

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

March 18, 2021

Dear Parents,

One year ago on Friday, March 13, our lives changed drastically! That is when the announcement came to close our school for one week, that later turned into two weeks, and finally became the rest of the school year. We were amid a global pandemic that is still not over today. However, we have so much to celebrate one year later: Blessed Sacrament opened its doors in August to in-person learning, and we have remained open all school year! We have been blessed with so many successes this school year, and as a small way to celebrate, we handed out popsicles to students as they left on Friday. We are excited about all the opportunities ahead of us during the fourth quarter, too!

One such opportunity occurred for me this past Thursday as I was able to work with a tremendous individual, Valentina Collier, as principal-for-a-day through our auction. She did a wonderful job leading announcements, checking on classrooms, and giving out rewards. She may just be in 2nd grade this year, but I look forward to her future career as a school administrator!

Speaking of the future, you will also see a job posting released soon. Mrs. Erwin, one of our first-grade teachers, will be relocating with her family soon and is not returning to Blessed Sacrament next year. Current faculty will have the opportunity to request an internal transfer before the position will be posted publicly. Applications will then be found on our school website for those interested in applying.

I want to end by congratulating our Bruins on successful athletic seasons. Our 7th and 8th grade boys basketball teams finished their season last week, and we thank their coach, Kurt Ingram, and assistant coach, Boyd Butler, for all their time and dedication. Our 7th and 8th grade girls volleyball teams also finished their season last week, and we thank Stephen Rotello and his assistants, Anne Short and Michelle Eades, and Riann Ketchum and her assistants, Tara Long and Nick Allen, for all their time and dedication. Good luck to our Bruins who are mid-season or just beginning!

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Klinner

Registration for 2021-2022

Just a reminder that the registration fee increased to \$125 per student on March 15. **Please return your registration packet if you have not already done so!** Thank you for your cooperation!

Tuition Assistance for 2021-2022

The F.A.C.T.S. tuition assistance applications (along with the required supporting documentation) for the 2021-2022 school year are 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 522-7534, ext. 245, with any questions or for assistance with the online process.

Please Help Us Connect with Students' Grandparents

As you may recall, we had a successful virtual grandparents' day in the fall, sending letters and photos to hundreds of our students' grandparents and special friends. However, we would really like to have a way to stay in touch more often and keep them updated about the latest happenings at BSS. Please take a moment to complete the brief Google form to provide grandparents' addresses and email addresses so that we may update our records. <https://forms.gle/pYzeQK3P2QJHBMw9> Thank you for your help!

Girls on the Run - Coordinator Needed

Blessed Sacrament School is in need of a coordinator to lead the Girls on the Run program this spring. The program begins the week of March 15, and practices are typically held twice a week after school for 75 minutes, days and times depending upon coach availability. Virtual meetings are also an option due to Covid-19 this year. Volunteers must have completed Protecting God's Children and will receive service hours. You may learn more at www.GOTRcentralillinois.org or by emailing our P.E. teacher, Mrs. Davis, at davis@bssbruins.org.

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.) 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.

Scrip Madness

Cheering on the Illini this Friday? We've got gift cards for **Buffalo Wild Wings, Domino's, Papa John's, Pizza Hut** and **Subway** for your virtual watching parties! If you need some orange and blue gear, we've got **Dick's Sporting Goods** and **Scheels** cards. Stop by the parish office or email scrip@bssbruins.org to purchase gift cards and raise money for Catholic education.

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 (10) for the year, they did not receive a statement. Please contact Michele Greenwood at 522-7534, ext. 201, if you have any questions.

There are still many ways to earn service hours including the fish fries, working in the school lunchroom, and coaching an athletic team, to name a few. We are so grateful to all our volunteers for what you do for our school!

You may 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!

Sacred Heart-Griffin High School Survey

SHG is conducting a value/perception study in partnership with the Gowan Group. They've asked the Catholic elementary schools to send the following survey to our families. Please take a few moments to fill out this important survey to help guide the future of Springfield's Catholic high school. Thank you in advance for your participation in helping SHG plan for the future.
https://pyoreducation.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bEqKJaTpOcAyP4

[TpOcAyP4](https://pyoreducation.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bEqKJaTpOcAyP4)

Protecting God's Children

Please remember that in order to volunteer for any school or parish activities (including coaching, lunchroom, field trips, Men's Club Fish Fries, etc.) you must have taken Protecting God's Children and completed a background check. All protecting God's Children training sessions are being held online this year. Go to <https://virtusonline.org/virtus/index.cfm> and click on "first time registrant." Please see the flyer that accompanies today's newsletter for more information.

Housing Needed for Teacher Corps

St. Louis University and St. Patrick Catholic School are now partnering through SLU's Billiken Teacher Corps to bring new teachers to our Catholic schools in Springfield. For the 2021-2022 academic year, we could have 2 to 4 new college graduates teaching in Springfield Catholic schools. We are now looking for housing for these new teachers, who will room together as part of the program, August through May. We are asking for help from realtors or assistance with renting

a 3 or 4-bedroom house in Springfield. Please call Lori Reimers at 217-502-0677 or email SLReimers@me.com with any options. Thank you!

Catholic War Veterans Contests

The local Catholic War Veterans are offering two separate contests for students in grades 6, 7, and 8:

Easter Poster Contest: Posters are to be standard 11 X 14 inches only. Any type of cardboard or paperboard is ok. Students may be creative, even attaching items to the poster. Posters will be shipped however, and students should avoid designs in which the effect may be lost if crushed during transit. For inspiration, refer to your Bible. Theme is Easter. (It is their experience that the National Judges like bright colors). Deadline for the Poster Contest is March 26.

Essay Contest: Essay topic is "What does the Pledge of Allegiance mean to you". Judging will be based upon the Essay's overall patriotic impact as well as relative skillful technique. Length is limited to two typed pages (if two pages are used, one side per page, 12 point type). Typing is strongly recommended for readability. Deadline for the Essay Contest is April 23.

Catholic Charities Auction

Springfield Catholic Charities is hosting a virtual auction starting March 26th and ending April 5th at www.benladage.com. There are 30 unique packages and experiences that would make great gifts for a graduation or anniversary present, Mother's Day gift, Father's Day Gift, or just because! The packages will go live on his website next week. The proceeds raised from this event stay in our local community to help people get through tough moments in life. Please take a few minutes of time to watch this video that Andrew Hansen helped us put together. Warning, get your tissues ready: <https://vimeo.com/522942297/07ed817383>

Visit our Facebook event page for daily updates on some of the items we will be auctioning off! Springfield Catholic Charities Virtual Auction | Facebook. If you are not interested in the items but still want to make a donation to Catholic Charities, you can do so by visiting cc.dio.org.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Mar. 19 -
6th grade virtual space mission
5:00-7:00 p.m. Men's Club fish fry - drive-thru only!
Saturday, Mar. 20 - State Spelling Bee
Sunday, Mar. 21 - 8S Confirmation
Tuesday, Mar. 23 - 4th grade attends virtual Mission Mass
Friday, Mar. 26 -
5:00-7:00 p.m. Men's Club fish fry - drive-thru only!
Thursday, Apr. 1 -
1:30 p.m. dismissal for Holy Thursday
Friday, Apr. 2 -
Living Stations by the 7th grade (for parents only)
Friday, Apr. 2-Apr. 9 - Easter break!
Monday, April 12 -
Classes resume