

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

As October approaches, most of us think of Fall and Halloween. But this month, I invite you to think of Our Lady of the Rosary. Our students will soon be making rosaries. The word rosary itself means a crown of roses. When we pray the prayers of the Rosary, we invite Mary, Jesus, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit into our thoughts and prayers. Beads are used to count the prayers; in Old English, the word bead means prayer. Our Lady appeared to Saint Dominic in the 1200s and, upon regular praying of the rosary, he converted many people. Pope Pius urged Christians fighting the Ottoman Empire in the 1500s to fly flags with Christ on the cross. The Christians were victorious. Then Mary appeared to three children in Fatima and asked them to pray the rosary for peace.



Our Lady of the Rosary intercedes on our behalf for us. She serves as protector and guide. She is a model of what it means to say yes to God's will. As we move into October, we will dedicate our school to Our Lady of the Rosary. Her image and a kneeler will be a part of our lobby and we invite students, staff, and families to stop and pray. We ask families to pray the rosary at home. We ask families to join us as we pray the rosary together at school on Monday, October 21 for the Living Rosary.

Important Dates

- 9/20: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
4th & 5th Grade Field Trip-River of Time
- 9/23: Virtual Emerald Evening Kick-Off Meeting-6:30pm
- 9/24: Hearing & Vision Screening
Student Council Meeting-3:00pm
FLL Robotics Practice-6:00pm
Sacramental Prep Parent Meeting-6:15pm
- 9/25: Hearing & Vision Screening
Mass-2nd Grade Ministries-8:00am
- 9/27: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
- 9/29: Diocesan All Schools Mass at Cathedral-5:00pm
- 9/30: Girls Home Basketball Game-7:00pm
- 10/1: 6th Grade Field Trip to Bible Museum
FLL Robotic Practice-6:00pm
- 10/2: Mass-1st Grade Ministries-8:00am
- 10/4: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
Coffee with the Principals-8:05am
- 10/5: Blessing of the Pets-10:00am
- 10/7: Mass-Consecration of St. Brigid School to Our Lady of the Rosary-8:00am
Consecration Reception-9:00am

It is not a practice that many of us grew up doing. It is okay to hold an instruction page as you say it. It is okay if your children start by listening and slowly start to participate. There are online examples that you can follow, Apple Music even has examples.

This fall, as October approaches and the leaves start to fall and it eventually starts to cool, consider adding a new practice to the month; saying the rosary as a family. It can serve as a way to calm the craziness, guide us in our decisions, and provide us with answers to the questions we encounter throughout our lives.

Laura E. Wilkowski

Student Council Officers & Representatives

Congratulations to all students who ran for student council this year!

Our 5th grade officers are: Gemma Granzo-President, Quinn Bennett-Vice President, Charlotte Luft-secretary, and Ethan Mitchell-marketing.

Classroom Representatives are: Patrick Max (5th), Denny Dorow (4th), Graham Erickson (3rd), JD Luft (2nd), Strickland Miller (2nd), Miles Erickson (1st), and Tristan Boeke (1st)

Alternates are: Hadley Lauren(4th), Carsten Behnke & Joe Thill (3rd), Dominic Gipson (2nd), John Beson (1st).

The first Student Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 24th from 3:00-3:45pm.

Hearing & Vision Screening

The Midland Health Department will be conducting hearing and vision screening at school on September 24th & 25th. 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 23rd 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). The link for the meeting is <https://meet.google.com/ryc-noqu-rki?hs=224>.

School Pictures & Retakes

School pictures were sent home earlier this week. Please review them and ensure the picture is to your liking and that you received everything you ordered. If you are choosing retakes, you will be responsible for the cost of another picture package. If you need your child's picture taken or retaken, picture retake day will be scheduled for sometime in October- we are awaiting a specific date from the photographer. There are picture envelopes available in the office.

Sacramental Prep

For second grade families or other families who have a child age 7 or older who is planning to make their First Reconciliation and First Communion this year, there is a mandatory parent meeting on September 24th at 6:15pm in the Open Area. If you have not yet registered your child for Sacramental Prep, please do so at <https://forms.gle/qJqskAWta9rR3hPL8>.

Diocesan Back to School Mass

The Diocese of Saginaw is holding a Back to School Mass, celebrating all the Catholic schools in the Diocese on Sunday, September 29th at 5:00pm at the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption in Saginaw. Father Adam Maher will be the presiding priest. We hope many of our St. Brigid families will attend this Mass and represent our school well! Families are encouraged to wear their school spirit wear. If your student would like to volunteer for a Mass ministry, they can sign up at https://dioceseofsaginaworg-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/kpham_dioceseofsaginaw_org/EfpEwOu7t8NIkoNHsZp9A7wBUXI-GM3TScQ9T2KWylbdUg.

Consecration of our School to Our Lady of the Rosary

On Friday, September 27th our school will say a prayer to begin the novena to seek the intercession of Mary, under the title of Our Lady of the Rosary for guidance, protection, and blessings upon our students, staff and families. We ask that families join us in this Novena (scan QR code below). On Monday, September 30th beginning at 9 AM, Sr. Philomena and the Sisters of Mother of Divine Mercy will be here to make chaplets with all students K-8. Then on the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary, Monday, October 7th, we will consecrate our school to the Blessed Mother under this title. We invite the entire school & parish community to join us for this special Mass, consecration, and reception on that day. Mass will be at 8am and the consecration & reception will immediately follow.



In order to commemorate this consecration, a framed image of Our Lady of the Rosary will be installed in the lobby of the school along with a prie-dieu where students can write their intentions and ask the Blessed Mother's intercession.

Fr. Stephen is moved to consecrate our school to the Blessed Virgin Mary for three reasons: 1) entrusting ourselves Mary is the surest and easiest way to holiness. He desires, and knows God desires, that our school be a place that leads our students to holiness and, ultimately, heaven. 2) The prayer of consecration to the Blessed Mother involves the renewal of baptismal promises. Through our partnership with ICLE, St. Brigid School is involved in a renewal of Catholic education, the grace that comes with a renewal of our baptismal promises will give us the spiritual boost to make the renewal a reality. 3) he believe Catholic educational institutions are at a crossroads in our Diocese of Saginaw. There are so many factors that threaten the flourishing of our Catholic schools in the future. By consecrating our school to Mary, we can be certain that whatever the future may hold, she will bring about God's will.

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/10C0F4FAFA828A6F5C16-50848150-staff>

Scrip Program

If you have not signed up and started using Scrip gift cards, you are missing out on free money! To get started, click here: <https://www.raiseright.com/> and set up an account. Be sure to download the RaiseRight app for easy, on the go eGift card purchases.

Starting Thursday, RaiseRight will be holding their *Raise Days* (9/19-9/20) where big additional rebate bonuses will be offered at over 100 different retailers. This bonus applies exclusively to eGift cards and reloadable gift cards so make sure you have your online account set up to participate.

The SCRIP To Go Table will be open Friday, October 4th from 2:45-3:15pm in the school lobby. If you have an online order to pick up before then, you can pick it up in the school office.



RaiseRight[™]

by ShopWithScrip

Book Fair

We are almost exactly one month away from our Book Fair which will be hosted by Bookmarks Bookstore in the school's open area from October 21st to October 25, 2024. Students will have a looking day on Monday followed by a buying day on Tuesday. You as parents may buy books for your children on any day during that week. Teachers will also create a wish list basket if you would like to choose books to purchase for your child's classroom.



The Reading Corner

I am excited to be your new reading specialist here at St. Brigid School!

In this first installment the 2024-25 'The Reading Corner', we will start at the beginning of reading – with sounds! First some definitions:

Phonological Awareness is an umbrella term that includes awareness of: individual words in sentences, syllables in words, rhymes, beginning and end of words, and phonemic awareness.

Phonemic Awareness is a subset of phonological awareness that targets individual sounds (phonemes) in words. With good phonemic awareness students can isolate sounds in words, blend sounds to make words, segment words into individual sounds, and change/add/delete sounds in words.

Phonics is when we attach a sound of spoken language to a written letter/group of letters.

Most kids learn about the sounds of language simply by listening to others talk. The awareness of individual sounds in words (phonemic awareness) is a stepping stone to reading.

When learning about sounds, it is important to present students (even babies!) with blendable sounds. Some consonant sounds can be tricky, as we tend to add a vowel sound (usually 'uh') to the end of our production, and we wind up with 'b-uh' instead of a short /b/sound. Other consonants such as 'r', 'w', and 'y' are tricky, because we all learned them as 'ruh', 'wuh' and 'yuh'. (To practice, choose a word that begins with your target sound, *start* to say the word and quickly stop. For example, say water without saying 'ater').

Here is a short (not very exciting) YouTube video for parents with examples of the most common sounds of the alphabet: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b78icf-bB7Q>

This is a good example for students, with common sounds in song form. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8Dh_cubb-4

Looking forward to helping all of the Saint Brigid students become awesome readers!

Karen Kozerski

Reference: Honig, B, Diamond L & Gutlohn, L. (2018) CORE Teaching Reading Sourcebook (updated 3rd Edition). Arena.



Fireside Chats with Fr. Stephen

Fr. Stephen needs the help of parishioners to discern where God is leading St. Brigid Parish so we can become a more mission focused parish. To do that, you are invited to attend a small group discussion hosted in the home of a St. Brigid parishioner to share your perspective and experience of being a member of the parish.

Available Dates:

9/10, 9/21, 9/28, 10/3, 10/12, 10/19

6:30-7:30pm

Limited availability so sign up quickly!

Scan QR code or call the Parish Office (989) 835-7121 to sign up.



There are still some spots available for the October dates. Fr. Stephen would love the opportunity to hear from school families on the strengths of St. Brigid along with areas for growth & improvement.

Scan the QR code to sign up