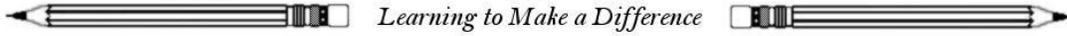


# + Blessed Sacrament



## School News



April 2, 2020

Dear Parents,

Our Lenten journey this year has included many sacrifices for which we didn't plan. In times of crisis, I turn to my faith and try to look for the blessings among the challenges. I am in complete awe of the Blessed Sacrament community during this time! I am amazed by how our faculty is providing instruction and the creativity in the work shown by the students. I am also amazed by the support of parents for education in addition to the many ways they are supporting the community through their jobs and volunteer opportunities. YOU are the blessings I see each and every day!

As was emailed earlier, Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced on Tuesday that Illinois' stay-at-home order has been extended until April 30. While we are finishing our third week of home learning, many questions may arise concerning the next four weeks. Please continue to communicate directly with the teachers regarding home learning work, but here are a few general details:

- Home learning for BSS will continue through April 30. Therefore, no school-related activities will occur during this time period, so please update your calendars accordingly (i.e. remove sports, scouts, field trips).
- School will now reopen on Friday, May 1.
- We will not report on mid-quarter progress on April 8 due to the ongoing home learning and the different pace in which students are working.
- Spring break will still occur as scheduled: no school on Friday, April 10-Friday, April 17. Teachers will not send work to do, and students are not expected to do work during these days. Take a break--everyone deserves it!

While our staff will continue to provide instruction and educational opportunities, we are fully aware that this will work differently for each family. Circumstances are different in each household, and we know that everyone is doing the best they can during these stressful times. Please just communicate with teachers regarding your situation and needs.

To paraphrase Pope Francis--solidarity in our faith will keep us strong! As we prepare for Easter next week, remember that Jesus has already died and risen for us. Nothing can stop that.

Yours in faith,  
*Mrs. Dawn Kliner*



### Material Pick-up/Drop-off

To assist with three more weeks of home learning (not counting spring break), parents may come to the school parking lot for a drive-through service on Wednesday, April 8th from 8:00 a.m. to noon for these reasons:

- To pick up additional materials (Early next week we will publish a list of classes with materials available.)
- To drop off completed materials (Early next week we will publish a list of classes with drop-off bins available. Teachers will not touch the materials collected for a period of time to prevent possible virus transmission, though.)
- To participate in a technology device loan program from the school (One per family. PLEASE do not borrow a device if your family doesn't truly need it for home learning.)

If your family needs to borrow a school device, please request a device for pickup through this form:

<https://forms.gle/vByZUA5kjWDc83uV6>

The attached technology agreement form will be available during pickup and must be signed in order to check out a device. You may print and sign it ahead of time or sign a copy when you arrive.

### Rediker Accounts

Please make sure to check your Rediker accounts daily during this period of home learning, as teachers are updating information and assignments regularly. Also have students in grades 4-8 check their Rediker accounts as well their Google accounts on a daily basis. Access Rediker at [www.plusportals.com/BSSBruins](http://www.plusportals.com/BSSBruins). Your email address is your username. For students, their Google account/school G-Mail is their username. If you or your child cannot recall the password, please click on the link "can't access account," which appears on the login page. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Burke at [burke@bssbruins.org](mailto:burke@bssbruins.org).

### Registration for 2020-2021

The registration forms for the 2020-2021 school year were due back on Monday, March 9. **If you have not already done so, please return your registration forms and fee to the school via USPS mail by Thursday, April 9.**

Registration materials may also be dropped off at school on Wednesday, April 8 from 8:00 a.m. - noon. Please note "Registration 2020-2021" on the outside of the envelope. Due to the circumstances, late fees will NOT be assessed at this time. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, as registration forms are needed in order to plan for next year!

### Congratulations to Regional Science Fair Participants

Six seventh- grade students planned to take their science fair projects on to the regional competition on March 21: John Christie, Daniel Hallam, Jack Madiar, Olivia Mandeville, Timmy Nudo, and Caroline Sheehan. However, since the event was cancelled, they were allowed to submit a video presentation of their project to be considered for special awards. Timmy Nudo, John Christie, and Jack Madiar all received special recognition. Timmy Nudo won the Moseley Consumer Science Award that came with \$50.00. Timmy tested the effects of Lipton tea with caffeine on the heart rate, blood pressure and memory of different age groups vs. a placebo with Lipton decaffeinated tea. John Christie won the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Award and the Office of Naval Research Naval Science Award. John tested to see which type of oil spill was more detrimental to the ocean and its wildlife: synthetic oil or conventional oil. Jack Madiar also won the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Award for his work on plant growth: Hydroponics vs. Soil. We appreciate the students going the extra mile to submit their work for consideration and especially Mrs. Reiser, for making sure it all happened!

### Dental Exam Reminder

Please remember that all students in kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 6th grade are required to present proof of having been examined by a dentist before May 15 of the school year. (Dentist offices have the official form that needs to be submitted.) Due to the school closure, please email completed forms to Michele Greenwood at [hinds-greenwood@bssbruins.org](mailto:hinds-greenwood@bssbruins.org) or mail them to the parish office to her attention by April 30.

If a child in grade K, 2 or 6 fails to present proof by May 15, then the school may hold the child's report card until one of the following occurs: 1. The child presents proof of a completed dental examination within 18 months prior to the deadline; 2. The child presents proof that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after May 15; or 3. The parents obtain a waiver from the Department of Public Health or provide objection on religious grounds. **However, if your child's appointment was cancelled due to the dental office closures at this time, please email Mrs. Greenwood to let her know. The school then requires proof of an upcoming/rescheduled appointment by May 10.**

Thank you for your cooperation!

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Scholarship Packets

A packet of scholarship application forms will be emailed to the eighth grade families next week. Some applications require teacher and/or principal recommendations. **Any requests for teacher recommendations must be emailed to a teacher no later than Monday, April 20. The applications for all of the scholarships are due back by April 27.** Please send the completed packets to Mrs. Klinner via email at [klinner@bssbruins.org](mailto:klinner@bssbruins.org). Specific details for each scholarship are included in the packets. If any additional scholarship opportunities become available, hard copies of the application form may be given to eighth graders, and any additional forms will also be emailed to parents.

### Tuition Assistance for 2020-2021

The F.A.C.T.S. tuition assistance applications (along with the required supporting documentation) for the 2020-2021 school year were **due March 31.** You may only apply online this year! Parents may access the link on our school website. Families will be notified by early June of their assistance. Please contact Laura Horton at [horton@bssbruins.org](mailto:horton@bssbruins.org) with any questions or for assistance with the online process.

### SchoolKidz School Supply Orders

Once again we will offer the convenience of purchasing complete school supply kits for pre-k through 8th grade students from SchoolKidz. Back by popular demand this year is home delivery! Kits will be shipped right to your front door. All orders will again be placed online beginning in late April and into the month of May. Please watch for more details after Easter. Thank you!

### Coaches' Applications for 2020-2021

Blessed Sacrament is now accepting coaching applications for athletic teams for the 2020-2021 school year. The application process is open to all interested individuals who have the necessary background and skills; it is not necessary to be a parent of a student involved in our athletic programs. Also, please remember that completing an application does not guarantee a coaching position as there may be more individuals interested in coaching than positions available. Anyone who is chosen to coach must have attended the Protecting God's Children training and completed a background check as well as an online coaches' certification course and an online concussion certification course, as required by SCAA and IESA, before team practices begin.

If you have questions or would like to be considered for next year, please email Karli Adams at [adamsathletics@bssbruins.org](mailto:adamsathletics@bssbruins.org). In the email, please specify the grade level, sport, any certifications, and contact information. **The applications will be accepted through May 1.** Thank you!

### 2020 Census

April 1 marked the first day that the 2020 Census was available to complete in all formats — online, by phone, and

by mail so that census takers do not have to visit in-person. "Missing just one child in the 2020 Census means missing out on federal funding for that child for the next 10 years," said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala. "Completing the census says, 'I'm here. I count. I matter.' The 2020 Census is a modern, technology-enabled process. We want to support a safe and complete count in our communities, so please complete the census during the month of April!

### **Vacation Bible School Planning is Underway!**

Vacation Bible School Planning is underway! Please mark your calendars for June 15 to 19, 2020, from 9am to 12pm. All children entering Kindergarten through Fifth Grade are invited to join us for VBS. This year we will also be offering a Preschool Program for preschoolers aged 4 years and 5 years old that have attended Blessed Sacrament's Preschool Program. VBS fee will be \$20 for each registered student and must be paid no later than June 8, 2020. Payment will be accepted at the church office (cash or check) or at <https://smartpay.profitstars.com/express/Blessed%20Sacrament%20ChurchCPP>.

For all 6th, 7th, 8th graders, high school students, and adults, please plan to come and join us for the week. We will need help with artistic planning, decorating, teaching, helping with snack time, and much more. It is a great way to get your volunteer hours over the summer!

All participants and helpers must register online at [vbspro.events/p/bss2020](https://vbspro.events/p/bss2020) Registration opened March 23, 2020. Any questions? Please email Danielle Landgrebe at [Grebes13@gmail.com](mailto:Grebes13@gmail.com) Thank you!

### **Spring Picture Day Cancelled**

Lifetouch has cancelled our Spring Picture Day event and has started to refund any pre-paid orders from our families. Any family that has pre-ordered a picture package will receive a refund within 10-14 days, and they have emailed families to share this information. Their dedicated Customer Service team is also available to answer any questions families may have about the refund process. Office: 217-793-0079 or email Sara Michael at [smichael@lifetouch.com](mailto:smichael@lifetouch.com).

### **BSS Lunch Program Will Reschedule**

When school resumes, we will serve the daily lunches that were already ordered for the days of school closure. They will be served on the same day of the week that was ordered (i.e. Pizza Hut on Wednesday). We will also postpone May lunch order access in order to first reschedule meals that were already purchased. We will send out more communication regarding the schedule closer to the time of return.

### **Service Hours Requirements & Waiver Request**

Statements with the number of family service hours earned to date were included with the students' third-quarter report cards. If parents have completed the required number of service hours (20) for the year, they did not receive a statement. Please contact Michele Greenwood at

[hinds-greenwood@bssbruins.org](mailto:hinds-greenwood@bssbruins.org) if you have any questions. Please refer to the Family Service Hours flyer in your registration packet regarding the process to apply for a waiver for inability to complete the service hours. Please note that a request for a waiver must be submitted in writing by April 15. No late submissions are accepted! Thank you!

### **Blessed Sacrament Parish COVID-19 Update**

Here is what Blessed Sacrament is doing to allow you to practice your faith as fully as possible during this crisis:

- There will be no public masses until further notice. Everyone has a dispensation from the weekly obligation to attend Mass. Mass at Blessed Sacrament can be viewed online - go to our website at [www.bsps.org](http://www.bsps.org) and click on Mass. We will tape the Saturday evening Mass "Sine Populo" (without people) and it will be available on Sunday morning.
- The church is open each day until 5:00 PM. However, we ask that you come in through the hallway next to the Adoration Chapel or the handicapped entrance in the front.
- The parish is not closed - questions can be directed to the parish office at 217-528-7521. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM.
- The Adoration Chapel continues to be open from 5 AM to 10 PM.
- Holy water is available in the dispenser in the chapel.
- Confessions are heard Monday through Friday from noon to 1 PM and on Saturdays at 3 PM.
- Visit the parish website at [www.bsps.org](http://www.bsps.org). This is the best way to know what is going on in the parish. The parish depends on your stewardship and generosity in order to bring sacraments and spiritual services to you. With everything severely curtailed, our finances have suffered. Please remember to mail in your contribution or donate online through the secure link on the parish website. This will help us meet our obligations. Call the parish office to sign up for ACH (automatic contributions).
- Many parishioners are also suffering financially from this crisis. A donation to H.O.P.E. (Helping Our People in Emergencies), formerly known as St. Vincent de Paul, will let our parish reach out to them.
- Scrip gift cards will be handled through the parish office while the school is closed.

### **Looking Ahead**

April 8 - All registration forms for 2020-2021 due!

Please mail to the parish office.

April 8 - 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon - Drop-off and pick-up materials in the school parking lot (A list of teachers participating will be emailed early next week). This includes technology check-out!

April 12 - Happy Easter!!

April 27 - All 8th grade scholarship packets due to Mrs. Klinner via email.

May 1 - Anticipated reopening of school