

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

I have had multiple experiences of wonder and awe since spring break. Over spring break, my family and I went to Jamaica. The water's color, the sun's feel, and the snorkeling around our hotel brought many instances of wonder and awe. However, in addition to these, we went to a bird sanctuary. While there, I was able to feed a hummingbird while it rested on my finger. As the first one landed, I caught my breath, my eyes got misty and I was awed by the speed of its wings, the movement of air on my face, and the sheer beauty of this tiny creature.



Spring break, for me, ended with the Midland Center for the Arts show, *Come From Away*. This play details a little town called Gander that was flooded suddenly with airplanes that had been diverted there after the 9-11 terrorist attacks. The story is based on real people who pulled together to make the passengers of the planes feel welcomed and safe in a way that was truly awe-inspiring. There was a song that began with *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* that included prayers from a Jewish character and a Hindu character. To think about all of these people praying in their way all at once was truly beautiful.

The eclipse this week, even in Midland, was awe-inspiring. To think that we had only 6% of the sun showing here and yet there was so much light was incredible. In addition, the light during the height of the eclipse looked somehow flat. It made me think that life is much more full because of the beauty of the sun. Our middle school students got to experience totality. The fact that so many people were sharing in this experience, that it was both visible and palpable (the decrease in temperature was noticeable), and that it will be 20 years before it happens again.

Important Dates

- 4/11: Student Council & Leadership Spirit Day
 - K-5: Celebrity Day
 - MS: Hat Day
 - LEGO Club-3:00-4:30pm
- 4/15-4/19: Book Fair through Bookmarks
- 4/16: Talk About It Tuesday: Anxiety in Youth-6:00pm
- 4/17: 2nd Grade Mass with Bishop Gruss
- 4/18: LEGO Club-3:00-4:30pm
- 4/19: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
- 4/24: 1st Grade Mass
 - All Sports Banquet-6:00pm
- 4/25: LEGO Club-3:00-4:30pm
 - Student Council Meeting-3:00pm
- 4/29-5/1: 5th Grade to Camp Hartley

These incidents inspire awe and wonder because they reflect God's creations and God's love. It makes me feel good that we are doing more to inspire awe and wonder in our students. Awe and wonder make us feel good, make us feel empathy, and make us feel happy and healthy. In today's stressful world, we could all use more awe and wonder.

Laura E. Wilkowski

Re-enrollment for Next Year

We haven't heard from some of you. We assume that anyone that has not contacted us is planning to come back, however, we can only hold a spot if you complete paperwork. If you have not already done so, please do so ASAP. We have had many inquiries for tour and enrollment so you can not guarantee your child a spot until their paperwork is completed.

When you log into your Digital Academy account you will see a yellow box in the right hand corner alerting you that enrollment forms are ready. Once you open the forms, you will be prompted to verify all existing information and provide some updated information. When you have completed all pages, you will submit electronically and receive an email receipt showing your paperwork was completed. The Parent-Parish Contact form will still need to be completed on paper since it has to be signed by your Parish priest before turning into the office. If you are a member of St. Brigid Parish, Fr. Andy will need to sign your contract in person before your registration is fully complete. He will be in the office signing forms on Thursday 4/11 at dismissal. We ask that you complete your forms as soon as possible.

If you know that your student will not be returning next year for any reason, please notify Mrs. Mitus.

Talk About It Tuesdays!

Our next virtual Talk About It Tuesday will take place on April 16th at 6:00pm and will focus on Anxiety in Youth. It will cover core aspects of anxiety and effective parenting strategies for those children that experience anxiety. This is a very relevant and important topic. Register by emailing Angelina Mitus at amitus@stbrigid-midland.org or calling the office!

Book Fair through Bookmarks

We will be having our annual spring book fair April 15-19. Proceeds from the book fair go towards adding books to our school library. We are excited to partner with Bookmarks, a local bookstore in downtown Midland. The owner is accommodating us by allowing people to order ahead of time using the form that came home last week or she will have books here at the school to purchase. If there is a title you are interested in and do not see it, she is willing to order for us as well. If you have not been in the store the address is 126 Townsend Street in downtown Midland. Help us support a local business as well as make money for our school library by ordering some books for summer reading.

All Sports Banquet

A banquet will be held on Wednesday, April 24th at 6:00pm for all student-athletes who participated in a team this school year. Those teams include 5th-8th grade boys basketball, 5th-8th grade girls basketball, Pom, cheer, 3rd/4th co-ed basketball, and 5th-8th girls volleyball. Pizza will be provided and we are asking families to bring in items to share. Please visit the signup sheet at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FAFA828A6F5C16-48438791-allsports#/> and sign up for an item. When you RSVP to Corie, please notify her of any dietary allergies or restrictions.

Lapham's Garden Center Voucher

We are selling \$20 vouchers to Lapham's Garden Center in the school office until May 10. Saint Brigid School will receive \$8 for each voucher sold. Vouchers can be paid for with cash or check (made out to St. Brigid School). Lapham's carries all your flowering and garden needs including hanging baskets, deck pots, vegetable plants, herbs, succulents, house plants, annuals, and perennials. Vouchers must be used by June 10. Great way to stock up on your flowering/gardening needs while supporting St. Brigid school!

Camp Hartley

Our fifth grade students will be attending Camp Hartley from April 29, 2024- May 1, 2024. Camp Hartley offers outdoor educational experiences to talk about habitat, ecosystems, predator/prey relationships, team building and so much more. Our fifth grade students will be hiking, playing educational games and bonding with their classmates in a wonderful setting. Please pray for safe travels and wonderful educational experience!

Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6-May 10. The PTO is planning a week of showering our staff with appreciation for all that they do! If you have any ideas or suggestions, please reach out to A PTO board member or Angelina Mitus. Keep an eye out in your email for a schedule and a few ways your child can help show their appreciation!

Spring Concert

The Spring Music Concert is scheduled for Thursday, May 9th at 6:00pm and will feature our students singing from K-5 and our bands from 5-8. Students will be showcasing some rock-n-roll songs and are encouraged to dress in rock-n-roll attire or simply in nice dressy clothing. More details about arrival time will be provided closer to the date.

DARE Graduation

Our fifth grade students have been participating in the DARE Program this school year and will have a graduation on Monday, May 13th at 1:45pm in the Gym. All 5th grade family members are invited and encouraged to attend this event.

5th-8th Grade School Musical

We are so excited to have a theatrical play again this year! This year's cast has been rehearsing hard for the musical, mash-up "Making Hard-Knock History" and look forward to performing for all of you on May 22nd. The play will be held at Creative 360 at 6:00pm. No ticket is required. We hope many families can come out and support our students and see the hard work they have put in to bring this play to light.

Graduation

Due to the Labor Day holiday and the local High school graduations, the 8th grade graduation will begin with Mass at church at 5 pm on Tuesday, May 28th and a dinner in the open area will follow for 8th grade students and their families, and the 7th grade students who had classes with them. We will send out an RSVP closer to the date. I wanted to be sure it makes it on your calendars! 8th graders will be done after this event but may return for award ceremonies and picnics if they choose.

End of Year School Picnics

It seems unbelievable to think about, but we are already discussing this year's school picnics. School picnics will take place on Thursday, May 30th, which is a 1/2 day of school. Each class picnic, grades K-5, will take place individually at a nearby park. Due to Chippewassee Park being closed and one of the pavilions at Emerson Park already reserved, we may have to share pavilion space with two classes. Middle school will join together for their picnic. More details about the picnic location will come out as we get closer to the date.

End of Year School Mass

We always start and end the school year together in prayer with an all-school Mass. This year, Mass will be held on the last day of school, May 31 at 10:00am. Dismissal for summer break will take place at 11:30am. We hope all families can join us at this Mass to celebrate the wonderful school year we had!

Tips from the Reading Specialist

More Tips for Supporting Reading Skills at Home...Continued

Model reading fluently by practicing reading aloud with your child. Having children read aloud daily helps them develop the skills of reading accuracy, fluency, and comprehension.

Accuracy is the ability to read text aloud accurately, but without regard to rate.

Fluency is the ability to read a passage of text aloud accurately, at an appropriate rate, and with expression.

When reading aloud with children:

- Model and provide feedback on proper tone, pausing, and which words to emphasize.
- Set a slow, steady pace, slowing down for words that are challenging. Gradually increase the pace, moving on to more difficult books. Remind the child that reading fluently does not necessarily mean reading quickly.
- Use familiar books. Make sure that the book is appropriate to the child's reading ability. If the book is too difficult, children can develop poor reading habits.

(from What Works Clearinghouse)

2023-24 Excellence in Teaching Award: Accepting Nominations

The Office of Catholic Schools is pleased to announce an open call for nominations for the Excellence in Teaching Award. This award is intended to recognize and celebrate the positive impact that Catholic School teachers in the Diocese of Saginaw make in the lives of their students as well as in their schools and communities. The award seeks to recognize teachers who exemplify what it means to be a Catholic educator.

One elementary/middle school and one middle/high school teacher will be recognized. Recipients will receive a \$2,500 stipend. Nominations may be submitted by anyone in the school community until 11:59 p.m., Sunday, April 21, 2024.

Please share the nomination form with your school community and encourage them to nominate outstanding teachers!

[Excellence in Teaching Award Nomination Form](#)