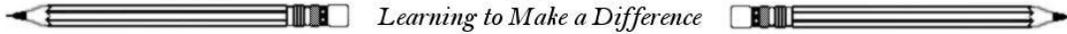


+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

August 20, 2020

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

We have had a wonderful start to this very unusual school year, and I couldn't be more pleased with the responses to our safety protocols! The students have done beautifully with wearing face coverings, trying to stay distanced, and adapting to new procedures. We are so thankful for the necessary support for our in-person instruction, and we hope students are as excited about the new school year as we are!

Our theme this year is "Let Your Light Shine" as we focus on sharing the light of our faith amid any darkness and focus on the virtue of charity. 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. Students in grades 2-8 will attend private weekly Masses this year that are closed to the public. We hope to incorporate monthly adoration several times during the year, and we will reinstate all-school Masses once we are able.

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 3.

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 Ms. Rachael Smith, 6th grade science and literature, 7th grade English, and 8th grade resource math, Ms. Elise Caton, preschool aide, Mrs. Stephanie Christofilakos, part-time second grade aide, and Mrs. Jenna Davlin, third grade aide. We also welcome back Mrs. Brittani Newton, who will be student teaching with Mrs. Townsend in the 3rd grade.

We extend a warm welcome to our kindergarten, pre-kindergarten students, and preschoolers who began their official school year this week. We also welcome all of our new students in various other grades: Bennett Aggertt, Catherine Bensko, Jack Bishop, Grace Bultmann, Pierce Bultmann, Vincent Colantino, Angelo Colantino, Grayson Douglas, Griffin Douglas, Katherine Karns, Sam Killam, Ava Langfelder, Colin MacDonald, Pavlos Melissaratos, MacKenzie Mitchell, Olivia Mitchell, Calixto Zuniga. 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, official BSS athletic pants, 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 Orientation Night. Our Spirit Day tomorrow, Friday, Aug. 21 is included for families who already paid the fee. 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.

Spirit Wear Order

Families also have the opportunity to purchase new styles of shirts for Spirit Days. Ordering information was in your back-to-school packets. **All orders are online this year! Please go to <https://bssspiritwear2020.itemorder.com>** These are not required purchases, but they are fun shirts to promote school spirit! **Orders are due by August 30.**

Hot Lunch News

Hot lunches for the entire month of September are posted and those orders are due by August 27. You may access the online order form at 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 lunches from the following vendors this year: Jimmy John's on Monday, Engrained Brewery on Tuesday, Pizza Hut on Wednesday, Chick-fil-A on Thursday, and Spaghetti Shop on Friday. Please remember that Monday/Wednesday hot lunches continue to benefit the 8th-grade class and Friday hot lunches continue to benefit the PSA. Although we will not be able to open the Tuesday/Thursday snack table or sell popcorn on Fridays at this time, we may have the opportunity to do so as the year progresses. We appreciate the time and dedication of all of our hot lunch volunteers!

Join our Lunchroom Volunteers!

Many hands make light work! At this time, we are seeking volunteers to work the Tuesday/ Thursday lunches. We rely on volunteers to provide our hot lunches each day, so please consider signing up for even just one day! You may sign up using the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F45ACAC2AAAFB6-lunch>

We will also need lunchroom volunteers on Fridays beginning in September. Please email Mrs. Greenwood at hinds-greenwood@bssbruins.org if you are available to help on Fridays so that we may set up a schedule of volunteers for Fridays... even if you're just available one Friday a month!

BSS School Website

Be sure to check out our school website www.bssbruins.org all of the latest news! 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

Please take the time to read the most current health protocols and procedures attached to today's newsletter. Thank you for your cooperation as we work together to keep our Blessed Sacrament Community safe and healthy!

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

New school families received an email inviting you to join Rediker, our 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 is a significant means of communication between home and school this year. There is a PlusPortals 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 support of our communication system!

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!)

Requirements for Volunteering at School

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 Orientation Night packet.) To volunteer in any capacity, you must meet these requirements.

Please contact Michele Hinds-Greenwood about taking the PGC course online this year. There may be some in-person 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.

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. **Please contact Michele Hinds-Greenwood about taking the PGC course online this year.**

Leadership T-Shirts

This year all students are being provided with a t-shirt with a logo to go along with our theme of "It's Your Time to Shine!" Our leadership assemblies will be held virtually on Monday mornings this year. **Once the t-shirts arrive, students should wear their leadership t-shirts every Monday.** These shirts may also be worn on Spirit Days, which are typically the first Friday of the month.

Strike Up the Band!

Mrs. Triphahn is adding a new band program here at BSS for 6th -8th grade students. Rehearsals will be in the music room on Mondays and/or Thursdays, depending upon the total number of students. Please email Mrs. Triphahn at triphahn@bssbruins.org by **Monday, August 24**, if you are interested! Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Interested in Substituting in our School?

Blessed Sacrament is now accepting applications for substitute teachers and aides for the 2020-21 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 2020-21 school year.

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

We know the first week back to school is somewhat unusual as everyone is getting used to the new procedures and routine. We really appreciate everyone's cooperation and following the directions of the teachers and the student patrols as we direct cars for our arrival and dismissal procedures this year. It's running smoothly!

This year there is NOT a crossing guard at MacArthur and Laurel in the morning or afternoon. The crossing guards are employees of District 186 and therefore not working at this time. Be sure to plan accordingly if your children walk home that route.

Please be respectful of our neighbors and do not park in front of driveways or business entrances/parking lots.

There are three drop off lines during the arrival time in the morning, one that enters from Walnut and two that enter the lot from Glenwood. We ask that all cars turn right (south) on Walnut as they exit the lot in order to keep the traffic moving and avoid a "bottle-neck" in that area.

For dismissal procedures, please refer to the diagram and dismissal schedule that was in your Orientation Night packet. During dismissal, **please remember to park facing east in the lot, toward Walnut Street, with the exception of those cars backed into the parking spaces directly 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 is in 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!

PSA Wrapping Paper Sales

PSA's biggest fundraiser of the year is about to begin! Informational packets will go home with students the week of August 24, and the sales will run from Monday, August 31- Monday, September 14. 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 Parent School Association and our school!

New Standardized Testing

This year, the Diocesan Office of Schools made the decision to replace the standardized Iowa Assessments with the MAP Tests from NWEA. The MAP tests are computerized exams in math and reading. They are given to students in grades 2-8 three times a year to measure growth in math and reading skills. However, only the spring scores are submitted to the Diocesan Office of Schools annually. You may notice on the school calendar that there is a three-week window of time for MAP testing. That does not mean students will be testing daily for three weeks. Rather, the students will take the tests sometime during the course of those three weeks, as their teachers schedule them. Please watch for more information.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Aug. 21 –

PSA Spirit Day: \$1 (covered by pre-paid fee)

Monday, Aug. 31 -

Leadership slideshow

Tuesday, Sept. 1-

MAP testing period begins for grades 2-8 (the period ends on Friday, Sept. 18)

Friday, Sept. 4 -

PSA Spirit Day for \$1 (covered by prepaid days)

Monday, Sept. 7 –

No school in observance of Labor Day

Wednesday, Sept. 10 –

1:30 p.m. dismissal for faculty meeting;
BASE available!

Weekend of Sept. 12-13 -

Parish flu shot clinic after Masses

Monday, Sept. 14 –

Leadership slideshow (wear t-shirts)

Wednesday, Sept. 16 -

Mid-quarter progress reports
6:30 p.m. - 3rd grade parent meeting about
Confirmation/Communion in church

Monday, Sept. 21 –

Leadership slideshow (wear t-shirts)

Fall Scholastic Book Fair begins (all week)

Monday, Sept. 28 -

Leadership slideshow (wear t-shirts)