

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

The school year is well underway and with it have come a few challenges. For various reasons, it took longer for the state to approve our Spanish teacher. As a result, I taught middle school Spanish for the first few weeks of school. We have also had a number of students and staff absent due to illness. As a result I have taught Middle School Math and First grade. Teaching all of your beautiful children has been a wonderful reminder to me of how important a Catholic education is to our young people.



Thanks to the fact that we are teaching within a Catholic School, we can begin and end each class in prayer. In our Spanish class, I taught the middle school students the sign of the cross and the Glory Be in Spanish. Because we have smaller class sizes, we can strongly encourage all students to take risks. A class like Spanish requires students to speak, listen, read and write in Spanish. In a large class, it would be challenging to provide feedback to every student. However, in our class, I could provide feedback and encourage students to try to say things, even if they didn't feel confident about their answers.

Middle School Math is always an area that challenges students. However, the students that I worked with were eager to try and figure out the answers because they have been taught how to think about math and how to set goals for themselves.

Teaching our first graders was especially heartwarming. These young students are so eager to learn and to show you what they know and can do. They are eager to help each other to figure things out. And they are eager to share what they have with other students. It is easy to see why Jesus wants us to be like the little children.

### Important Dates

- 9/21: \$1 Free Dress Day for all students to support Piarist Fathers Mission
- 9/22: Student Council Officer Speeches & Elections  
4th & 5th Grade River of Time Field Trip
- 9/25 & 9/26: Hearing & Vision Screenings
- 9/27: 2nd Grade Mass  
5th Grade Planetarium Field Trip
- 10/2: No School-PD Day
- 10/2-10/7: Book Fair through Barnes & Noble
- 10/4: 1st Grade Mass
- 10/6: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
- 10/9: Virtual PTO Meeting-6:00pm
- 10/11: Kindergarten Mass

I am proud to have taught and continue to teach in a Catholic School. I am proud to have sent my own children to a Catholic School. I am proud to have volunteered at a Catholic School. These experiences make leading at a Catholic School that much more enjoyable and rewarding. Catholic Schools offer a wonderful opportunity for our children to grow in their faith and in virtue, to gain confidence in themselves and in their abilities to interact with each other, to be held to high academic standards and to rise to meet challenges. Thank you for choosing Saint Brigid Catholic School. Thank you for allowing me the pleasure of working your children.

*Laura E. Wilkowski*

### **Student Council Elections**

Campaigning for Student Council Officers is underway! Students that are running will be required to give a speech on Friday, September 22nd and then elections will take place that afternoon. All students, 1st-5th grade will vote for the officer positions. Officer positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

In grades 1st-4th, teachers will hold elections or selections with all interested students on Monday, September 25th. Permission slips for those students interested should have went home already. If you did not receive one and your child is interested, please reach out to their teacher.

### **Hearing & Vision Screening**

The Midland Health Department will be conducting hearing and vision screening at school on September 25th & 26th. Students in grades Kindergarten, 2nd, & 4th will receive hearing screens while students in grades 1st, 3rd, and 5th will receive vision screens. There is no cost for these screenings.

### **Emerald Evening Kick-Off**

We will be holding a virtual kick-off meeting on September 28th at 6:30pm to walk through overall goals, timelines, and answer any questions. If you are interested in joining one of the sub committees and helping plan this event, please reach out to Anne Lange (Schutte.anne@gmail.com) or Kristen Granzo (mrsgranzo@gmail.com).

### **No School**

Reminder that there is no school on Monday, October 2nd as it is a Professional Development Day for teachers.

### **Book Fair**

We will be hosting another book fair this year through Barnes and Noble, October 2-7. We will be sending home a flyer and posting one on Facebook once we receive it. Be sure to share with neighbors, relatives or friends. Any purchase made between Monday, October 2nd and Saturday, October 7th is eligible except for video games, subscriptions and gift cards.

### **Veteran's Day Speaker Needed**

We need to have a speaker for our Veteran's Day assembly scheduled for Friday, November 10th at 8:30 am. The speaker should be someone who has served in some capacity in the armed forces and is able to talk to students from K-8 grade for about 10 minutes about their experience and how their faith helped them in that experience and in their life. Interested individuals should email Laura Wilkowski at [lwilkowski@stbrigid-midland.org](mailto:lwilkowski@stbrigid-midland.org).

### **Upcoming VIRTUS Trainings**

Monday, 9/25: 6-8:30pm Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption (Saginaw)

Monday, 10/2: 6:30-9pm St. Mary School (Alma)

Monday, 10/16: 6-8:30pm St. Brigid School (Midland)

Visit <https://www.virtusonline.org> to register.

## Staff Appreciation Lunches

We still have a few spots open for our Staff Appreciation Lunch sign-ups. This would be a joint effort between 2 volunteers each month and can be whatever you'd like to bring in. Some examples in the past have been soups & salads, taco bar, sandwiches-anything is welcomed & enjoyed! Typically drinks & a dessert are also included. You are welcome to prepare this in your home or cater it from outside, whatever you wish. Please remember it must be nut-free. If you are interested in helping here is the signup genius with the scheduled dates: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FAFA828A6F5C16-staff2>.

## Tips from the Reading Specialist

### **The Culture of Reading**

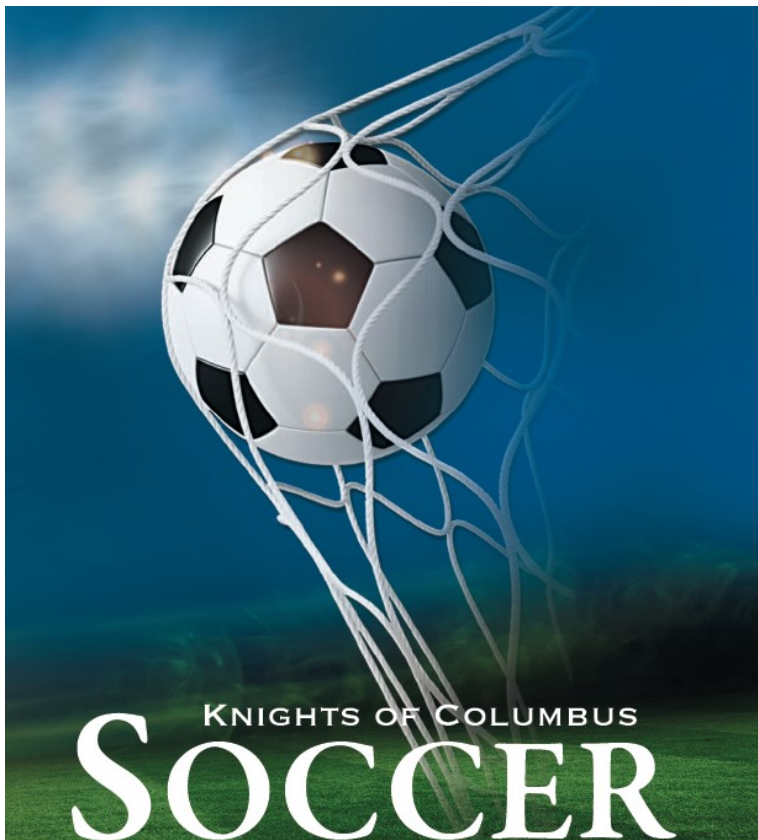
What is “to read”? It is an action in which we enter “in communion” with someone else. Recognize that every book has a *person* behind it, with whom we have the chance to develop a relationship. The idea of a “habit of reading” implies it is not something easy or mechanical. It is almost a synonym of the “habit of listening”: it must be cultivated. “To read” means the will “to listen” to the author.

Why read?

Why would we want to “enter in communion” with somebody else?

- To learn something
- To enjoy something together, to share
- To get out of myself, “my way”, “my like”: an experience of goodness

We must select contents that have real value (respect for language and the good, the true and the beautiful): that make our time worthy.



## *Boys and Girls, Ages 9-14*

Location: Woodcrest Elementary Soccer Fields

Date: September 23, 2023 Time: 9:00am

Sponsor: James Cardinal Hickey Knights of Columbus

Contact: Grand Knight, Jerry Cain at gerald\_cain@charter.net or (989) 708-8357

**Please note: Entrants may compete in only one local competition.**

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are eligible to participate and will compete in their respective age divisions. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. Entry forms will be available on the day of competition or can be obtained prior to the event by contacting the Grand Knight, Jerry Cain.

All contestants will be recognized for their participation in the event and the top scorer will receive a soccer ball. All winners, in their respective age group, will be eligible to progress through the district and state competitions on Oct 7th.

