

Saint Brigid Newsletter—One Hundred and Twelfth Edition, 9/6/2023

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

Volunteers. Do you know that a quick calculation of common volunteer needs at our school gave me the number 138 as the minimum amount of volunteers needed to make school events run smoothly. Today, our student counts stands at 131. That means that *every family is needed in order to make our school run smoothly and efficiently.*



In today's world, we have become very busy. Most of our families have two parents working. Time is precious. It is easier to show support for things and for people by writing the check than by showing up. So why do it? Why do we volunteer?

There are many practical reasons for volunteering. Studies have shown that when we do for others, we reap the benefits in terms of lowering our own stress levels and experiencing joy can elevate our moods. Also, from a practical perspective, it saves resources. If one volunteer was paid for helping in the cafeteria daily for 1.5 hours x \$10 an hour x 40 weeks, it would cost the school \$600 to have that person in place. And we have 131 such places- some requiring more time than others. Volunteering strengthens community and builds relationships with staff, students and other parents. And volunteering shows our children how to be civically-minded and responsible.

But our faith teaches us that volunteering is important for reasons beyond these. Jesus was the ideal servant leader. He didn't do for others because we were deserving of it. In fact, He gave His life for

us. Volunteering gives us the opportunity to follow in His example. Pope Benedict, in fact, says that "Christ's grace helps us to discover within ourselves a human desire for solidarity and a fundamental vocation to love. His grace perfects, strengthens and elevates that vocation and enables us to serve others without reward, satisfaction or any recompense. Here we see something of the grandeur of our human calling: to serve others with the same freedom and generosity which characterizes God himself."

Today I ask you to think of ways that you can volunteer your time, your talents and your treasures. I ask you because without volunteers, many of the activities which we enjoy cannot exist— athletics, parties, Emerald Evening, Robotics, Atrium, Fish Fries and so many more. Volunteers- don't just do it for us, do it for Him.

Important Dates

- 9/11: Virtual PTO Meeting-6:00pm
- 9/13: 4th Grade Mass
- 9/14: Middle School Spirit Day: Comfy Clothes & Stuffed Animal Day
- 9/15: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
- 9/17: Diocesan Back to School Mass at Cathedral-2:00pm
- 9/20: 3rd Grade Mass
- 9/21: \$1 Free Dress Day for all students to support Piarist Fathers Mission
- 9/22: Student Council Officer Speeches & Elections
- 9/25: Hearing & Vision Screenings
- 9/27: 3rd Grade Mass

Laura E. Wilkowski

PTO Meetings

Our first PTO Meeting will be held on Monday, September 11th at 6:00pm. To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/iue-uquq-yvq>. Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 857-529-6708 and enter this PIN: 285 958 045#. 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.

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.

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)

Upcoming VIRTUS Trainings

Saturday, 9/9: 10am-12:30pm Our Lady of Peace Parish (Bay City)

Monday, 9/11: 6-8:30pm St. Gabriel Parish (Auburn)

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.

Middle School Student Leadership Spirit Day & Service Project

On September 14, Middle School students will have their first spirit day which will be comfy clothes & stuffed animal day. Students can dress in any comfy clothes except pajamas.

The Middle School has chosen a September service project that involves the entire school. They will be holding a \$1 Free Dress Day for all grades on 9/21 to help raise money for the Piarist Fathers Mission, supporting the free Catholic school in Appalachia.

Parenting the Anxious Child Series Cancelled

Due to low interest in the Parenting the Anxious Child series and a high interest in individual counseling for students, we have decided to cancel the series and increase our counseling sessions with students.

Celebration of Catholic Schools Mass

The Bishop is holding a Celebration of Catholic Schools Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday, September 17th at 2:00pm. If your student is available to attend, please consider signing up for one of the ministries listed in the document below.

https://dioceseofsaginaworg-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/kpham_dioceseofsaginaw_org/EUaEHYsyySxKtpzRFI_SuRUBc6f_JgtFLa5jYtG-fOurVw?e=uDgYgm

Digital Academy

We have had a few parents reach out about not receiving emails being sent from Digital Academy. The default is set for parents to receive a weekly recap email on Sundays of any missing assignments, absences, tardiness, or discipline writeups. Digital Academy has communicated that those update emails should start this Sunday. They may be delivered to your spam/junk mail so please check there. If you would like to change your notification settings, you can easily do that. After logging in, there should be a down arrow in the upper right corner by your name. Click that and then “Notification Settings”. Here you can change the type and frequency of notifications that you would like to receive.

Teachers (4th-8th) have just begun to input assignments and grades into Digital Academy so there may not be any for the time being. When you log into your parent account, you will see a box in the upper right corner named “Assignment Digest” if there are assignments input for your student. From that box, you can click and see open assignments and recently graded assignments for your student.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to Mrs. Mitus.

NWEA Testing

NWEA testing will begin this week. Please encourage your students to do their very best to show their teachers what they remember. Also, please be sure that they have had a healthy breakfast and a good nights sleep! Testing will run for the next two weeks.

Staff Appreciation Lunches

Our plan this year is to provide one lunch per month for our staff as a token of appreciation for all that they do. 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>.

Emerald Evening

Save the date for our school's biggest fundraiser (and party!) taking place on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at the Midland Country Club. We will begin forming our volunteer committees soon so if you would like to help out with the planning and execution of this big event, please reach out to Anne Lange (Schutte.anne@gmail.com or Kristen Granzo (mrsgranzo@gmail.com)

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

GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE



9/11/23	VS. SWAN VALLEY JR. A, ST. BRIGID CATHOLIC SCHOOL	6:45PM
9/13/23	VS. ALL SAINTS, ST. BRIGID CATHOLIC SCHOOL	6:45PM
9/18/23	VS. WESTERN JR., ST. BRIGID CATHOLIC SCHOOL	5:30PM
9/20/23	VS. ST. MICHAEL'S JR., ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL	6:45PM
9/25/23	VS. NOUVEL JR. B, ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL	5:30PM
9/27/23	VS. ALL SAINTS, ST. JOHN SCHOOL, ESSEXVILLE	6:45PM
10/2/23	VS. HOLY FAMILY, ST. BRIGID CATHOLIC SCHOOL	5:30PM
10/9/23	VS. ST. ELIZABETH, ST. ELIZABETH AREA SCHOOL	6:45PM
10/11/23	VS. NOUVEL JR. A, ST. BRIGID CATHOLIC SCHOOL	6:45PM
10/16/23	VS. SWAN VALLEY JR. C, ST. BRIGID CATHOLIC SCHOOL	6:45PM
10/18/23	VS. SWAN VALLEY JR. A, ST. BRIGID CATHOLIC SCHOOL	6:45PM
10/22/23	VS. SWAN VALLEY JR. B, ST. BRIGID CATHOLIC SCHOOL	5:30PM
10/25/23	VS. ALL SAINTS JR., ST. JOHN SCHOOL, ESSEXVILLE	5:30PM

HOME GAMES

AWAY GAMES

CAROLINE F. BEATRICE C.
TORSTEN B.
JACKSON G. TRISTAN B.
ISAAC D. VIVIENNE L. HARPER B.
ZOEY O.

September Birthdays

Saint Brigid Catholic School
A sacramentally fully alive in Christ