

Thirty-fifth Edition, August 5, 2019



At Saint Brigid of Kildare, nourished by the Word and Sacraments, we find life in Christ by gathering disciples for worship, service and education.

From the Principal's Desk

Who doesn't like a gift? This summer has been a gift. It has provided me with a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with my family, to see the beauty of Yellowstone and the miracles that allow it to be, and an opportunity to read, relax and re-energize. But the gifts God has in store for us for our new year are still waiting for us. God has blessed me with Gary Hollingshead, Ron Torka and Joe Sira who have worked very hard to get our classrooms ready and they look amazing! He has blessed me with Tracey Shark who has kept the lines of communication with new families and current families going while I took a vacation.

He has blessed me with a staff of teachers who also are preparing for the year by attending workshops, writing plans and yes, resting and re-energizing.

Our Summer Reading Academy has helped us to keep the instructional process moving forward throughout the summer as well.

As school approaches, let us remember the gift we have in an education at Saint Brigid. The gift of dedicated staff, of supportive families and of amazing students. God is truly good!

Don't forget to mark your calendars and save the date for our Emerald Evening event to be held November 9, 2019, at 4:30 pm at the Midland Country Club!



Important Dates:

August

- 15 Family Mass at 6pm and potluck to follow at Patrick and Krystal Gipson's house
- 18 MACC at the Great Lakes Loons, 2 pm
- 20 Diocesan Professional Development for Teachers
- 22 School Committee Meeting at 6 pm
- 25 PTO Back to School Potluck 12:30 to 2:30 in gym following 11:30 Mass
- 26 VIRTUS training from 6-9 pm in the Open Area of Saint Brigid Catholic School

September

- 3 School begins, Mass by Staff at 8:30 am; Required Parent Meeting to follow (9:30 am)
- 9 Hearing Screenings (K,2,4) and Vision Screenings (1,3,5,7); Student Council Campaigning begins
- 10 Fully Alive 4-9 pm
- 11 8th grade Mass
- 12 Spirit Day K-8
- 16 PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 17 Hick's studio school pictures 10 AM; Student Council speeches, 2 pm; Fully Alive 4-9 pm
- 18 7th grade mass; Student Council Elections
- 19 School Committee Meeting, 6 pm
- 24 Fully Alive 4-9 pm
- 25 6th grade mass
- 30 No school, PD Day

VIRTUS Training VIRTUS is our program to protect all of God's children. Anyone who plans to volunteer at the school is required to attend a VIRTUS session. If you have not already attended, there will be a VIRTUS session on August 26, 6-9 PM Open Area Saint Brigid.

After School Care Lead Teacher Position Available

Lead teacher is responsible for keeping attendance and submitting hours per child to business manager, maintaining all student and staff paperwork required by MDE, assisting with homework, setting up activities to allow kids to play and or relax, planning a monthly menu of snacks and serving kids, and have kids help clean up after eating. Lead teacher needs to be able to respond to basic emergencies and to look out for children's welfare while in their care. Lead teacher needs to be apprised of state laws on child safety procedures and creating a safe environment for children. If kids need to take medications, the care providers also need to know the protocols involved and know how to respond to a health emergency. Lead teacher must also help schedule the right amount of staff for the number of kids attending the program.

Job Requirements

- Associate's (or higher) degree, or 60 credits of study at an institution of higher education, or equivalent experience
- Have training, course work, or equivalent experience in working with children.
- Possess effective speaking and writing skills.
- Possess effective skills using digital technology.
- Reliable, consistent attendance record.
- Internet Criminal History Access Tool (ICHAT) results before hire.
- DHS central registry check before unsupervised contact with children.

If staff hired after 1/1/14 resided outside of Michigan as an adult within the 10 years immediately preceding hire, a request to those states for a criminal history check and central registry clearance.

Written statement signed by all staff and volunteers at the time of hiring confirming notification of center's children's protective services policy and requirements of the Child Protection Law.

There will be a **back-to-school potluck meal** following the 11:30 mass on Sunday, August 25. Please bring a nut-free dish to pass. Drinks and flatware, plates and napkins will be provided. Come out and meet our new families and connect with friends!

Changes to Hot Lunch Accounts

This year, in an attempt to make things easier for parents, families' FACTS accounts will be charged for hot lunch and snack cart on a biweekly basis. In this way, parents do not need to guess as to how much they will need to add. The hot lunch and snack totals will be sent over to Jeannine Hovey by Corie Van Sumeren and charged directly. **Therefore, there is no NEED to add money to your hot lunch account. It will be charged as it is used.**

Junior Science: This after school "STEM" program is open to Saint Brigid School students. Check back here in the next newsletter for more details on this exciting program!

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.

Saint Brigid Catholic School Recess Monitor Needed!

Under the supervision of the Principal, the Lunch/Recess Monitor will supervise students during the lunch and recess period; maintain appropriate order and standards as necessary to insure their health, safety, and welfare. 11:05 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.

EXAMPLE OF DUTIES: Supervise and provide support to students during recess activities.

Alert to problems which are likely to disrupt the educational process or which might be physically injurious to persons or property. Intervene in situations likely to result in disruption or injury to students or others. Direct students to refrain from activities that may result in injury to self and others. Assist in maintaining a clean, orderly and attractive school environment. Complete paperwork as necessary to communicate supervision issues to teachers and other staff. Participate in meetings and in-service training programs. Perform related duties as assigned.

ABILITY TO: Demonstrate an understanding, patient, warm, receptive attitude towards children. Understand and follow oral and written directions. Communicate effectively both orally and in writing with children and adults. Monitor and discipline students according to approved policies and procedures. Establish and maintain cooperative and effective working relationships with others. Complete work with many interruptions. Work independently with little direction. Work well with others. Work with confidentiality and discretion.

Requirements: Because the recess monitor works in an environment with children, they must have completed VIRTUS within the Diocese of Saginaw, have been fingerprinted and had a criminal background check, agree to the Diocese of Saginaw Standards of Ministerial Behavior, and have positive references or recommendations.

New Room Assignments for Some This Fall

We have done a little room shuffling over the summer. The third grade classroom will be upstairs on the same hallway as fourth and fifth grades. The third grade classroom will be in the previous eighth grade classroom. The eighth grade classroom will be the old computer lab and Kristi Gilbert (formerly the 7th grade homeroom teacher) will be the new eighth grade homeroom teacher. This change was made so that math would be the first period of the day for grade 8 and will accommodate those students who are taking geometry off campus.

Sheri Kuchek will be the 7th grade homeroom teacher. Her room will be Mrs. Gilbert's former room. Art will now take place in the old third grade classroom allowing the science lab to be used exclusively for science!

These changes will allow teachers to plan better together and accommodate student schedules. Laura Wilkowski is looking for middle school students who would like some service hours to help move art supplies to the new art room and science supplies stored previously in the basement to the science lab! Please contact her for more information at 835-9481.

Middle School Orientation

Mark your calendars! The middle school teachers are sponsoring a middle school orientation on Monday, August 26 at 10 AM-12PM. During this time students may get a locker assignment, pick up their schedule and Chromebooks and find out a bit more about middle school teacher expectations. No need to register!

2019 AUGUST						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Welcome Michelle Twigg, fourth grade teacher!

We are delighted to welcome Michelle Twigg to our staff to teach fourth grade! Michelle comes to us from All Saints Catholic School in Alpena, Michigan where she taught grades 2-6. She has also had experience in working with combined classes and, as such, is proficient at differentiating instruction.

She is in the process of buying a house and moving to Midland. Her son, Ethan will be starting kindergarten with Mrs. Hollingshead in the fall as well. I hope that you will join me in extending a warm Saint Brigid welcome to her and her family!

Security Features Being Installed

As many of you know, we received a security grant at the end of last year. Within the next couple of weeks, our security cameras will be installed as will our new access control. In the mornings and after school, the front door will be unlocked as it has been previously. However, once the bell rings, the front door will be locked. People will be admitted to the building when they press the buzzer and Tracey Shark buzzes them in. This new change will ensure that no one enters the building without our knowledge or permission. Finally, we will have a pane of bulletproof glass installed between the lobby and the office to further prevent access to students in the event of an emergency.

SCRIP COORDINATOR NEEDED!

SCRIP is again seeking a coordinator! Scrip coordination is not an extremely time consuming role. However, it is a role that requires a bit of time several times a week to enter family orders and to submit and receive purchase orders. The online system that we subscribe to does all of the work for maintaining inventory and calculating rebates/TRP. Also, most of the role can be done remotely if needed. There are other monthly, quarterly, and annual tasks, but again they don't take more than an hour or so with the systems that are already set up.

Please prayerfully consider whether you can help take on either of these two roles or even part of these roles. If interested or have questions, please contact Jean Cronin at jmcronin@charter.net.



SCRIP will be sold after the mandatory parent meeting on September 3, 2019!

Keep checking the newsletter for more information on some exciting new changes that will soon be coming for SCRIP users!

Eucharistic Ministers Needed

If you would be willing to serve as a Eucharistic minister during school masses, please contact Laura Wilkowski as soon as possible via email at lwilkowski@stbrigid-midland.org. If you need to complete Eucharistic minister training, please indicate that in your message.

