



*Faith,
Academics,
Life...*



The mission of Saint Brigid School, in partnership with family, parish and community, is to educate and encourage students to reach their potential – mind, body and spirit – in an inclusive environment of support, understanding and Catholic values.

From the Principal's Desk

Advent is upon us. Advent is a time of waiting- joyful expectant waiting.

As parents we can relate to joyful expectant waiting as most of us can probably recall waiting joyfully, expectantly for the birth of a child. Children may not grasp the concept so easily. I am reminded of a story that I was asked to teach to my fourth grade class long ago. The story involved a family who found a rather large egg outside of their house and the joyful, expectant waiting they experienced in waiting for this mystery egg to hatch. In order to help them to relate to the story, I had a rather large package delivered to the classroom at the beginning of my lesson. I had a return address on the box that said Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. and was clearly addressed to the fourth grade class students. They of course wanted to open it but I told them we had too much to do. I had them look up vocabulary, write sentences and go through much of the morning work before we opened it. Inside was a note to each from me and a piece of candy. We talked about how the expectant feelings they had were much like the characters in the story and that the joy that they felt in receiving the personal notes and candy were much like the joy that the family experienced. I was delighted when they could see the connection.

But how do we teach that same expectant waiting to our children in regards to Advent. What is it that we want them to experience in Advent? I spoke with a family yesterday that said that they choose 12 days during Advent to do something for someone else. One day they will work at Open Door, for another they will visit a nursing home, on another they will help a neighbor and so forth. For just 12 of the busy days before Christmas, they will do something for someone else and, in their expectant waiting, experience the joy and hope of Christmas and the peace that Christ's love can bring to themselves and others. May you find a way this Advent to communicate joyful, hopeful waiting to your children in a way that allows them to feel Christ's presence in themselves and in others.

Laura E. Wilkowski

Important Dates:

- December 2** Advent by Candlelight
- December 5** Mass at 8:30 am, Grade 6
- December 11** Middle School Shadow Day with Blessed Sacrament and Auburn Area Catholic Schools
- December 11** Middle School Information Night 6-8 p.m.
- December 12** Mass at 8:30 am, Grade 5
- December 12** Preschool Story Time 1-2:00 pm
- December 13** Christmas Concert K-5 starts at 6 p.m.
Middle School Band starts at 7 p.m.
- December 17** PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm
- December 19** Mass at 8:30 am, Grade 4
- December 19** School Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm
- December 21** Early Dismissal at 11:30
- December 22-January 1** CHRISTMAS VACATION!



Lunch Accounts

We are in the process of trying to set up Skyward again to do emails to parents to give balances on lunch accounts. We had not been able to for the first quarter because of an inability for the Skyward and gmail systems to work together. That problem has been resolved and we hope to have emails working again soon. You can always check your balances on Skyward. Keep in mind that when the you add lunch money to your FACTS account it does take almost two weeks to show on the Skyward system.

The hot lunch account covers both lunches and snacks. Snacks are \$.50 per day but children may choose 3 snacks. Lunches each day cost \$3.00. Milk only prices are \$.50. Please keep in mind that if you send a lunch or snack of your own, they are to be nut free as we have a nut free policy and many children with nut allergies. This applies to after school clubs or adult gatherings as well.

Great Job Girl Scouts!

On Tuesday, November 27, the Girl Scouts, Troop 50220, delivered an unprecedented 127 boxes of cookies to the Open Door to be handed out with Christmas boxes of food. Not only has this number of boxes never been given by the Girl Scouts at Saint Brigid, but no Troop in the state of MI has never had so many boxes donated for charity. Congratulations Girl Scouts! You serve as a model for what the season is really all about.

Construction Zone will be cancelled next week, December 4th.

Advent Retreat

This year our students in grades K-8 will hold a very different type of an Advent retreat than we have had in years past. Each grade will participate in Eucharistic Adoration for some time on December 12th. Because Eucharistic Adoration will follow mass on each Wednesday during December, we ask that both students and parents exit the church in silence.

Stay 'n Play update

We continue to have lots of children coming to stay n play on Friday mornings! If you know someone who is looking for a place for their children to play on these dreary days, please tell them about Stay 'n Play. It is for children ages infant through five years old. Join us every Friday 9 – 10:30 from October through March in our school gym. It costs \$1.00 per family. Thank you to Belinda Blasy, Val Whiteley, and Jamie Budd who are supervising the Stay 'n Play time. And a BIG thank you to all of the families who donated toys for the program! We couldn't do it without YOU!

Beth Standfest is Retiring

Beth Standfest, our reading specialist for the last ten years is retiring. She has done an incredible job in getting extra reading help and assessments for students. She has been instrumental in helping to make our academic program strong and I wish her the best in her retirement! Thank you, Beth, for your dedication to Catholic School education!

Robotics Team Keeps Moving On!

The St Brigid 'Knights in Aluminium' Robotics Team, consisting of Rachael Cain, Harry Deeth, Norah and Clara Allington and St Brigid parishioners Matthew and Claire Koob, are advancing to the State Championships on December 14th and 15th! We wish them the best of luck at their competition and are very proud of their accomplishments! Way to go Knights!

Catholic Schools Week

Though it may seem far away, we are planning for our Catholic Schools Week for the week of January 27-February 1, 2019. We have the following tentative schedule. Mass on Sunday, January 27 at 11:30 am kicks off the week followed by a PTO sponsored Potluck in Cardinal Hickey Parish Hall. Monday evening, January 28 will be our talent show. **We are in need of volunteers to make this happen.** Please contact Laura Wilkowski if you are able to help with this. Wednesday we will have a preschool story time and our Science Fair. Thursday we have our Donuts with Dads events from 7:15-8:00 AM. Friday we will have our Sock Hop. If you can help in the planning of any of these events, please contact Laura Wilkowski at 835-9481 or lwilkowski@stbrigid-midland.org.



Saint Brigid Middle School Athletics

Stay up to date on Sports Schedules and other important information at:

<https://stbrigid-midland.org/school/middle-school-2/athletics/>





Brown Bag Lunch with Principal

Our next lunch with the principal will be on Friday, December 14, 2018 from 11:30 am-12:45 pm. We will continue to have brown bag lunches on the second Friday of each month. Pack a lunch and we can discuss concerns or I can tell you about upcoming events in the school. Feel free to bring a friend too if you know someone who is interested in learning more about our school!



Inclement Weather Policy

Saint Brigid School follows the procedure of the Midland Public Schools when concerning inclement weather. The radio and TV stations, will announce the closing of the Midland Public School Classes on a particular day, usually between 6:00 and 8:00 a.m. **When M.P.S. is closed, Saint Brigid School is also closed.** In the event of a school delay for M.P.S., we will also delay the same amount of time. For example, if there is a two-hour delay, the school building will be open at 9:30 a.m. and will start at 9:55 a.m. (two hours after usual starting time of 7:55 a.m.).



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Saint Brigid Christmas Concert is Monday, Dec. 11 at 6:00 p.m. Students should be dressed in their Christmas/Sunday best. The program will be split into two sections; the choir portion and the band portion.

Choir Portion (K-5)

6:00 p.m. start time. Please have students arrive by 5:45 p.m. to their appropriate classroom.

Band portion (6-8)

7:00 p.m. start time. Please have students arrive by 6:30 p.m. to the band room.

Students will be dismissed from the gym after the concert.

Fourth grade news

The sac fry are here! The Salmon in the Classroom program continues in the 4th grade. Over Thanksgiving break, many of our salmon eggs emerged or “hatched” into sac fry. The sac fry is the next step in the development of the salmon. With this sac, the fish are nourished and do not need to be fed yet. They swim mostly near the bottom of the tank. They continue to develop with this stage. The fish are translucent, and the sac will shrink completely over time. Once the sac has disappeared, the fish will need to be fed. Stop into the classroom, either before or after school, to see the progress.

Advent by Candlelight

A reminder that this Sunday, Dec. 2, 6:30-9:00 pm in Cardinal Hickey Parish Hall is a women’s event to meet and reflect on the meaning of Advent as we “wait in joyful hope” for the celebration of Christ. Our reflection will be led by Sr. Margot Tafoya, M.S.Sp. We hope to see you there!

Green Cone Parking

You will notice, starting today, that a green cone is being placed out in the parking lot to block a parking space. This is an Emerald Evening Winner Space. Valerie Whiteley won the 3 pm after school parking space. This space is to be reserved for her. We will use the same green cone to designate Emerald Evening Parking for the Christmas Concert, Talent Show, Spring Concert and Christmas masses. Again, I would ask that you not take this space unless you are the designated winner. Thank you and congratulations to those who won the reserved spot!

The Cold Weather is Here!

Since the long-range forecast seems to indicate that the cold weather is here for a while, I would ask that you send warm coats and snow gear with your children as we will go out for recess unless the temperature or wind chill is below 10°F. Each day we have up to ten children without hats, gloves and snowpants. On some days we run short.

On that same note, have you ever wondered what to do with that one lonely mitten or glove? Send them to us to match up with our lonely mittens and gloves.

Student Council Updates

For the month of December, the student council is collecting new and gently used toys for needy families as their service project. Please send in any donations on or before December 14, 2018.

As their spirit day, they voted to have a teacher switch day. The switch day will be Wednesday December 19th after mass.





Head to Head

Head to head is a competition between our local middle schools in the following areas

- written tests in eight subject areas
- a live quiz show-style event
- black & white and color art performance events
- vocal music solos and ensembles
- instrumental music solos and ensembles
- public speaking individual and group event

It is a great chance for our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to work together and it is very fun and exciting. Our middle schoolers have traditionally done very well in Head to Head. The program usually starts to meet in January. We would love to once again participate in this fun showcase of student talents but we are in need of a coordinator to get information, collect student names and oversee coaches for each section. While I have some volunteers for coaching the events, **we are in need of a coordinator**. If this is something that you would like to do, please contact Laura Wilkowski at 835-9481 or lwilkowski@stbrigid-midland.org.

THE FRIENDS OF THE GRACE A. DOW MEMORIAL LIBRARY PRESENT:

Holiday Book Sale: Saturday, December 8, 10:00am-2:00pm
Join us for this **one-day sale** of children's picture books & items
(Many Holiday books)

(All in very good to excellent condition, many are un-used)

All books only .50 cents! Located in the Orchard Room of the library 1710 W. St. Andrews Midland. Cash or check only.

The student Leadership Group plans for December

The middle school student leadership group chose ugly sweater day for December's spirit day. This will take place on Thursday, December 13, 2018.

For this month's service project they will be running a make-it, take-it for students in grades K-5 on Monday, December 17 beginning at 12:30 pm. K-5 students will get to make some Christmas presents for family members with the help of middle school.

The holiday scrip contest is underway!

The contest will run through December 31. The class with the highest total sales per student will win a free dress pass day, and all scrip orders of \$100 or more will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 scrip gift certificate.

External scrip sales information was sent home last week. This is your chance to help family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers with their Christmas gift card needs and earn money for St. Brigid and your family's tuition. That's a win-win! Orders will be accepted through Dec. 7, and orders will be delivered Dec. 14 for you to distribute. Oh, and of course, these sales count toward the holiday contest.

If you're thinking of a scrip gift certificates for teachers or staff, please ensure to order them by Dec. 18 at the latest for delivery on Dec. 20. They can be ordered online or at the scrip to go table.

This season, remember Saint Brigid when you do your online shopping. Your purchases through Amazon Smile mean donations to our Parish and School! Amazon SCRIP cards can also be used through our Smile Account! Thank you!

You shop. Amazon donates.






Attention 4th and 5th Grade Parents: Middle School Information Night

It is the time of year to consider registration for middle school students for 2019-2020. As you reflect about the best learning environment for your children, please consider Saint Brigid Catholic Middle School.

- ◆ Students participate in many ministries at school Mass; cantor, lector, cross bearer, and altar server.
- ◆ Small class size: limited to 25 students which provides a great teacher-student ratio.
- ◆ Band for students in grades 6-8
- ◆ The 7th and 8th grade curriculum provides for a choice of electives in Spanish, current events, technology, gym, public performance, drama, band, creative writing, and life skills.
- ◆ Some of our extracurricular activities include: student leadership, chess club, head to head, drama, and robotics to name just a few.
- ◆ Students have the option to participate in boys basketball, girls basketball and girls volleyball, pom through Valley Parochial League.

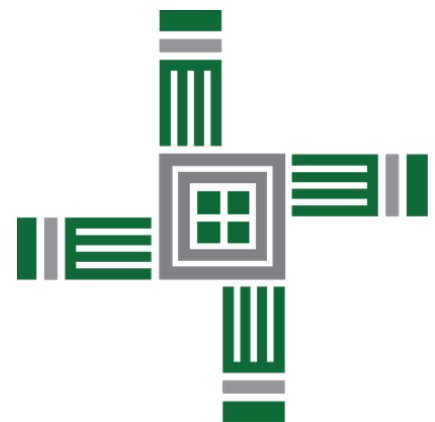
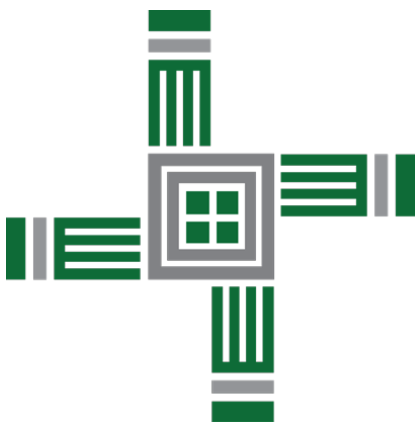
We hope you will take this opportunity to find out more about our growing middle school and consider Saint Brigid School as a place of learning for your child(ren).

Join us Tuesday, December 11 for Mass at 5:30 followed by Middle School Information Night at 6:30 p.m. The teachers will be available on this evening to answer your questions.

Middle Schoolers Get Shadows

On Tuesday, December 11, 5th-grade students from Blessed Sacrament and Auburn Area Catholic Schools will get a chance to shadow our middle school students to see what a "day in the life" of our middle schoolers looks like. Then, on December 18, Saint Brigid fifth graders will get the chance to shadow our middle schoolers. What a wonderful opportunity for fifth graders to find out about the good things we do and for our middle schoolers to be good host and teachers for others!

St. Brigid



Pray For Us...