

# Saint Brigid Newsletter—One Hundred and Eleventh Edition, 8/23/2023

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

Welcome to our returning families and to our new families. I am delighted to be starting a new academic year despite the challenges of adjusting to the earlier schedule! I hope that your children were filled with excitement and anticipation for this year. We strive to maintain that level of excitement and anticipation throughout the year. How do we plan to do that?



We will teach what is true, good and beautiful. The students will be learning the following memory verse next month (our 8th graders already know it!): "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is an excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Philippians 4:8

As the eighth graders learned it on the first day of class, there was a real sense of joy in learning this verse on day one. We hope to maintain that sense of joy, awe and wonder. The Institute for Catholic Liberal (Arts) Education had a two day workshop with us, in addition to a summer conference, to work on how to do that.

Our students will be working on memory through phonics study, poetry recitations, math fact fluency and vocabulary. Our students will be taught to wonder about concepts. For example, a first grade math lesson (near the end of last year) had the numbers 17 and 71 on the board and had students describe what they noticed and wondered about those numbers. They were able to perfectly describe how moving the one and seven changed the place value which made the number larger or smaller.

Students will be taught to explore through observations. Observations of nature, such as the observation of an earthworm, are one way to do this. Picture studies of classic art and observations of classical music are another way that we will do this. Observations of text and text structure are yet another.

We will help students to maintain strong, healthy bodies through regular PE for K-8th graders along with recess for all students. We have a sensory path in our K-2 hallway that will allow for movement. We strive to serve healthy lunches and provide healthy choices for snacks.

### Important Dates

- 8/27: Back to School Potluck
- 8/29: School Picture Day-Free Dress
- 8/30: Mass-Middle School Ministries-8:00am
- 9/1 & 9/4: No School—Labor Day Weekend
- 9/5: Student Council Officer Campaign Begins
- 9/6: 5th Grade Mass
- 9/11: Virtual PTO Meeting-6:00pm

We will require students in k-8th grades to do at least one service project each month and middle school students will do five additional hours for the year.

And finally, and most importantly, students will develop a knowledge of God through our K-4th grade atrium experiences, our daily religion classes, our monthly Community of Saints and virtues studies, and our weekly masses. We will think about the One who is worthy of praise, we will learn about and strive for excellence, and we will take the time to notice and be surrounded with what is beautiful. And in doing all these things, we will truly experience joy in education.

*Laura E. Wilkowski*

### Picture Day

Hicks Studio will be in the building on Tuesday, 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.

### Digital Academy Calendar

You should have received an email earlier today with a link to subscribe to the Digital Academy Saint Brigid Activities Calendar. If you click on the link, it will link the calendar to your Google Calendar or Apple Calendar so you can see all school events easily. Going forward, we will be posting all school related activities on this calendar instead of the Google calendar we used last year.

### 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 5 years)
- Get fingerprinted at the Midland Police Department on Thursday mornings from 9-11am (only one time)

### New Staff

We are excited to have many new shared-time staff members join our Saint Brigid family this year! They include Lis Randall (K-5 Art), Jake Maloney ( K-5 Gym), Patti Borus (Elementary Spanish), Katie Schnurr (Elementary Spanish), Heather Porrell (MS Art), Krista Goenner (MS Gym & Life Skills), and Patricia Rea Collazo( MS Spanish). Welcome to Saint Brigid!

### 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!

### 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.



### Counseling Services

Jessica Jesberg, counselor with Partners in Change, 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 Mrs. Mitus so that we can get your student on the schedule. Ms. Jesberg will pull students from their least disruptive class period to provide counseling. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Wilkowski.

### Girls Basketball

Our 5th-8th Grade Girls Basketball season is about to begin! If your daughter is interested in playing basketball this year, please have her get a permission slip from Mrs. Mitus or Ms. Corie and return it ASAP. All participants will also need to obtain a sports physical form from their doctor before participating in any practice. Practices will begin on Monday, August 28th from 3:15-4:45pm. Games start the week of September 11th, running through October. Games will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays with a possible Saturday game. Practices will move to Tuesdays and Thursdays once games begin.

### PTO Meetings

PTO Meetings are held monthly virtually on the second Monday of the month at 6:00pm. 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.

A Google Meets link will be emailed by Mrs. Wilkowski before the first meeting. Our first PTO meeting will be on September 11th at 6:00 p.m.

### Student Council Elections

Beginning on Tuesday, September 5th, fifth grade students may put up posters if they would like to run for a position as a student council officer. Students that are running will be required to give a speech on Friday September 22nd. Officer positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

In grades 1st-4th, teachers will hold elections or selections with all interested students on Friday, September 22nd. If your child is interested in being included in the process, they will be bringing home a permission slip to be signed by a parent.

### 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 Digital Academy calendar as well.

### Medications

If your child has any medication, even over the counter such as Tylenol or cough drops, we need you to complete a medical form and submit it to the office along with the medication. We are not allowed to give anything to students without a signed form from parents. If you are in need of the form, please reach out to Mrs. Mitus.

## FIRST Lego League & FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics

We are looking forward to another exciting year of robotics. Our 3rd-5th graders participate in First Lego League and our 6th-8th graders participate in FIRST Tech Challenge. In order to form a team and start practicing, we are in need of a coach to run each of the programs this year. If you are interested, please reach out to Mrs. Mitus. The season typically runs September-beginning of December.

## Pom & Cheerleading Coaches Needed

After our huge group of Pom girls last year, we are eager to start another season of Pom. Due to high demand, we would also like to start a cheerleading team as well. We are in need of a coach for both Pom and Cheerleading. If you or anyone you know may be interested in coaching either of these, please reach out to Corie VanSumeren at [cvansumeren@stbrigid-midland.org](mailto:cvansumeren@stbrigid-midland.org). High school students are allowed to coach with an approved parent or staff member present. If you know of a high schooler who may be interested, please have them contact Corie as well.



## 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](mailto:stbrigidscrip@hotmail.com) or stop by the SCRIP To Go table when it is open. Due to only having one seller currently, the SCRIP table will only be open the first Friday of each month. If you are interested in learning how to work the SCRIP table, please reach out to Mandy.



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## Tips from the Reading Specialist

A new school year means a whole new schedule and routine for families. Below are some tips to keep reading front and center as your children head back to school!

### **1. Read Aloud**

Spend time reading out loud. Young children who are learning to read will enjoy listening to stories they can't quite yet master, and older children enjoy hearing their favorites.

### **2. Read Consistently**

It can be as little as 15 minutes or as long as an hour, but the consistent practice will encourage a lifelong love of reading.

### **3. Read School Work Together**

By reviewing their work together, you will understand what is expected of your child at school, and your child will understand what is expected of them in their work.

### **4. Read Everywhere**

A new school year means busy, busy, busy! Show your child that reading is everywhere by taking time to read recipes, menus, directions, newspapers, and email aloud. Reading items like these aloud helps your child discover the world around them.

# Parenting Your Anxious Child

## Group for Parents

### Saint Brigid's Catholic School

#### Group Start Date

October 4, 2023

#### Eight Group Sessions

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

#### Group Location

Saint Brigid's Catholic School

#### To Register

Call Angelina Mitus at the  
School Office:

989-835-9481

or email at:

[amitus@stbrigid-midland.org](mailto:amitus@stbrigid-midland.org)

#### Registration Deadline

September 21, 2023



The group will help parents understand how anxiety presents and maintains in youth. Parents will learn to differentiate between defiance and anxiety. Parents will learn proven strategies to help their youth manage distress, resolve difficulties, and become more resilient.

Group Leader: Jessica Jesberg, LLMSW

Jessica is a therapist at Partners in Change: Psychological & Community Services, PLC. She graduated from Saginaw Valley State University with a Masters in Social Work degree. Jessica specializes in the treatment of youth and their families using evidenced based therapeutic methods.



# School Mass Ministry Dates

AUGUST 30, 2023: MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2023: 5TH GRADE  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023: 4TH GRADE  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023: 3RD GRADE  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2023: 2ND GRADE  
OCTOBER 4, 2023: 1ST GRADE  
OCTOBER 11, 2023: KINDERGARTEN  
OCTOBER 18, 2023: MIDDLE SCHOOL  
OCTOBER 25, 2023: 5TH GRADE  
NOVEMBER 1, 2023: 4TH GRADE  
NOVEMBER 8, 2023: 3RD GRADE  
NOVEMBER 15, 2023: 2ND GRADE  
NOVEMBER 22, 2023: 1ST GRADE  
NOVEMBER 29, 2023: KINDERGARTEN  
DECEMBER 6, 2023: MIDDLE SCHOOL  
DECEMBER 13, 2023: 5TH GRADE  
DECEMBER 20, 2023: 4TH GRADE  
JANUARY 3, 2024: 3RD GRADE  
JANUARY 10, 2024: 2ND GRADE  
JANUARY 17, 2024: 1ST GRADE  
JANUARY 24, 2024: KINDERGARTEN  
JANUARY 31, 2024: MIDDLE SCHOOL  
FEBRUARY 1, 2024: 5TH GRADE  
FEBRUARY 7, 2024: 4TH GRADE  
FEBRUARY 14, 2024: 3RD GRADE  
FEBRUARY 21, 2024: 2ND GRADE  
FEBRUARY 28, 2024: 1ST GRADE  
MARCH 6, 2024: KINDERGARTEN  
MARCH 13, 2024: MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MARCH 20, 2024: 5TH GRADE  
APRIL 3, 2024: 4TH GRADE  
APRIL 10, 2024: 3RD GRADE  
APRIL 17, 2024: 2ND GRADE  
APRIL 24, 2024: 1ST GRADE  
MAY 1, 2024: KINDERGARTEN  
MAY 8, 2024: MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MAY 15, 2024: 5TH GRADE  
MAY 22, 2024: 4TH GRADE  
MAY 29, 2024: 3RD GRADE