peanut butter. We ask that all snacks be consistent with this policy. If a child brings an item with nuts in it to school, that child will be offered an alternative snack/lunch.

Middle School Chromebooks: This year our middle school students will be receiving Chromebooks to use for the academic year. This wonderful tool will allow students and teachers to explore Google Classroom and to use technology on a regular basis to enhance the academic curriculum. Students are to carry them in the cases that they will be given to prevent damage to them.

Chromebooks will be setup so as to maximize academic performance and to minimize distractions and security issues.

Middle School Orientation: Our middle school orientation is scheduled for Thursday, August 23, 2018 at 9:30 AM. Students will receive their planners, their lockers and their Chromebook at that time. Luke Cusack our Director of Communications, Technology and Marketing will be doing a brief presentation for parents on security measures that we are taking to be sure that students' Chromebook experiences are safe and enhance their academic experience. Students will need to sign a user agreement to take them home at that time.

Don't forget to mark your calendars and save the date for our Emerald Evening event to be held November 10, 2018 at 5pm at the Midland Country Club.

And speaking of important dates, we are including the important dates for the calendar year as we have them. Keep in mind that some dates may change due to inclement weather or scheduling changes but this should give you a good idea of what to look forward to as we move throughout the year.

Please go online if you have not already done so and print off necessary back to school paperwork. It can be found at <https://stbrigid-midland.org/school/parent-resources/forms-and-policies/> .

I hope that your children are outside soaking up the sun as much as they can and getting lots of time for creative play as it is one of the most important ways that students can build creativity, problem solving skills, social development and spacial awareness. Enjoy your playtime and I look forward to seeing each of you on September 4, 2018 for our first day back!

Have a blessed August,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura E. Wilkowski".

Laura Wilkowski, Principal
Saint Brigid Catholic Schools