

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

December 17, 2020

Dear Parents,

We made it! Eighteen weeks of in-person instruction amid a growing pandemic, and we can all appreciate the tremendous success our students are showing because of it!

Here are some statistics to sum up our first half of the year:

- We have had 18 total cases of COVID-19 out of 464 individuals in our school (only 3.8%)
- Our first case did not occur until mid-October
- Only 9 cases have involved individuals present at school that required a few close contacts to quarantine. All other individuals were not present at school during the contagious period (only 1.9% affected at school)
- Zero school staff members have tested positive
- 464 individuals learned to wear masks daily
- 51 staff members worked together to operate a school with all health and safety protocols in place
- 29 teachers creatively taught under new circumstances and guidelines
- 413 students received a quality, Catholic education

We are so blessed, and we truly appreciate the many ways you are helping to keep us safe: keeping students home when ill, communicating any household illnesses or COVID testing to the office, and following the health protocols in place at the school and in the community. We will remain strong together!

Please remember that tomorrow, Dec. 18, is an early dismissal day with students being dismissed at 11:30 a.m. B.A.S.E. will NOT be provided. Friday is also the end of the second quarter, and report cards will be distributed at the end of our first week back in January.

This will be the last newsletter for 2020! On behalf of the faculty and staff, I thank you for all your warm greetings of the season and for your thoughtfulness and generosity to all of us all year long. I especially thank you for all of your help and support for BSS to open this year and remain in person! Please enjoy this video link since the lower grades could not put on their normal Christmas programs this year. We put together a **12 Days of Covid parody video**:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTaYL_ajudk

I hope you are able to share family time to celebrate the birth of Christ and also enjoy a quiet, relaxing Christmas break. We will see you on January 4, 2021!

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Klinner

Congratulations to Mrs. Ambrose!

Congratulations to one of our second grade teachers, Mrs. Morgan Ambrose! She won radio station 101.9 FM's Teacher of the Month recognition for December!

Recent Absences

Some students have been absent recently due to a variety of reasons. If your student missed the December MAP testing for grades 2-8 in reading and/or math, makeup tests will continue throughout the entire month of January. In addition, some report cards will not be ready on time in January due to student absences. Teachers will communicate with parents if a report card will be delayed. Thank you for supporting your students when they return from absences!

Return from Christmas Break

If your family has travel plans or if you are with individuals outside of your normal contacts from Dec. 26-Jan. 3, we ask that you please consider a one-week quarantine period when school resumes (January 4-8). This is a precautionary measure to reduce the spread of COVID-19. In particular, New Year's Eve gatherings pose a tremendous risk to our school community, so this voluntary quarantine period will truly support the overall health of our school. If your travel plans include international travel, please contact the school office to learn of the specific procedures for returning to school. We are grateful for your support and commitment to keeping our doors open!

New Area Code Coming!

Please remember that all customers with an Illinois 217 area code must begin dialing the area code and phone number for all local calls starting February 27, 2021. Another area code will be introduced into our area, so 10-digit numbers will be required for dialing. This is a perfect time to practice the full phone numbers of parents with your students!

Plus Portals Email System

Recently, it came to our attention that some parents are not receiving emails from our Plus Portals email system. Please be sure to add messenger@plusportals.com to your contact list. Also, please check the "to" address field when you are replying to a message from Plus Portals. You should see that the "to" address field has the teacher's school email address in it. Sometimes, that field populates with "messenger@plusportals.com" which is simply a "do not reply" email address and will not go to anyone at the school.

Time to Double-Check Uniforms

As we are rapidly approaching the mid-point of the school year, now is a good time to check uniforms over Christmas vacation. Please check the length of girls' skirts/skorts/jumpers as well as if new tights or leggings are needed for the coming months. Tights should NOT have any holes in them! Navy or black leggings (footless tights) are permitted for girls underneath the jumpers, skirts, and skorts if they are worn with matching socks that cover the ankles.

Please check the boys' pants to determine if new ones are needed for the remainder of the winter months.

Also keep in mind other dress code regulations listed on page 27 of the parent/student handbook. Make-up is not permitted. Hairstyles must not obstruct the face in any way, bangs are to be above the eyebrows, and boys' hair must not be longer than the top of their shirt collar. We want to keep our students looking sharp and in compliance with the uniform guidelines. We appreciate your assistance!

Are You Ready to be a Cyclone?

Although we can't have our traditional Preview Night or Placement Test this year, SHG is still gearing up for the 2021-2022 school year! If you are an 8th grader or transfer student interested in attending SHG, visit shg.org/Admissions starting **Monday, December 7th** to fill out a registration inquiry form. We will mail you a registration information packet from there! If you have questions or would like to set up an individual tour (*after school hours*), contact Amanda Mandeville, Director of Enrollment Management and Communications, at mandeville@shg.org or 787-9732 ext. 155. We look forward to welcoming a new class of Cyclones!

A Request for Assistance from the IESA

While this is not something we would normally share with families, we have been asked to pass along this information from the IESA. The IESA has played an important part in our school athletic programs for several years, as they have for many non-public and public schools throughout Illinois. The ongoing pandemic has had a drastic effect on their financial situation. The cancellation of the volleyball, wrestling, and track and field state championships last school year resulted in a loss of about \$440,000 to their budget, and the status of events for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year remains in doubt. Therefore, the IESA established a GoFundMe page in order for their organization to remain operational and asked if all member schools would please share this information with our school communities. No donations should be sent to the school at all. Rather, those interested may access that page by clicking on this link: <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/the-campaign-to-save-iesa>

Merry "Scrip"mas!

Scrip gift cards are available at the parish office - shop our regular inventory any time during regular hours! Not sure what to buy? See our Christmas Shopping Planner and order forms at www.bssbruins.org/scrip-program or in the parish office. Please support our local vendors that provide scrip: **Bella Milano, Custom Cup, Darcy's Pint, Engrained Brewery and Luers**. If you own/operate a local dining or retail business and would like to be part of our scrip program, please contact Lisa Sarnowski at scrip@bssbruins.org.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Dec. 18 -

Free Christmas spirit day for everyone!

End of 2nd quarter!

11:30 a.m. dismissal - NO BASE!

December 18-January 3 - Christmas vacation

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Monday, Jan. 4 - Classes resume

Wear leadership t-shirts

Friday, Jan. 8 -

Report Cards!

PSA Spirit Day (included in pre-paid days)

Monday, Jan. 11 - Wear leadership t-shirts

Wednesday, Jan. 13 -

11:30 a.m. dismissal - faculty inservice

No BASE available!

Monday, Jan. 18 - No school - MLK, Jr. Day

Monday, Jan. 25 - Wear leadership t-shirt

Sunday, Jan. 31 - Friday, Feb. 5 - Catholic Schools Week!