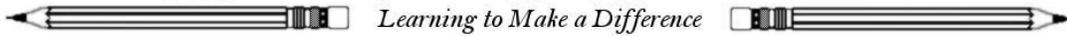


# + Blessed Sacrament



## School News



Learning to Make a Difference

August 22, 2019

### A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

We have had a wonderful start to the school year, and the days have just seemed to fly by! We hope your children are as excited about the new school year as we are!

Our theme this year is the Beatitudes as we focus on St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) and the virtue of hope. We began the school year on Monday with a prayer service in which Father Jeff spoke to all the students about our call to seek Jesus each day in the new school year. Next week we will celebrate our first all-school Mass. Students in grades 2-4 will attend weekly Mass on Tuesdays this year, and students in grades 5-8 will attend weekly Mass on Fridays. We usually have all-school Masses once a month, and students in grades 2-8 attend First Friday adoration several times during the year.

Following this note, you will see several important announcements for our students and parents. We will continue to send the newsletter every other week on Thursday evenings, so please look forward to the next newsletter on September 5.

Thanks for all you do to support our school and to help your children grow in their faith! Enjoy your weekend!

Yours in faith,  
*Mrs. Dawn Kliner*

### Welcome!

We know you will join us in welcoming the newest members of our faculty and staff. They include Mrs. Becky Phillips, all day pre-k, Ms. Amanda Malawy, part-time preschool/pre-k, Mrs. Jackie Watson, 4th grade, Mrs. Angie Christie, 7th grade religion, Mrs. Jenny Triphahn, music, Ms. Jill DeChenne, primary resource, Ms. Madelynn Dean, first grade aide, and Mrs. Melissa Schwoerer, part-time second grade aide.

We also extend a warm welcome to our kindergarten, pre-kindergarten students, and preschoolers who began or will begin their official school year this week. We also welcome all of our new students in the various other grades: Henry Barry, Eamon Bommarito, Gabriella Dart, Jasna, Samuel, and Daniel Hallam, Alaina Hughes, Jackson McBride, Aidan Vanover, Christian Wantland, Auri Washko, Ben White, and Sophia Wygant. We are happy to have all of them among the newest members of our school community!

### PSA Spirit Days

Tomorrow we will have our first PSA-sponsored Spirit Day of the year. For a \$1 donation, students may wear any official BSS Spirit Day t-shirt, any sports team shirt, or the uniform shirt untucked with jeans or uniform shorts, pants, or skirts. (No other shorts are allowed.) If a jersey is worn, a plain white short-sleeved shirt should be worn underneath the jersey. The sports team shirts are not usually included in our regular Spirit Days but are acceptable this week as many families do not yet have a Spirit Day shirt.

Again this year, families had the option of paying for the regular monthly Spirit Days in advance on Fee Night. Our Spirit Day tomorrow, Friday, Aug. 23 is included for families who already paid the fee on Fee Night. All those who did not opt to pay for Spirit Days in advance must send in \$1 per student in order for their child to participate. **PSA will also be giving families the opportunity to purchase a different style of shirt for Spirit Days with the order forms received in our back-to-school packets.** These are not required purchases, but they are fun shirts to promote school spirit! Orders are due by August 31.

### Parent Back to School Night for Grades 1-8

Mark your calendars for our annual Parent Back-to-School Night next Tuesday, August 27. The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m. From 6:00-6:25 there will be an introduction to Rediker in the cafeteria. We will show a brief tutorial for parents on the new student information system, and then staff will remain available all evening in the cafeteria to assist parents in accessing their family's Rediker accounts.

Shortly before 6:30 p.m., parents will proceed to the classrooms to visit the rooms and meet the teachers. The teachers will give short presentations for parents at 6:30, 6:50, and 7:10 p.m. We hope this time frame with repeated presentations will allow parents to visit different classrooms if they have more than one child or if they want to hear from the various teachers in grades 5-8, which are departmentalized, or from the teachers of our specials classes. PreK and kindergarten classrooms will not be open as they had their open houses this week.

There will also be a sign-up in the cafeteria for an extra Spirit Day for classes with the highest percentage of parents in attendance as well as entries for a drawing for scrip cards for parents. This is a great way to become familiar with the BSS community! Hope to see you there!

### Hot Lunch News

The first week with our online hot lunch order system went well overall! Hot lunches for the entire month of September are posted and those orders are due by August 26. You may access the online order form at [www.ezparentcenter.com](http://www.ezparentcenter.com). Please remember you may add funds to your student's account by sending in a check to the school office (designated for hot lunches) or online through the secure link on the lunch website. We are pleased to have Fritz's serving our Tuesday hot lunches once again this year, McCormick's on Thursday and Friday, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents are coordinating with Jimmy John's and Pizza Hut to provide the lunch items on Monday and Wednesday.

Please remember that Friday hot lunches, which continue to benefit the Parent/School Association, are now provided by McCormick's and need to be pre-ordered online as well. We will continue to sell popcorn for 50 cents per bag on Fridays beginning tomorrow. We appreciate the time and dedication of all of our hot lunch volunteers!

### New School Website

We've updated our school website! Check it out at [www.bssbruins.org](http://www.bssbruins.org) and let us know what you think. To find our bimonthly newsletters, click on the "School Newsletters" tab at the top of the site. For all necessary forms, choose "School Forms" and look for more new features in the future.

### Health Reminders

With school just beginning, we want to make sure all of our students stay healthy and can participate fully in their education. Please remember that students are not to be sent to school until they are ***symptom-free for 24 hours from fever, vomiting, or diarrhea*** without the use of medication. If students have flu symptoms late at night or early in the morning, we advise that students stay home. Also, with many illnesses, including strep throat and scarlet fever, students should not return to school until 24 hours after the time the antibiotic treatment started. Please let the office know if your child has been diagnosed or has been around any siblings or family members with chicken pox/shingles or measles as these also are very dangerous for some of our students. Thanks for your help in making sure all of our students have a healthy school year!

### Class Dojo for Preschool - 3rd Grade Classes

Students in preschool through grade 3 are using a program entitled Class Dojo for online behavior reports. This format, which is more appropriate for younger students, allows parents to view their children's behavior reports online in real time. There is a strong emphasis on reinforcing positive behavior with this program, although it will also show areas that need improvement. The teachers will incorporate this system to fit within their individual classroom management systems. All parents in those grades should soon receive information about how to log on to your child's Dojo account.

### Rediker Online Access

School families received an email on Monday inviting you to join Rediker, our new online student information system. Hopefully, you have taken the opportunity to activate your account. If you have not already done so, we ask that all school families complete this process as soon as possible since Rediker will be a significant means of communication between home and school this year. There is aPlusPortals app available for both IOS and Android operating systems. Please note that it typically takes about a half-day for the system to sync the app once you have activated your account through your web browser.

Families will have access to daily homework assignments, grades, announcements, attendance, behavior incidents, and much more. Parents are also able to communicate with teachers through the Rediker program's email messaging system. Teachers will have all grades updated by 5:00 p.m. every Monday, although many choose to update throughout the week as work, tests, etc. are graded.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we get the system up and running this year!

### Back to Scrip

Start a new school year resolution to buy more scrip (or start buying scrip for the first time)! Scrip gift cards work just like any gift card but Blessed Sacrament School earns money with every card purchased. We keep track of your purchases and each year we either reduce your B.S.S. tuition or offer you a rebate toward purchasing MORE gift cards. Give it a try! Gift cards are available to purchase in the school office during regular school hours or simply send in the scrip order form (it's on the website!)

### County Market Max Cards

Max Card Dollars for Education is designed to aid our local schools in the difficult task of fundraising, simply by shopping with the Max Card! Customers register their Max Card each year to support a local school and at the end of the program, spending is tallied and rewards are given to schools with the most Max Card spending. Sign up between July 27 - December 31, 2019, using the information below. Spending accumulates August 1 through December 31, 2019.

1. Sign up your Max Card in-store or at [mycountymarket.com/save/promotions/max-dollars-education-sign/](http://mycountymarket.com/save/promotions/max-dollars-education-sign/)
2. Register your card to "**IL, Springfield - Blessed Sacrament School ORG#19034**" (This is the correct number; it was listed incorrectly in our orientation packet. We regret the error.)

Don't forget to scan your Max Card on every purchase, because every dollar counts!

### Summer Reading Challenge

The librarians are collecting summer reading challenge forms now. All completed forms are due by September 3. Great job to all who participated!

### **Requirements for Volunteering at School**

Effective July 1, 2012, any individual volunteering in any capacity in our parish or school must attend a training of Protecting God's Children and have a background check. Once you have attended the training, you never have to attend another session. However, if your background check was completed more than five years ago, it must be completed again. (The forms for the background check were included in the Fee Night packet.) Very soon we will be starting to ask for chaperones for field trips and volunteers for our lunches. To volunteer, you must meet these requirements.

**Blessed Sacrament will be hold a PGC training session on Monday, September 16, at 5:30 pm in the school cafeteria. Please call the school office to let us know if you plan to attend.** There are usually several other sessions scheduled for dates and locations in Springfield or within close proximity. Please check for an updated schedule on the Diocesan website, [www.dio.org](http://www.dio.org).

### **BSS Bruins Coaches**

Please remember that **ALL** volunteers (coaches, assistants, etc.) that work with our athletic teams must attend a Protecting God's Children session and have a background check. The next PGC session at BSS is Monday, September 16, at 5:30 pm in the cafeteria.

### **Leadership T-Shirts**

This year all students are being provided with a t-shirt with a logo to go along with our theme of Saint Mother Teresa's quote "I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God." Our leadership assemblies will be held on Mondays mornings this year. **Once the t-shirts arrive, students should wear their leadership t-shirts every Monday even if we do not have an assembly on a Monday.** These shirts may also be worn on Spirit Days, which are typically the first Friday of the month.

### **Choir Sign-Up**

Guess what? Now is the time to join choir for this year! Choir rehearsals will begin on Tues, Sept. 3 for Choristers and Wednesday, Sept. 4 for Jubilate. Mrs. Jane Irwin so excited to sing with you again and hear your lovely voices in church! You can sign up via the online form at [www.bssbruins.org/youth-choirs](http://www.bssbruins.org/youth-choirs) or have your parents return the attached form. See you soon!

### **Interested in Substituting in our School?**

Blessed Sacrament is now accepting applications for substitute teachers and aides for the 2019-20 school year. A high school diploma is required to substitute for a classroom aide, and a bachelor's degree is required to substitute for a teacher. Contact the school office if you are interested in applying to be a substitute for the entire 2019-20 school year.

### **Arrival & Dismissal Procedures**

We know the first week back to school is somewhat unusual as many parents are parking and walking their

children into the building. We appreciate all of you following the directions of the teachers and the student patrols as we direct cars for our arrival and dismissal procedures this year. We ask anyone who wants to park and walk their child(ren) into the school to park in the spaces closer to the field and park so that you do not have to back out into the drop-off lane. All other cars should proceed to the next lane of traffic to drop off students. (Cars dropping off students can also enter from Walnut into the additional drop-off lane.)

For dismissal procedures, please refer to the back of the diagram in your Fee Night packet for parking directions. **Please remember to park facing east in the lot, facing Walnut Street, with the exception of those cars backed into the places in the lot adjacent to the Walnut Street sidewalk.** We ask that you pull all the way forward into the first space available so that we may accommodate the maximum number of cars and avoid cars having to back into spaces as much as possible. The first whistle indicates that everyone should go to their cars to prepare for dismissal. The next series of three whistles indicates that dismissal is beginning. **Cars should leave the parking lot only after being directed to do so by the patrols.** Students who are late leaving the school building will be asked to wait until all cars have been dismissed so that they are not trying to walk through moving traffic. We appreciate your help in keeping our students safe!

### **Holy Family Food Pantry Drive**

The shelves at the Catholic Charities Holy Family Food Pantry need to be restocked! Scouts from Blessed Sacrament BSA Troops 31 & 1031 will be collecting donations through the end of August. See the flier with today's newsletter for a complete list. "If you can't feed a hundred people, feed just one." -Saint Mother Teresa

### **2019-2020 Grading Periods**

#### **1st Quarter:**

Midquarter reports 9/18/19  
Quarter ends 10/18/19  
Report cards 10/23/19

#### **2nd Quarter:**

Midquarter reports 11/20/19  
Quarter ends 12/20/19  
Report cards 1/10/20

#### **3rd Quarter:**

Midquarter reports 2/5/20  
Quarter ends 3/6/20  
Report cards 3/11/20

#### **4th Quarter:**

Midquarter reports 4/8/20  
Quarter ends 5/22/20  
Report cards 5/22/20

\*These dates were inadvertently left off the school calendar in the handbook.

### PSA Wrapping Paper Sales

PSA's biggest fundraiser of the year is about to begin! Informational packets will go home with students on Monday, and the sales will run from Monday, August 26-Monday, Sept. 9. Everyone who participates will receive a small prize. In addition, the top seller will receive a prize of \$100, and the second-place seller will receive a prize of \$50. Please help support our PSA and our school!

### Join us for Mass!

The Klinner family invites you to attend Mass at Blessed Sacrament: Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. and Sundays at 7:00, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

**This year we would like to have photos of school families at Mass, so please send your family photos taken in our church to [klinner@bssbruins.org](mailto:klinner@bssbruins.org).**



Mrs. Klinner--Principal

### Looking Ahead

Friday, Aug. 2 –

First day of school for MWF PreK  
PSA Spirit Day: \$1 donation (covered by pre-paid fee)

Tuesday, Aug. 27 -

Weekly Mass begins for grades 2-4  
6:00-6:30 p.m. - Parent session on Rediker  
6:30-7:30 p.m. - Parent Open House

Friday, Aug. 30 -

Last day for the Holy Family Food Pantry Drive!!  
All-school Mass

Monday, Sept. 2 –

No school in observance of Labor Day

Friday, Sept. 6 – **Please note: we will NOT have the dedication of the Mother Teresa statue today or this weekend as listed on the school calendar. It will take place at a later date this fall.**

PSA Spirit Day: \$1 donation (pre-paid fees apply)  
Weekly Mass begins for grades 5-8  
First Friday Benediction for grades 2-8

Monday, Sept. 9 -

Leadership assembly (wear t-shirt)

Tuesday, Sept. 10 -

5:00-8:30 p.m. - Bites on the Boulevard to benefit BSS (Macarthur Boulevard Association)

Wednesday, Sept. 11 –

Penance service for 3rd graders  
1:30 p.m. dismissal for faculty meeting;  
BASE available!

Thursday, Sept. 12 -

3:00-4:00 p.m. - Garden Club

Saturday, Sept. 14 -

6:30 p.m. - Communion and Confirmation for 3rd graders with last names A-L

Monday, Sept. 16 –

Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)  
5:30 p.m. - Protecting God's Children in the cafeteria

Saturday, Sept. 21 –

6:30 p.m. - Communion and Confirmation for 3rd graders with last names M-Z

Monday, Sept. 23 –

Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)  
Fall Scholastic Book Fair begins (all week)

Friday, Sept. 27 -

All school Mass

Monday, Sept. 30 -

Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)