

# Saint Brigid Newsletter– Seventy Edition, 4/7/2021

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



“Nothing is impossible with God.” I remember the children singing this vacation Bible school song enthusiastically. I think that is one of the things that this Easter season reminds us. Nothing is impossible with God. With God, we can get through the tough times in our lives. With God, we can be more loving, more patient, more understanding. With God, we can get through even a pandemic.

With God, the little actions in our lives can become big. A pleasant greeting to a stranger may change the outcome of their day. A helping hand to one who is sick or mourning the loss of a loved one may make a huge difference in someone's life. A little patience with a struggling student may make it possible for that student to be successful.

It is easy as the pandemic drags on, as work stress runs you down, or time changes make you sleepy to become impatient, to lose focus on what's important and to be short with others. It is important to remember that we do not need to go it alone. If

we turn to God, he can make the impossible, possible.

Let us then take this Easter Season to give our actions to the Glory of God and let Him help us to do big things with them. Let us be more patient, more loving, more understanding of others. Let us extend a helping hand to those who need it. A miracle just may happen in your life or in another's.

*Laura E. Wilkowski*

### Important Dates

**4/8** Spirit Day

**4/14** 1st Grade (Heminger) Mass

**4/19** NWEA Testing Begins again

**4/21** Parent Teacher Conferences 5-8 pm

**4/22** Parent Teacher Conferences 8:30 am–8 pm

**4/23** No School

### Looking ahead:

**5/7** PD Day– no school

**5/17** DARE graduation

**5/26** Outdoor Band Concert

Parent Teacher Conference sign ups will be done on shared Google Docs. These will be shared with you by early next week via email. There will be in person and virtual options. Thank you for your patience!

## Sick Days

If your child **needs** to stay home, please contact the school each morning that they are out to let us know so that they can be marked as an excused absence. **You may call or email Ryan Delaney at 835-9481 ext. 48 or [rdelaney@stbrigid-midland.org](mailto:rdelaney@stbrigid-midland.org)**  
Don't forget to check in each morning using the Skyward app to do your child's wellness screenings!

## COVID Update

We currently have three positive cases of COVID-19. One student is quarantined for close contacts. All other quarantined students at this time are doing so because of travel and not close contacts.

MDHHS just made an update to quarantine back to 14 days: effective 4/5/2021 Michigan will reinstitute a standard 14-day quarantine for **close contacts** of COVID-19 cases. This will remove the option of a 10-day quarantine for non-variant cases. As a reminder, a "test out of quarantine" strategy has never been adopted in the State of Michigan. Guidance will be updated at [www.michigan.gov/containcovid](http://www.michigan.gov/containcovid) and in the standard operating procedures located here: [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/nCoV\\_SOP\\_TEAM\\_680994\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/nCoV_SOP_TEAM_680994_7.pdf)

As a reminder, please complete wellness screenings via Skyward and continue to keep children home if they show any symptoms of COVID including fever, sore throat, headache, stomachache, muscle aches, fatigue, and congestion. Thank you for your help.

## Greetings from Father Andy



Happy Easter to all!

I pray that the recent Spring break was restful and rewarding for many. Most import I pray your Easter celebrations were faith filled and opened your eyes to Christ among us!

If you traveled we thank you for observing the quarantine this week. Certainly the numbers can be alarming, but we must remember that God continues to guide, lead and interact with us. We are not alone in trying to find a path forward - Christ leads us to life and fullness of joy. The good news on vaccine distribution and effectiveness is real evidence that God inspires and heals in ways we don't expect. If you and your family have been considering the vaccine I can only share my personal experience that I highly recommend it. All residents 16 and up can be vaccinated. The Midland Center for the Arts is host to several weekly clinics and they have directions on how to reserve a spot on their website.

If you and your family traveled over break I look forward to seeing you back at Mass. We cannot expect to recognize Christ's guidance if we are not focusing on His real presence in the Eucharist. We continue to clean and disinfect the church daily. We have added UV light to our air handlers to remove bacteria and viruses from the air. We no longer require reservations but ask that you work to social distance and stagger households while seated. Our outdoor 11:30am Mass is an excellent option for those who are still anxious about crowds. We are a community called to life in Christ and I look forward to unpacking the resurrection with you over the next 7 weeks.

## 2021-2021 School Registration

We had no class at 100% but the first grade class (next year's second grade class) will receive ice cream for having the most registrations in for next year! Nineteen students, or 83%, are registered for first grade. Thank you first grade parents for helping us to effectively plan for next year.

Don't have your paperwork in– no worries! Simply log in to your Skyward account and re-enroll. Can't figure it out? You can always fill in an editable version, print it out and bring it in (or email it). Moving away? Simply let the office know!

## Scrip Program

It is time for our end of year SCRIP contest. Every order over \$50 placed between now and May 1st, provides a chance for a class to win an ice cream party! Orders can be placed online or in person so, start today!



## Saint Brigid Spotlight

Chandra Kierpiec can be found in the kitchen during the early part of each day where she makes the most delicious food for the students of Saint Brigid. She is always ready with a smile for the kids too. During the afternoons, Chandra works as a reading tutor for students in grades K-8, and has been instrumental in helping students catch up after having been quarantined. Chandra has two girls that attend Saint Brigid, Alexis in grade 8 and Jordan in grade 4. Chandra, her children and husband Paul attend mass at Saint Brigid and enjoy the outdoors. Chandra enjoys baking and has her own business, A Sweeter Experiment. Chandra is always willing to do more to help students to reach their potential. Thank you, Chandra, for all that you do!



### Intra-mural sports

We are still hoping to start our intramural basketball teams soon. We will wait for about 2-3 weeks until the number of COVID cases begins to decline again. There is still time to sign up. Simply let Corie Van Sumeren know via email at [cvansumeren@stbrigid-midland.org](mailto:cvansumeren@stbrigid-midland.org).

We are still planning some summer camps. If you could be available to help plan or run these camps, please email Corie as well!



### Saint Brigid Alumni

Axel Fisher, Saint Brigid graduate, placed in the top ten percent in a recent Midland High Business Professionals of America (BPA) competition at the 49th Annual Michigan Association State Leadership Conference with the theme "Radiate Resiliency."

In March, 84 members of the Dow High DECA Club competed in the DECA State Conference, where they completed a variety of Marketing-based business events where they take a written test and perform a role play. Three St. Brigid alums took medals: Olivia Miller, Alex Price, and Jacob O'Connor.

Lauren Van Sumeren was recently recognized for her participation in the Midland County Youth Leadership program.

### PTO STILL NEEDS YOU!

Your help is needed!



We need people to be nominated for the positions of treasurer and president of the parent teacher organization, PTO. These are positions whose meetings can and will continue to be done virtually and for which the work can be done on your time and schedule. Our PTO is one of our most important organizations, as it has as one of its tasks, the fundraising for the school. If you like to talk to people, and have lots of creative ideas, this position is for you. Volunteers help to make Saint Brigid great!

### Student Council/ Student Leadership News

The student council's second penny war has ended and Kindergarten has won the bragging rights. Monies collected will be used toward creating a garden. The water bottle station is not yet installed but is on the schedule to be completed when the installers are freed up. This station will be installed in the gymnasium.

On April 15th, there will be no homework for K-5 for the spirit day.

On April 23rd "Saint Brigid Cleans Up Midland" ... this is a day off of school so take your child to clean up the park (ex. Emerson, Plymouth, Chippewassee) then post a photo on Facebook. This is the service project for April as the 22nd is Earth Day.

Student leadership (6-8) decided that April 15th will be comfy day (no pajamas, please). Wear any comfortable, school appropriate clothing. The service project for 6-8 is a penny war benefitting Open Door for purchasing blankets.

## **Essay Contest Winners**

This week we continue to highlight the winners from The Saint Brigid Catholic School Essay Contest . Congratulations to all of our winners! And thank you to all of the students that took the time to write an essay and submit them. All of the essays were fantastic!

The topics for the essays were specific to certain grades as follows:

K-2: What I like about Saint Brigid Catholic School

3-5: Why I am glad that I get to attend Saint Brigid Catholic School

6-8: Why is it important that you are attending a Catholic School? What makes Saint Brigid Catholic School great?

### **What makes Saint Brigid Catholic school stand out?**

People believe in many different things in many different ways. Different traditions have different customs to make them stand out. Our school is Catholic, but it's excepting of other religions as well. An inclusive, high-education school that still outlines the teachings of the Bible, but fills in the spiritual need through mass and prayer is fantastic and important. Saint Brigid has qualities which few other schools possess.

This is a Catholic school, but I'm strange since I am Lutheran. However, I was excepted as far as I was able to be excepted here. I haven't been able to receive communion or confirmation, but I've never been an outcast here and nobody shames me for being different. In fact, it's hardly a difference at all. Nobody seems to care, which really makes a difference.

Many times, I have found myself excited to go to school to see the good, friendly people who attend here. There are so many opportunities to make friends, what with the classes being small and knowing everyone. This way, anytime your assigned partners, you know the people you have to work with. Many people are friendly here and since they're such small classes, you meet all of them. If you know me, I like proper education. Intellect is number one on my list, and since classes are small, you get one on one time with the teachers if you need help or, on the flipside, if you need something more challenging. I used to be very bored in class since I was adept at figuring out what equations meant first thing and just the lessons in general. I could get a good grasp on what I was learning before other kids. Since I was here, the teachers could help me and I was fortunate enough to jump up to the grade above. This is truly special, especially since it was the start of the fourth marking period, which made it more amazing that I was allowed this opportunity.

Religion studies are very important. Ancient history is fascinating, so looking at it through the Bible is incredible. It gives so much background and history from so long ago and we see it from the very beginning and through many sets of eyes. Being able to know this and learn about it, as well as learning about her Catholic faith, that's fantastic.

The school is so accepting and just a good place to be overall. I had gone to a public school, but Saint Brigid Catholic school really wins the competition. It has a good education, the chance to learn religion, good people, more individualized learning, and one-on-one time. Who can beat that? The school is marvelous and special, with caring, intelligent people, and I'm proud to attend Saint Brigid Catholic school.

Mia Bayardo, 7th Grade