

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



On Friday, Donald Maloney and I got to eat lunch with students from 3-8th grade. It was a great time to get to know students better. But I noticed something. Some students ate lunch alone. I made a point of sitting with those students and making conversation. Then I told the others that it is important to invite students into your circle sitting together. With a gentle nudge, I have noticed students starting to do so. It is a reminder that we all want to be included, but trying to get into that inner circle is tough for some. It is part of our call as Catholic Christians to evangelize. Part of the way we do that is by living out Christ's example in our own lives. Are we inviting others in or do we keep others out? Matthew 5:16 reminds us, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." We can evangelize, then, simply by the way that we let our light shine.

I do not care for election time. I notice that some people, caught up in their views of the election, make a point to point out their opponent's flaws in very un-Christian ways. Similarly, it has become part of the norm for TikTok and YouTube to feature teens "roasting" people or groups of people and I hear students sometimes trying out this same language. Let us take time when we hear such things to let our children know why this is unacceptable and how they can work to bring people closer together rather than exclude them.

### Important Dates

- 9/4: Mass-5th Grade Ministries-8:00am
- 9/6: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day  
Coffee with the Principal-8:05am
- 9/9: Community of Saints-8:00am
- 9/10: 5th Grade Student Council Officer Campaign begins  
FLL Robotics Practice-6:00pm
- 9/11: Mass-4th Grade Ministries-8:00am
- 9/13: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
- 9/17: Student Council Officer Elections  
4th Grade Field Trip-Rural Education Day-9:30am  
FLL Robotics Practice-6:00pm
- 9/18: Mass-3rd Grade Ministries-8:00am  
Student Council Representative Elections
- 9/20: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day

Remember that Christ Himself chose to eat with the tax collectors and sinners. This means that we, too, are called to extend a lot of grace to those around us, even when they are different, rather than being quick to point out their differences. It means that we should meet people where they are and include those who have not been included!

If you are a returning parent, you can set an example for students by reaching out to new parents at pick-up. All parents can talk with their students about how to include others at lunch, at recess, and in class. Our staff can continue to provide ways for students to include each other and to praise students when we catch them including others. When students come home, ask them, "What did you do to include someone else today?" What a difference we can make!

*Laura E. Wilkowski*

### **Instead of asking your student, “what did you do in school?”, try these instead:**

- How do you say “Hello” and “My name is” in Spanish (grades 2-8)
- What a virtue is and what our virtue for September is... (grades K-8)
- What our September memory verse is... (grades 3 and up)
- What a timeline shows us (grades 1 and 2)
- What are the continents? (grade 3)
- What does a scientist do? (K)
- What did you do to include someone else today? (K-8)
- First graders are growing alligators, measuring, observing, and recording observations. Ask them what they have noticed.
- Ask your fifth grader about nature journaling!

### **Classroom Updates**

- 6th grade students are adding tabs to their new Bibles and both 6th and 7th grade students are beginning the Encounter Bible Study Program:  
*Encounter is a Catholic Bible study designed specifically for grades 6 to 8. Using the color-coded Bible Timeline Learning System, each session of Encounter reveals the story of our faith and God’s plan for our lives. Encounter is much more than your average Bible study program. It is a life-changing experience that speaks directly to the hearts and minds of middle school-aged kids. As your students are drawn into this story, they will come to a new and profound understanding of who God is. Most importantly, they will come to know God not as a distant doctrinal concept, but as a loving Father who desires a meaningful and lasting encounter with them.*
- 7th and 8th grade students are exploring the 9 methods of prayer of St Dominic and 8th graders are beginning an in-depth study of the 12 Apostles and the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- After School Care students were wonderful after the Tornado warning. The students had practiced a tornado drill 18 minutes before the alarm sounded for the “real deal”. Great job, ASC!

### **Coffee with the Principal**

Want to get to know other parents? Want to get to know the principal? Do you have questions for the principal? Are there things you would like to see happen at Saint Brigid? Come have coffee and a conversation with the principal (Or tea or hot chocolate) on Friday, September 6th in the Faith Formation Library! These sessions will be taking place the first Friday of each month so if you can’t make this month, mark your calendar for October!

### **PTO Meetings**

Our first PTO meeting will be Monday, September 9th, at 6 pm on Google Meets using the link, [meet.google.com/crm-dppm-mez](https://meet.google.com/crm-dppm-mez). PTO meetings are a great way to stay up on what is happening at the school and voice your opinions. It is also a great way to put a face to other parents. Plus, attending the PTO meeting means that your student will receive a free dress pass! So be sure to mark your calendar. We have made them virtual so that you don’t have to worry about childcare and you can even be working on dinner while the meeting is happening!!

### **Student Council Elections**

Campaigning for Student Council Officers begins on September 10th! Posters need to be approved by Mrs. Graves before they can be hung up throughout the school. Fifth grade students who are running will be required to give a speech on Tuesday, September 17th and then elections will take place immediately afterward. All students, 1st-5th grade will vote for the officer positions. Officer positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, and Marketing (previously Treasurer).

In grades 1st-4th, teachers will hold elections or selections with all interested students on Wednesday, September 18th. Permission slips should have already come home so please reach out to your teacher if you need another one.

### **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-upcoming trainings available at [virtus.org](http://virtus.org))
- Get fingerprinted at the Midland Police Department on Thursday mornings from 9-11am (only one time)

### **Staff Appreciation Lunches**

Our plan again 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/10C0F4FAFA828A6F5C16-50848150-staff>

### **Celebration of Catholic Schools Mass**

The Bishop is holding a Celebration of Catholic Schools Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday, September 29th at 5:00pm. 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/EfpEwOu7t8NIkoNHsZp9A7wBUXI-GM3TScQ9T2KWylbdUg?rttime=DiVFAj3M3Eg](https://dioceseofsaginaworg-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/kpham_dioceseofsaginaw_org/EfpEwOu7t8NIkoNHsZp9A7wBUXI-GM3TScQ9T2KWylbdUg?rttime=DiVFAj3M3Eg)

### **Lunch Charges**

Just a reminder, PLEASE DISREGARD the lunch account balance that shows up in Digital Academy. We bill all lunch charges through FACTS on a monthly basis. You should receive a notification email from FACTS once the charges have been added to your account, usually a week or two into the new month.

### **Catholic School Council to Visit**

Our Diocesan Catholic School Council will be holding its first meeting of the 24-25 academic year at Saint Brigid Catholic on Thursday, September 19th. The council, in its third year, is focused on helping our schools develop Catholic Identity, increase enrollment, create financial vitality, and help with issues related to people and governance. We are delighted to be able to share the good things that we are doing at Saint Brigid Catholic School!

### **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, 5th, and 7th will receive vision screens. There is no cost for these screenings.

### **Math Tutors**

We are in need of volunteers to provide one on one math tutoring to students, primarily in grades 3, 4, and 5. If you are interested in learning more about what this entails, please reach out to Mrs. Wilkowski. All volunteer requirements must be met in order to help.

### Emerald Evening Kick-Off

Save the date for our school's biggest fundraiser (and party!) taking place on Saturday, March 1, 2025 at the Midland Country Club. 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). It takes MANY volunteers to make this a successful event!

### Scrip Program

Did you know? Your next grocery bill, gas tank fill-up, restaurant bill, coffee run, and online purchase can help you pay for tuition or raise money for your school. Join the St. Brigid Scrip program so you can buy gift cards to use as payment for everyday expenses and shop online through RaiseRight. Every gift card purchase and online purchase earns up to 20% back—and it adds up fast! Each family can easily earn \$1,000 or more every year.

Plus, with a [mobile app](#) available and instant access to your eGift card and reload purchases, you can buy gift cards and shop online through RaiseRight anytime, anywhere.

To get started, click here: [Gift Card Fundraising \(Scrip\) for Organizations | RaiseRight](#)

The SCRIP To Go Table is currently planned to be open the first Friday of the month from 2:45-3:15pm in the school lobby. If you have an online order to pick up later in the month, you can pick it up in the school office



RaiseRight™

by ShopWithScrip



# 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.

