

Saint Brigid Catholic School

Dear Parents,

It's great to be back in school. I know the children are looking forward to seeing their friends again, meeting their teachers, and getting those minds working at full capacity. There are a lot of new faces that are joining the Saint Brigid school family. Welcome to all the new families and the new staff members who are starting this fall. This parent letter is just one of many pieces of information you will receive as we get ramped up for the first day of school. It is going to be another terrific year at Saint Brigid Catholic School.

Blessings, Mr. Medd

The first day of school

- **The first full day of school is Wednesday, Sept. 7.** The school day will begin at 7:55 a.m. with a Flag Raising Ceremony for all grades following morning announcements. Students and staff will proceed to the 8:30 am opening Mass, followed by a parent meeting in the Cardinal Hickey Parish Hall. Students will be required to wear their Mass uniforms. Please refer to the school dress codes for proper Mass attire. School will dismiss at its usual time of 3:00 p.m.
- Following Mass, parents are invited to Cardinal Hickey Parish Hall. During this time, we will welcome all the new families. The various organizations will have tables set up in the gym where parents will have an opportunity to visit with a representative and ask questions. The parent meeting should finish by 11 a.m. Please come prepared with all the completed required school forms. At this time, you will have an opportunity to pay on your child's accounts.

Volunteering

- All Saint Brigid School families are invited to attend an Ice Cream Social in Cardinal Hickey Parish Hall on Wednesday, Sept. 7 beginning at 6 p.m. New parents/students will have a chance to meet and returning families can catch up with each other. During this time, you will learn about the many ways you can contribute your time and talent to Saint Brigid school to make it the best learning environment possible for your children. At that meeting, a new volunteer structure will be unveiled that will make better use of our volunteers.
- Similar to last year, volunteers will have a chance to earn some type of recognition and award for their service to the school. For every 5 volunteer hours logged, your name will be entered into a drawing that will take place at the end of each marking period. At the end of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd marking periods, the prize will be a \$25 Scrip gift certificate. The 4th and final marking period, the prize will be a paid 2017-2018 book/registration fee. The winners of the Scrip cards will also be eligible for the end-of-the-year drawing. For example, if you volunteer 20 hours, your name will be submitted into the drawing four times. To find out more, please attend the Sept. 7 Ice Cream Social in the Cardinal Hickey Parish Hall.

Arrival/dismissal

- Students may arrive as early as 7 a.m. At 7:20 a.m., Mr. Medd will take them to **room 8**, which is a change from previous years. Supervision will be provided until 7:40 a.m. when the first bell rings. All students need to be in the classrooms for the 7:55 a.m. bell. Please call the school office ahead of time if your child will be late or ill. The school day ends at 3:00 p.m. Dismissal for grades K-5 will take place outside under the overhang. In case of inclement weather, dismissal will be in the

school lobby. Middle school students will meet their parents either in the school lobby or on the playground at 3:00 p.m.

Nonmedical immunization waiver forms

- Parents/guardians must go to their local health department to obtain a Nonmedical waiver form. This form is needed to meet school entrance requirements for their child. School staff shall no longer distribute a Nonmedical waiver form. Since 1978, Michigan law requires that each student possess a certificate of immunization at the time of registration (or no later than the first day of school) upon entry into kindergarten, 7th grade, or into a new school district involving grades 1-12.

Hearing and vision screening

- Public Health Code Act 368 of 1978, Section 9307 states that “a parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis applying to have a child registered for the first time in a kindergarten or first grade in a school in this state shall present to school officials, at the time of registration or not later than the first day of school, a certificate of hearing and vision testing or screening or statements of exception under Section 9311.” Parents are responsible for getting their child’s vision screened prior to the first day of Kindergarten. For a free screening, you may call your local health department. If you have already had a screening, it should have been done within 6 months prior to the start of school.

Tardies

- Thanks to the parents for improving on getting students to school earlier. We still have a little ways to go. If there is a clear pattern of continued tardiness or an irregular number of days missed, Midland County Department of Health and Human Services will be contacted and your student could be retained in their current grade level for the next school year. All students need to pick up a pink tardy note before going to class.

After School Care

- After School Care begins on Sept. 7. Parents who are interested in using the After School Care program must pay a yearly registration fee of **\$40 per family**, which is due on Sept. 7. **The cost of the program is \$5 per hour/child.** Please contact Director Andrew Reed, if you plan to use this program in September. He can be reached at AREed@stbrigid-midland.org. All the necessary forms can be found at <http://school.stbrigid-midland.org/>.

Athletics

- We are looking forward to another exciting year with our athletic teams. Saint Brigid Catholic School will once again offer boys and girls basketball for grades 5-8, 3rd and 4th grade co-ed basketball, pom pon for 5th through 8th grade, and girls volleyball for grades 6-8. An annual sports physical is REQUIRED in order to participate on Saint Brigid School athletic teams. These forms can be found in the school lobby or on the school website. If there are any questions, call Toni Etienne, athletic director, at 835-9481, ext. 45. tetienne@stbrigid-midland.org.

Emergency Forms

- Emergency Forms are included in this mailing. Please make any necessary corrections and return it on or before **Wednesday, Sept. 7**. All other necessary forms are available on the Saint Brigid school website at <http://school.stbrigid-midland.org/>. Please fill out all those forms as soon as possible.

Welcome

- **Miss Amanda Buchmann** is our new 1st grade teacher. Miss Buchmann served as a long-term substitute teacher in 3rd grade. Prior to coming to Saint Brigid, was a student teacher at All Saints Elementary School in Bay City. Miss Buchmann graduated from Central Michigan University in 2015.
- **Mrs. Diana Ball** is our new 3rd grade teacher. Before coming to Saint Brigid school, Mrs. Ball worked in Bangor Township schools. She also has experience teaching in a Catholic school. She was a teacher at Saint Helen school in Saginaw for 10 years. Mrs. Ball is a familiar face to those who attend Sunday masses and have seen her as a cantor.
- **Miss Sara Groth** is our new 5th grade teacher. Miss Groth was a math tutor for Anchor Bay Public Schools last school year. She is a graduate of Saginaw Valley State University, earning her bachelor's degree in 2015.
- **Ms. Kelly Bonds** is our new 6th grade homeroom teacher. Ms. Bonds will teach all of the middle school science classes, along with 6th grade social studies and religion. Before coming to Saint Brigid school she was a teacher at Omni Alternative High School in Saginaw. She is a 2015 graduate of Saginaw Valley State University.
- **Mrs. Tracey Shark** is our new office professional. Previously, Mrs. Shark worked at Bay City Academy as a paraprofessional, office administrative assistant, and director of enrollment. She also has experience as a nursing assistant, working at Bay Medical Care Facility.

Please check email early and often

- In our efforts to save paper and printing costs, information is sent through email. The school newsletter is through email and will be on the school website. Teachers will correspond with parents through email. Field trip forms will also be sent by email. It is imperative that you check your email early and often. **Please make sure you give the office the email account that you check frequently.**

Virtus

- In order to volunteer at Saint Brigid School, you need to attend a mandatory one-time only session of *Virtus: Protecting God's Children* training. The next session of Virtus, being held locally, will be **at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15 at Blessed Sacrament**. If you are unable to attend on this date, there are other sessions being held at the Center for Ministry, located at 5802 Weiss, Saginaw. That information can be found by going to www.saginaw.org. Contact Sr. Janet Fulgenzi at 989-797-6682 or jfulgenzi@dioceseofsaginaw.org.

Middle School Drop-in

- On **Wednesday, August 31**, middle school students are invited to stop in school between the hours of 10:00-noon to pick up schedules, put items in the lockers, and meet with the teachers.

MPS specials

- For the 2016-2017 school year, Midland Public Schools will provide shared time instructors for Art (gr. K-6), Physical Education (gr. K-6), Music (gr. K-5), Spanish (gr. K-5), and 5th grade Band. 6th grade Band will continue to be led by Ms. Judyth Peterson and 6th grade Spanish will be taught by Mrs. Laurie Witt.
 - There will be combined specials classes similar to last year. Kindergarten and 1st grade will be combined into one class and 2nd and 3rd grade will also be combined as a class.

Help Wanted

- We are always in need of someone who can help supervise the lunchroom and/or playground during recess time, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If you are interested please contact Lon Medd @ 835-9481 ext. 49 or Tracey Shark at 835-9481 ext. 48. *Virtus; Protecting God's Children* training and a background check are required for this position.

Uniform Policy

- The uniform policy will go into effect on **Wednesday, September 7**. The school uniform policy is available online at <http://school.stbrigid-midland.org/>. Drop off used uniforms on Thursday, August 25 and Friday, August 26 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Room 13 (open area). The hours of the School Uniform Sale are **8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, August 29 to Wednesday, Sept. 7, in Room 13** (open area). Make checks out to Saint Brigid School or place cash in envelope provided. Mrs. Terry Moody, a parishioner, is willing to alter uniforms at no cost. You may contact Terry at 631-1386.

Hot Lunch program

- The price for students will remain the same, \$2.75 and \$3.50 for adults with snacks at 50 cents. The September lunch menu will be available the last week of August on the Saint Brigid School website. All parents are invited to stop in school and have lunch with your child. Be sure to call the office by **8:45 a.m.** to order lunch on that day. To apply for free and reduced lunch, there are forms available in the office.
- Food Service Account Balance includes breakfast, snack, and/or lunch purchases. Parents are expected to maintain a positive food service account balance at all times. Parents will be notified by email when a student's food service account balance is \$5.00 or less.
- Parents will be notified a second time by email or a phone call when their balance reaches a negative balance. ***Any student with a negative food service account balance of \$5.00 or more will be served an alternative meal.*** This meal will consist of a sun butter & jelly sandwich and milk, which is an approved school lunch by the State of Michigan.
- If lunch balances are not paid at the end of the school year, report cards will be withheld.

This is the lunch/playground schedule for this year.

<u>Lunch times</u>		<u>Playground times</u>
K-2	11:05-11:25	11:25-11:45
3-5	11:30-11:50	11:50-12:10
6-8	12:00-12:15	12:15-12:30

Nut Free Environment

- Saint Brigid School is a ***NUT FREE*** environment. There are **NO NUT PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND** allowed in the building. The school lunch program offers a sun butter sandwich for those students who would like something similar to peanut butter. We ask that all snacks be consistent with this policy. If a child brings an item with nuts in it to school, that child will be offered an alternative snack/lunch.

Bus Transportation

- New school families need to call the M.P.S. bus garage at 923-5041, if your child is riding the bus to school. Saint Brigid School does not receive a list from the transportation office. It will also be helpful to give your child's teacher a note with the bus number on the first day of school. Midland Public School Bus service will begin on **Wednesday, September 7**. Please contact the bus garage for bus number and time and place of pickup for your child or watch for the M.P.S. bus schedule printed in the Midland Daily News. ***There is no bus service at the end of the day.***

Taste of Fall

- This fall, we will be holding a fall fundraising event that will replace the annual auction gala. The Taste of Fall is the name of the event. Proceeds from the event will go to funding STEM education programs in the school. This event will be held on **Saturday, November 5, 2016 in the Cardinal Hickey Parish Hall**. More information regarding the Taste of Fall will be available at the parent meeting on September 7.

All other required forms and payments, of all kinds are available on our website:

<http://school.stbrigid-midland.org/> and click on “school forms & policies.”

Enjoy what is left of the summer. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call the school office, 835-9481, ext. 48. I’m looking forward to seeing all of you on September 2, if not before.

Blessings,

Lon Medd, Principal

lmedd@stbrigid-midland.org

A Prayer to Start the New School Year

Almighty God, We give you our school. We give you all the teachers and staff who work here. We give you all the children who study here. We pray our school would be place of great discovery, adventure and creativity. May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love; a place where everyone is respected and all are deeply valued. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Saint Brigid Catholic School and Parish Staff
2016-2017**

Pastor	<i>Fr. Pat O'Connor</i>
Principal	<i>Mr. Lon Medd</i>
Director of Faith Formation	<i>Mrs. Anne Marie Graham</i>
Youth Ministry Coordinator	<i>Mrs. Melissa Shields</i>
Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries	<i>Mrs. Fran Thiel</i>
Faith Formation Office Professional	<i>Mrs. Tammy Moore</i>
Kindergarten	<i>Mrs. Susie Hollingshead</i>
First Grade	<i>Miss. Amanda Buchmann</i>
Second Grade	<i>Mrs. Sherri Nemeth</i>
Third Grade	<i>Mrs. Diana Ball</i>
Fourth Grade	<i>Mrs. Maureen Becker</i>
Fifth Grade	<i>Miss. Sara Groth</i>
Sixth Grade	<i>Ms. Kelly Bonds</i>
Seventh Grade	<i>Mrs. Amanda Bergman</i>
Eighth Grade	<i>Mrs. Sheri Kuchek</i>
Computer Coordinator	<i>Mrs. Susan Greminger</i>
Drama, Public Speaking, Creative Writing, Art and Current Events	<i>Mrs. Michelle Link</i>
Vocal Music/Band (MPS)	<i>Mrs. Sarah Haskett (K-5 music, 5th grade band)</i>
Band	<i>Ms. Judyth Peterson (7 & 8)</i>
Physical Education (MPS)	<i>Mr. Justin Chase (K-6)</i>
	<i>Mrs. Tracy Stachnik (7 & 8)</i>
Reading Specialist	<i>Mrs. Beth Standfest</i>
Spanish Teacher (MPS)	<i>Mrs. Yolanda Collier (K-5)</i>
	<i>Mrs. Laurie Witt (6-8)</i>
Art (MPS)	<i>Ms. Emily Duso (K-6)</i>
Librarian	<i>Mrs. Jean Paulus</i>
Science Club Coordinator	<i>Dr. Gina Malczewski</i>
Science Lab Instructor (K-3)	<i>Mrs. Laura Wilkowski</i>
Music Ministers	<i>Mr. Steve Schweinsberg</i>
	<i>Mrs. Mary Ann Howard</i>
After School Care Coordinator	<i>Mr. Andrew Reed</i>
	<i>Mrs. Kyla Reed</i>
	<i>Ms. Tammy Moore</i>
Athletic Director	<i>Mrs. Toni Etienne</i>
School Office Professional	<i>Mrs. Tracey Shark</i>
Paraprofessionals	<i>Mrs. Heather Crawford</i>
Food Service Director	<i>Mrs. Julie Fleming</i>
Food Service Chefs	<i>Mr. Larry Chronowski</i>
	<i>Mrs. Jenny O'Connor</i>
Maintenance	<i>Mr. Gary Hollingshead</i>
	<i>Mr. Ron Torka</i>
	<i>Mr. Andrew Reed</i>