

At Saint Brigid Catholic School, nourished by the Word and Sacraments, we find life in Christ by gathering disciples for worship, service, and education.

From the Principal's Desk

Last week we had a security site assessment (for which, as an aside, we did very well). I had an interesting talk with the retired police officer that did it about the challenges of students and social media. I said that social media exposes students to many things that they are not yet ready to see or to know about. He said that the bigger problem is that students feel that they need to look perfect, dress perfectly, have perfect hair, say all the right things because, at any moment, someone may photograph or record a video of them that will be shared for all to see. Students, he said, are quick to point out others' mistakes in this way. Trying to be perfect creates a ton of anxiety. This literally gave me goosebumps to hear. How much stress this creates for our young ones and how many of them are looking at our model of phone/screen addiction and are getting screens at a younger and younger age.



But this is not limited to our young people. I belong to a Facebook group called Ask Midland where people frequently ask questions like “What are the current road conditions?”, or “What places in town have the best ____?”, or “What should I do if I am having these symptoms....?” Though there are many that give helpful suggestions, I regularly see posts where people are just vicious in their responses. It seems that we, as a society, are just waiting for someone else to make a mistake so that we can point it out. It reminds me of the story where Jesus asks the one without sin to cast the first stone. If we can be honest with ourselves, we are all

Important Dates

12/14: All School Reconciliation-1:30pm

12/15: St. Brigid Spirit Wear

12/20: 4th Grade Mass

12/21: Classroom Christmas Parties-9:00am

1/2 Day of School-11:30am Dismissal

12/22/-1/2: No School-Christmas Break

1/3: 3rd Grade Mass

Boys Basketball Game-6:25pm

1/5: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day

1/8: PTO Meeting-6:00pm

1/10: 2nd Grade Mass

Boys Basketball Game-6:25pm

1/11: Student Council/Leadership Spirit Day

K-5: Crazy Hair Day

MS: TBD

sinful. And what better time to stop and reflect on that than Advent. What a better time to try harder to think first of our own sin when we are tempted to call out another. What better time to put our screens down and be fully present to our children? And what better time to ask our children to be fully present?

What if we stopped clamoring for the world to ‘look at me’ through social media and started looking at others. How is it that I can help? How can I pray for another? How can I be fully present today? How can I resist the temptation to share in the gossip and viciousness? What can I do to get ready? Advent is the time to get ready- to make straight the path. My road is bumpy. I need to do something about that.

Laura E. Wilkowski

All School Reconciliation

Students grades 3-8 will be participating in an Advent Reconciliation on Thursday, December 14th from 1:30 pm-2:30 pm.

Classroom Christmas Parties

On Thursday, December 21st we will have our classroom parties from 9:00-11:15am, with dismissal at 11:30am. Students may wear red and green free dress on this day. K-3rd grade will hold a book exchange so please send in a wrapped book for the party. 4th-8th grade participate in Secret Santa and will reveal their Secret Santa during the parties.. Remember that ALL volunteer requirements must be completed in order for you to attend the classroom party. If you are unsure or need clarification on requirements, please contact Jeannine Hovey at jhovey@stbrigid-midland.org.

Scrip Program

The last day to place orders for before Christmas break pickup is **Friday, December 15th**. Orders placed by December 15th will be available for pickup on Thursday, December 21st in the school office.

The SCRIP table will be open after school on December 15th for any last minute gift card purchases you need to make!

Don't forget SCRIP while you are completing your holiday shopping! Purchase ecards to use in store or to gift to another person.! Why not earn some money back while you shop :) There's still time to join Scrip and start earning money for the school, join today!



RaiseRight™



Kindergarten Open House

Mark your calendars! January 22, 2024 at 6pm we will hold a Kindergarten Open House for those interested in learning more about our 2024-2025 Kindergarten program! Tell a friend and watch for postcards to go out closer to that date! Word of mouth recommendations are the best marketing tool available!

Christmas Eve Children's Choir

We are putting together a children's choir for the 5:30pm Mass on Christmas Eve. All interested children, of any age, will sing about 4 hymns as a prelude for Mass. No reading will be necessary. Then we will have the candlelight procession of the children to begin the Mass.

We are also looking for 15-20 third-eighth graders to lead the music as a choir for the Mass. They will be sitting in our choir area during Mass. If your child is interested in participating in this, please contact Barbara Hendrickson at bhendrickson@stbrigid-midland.org or call 989-835-7121, Ext 32.

We will be meeting on Tuesday, December 19 at 6:30pm or Thursday, December 21 at 5:00pm for a brief rehearsal. All children who would like to participate should attend at least one of the rehearsal dates Please come in the choir door entrance by the office (across from the County Building Parking Lot).

Spirit Wear Sale Orders

Orders from the Spirit Wear sale should be completed and available to pick up in the next few days. Once we have the items in our possession, we will send out an email with details on when you may pick up your items from the school.

Emerald Evening Cash Raffle Sales

Thank you to everyone who has been busy selling cash raffle tickets! We have sold 35% of our 1,000 tickets. If each family continues to work hard at selling their 10 tickets, we will meet our goal quickly! If you need some help selling tickets, we have some Mass sale times available to sign up for:

St Brigid: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CA5AC2DA6F8C25-46455112-stbrigid>

Blessed Sacrament: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CA5AC2DA6F8C25-46639661-blessed#/>

If you haven't already put a social media post out regarding this fundraiser, consider doing so. This has proven to be a very successful sale approach for families! Reminder, tickets can be purchased with a credit card online at charityauction.bid/emeraldevening2024 or you may collect cash or check and turn it into the school office in exchange for a ticket. Please remind people who are purchasing online to list your family name in the comments section so you receive credit for their purchase. Our weekly \$100 Early Bird Drawings started last week so now is the time to buy to take advantage of all the opportunities to win!

There will be another classroom party winner when we return on January 3rd along with a seller incentive drawing for \$1,000! Sell those tickets!

Re-enrollment Begins Soon!

Re-enrollment for current students will begin on Monday, January 8, 2024. This year all registration forms will be through Digital Academy (hooray for no more paper/pencil copies!) so an email link and instructions will be sent out when enrollment is open. There will be ONE form that will have to be completed on paper and returned to the office before registration is complete, that is the Parish-School Contract. In the past, only MACC parishioners outside of St. Brigid had to have the form signed by their parish priest but starting this year, even St. Brigid parishioners will need to obtain Fr. Andy's signature before turning it in. He will be scheduling some dates to be available at pick up to make this easier. Classes with 100% re-enrollment by Catholic Schools Week (or notification of the office in the case of a family who is moving) will receive an ice cream treat!

Open enrollment to the public opens on January 31st so make sure you enroll early to be guaranteed a spot in the class!

ICLE Open House Night

SAVE THE DATE! On Thursday, January 25, 2024, from 6:15-7:30 pm we will be holding an ICLE Open House Night. ICLE is the Institute for Catholic Liberal (Arts) Education. They have partnered with us to help us to fully integrate our faith into all aspects of our education and to truly make the process of learning about the truth and beauty of the world as engaging and awe inspiring as we can make it. We are inviting all current parents, prospective parents and educators within the Diocese to see a sneak peek of what we are doing. Teachers will be conducting a 15 minute mini-lesson/presentation which they will do four times. You may choose to go to any four presentations that you would like to see within this one hour open house. It is our hope that your understanding of the wonderful things that we are doing will help you to better engage with your child in the evenings and engage in conversation with others about these lessons.

Tips from the Reading Specialist

A good story teaches without the child being made to feel that he/she is being taught.

- Beauty of the word
- Vocabulary
- Imagination
- Memory
- Shared bond
- Modeled reading

Atrium Updates

Our students have been preparing for Christmas in the Atrium by studying the Old Testament prophecies that point to and reveal the coming of the Messiah:

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9:2)

"The light came into the world when Mary said yes to the Angel, and then she brought the light to Elizabeth." (4th grade student)

"That is like the lost sheep being found. Jesus will always search for us and bring us back to the light." (4th grade student)



MERRY
CHRISTMAS
& Happy New Year

Merry Christmas to you and your family, and best wishes for the New Year. Have a fun and safe break and we will see you back on January 3rd!