

Saint Brigid Newsletter– Fifty Seventh Edition, August 10, 2020

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 (Back at the Desk!!)

Uncertainty. According to Google dictionary, uncertainty can be defined as the state of being uncertain.

Further exploration into this definition reveals that there are two types of uncertainty. "Factual uncertainty is uncertainty about the way things are- the facts. Counterfactual uncertainty is uncertainty about nonactual words; about the way things could or would be if things were other than the way they are- the counterfactuals." (Bradley and Dreschler, Types of Uncertainty, personal.lse.ac.uk)

Regardless of whether we feel uncertainty about the facts as they are or as they could be, there is considerable uncertainty in the world today. Will school be able to remain in person or will we need to be virtual? Will the Coronavirus be gone in a few months or will this stay around? Will a vaccine be developed?

Uncertainty can fuel anxiety. Anxiety can fuel depression, inaction, fear, even anger. One need only turn on the news to see examples. How can we prevent ourselves from falling into this same trap?

First, recognize your feelings for what they are. Understand that what you are feeling is not unusual given the current circumstances. Then begin by taking action over the things that you can control. Get up, take a shower, get your kids ready and send them to school. Tell them that you hope they have a fabulous day, because indeed you do. Tell them to wear their masks to stay healthy and choose a cute or comfortable one. Bring your child to their meet the teacher night. Despite the fact that it is outside, it will still be a great way to talk about the year.

When my oldest was a baby, he was often stuffy because of his allergies and asthma. I was afraid to put him down much of the time. One night I realized that at some point, I had to allow God to protect him. Each night I prayed that God would protect Michael while I slept but each night I held Michael and worried instead of allowing God to protect him. One tired night, I allowed God to do what I had asked Him to do. What a revelation this was for me. It is not enough to ask for help. We have to let go of the worry and let God help.

Is this easy? No. Definitely not. But think about this. How does the worrying help the situation? Does it change it? No. Does worrying make you feel better? No.

Often if I am bothered by something, I talk to a friend. By talking to the friend, I often feel better, even if I haven't been able to solve the problem. Why? Because my friend listened.

We all profess to have a faith in God- that's why we feel that it is important to send our children to Saint Brigid. But it is not enough to simply profess it. We have to live it. God is there to listen. To really hear what it is that you are feeling. And, what's more, He is there to help, to take your worries from you if you will let Him.

I think it very appropriate that this week's Gospel has Jesus calling to Peter to walk to Him on the water. As long as Peter is focused on our Lord, he is able to walk across the stormy seas. It is only when he looks away that he begins to sink. And it is Jesus who extends his hand to help him.

This year is a leap of faith. No doubt it has its stormy seas. It is a year fraught with uncertainty. And yet, through it all, God is calling us to come to Him. God has his hand extended. Let us focus not on the storms, but on God who can get us through anything.

Laura E. Wilkowski

Saint Brigid receives safety donations

I am delighted to let you know of some upgrades that we are getting to help to keep our students and staff safe during the upcoming school year.

Molasses and the Dittenber family have generously donated funds to purchase ZOOM, Learning A-Z and Seesaw!! Many thanks to them for allowing us to provide the best possible virtual experience that we can offer!

An anonymous school family has very generously offered to purchase desk shields for all of our students from K-8. These are the same desk shields that Midland Public Schools is provided for each of their students. Having desk shields means that students are more protected from coughs and sneezes and allows us to continue to teach children in the way that we know that they learn best, including in groups. Thank you, School family, for your very generous donation!



Infrared Cameras Inc., is helping us to install and set up an ICI FMX Camera to allow us to take temperatures of students and staff as they enter the building. This will allow free up our staff to help students and parents within the building and will allow us to screen those who enter the front doors (shared time teachers, postal carriers, etc) before they have fully entered the school building adding another level of safety to our staff and students.

Jennifer Boyer, Midland County Emergency manager has secured for us KN95 masks and face shields so that we have them available for all staff as needed.

French Toast, who sent us a cloth mask for every student at Saint Brigid in Saint Brigid uniform colors! We even ordered a mask lanyard with a breakaway closure to hold it while students snack or have lunch!

Drop off and pick up schedule

I thank you for your patience as we have been working out hundreds of details about how the school day will look in the fall. In order to cut down on the number of students entering the building at one time we have adjusted drop off schedules.

For those who indicated on the parent survey that they need before school care, they may drop off as early as 7:15 AM but no sooner as there is not staff before then to screen them or take charge of them. Before school care will require that masks be worn the entire time until they are in their classrooms. All before school care students must report to the before school/after school care room. NO middle school students will be allowed to sit in the lobby.

For all other students, they should follow the following ***family*** schedule.

Families with last names beginning with A, B, C or D please arrive at 7:35 am at the main entrance. Your students will be dismissed at 2:45 pm at the main entrance.

Families with last names beginning with E,F,G,H,I,J, or K please arrive at 7:40 am at the bus entrance. Your students will be dismissed at 2:50 pm at the main entrance.

Families with last names beginning with L, M please arrive at 7:45 am at the main entrance. Your students will be dismissed at 2:55 pm at the main entrance.

Families with last names beginning with N, O, P, Q, R and S arrive at 7:50 am at the bus entrance. Your students will be dismissed at 3:00 pm at the main entrance.

Families with last names beginning with T, U, V, W, X, Y and Z arrive at 7:55 am at the main entrance. Your students will be dismissed at 3:05 pm at the main entrance.

If the time assigned for you cannot work, please contact Laura Wilkowski to receive another assignment. Thank you.

Back to School with SCRIP Program

SCRIP will still be sold this year! Last school year, families earned over \$8800 in rebates for tuition and nearly \$7000 for PTO!!! SCRIP is a great way to make money for the school and to earn money toward your tuition! It's easy. Purchase a gift card, say for Meijer. Got to Meijer and spend your gift card. Meijer sends 3% back to the school. Once you earn \$100 for the school, 75% of everything you earn goes back to you ((can also donate to another family, Guardian Angel Scholarship Fund, or PTO)! Purchase groceries, gas, coffee and much more! Don't forget to use scrip to buy all of your back to school needs. Electronic gift cards or reloads are available for Staples, Walmart, Meijer, and many more.

During nice weather, it will be sold in front of the church from 2:30-3:10 pm on Monday and Friday afternoons. There will be no morning sales due to staggered drop off times. During inclement weather. SCRIP will be sold between the double sets of doors to the school. Only one purchasing customer may enter at a time. All others are asked to wait outside. Purchasers should wear masks and use sanitizer upon entering. Remember that SCRIP may also be purchased online. Mandy Duling will be heading up our SCRIP program this year. Volunteers for sales will still be needed. Please contact Jean Cronin or Mandy Duling at Stbridgiscrip@hotmail.com.

Walkathon

I am delighted to report that our Walkathon totals as of this week stand at \$43,250.91. This total is higher than our projected goal. We need to work out details but a deal is a deal. Students will receive a reward. We are rethinking how to do this and follow COVID guidelines but I am super proud and humbled by the generosity of all! Thank you and stay tuned!

Healthy Habits Club

I am looking of students in grades K-8 to join our Healthy Habits Club! Students in this club wear their masks to protect themselves and others, wash their hands, keep a good sleep schedule and exercise! If your teacher notices you doing these things, you will be entered in a drawing for a prize. We will be drawing weekly for the first month, then intermittently.

We will also have an occasional and unannounced mask spirit day. On this day, any student wearing a ____ mask (certain color, certain picture, etc.) will win a prize. The caveat is it must be worn when I announce it in order to win the prize. Wear your mask and join in the fun!



Yearbooks are in!

If you didn't pick up your yearbook last year, they can be picked up on the first day of school. Despite the bumpy year, we had a lot of fun! Yearbooks are provided to any student who ordered any picture package.

2019-2020 Saint
Brigid Knights



 Saint Brigid
Catholic School
A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, HOPE & CHARITY

Blessed Sacrament Donations

Blessed Sacrament has been instrumental in helping us with donations this year. They have donated manipulatives that will allow us to package up supplies for each student, they donated computers for use in centers within the classroom, they donated desks , tables and chairs and are assisting us with staffing a second first grade teacher to accommodate all of our students and keep our class sizes small. This was possible through the many efforts of the Blessed Sacrament Parent -Student Association and we are very grateful to them!

Back to School Mass and Parent Meeting

Fr. Andy would like to hold a school mass outside, with socially distancing and masks. Families should bring their own chairs as well. At the conclusion of mass, students would enter the building and parents would stay for the parent required meeting which would last approximately one hour. Spaces are marked on the parking lot to allow for distancing between families.

Meet the Teacher Nights and Student Assessments

We are holding outdoor meet –the-teacher nights to allow for students and parents to talk with classroom teachers about the upcoming year. In addition, we will have staff on hand to conduct some quick reading and math preliminary assessments of your students. These assessments will allow us to have an idea where students are in these two areas and will allow us to hit the ground running whether we are in person or virtual. These nights are scheduled as follows:

August 17th– 6pm, A. Heminger / K. Young First Grade

August 18th– 6 pm, S. Hollinghead, kindergarten

August 19h– 6 pm, S. Nemeth, second grade

August 20th– 6 pm, K. Adam, third grade

August 24th– 6 pm, S. Groth, fifth grade

August 25th—6 pm, M. Twigg, fourth grade

August 26th– NOON ALL middle school teachers: S. Kuchek, K. Gilbert, M. Schoener Grades 6-8

August 26th– 6pm, J. Brushaber , First Grade

Students that cannot make these evenings can be assessed during the first week of school. Or may call the office for alternative arrangements. Be sure to wear your mask!

Virtual Learning Opportunities

The superintendent had sent out a survey earlier in the summer to gauge parent interest for virtual learning. At this point in time, there has not been sufficient interest to allow for hiring of teachers at various grade levels for the virtual classes. If that is something that would be of interest to you, please email me by Tuesday, August 18th. Without sufficient interest, we cannot staff such a program. If a student gets sick during the year and needs to be out, teachers will reach out to those students to be sure that no student falls behind but they cannot provide both an in-person and virtual experience.



Used Uniform Sale

I am pleased to announce that we will hold a self-serve used uniform sale under the breezeway of the school this Thursday and Friday , August 13th and 14th during school hours 8-3. The sale of these items are a donation only. We have many uniforms that have been donated by Blessed Sacrament and many from our own closets here at Saint Brigid. Please check it out before you go out and make your purchases!

