

Saint Brigid Newsletter—Ninety-Third Edition, 8/24/2022

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

This past Monday marked 100 years of Catholic education at Saint Brigid Catholic School. Time and time again, as you read the school's history, the school faced challenges that forced the school to create a plan, persevere and overcome. The desire for the community to have a school first created a challenge to collect funds to build the first school. Overcrowding led to a need for expansion. An increase again in enrollment led to a need to create makeshift classes in the gym. A decline in Catholic school in the 60's threatened the existence of many Catholic Schools. Saint Brigid brainstormed about financial and marketing means to keep the school open. We saw a repeat of each of these issues as the new building was built. Finally, to these challenges we added COVID, a flood and teacher shortages.



If you read the history of the school, three things stand out to me as constants:

First and foremost is our faith. Initially, the teaching of our faith was something done by the religious sisters for fifty years. Lay teachers continued to build on the foundations of faith laid by these sisters. Our priests and deacons added to those layers with their teachings. Layer by layer, we have built a Catholic presence that shines through our weekly masses, Circle of Prayer, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program and our daily religious classes. Prior to every meeting and every event at the school, we begin with prayer. We begin and end each school year in prayer. God has certainly led us through 100 years of Catholic education.

The second thing that stands out to me is our community. Through each issue we have faced, it took a community of people to dream, pray it and create it into existence. It is that same sense of community that I felt on Sunday as I watched people help to plan, set up, run, and tear down the picnic.

The third thing that I noticed as I read the history and is that we have had and continue to have an incredibly talented and dedicated staff. Staff members helped to run the picnic Sunday and then retreated to their classrooms to continue to plan, to clean up after the picnic or to ready technology, the library, and after school programs for students. Our staff accepts the role as a mission and their dedication to the success of each student is obvious.

As I watched the kindergarteners, the first class of the next 100 years, enter the building Monday, I wondered what challenges they will face. But I don't worry about them because I know they will face them with a belief in God, with a community of supporters and a dedicated staff to lead them.

God Bless Saint Brigid School on this 100th anniversary and each of you for being a part of the community that will see us through another 100 years.

Laura E. Wilkowski

Important Dates

- 8/26: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
- 8/29: School Picture Day-Free Dress
- 8/31: 6th/7th/8th Grade Mass
- 9/2 & 9/5: No School—Labor Day Weekend
- 9/7: 6th/7th/8th Grade Mass

Picture Day

Hicks Studio will be in the building on Monday, August 29 for school pictures. Students may wear free dress for this occasion. Envelopes will go home this week to allow families to order picture packages. Even if you do not order a package, please plan to have your students photographed as the pictures will go in the class photos and in the yearbook. Those families that order pictures will also receive a yearbook at the end of the school year.

Google Calendar

To assist you in keeping track of school events for the 2022-2023 school year, we have created a Google calendar of school events. The beauty of this calendar is that we can change events as necessary and the changes will be reflected in your calendars and as PTO begins to meet, we may add, subtract or change events. To add this calendar to yours, click on the link below:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=c3RicmlnaWQtbWlkbGFuZC5vcmdfZWUxYmQ0MDNjYWFiNzMyYWIyMTk2YjFkMTdhNzZiMDhAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXIuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbQ>

Stay Connected

If you have a Facebook account, be sure to like the Saint Brigid Catholic School page and request to join the private page “Parents of St. Brigid School Midland, MI” for lots of updates, information and reminders.



Requirements for Volunteering in the School

Volunteers make the school function well and we welcome any and all volunteers. However, in order to ensure the safety of our students, the following are requirements of the Diocese which need to be completed **before** coming into the school to volunteer in any capacity, including chaperoning field trips and attending classroom parties:

- Complete Standards of Ministerial Behavior & Background Check Paperwork (from Parish Office)
- Complete VIRTUS training (in-person every 6 years; online every 3 years)
- Get fingerprinted at the Midland Police Department on Thursday mornings from 9-11am (only one time)

Scrip Program

Do you and your family eat? Do you buy gas? Then you can and should participate in our SCRIP Gift Card Program. SCRIP is a gift card program that allows you to purchase a gift card at its value and earn money for both the school and for you! It is the PTO's main fundraiser of the year. If you purchase a \$100 Meijer gift card, for example, Meijer gives 3% or \$3 back to the school. After you earn \$100 for the school, 75% of everything you earn comes back to you in the form of a tuition credit, hot lunch credit or rebate. Not only that, but the cards may be purchased by you, your neighbor or a relative! It is a win-win-win program! If you aren't doing SCRIP and would like to get in on earning money for the school and yourself, reach out to SCRIP Coordinator Mandy Duling at stbrigidscrip@hotmail.com or stop by the SCRIP To Go table any Friday at pick up.



RaiseRight™



Counseling Services

Heather O'Farrell, counselor with New Pathways, is approved to provide counseling services for students at school again this year. If you are interested in receiving counseling for your student, please obtain the required paperwork from Mr. Delaney so that we can get your student on the schedule. Mrs. O'Farrell will pull students from their least disruptive class period to provide counseling. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Wilkowski.

Nut Free Reminder

Just a reminder that Saint Brigid School is a nut free facility. Please do not send any product containing nuts of any kind with your student for snack or lunch. Thank you for your cooperation in helping keep all our kids safe.

Girls Basketball

5th-8th girls basketball season is around the corner! Any girl interested in playing this season needs to pick up a permission slip from Mr. Delaney and return by this Friday, August 26th. All participants will also need to obtain a sports physical form from their doctor before participating in any practice. Practices will begin in the next few weeks, with games starting the week of September 12th, running until October 26th. Games will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays with a possible Saturday game.

We are also in need of a coach for this team so if you are willing to coach, please contact Ms. Corie at cvansumeren@stbrigid-midland.org.

PTO Meetings

PTO Meetings are held monthly via Zoom on the second Monday of the month. We highly encourage all parents to attend and provide ideas and suggestions and ask any questions they may have. Everyone is a member of PTO! Students whose parents attend the meeting will receive a free dress pass.

The meeting time has changed from last year. This year meetings will start at 6:00pm. A reoccurring Zoom link will be emailed by Mrs. Wilkowski before the first meeting. Our first PTO meeting will be on September 12th at 6:00 p.m.

Don't Forget!

September 2 and September 5 are part of the Labor Day holiday. There will be no school on those days. Enjoy your long weekend! Stay safe!

Spirit Days and School Spirit Wear Days

Each month, our Student Council and Student Leadership will choose one spirit day (examples have included free dress day, twin day, dress like a storybook character, crazy hair day, crazy socks day, pajama day, etc.) **This day is the second Thursday of the month.** In addition, each month there are two St. Brigid Spirit Wear days (**the first and third Fridays of the month**). On these days, students may wear any Saint Brigid Spirit Wear shirts with uniform shorts, skirts or long pants. These are marked for you on the school Google calendar as well. **Since we have not yet received the 100th Anniversary spirit wear shirts for each student, students may wear any green shirt with uniform bottoms for the spirit day scheduled for this Friday.**

New Staff

We are excited to have many new staff members join our Saint Brigid family this year! They include Tammy Vajcner (paraprofessional), Kathy Wazny (After School Care Assistant), Tracy Glomski (Cook), Erika Squanda (Art), Hayden Klein (Gym), Kennedy Danner (MS Performing Arts), and Yolanda Collier (Spanish). Welcome to Saint Brigid!

100th Anniversary Events

We are delighted to present our calendar of events to celebrate our 100th anniversary of the school! If anyone would like to volunteer to help for one of these events, please email Laura Wilkowski at lwilkowski@stbrigid-midland.org. We are looking forward to a fabulous celebration of our school and Catholic education!



SAINT BRIGID CATHOLIC SCHOOL 100TH ANNIVERSARY 2022-2023 EVENT CALENDAR

August

8/14: Hall of
History Tours
10:00-11:00AM
8/22: St. Brigid
Catholic School
Birthday Party

September

9/18: Whole
Family
Catechesis
Kick-Off &
Parish Picnic
12:30PM

October

10/1: Alumni
Mass &
Reception
4:00PM

November

11/19: Santa
Parade Float

December

12/18: Patrick
Owen, TJ &
Tina Chang
Concert

January

1/29-2/4:
Catholic Schools
Week
Celebrates St.
Brigid's 100
Years

February

2/25: Emerald
Evening Gala-
"Diamond
Jubilee"

March

3/20: Author &
Illustrator Visit-
Robbyn Smith
& Gijsbert van
Frankenhuyzen

April

100 Acts of
Kindness

May

5/11: Spring
Music Concert
featuring
Alumni Band
6:00PM



welcome!

TO OUR 18 NEW FAMILIES THIS YEAR!

EMILY AND JOSHUA BLIND AND THEIR DAUGHTER VERA (K)

SARA FORGIE AND EDWIN WIRBEL AND THEIR DAUGHTER NORAH (K)

LARRY AND KATELYN HOLMES AND THEIR SON MASON (K)

ANGELA JOYCE AND HER CHILDREN SCOTT AUSTIN KEYES (K) AND SYDNEY
KEYES (2)

JOE AND KATIE LERNER AND THEIR SON EVAN (K)

LINNEA AND JESSE MYERS AND THEIR SON ROWAN (K)

MELISSA TAM AND HER SON BLAISE (K)

AYESHA AND KARL WENZLOFF AND THEIR SON KAZI (K)

SAMANATHA AND ANDREW BOROWIAK AND THEIR SON BLAKE (1ST)

BRANDON MCCANN AND JADE TOPOR AND THEIR SON DECLAN (1ST)

JENNY AND WILLIAM HUGHES AND THEIR SONS AIDEN (2ND) AND
AARON (5TH)

BETHANY AND RUSSELL LAW AND THEIR CHILDREN CHANSON (2ND) AND
ARIA (4TH)

KATTY AND ROBERT OWENS AND THEIR CHILDREN CALEB (3RD) AND ZOEY
(5TH)

JANAE AND LEROY NEWLAND AND THEIR SON BODEN (4TH)

HEATHER AND MIKE SYRYLO AND THEIR SON ELIJAH (4TH)

CINDY AND BOB ABRAHAM AND THEIR DAUGHTER EVA (5TH)

BRANDON AND SARAH VANPOPPELEN AND THEIR DAUGHTER CARYS (5TH)

JONATHAN TRUITT AND TESSA PETERSON AND THEIR SON KAI (6TH)

School Mass Ministry Dates

AUGUST 31, 2022: 6TH/7TH/8TH GRADE
SEPTEMBER 7, 2022: 6TH/7TH/8TH GRADE
SEPTEMBER 14, 2022: 5TH GRADE
SEPTEMBER 21, 2022: 4TH GRADE
SEPTEMBER 28, 2022: 3RD GRADE
OCTOBER 5, 2022: 2ND GRADE
OCTOBER 12, 2022: 1ST GRADE
OCTOBER 19, 2022: KINDERGARTEN
OCTOBER 26, 2022: 6TH/7TH/8TH GRADE
NOVEMBER 1, 2022: 6TH/7TH/8TH GRADE
NOVEMBER 2, 2022: 5TH GRADE
NOVEMBER 9, 2022: 4TH GRADE
NOVEMBER 16, 2022: 3RD GRADE
NOVEMBER 23, 2022: 2ND GRADE
NOVEMBER 30, 2022: 1ST GRADE
DECEMBER 7, 2022: KINDERGARTEN
DECEMBER 8, 2022: 6TH/7TH/8TH GRADE
DECEMBER 14, 2022: 6TH/7TH/8TH GRADE
DECEMBER 21, 2022: 5TH GRADE
JANUARY 4, 2023: 4TH GRADE
JANUARY 11, 2023: 3RD GRADE
JANUARY 18, 2023: 2ND GRADE
JANUARY 25, 2023: 1ST GRADE
FEBRUARY 1, 2023: KINDERGARTEN
FEBRUARY 8, 2023: 6TH/7TH/8TH GRADE
FEBRUARY 15, 2023: 6TH/7TH/8TH GRADE
FEBRUARY 22, 2023: 5TH GRADE
MARCH 1, 2023: 4TH GRADE
MARCH 8, 2023: 3RD GRADE
MARCH 15, 2023: 2ND GRADE
MARCH 22, 2023: 1ST GRADE
APRIL 5, 2023: KINDERGARTEN
APRIL 12, 2023: 6TH/7TH/8TH GRADE
APRIL 19, 2023: 6TH/7TH/8TH GRADE
APRIL 26, 2023: 5TH GRADE
MAY 3, 2023: 4TH GRADE
MAY 10, 2023: 3RD GRADE
MAY 17, 2023: 2ND GRADE
MAY 24, 2023: 1ST GRADE
MAY 31, 2023: KINDERGARTEN



Saint Brigid
Catholic School
A community fully alive in Christ