

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 had the extraordinary privilege of leading the Community of Saints presentation once each month for kindergarten through fifth grade. Each month we would discuss a new virtue, a Saint who espoused that virtue, and a bible verse that related to that virtue. For May, we did a recap on all of the virtues and Saints covered. During the review, a third-grade student raised his hand. He gently pointed out that I had confused the definition of prudence with temperance. Three things about this struck me.

1. He knew the virtues and their meanings very well.
2. He had been paying particular attention to the review as he caught it exactly as it happened.
3. He was very kind as he pointed it out so as not to hurt my feelings.



Important Dates

- 5/9: Student Council/Leadership Spirit Day
Spring Music Concert-6:00pm
- 5/13: 5th Grade DARE Graduation-1:45pm
PTO Meeting-6:00pm
- 5/14: Talk About it Tuesday Series-6:00pm
- 5/15: 5th Grade Mass
- 5/17: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
4th Grade Field Trip to Mackinac Island
Kindergarten & 1st Grade Field Trip to Zoo-10am
- 5/19: First Communion Mass-11:30am
- 5/21: 3rd & 4th Grade Field Trip to Loons Game
Shamrock Band Field Trip to Loons Game
- 5/22: 4th Grade Mass
4th-8th Grade Field Trip to School Musical-1:00pm
School Musical @ Creative 360-6:00pm
- 5/23: Camping Day for 2nd Grade
Last Student Council Meeting-3:00pm
- 5/24: The Amazing Shake-9:00am
Senior Graduate Parade-2:00pm
- 5/27: No School-Memorial Day

This is exactly why we started this move to a more Catholic Liberal Arts Education. All of the students were engaged and excited to talk about the virtues. There was a true sense of justice displayed throughout our time together- we gave each other the time and attention that the other was due. More importantly, there is joy in the children as we talk about them.

Imagine a world where people could politely correct another's mistake. Imagine a world where we could debate without being unkind. You need not look further than social media to know that our world so needs this.

We concluded our sessions by focusing on the virtue that we most need to cultivate within ourselves and praying for God to help us grow in that and all virtues. Faith, hope, love, prudence, fortitude, justice and temperance. A life of virtue. We are preparing our children for their future on Earth and for eternity.

“AND BESIDE THIS, GIVING ALL DILIGENCE, ADD TO YOUR FAITH, VIRTUE; AND TO VIRTUE, KNOWLEDGE;” 2 Peter 1:5

Laura E. Wilkowski

Student Council & Leadership Spirit and Service Projects

The May Spirit Day will take place on Thursday, May 9th. Kindergarten-5th grade has chosen “dress as your favorite food or drink”. This can be as simple as wearing a shirt that is the same color as their favorite item. No costumes are allowed. Middle School students may pick any spirit day from this school year and dress in that attire.

For service projects, the K-5th grade are collecting gently used toys & books to donate to the Habitat for Humanity Restore. The Middle School will be volunteering at Open Door for their service project.

Spring Concert

The Spring Music Concert will take place this Thursday, May 9th at 6:00pm and will feature our students singing from K-5th and our bands from 5th-8th. Students will be showcasing some rock-n-roll songs and are encouraged to dress in rock-n-roll attire or simply in nice dress clothes. Students are asked to be in their classrooms at 5:45pm.

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.

PTO Meeting

Our last PTO meeting of the year will be held on Monday, May 13 at 6pm. To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/ega-cuoz-ttq>. Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 276-796-8195 and enter this PIN: 922 947 314#

Talk About It Tuesdays!

Our next virtual Talk About It Tuesday will take place on May 14 at 6:00pm and will focus on Connecting with Children. It will cover a number of effective problem solving approaches when communicating with your child(ren). This is a very relevant and important topic. Register by emailing Angelina Mitus at amitus@stbrigid-midland.org or calling the office!

First Holy Communion

On Sunday, May 19th fourteen of our 2nd grade students will join other 2nd grade students of the parish in making their first holy communion. Please keep them in your prayers as they come forward to receive Holy Communion for the first time. We pray that this is an initial step into a life-long love of the Eucharist.

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. Students in grades 4-8 will have the opportunity to see the play during the day on the 22nd.

Last Student Council Meeting

The last Student Council meeting of the school year will be held on May 23rd and will include a walk to Pizza Sam's for ice cream. All student council members and alternates are invited to attend this meeting to celebrate a job well done representing their class on Student Council.

Amazing Handshake

We are hosting our second annual 'Amazing Shake' for our middle school students on May 24th. An important part of our academic program is teaching the students manners, discipline, respect, and how to conduct him or herself in a professional environment. At Saint Brigid Middle School, students learn the mechanics of a proper handshake and working the room so that they are able to present themselves exceptionally well for opportunities today and in the future. Each student will go through an obstacle course, spending 1 minute interacting with over 20 business professionals from our community. When the student walks away, the professional scores the child based on handshake firmness, eye contact, confidence, common sense, etc. The ratings and feedback is shared with the students at the conclusion of the event. If you are a business professional and would be interested in helping at this event, please reach out to Mrs. Wilkowski.

High School Senior Alumni Walk-Thru

Our St. Brigid alumni who are graduating this year will be coming to the school on Friday, May 24th in their cap and gowns to do a walk-thru of the classrooms. Students will get a chance to briefly chat with the students and wish them well on their next adventure after high school.

Graduation

Our 8th grade graduation will take place on Tuesday, May 28th, beginning with Mass at 5:30pm and an Italian dinner to follow in the open area for 8th grade students and their families as well as the 7th grade students who had classes with them.

St. Brigid Community Garden Planting

Current & prospective 5th grade students at St. Brigid Catholic School will be planting the community garden on Wednesday, May 29th at 12:30pm, directly in front of the school building on Ashman St. They will plant a seed or young plant in the garden beds and have their picture taken. When they return to school in the Fall, they will be able to see how much their plant(s) have grown, as well as themselves. Students will be able to work as a class to harvest the garden, and it can be utilized in the school kitchen for student lunches and/or donate to the local community organizations. During the growing period, certain crops will be available to be harvested by the community.

End of Year School Picnics

School picnics will take place on Thursday, May 30th, which is a 1/2 day of school. Kindergarten & 1st Grade will take place at Grove Park, 2nd & 3rd will take place at Emerson Park Pavilion C and 4th & 5th at Emerson Park Pavilion E. Middle school will join together for their picnic at an undecided location. More details about the picnics will come out from classroom room parents.

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!

Middle School Moving to Block Schedule

Next year, our middle school classes will be moving to a block schedule. A block schedule is a way of scheduling classes where students meet for fewer classes per day but for longer periods. This change will allow us to delve deeply into topics without cutting topics short. The block schedule also allows for variety for students, less time in class transition, and more time to employ multiple modes of instruction. Generally, if you look at research on the topic, the adjustment is minimal and both teachers and students report that they like the schedule. Research also suggests that, academically, students generally benefit from a block schedule. From a Catholic Liberal Arts perspective, it allows us to have the kind of deep discussions with students that will help them grow in virtue, wisdom, and an appreciation for all that is beautiful and good.

Tips from the Reading Specialist

Summer Learning Loss Statistics

- The equivalent of one month of overall learning is lost over Summer break
- 2-3 hours per week during the Summer is needed to prevent learning loss
- 6 weeks in the Fall are spent re-learning previously taught material to make up for Summer learning loss

Cumulative Impact

- Summer slide is cumulative, meaning that the learning losses add up over time
- Research indicates that over a single Summer, students typically lose about 2 months of reading skills
- By the time a student reaches middle school, the cumulative effect of Summer slide can result in the equivalent of 2 years of lost learning

(from Susan Barton-Barton Reading and Spelling)

Keep your child reading over the summer. Here is a fun way to support interaction with books being read.

Reading Choice Board

Choose an activity and cross it off once it is completed.

Text to World Connection: After reading a book, think about how something in the book relates to the world. Write 1 sentence making a text to world connection.	Draw a Picture: Read a book then draw a picture of what you read including at least three details (characters, setting, scene from the book, or facts if nonfiction).	Vocabulary: Choose two words in the book that you either do not know or are interested in. Look up the words in a dictionary (or online dictionary).
Retell: Read a story of your choice. Decide if your book is fiction or nonfiction. Fiction: Retell the story to a parent or write it on a sheet of paper. Tell what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story. Non-fiction: Write down three facts about your topic	Main Idea: Write about the main idea or theme of the book you read. Find two supporting details to support your answer.	Change: Think about the book or the passage you just read. If you could make one change in the story, what would it be? Write it on a sheet of paper. (examples: add a new character to the story, create a new ending, have the characters eat ice cream instead of pizza, etc.) For non-fiction you might change what topic of information was told-think subtitles.
Author's Purpose: After reading a story or passage, think about why the author chose to write that story. Write one sentence explaining what the purpose of his writing was.	Characters Traits: (Fiction Only) Choose a book to read. Write down the characters on a sheet of paper. Choose 2 characters and write down as many traits you can for each character.	Text to Self-Connection: After reading a book, think about how something in the book relates to you and your life. Write 2-3 sentences making a text to self-connection.

Summer Tutoring Options

If your student could benefit from tutoring over the summer, both Mrs. Nemeth and Mrs. Graves are available.

Mrs. Nemeth will provide 50 minute individualized reading lessons with a 5 minute recap/homework with parents for Kindergarten-5th graders. Sessions take place at the Grace A. Dow Library M-Th at either 9:15am, 10:15am, 2:00pm, or 3:00pm and cost \$50 per session. You may contact Mrs. Nemeth directly if you are interested (989-941-1620).

Mrs. Graves will provide individual math tutoring for incoming 4th-8th graders. Sessions meet 1-2 times a week at the Grace A. Dow or Auburn library. Sessions are \$50 per hour. You may contact Mrs. Graves directly if you are interested (sgraves@stbrigid-midland.org)

Change in Clergy Assignment

In case you missed Fr. Andy's announcement at Masses last week, he & Fr. Matthew's time at St. Brigid has come to an end sooner than anticipated. As of July 1, Fr. Andy has been assigned to Sacred Heart Parish with continuing to oversee St. Mary University Parish. Fr. Matthew has been assigned as Parochial Vicar of Sacred Heart Parish and St. Mary University Parish. We can not thank them enough for their dedication to the Saint Brigid Parish community and wish them the best of luck on their next adventure.

We are delighted to announce and warmly welcome Fr. Steve Blaxton, who will be joining our parish as our new priest. We invite all of you to join us in welcoming Fr. Steve with open hearts and open arms. Let us embrace him as he begins this new chapter in his journey with us.

MANS Action Alert

Governor Whitmer presented a proposed FY2025 budget in February. Nonpublic schools were not included in several funding opportunities including an appropriation for school safety and mental health initiatives. Nonpublic schools have been eligible for this funding for the past nine years, including a per pupil distribution over the last two years totaling \$36 million. Funding has allowed schools to install and update safety measures in school buildings and has permitted schools to enhance student mental health services.

The [Michigan Association of Non-public Schools](#) (MANS), advocates for nonpublic schools, and is working hard to inform state legislators of the importance of this funding for nonpublic schools. You can help the effort by contacting your legislators. Click here to follow the link below to the Michigan Catholic Conference Voter Voice portal and contact your state legislators asking them to include non-public schools in school safety and mental health services funding.

[Advocate to Restore Safety Funding for Nonpublic Schools](#) (auto-generated email)


Saint Brigid
Catholic School
A community fully alive in Christ

**GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
SUMMER CAMP**

JUNE 24-27 1:00-3:00PM

OPEN TO ANY INCOMING 4TH-8TH GRADER

\$25

RAN BY COACH JEAN CROWIN

SIGN UP WITH CORIE AT CVANSUMEREN@STBRIGID-MIDLAND.ORG