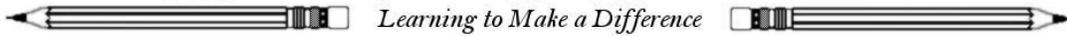


# † Blessed Sacrament



## School News



Learning to Make a Difference

August 23, 2018

### A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

We have had a wonderful start to the school year, and the days have just seemed to fly by! We hope your children are as excited about the new school year as we are!

I have had the opportunity to meet many of you over the years or just recently, so I thank you for all the warm welcomes I have received. As the new principal of this school, I wanted to introduce myself. I have been a member of Blessed Sacrament Parish since birth, I attended and graduated from this school, and I continued with Catholic education for high school and college. My husband and I were married here, and our two daughters attend this phenomenal school.

I began my professional career teaching in Auburn and then Chatham for a total of 10 years, followed by 5 years as an administrator for the Ball-Chatham Schools. I then felt a calling to return to my roots, which led me back to Blessed Sacrament to teach 4th grade last year. I truly feel like I am home, and I am ready to learn with you, grow with you, and pray with you.

Blessed Sacrament has had my heart since I was born into this parish. I now give you my future. May God mold me and lead me according to His will. Amen.

Our theme this year is Back to Basics as we focus on discipleship within our faith. 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. Next week we will celebrate our first all-school Mass. Students in grades 2-5 will attend weekly Mass on Tuesdays this year, and students in grades 6-8 will attend weekly Mass on Fridays. We usually have all-school Masses once a month, and students in grades 2-8 attend First Friday adoration several times during the year.

Following this note, you will see several important announcements for our students and parents. This year we will be sending the newsletter every other week on Thursday evenings, so please look forward to the next newsletter on September 6.

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*

### 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 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 Fee Night. Our Spirit Day tomorrow, Friday, Aug. 24 is included for families who already paid the fee on Fee Night. 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. **PSA will also be giving families the opportunity to purchase a different style of shirt for Spirit Days with the order forms received in our back-to-school packets.** These are not required purchases, but they are fun shirts to promote school spirit! Orders are due by August 31.

### Back to School Night

**Mark your calendars for our annual Parent Back-to-School Night next Wednesday, August 29. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m.** Upon arrival parents may proceed directly to the classrooms to visit the rooms and meet the teachers. The teachers will give short presentations for parents at 6:30, 6:50, and 7:10 p.m. We hope this time frame with repeated presentations will allow parents to visit different classrooms if they have more than one child or if they want to hear from the various teachers in grades 5-8, which are departmentalized, or from the teachers of our specials classes.

**Please note that this year there will be a meeting for all parents of junior high students at 6:00 p.m. in the gym prior to the general open house.**

There will also be a sign-up in the cafeteria for an extra Spirit Day for classes with the highest percentage of parents in attendance as well as entries for a drawing for scrip cards for parents. This is a great way to become familiar with the BSS community! Hope to see you there!

### **Welcome!**

We know you will join us in welcoming the newest members of our faculty and staff. They include Mrs. Jennifer Madiar, kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Beth Erwin, first grade teacher, Mrs. Morgan Ambrose, second grade teacher, Mrs. Kim Eck and Mrs. Kayla Kreiling, fourth grade teachers, Ms. Jane Seelbach, sixth and seventh grade religion and seventh grade English teacher, as well as Mrs. Mikki Wareham, kindergarten aide and Ms. Brittani Newton, third grade aide.

We also extend a warm welcome to our kindergarten, pre-kindergarten students, and preschoolers who began or will begin their official school year this week. We also welcome all of our new students in the various other grades: Bailey Adams, Jack Bassett, Thomas Budinger, Jackson Cogan, Henry Cooley, Kayden Glenn, Will Haney, Olivia Killion, Ben and Gabe Kindred, Anna Mitchell, Henry and Bennett Nelson, Kaden and Neveah Pellman, Desiree Price, Nicholas Reed, Cali Sitki, Matthew Vespa, Paul Watson, Wyatt Wetstein and Thane Woods. We are happy to have all of them among the newest members of our school community!

### **Hot Lunch News**

The first week with our online hot lunch order system went well overall! Hot lunches for the last week of August may still be pre-ordered by noon on Sunday, August 26. Hot lunches for the entire month of September will be posted soon and those orders are due by Tuesday, August 27. You may access the online order form at [www.ezparentcenter.com](http://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 Fritz's serving our Tuesday and Thursday hot lunches once again this year, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents are coordinating with Jimmy John's and Pizza Hut to provide the lunch items on Monday and Wednesday.

Please remember that Friday hot lunches, which continue to benefit the Parent/School Association, are now provided by McCormick's and need to be pre-ordered online as well. We will continue to sell popcorn for 50 cents per bag on Fridays beginning tomorrow. We appreciate the time and dedication of all of our hot lunch volunteers!

### **Health Reminders**

With school just beginning, we want to make sure all of our students stay healthy and can participate fully in their education. Please remember that students are not to be sent to school until they are **fever free for 24 hours** without the use of medication. If students have flu symptoms late at night or early in the morning, we advise that students stay home. Also, with many illnesses, including strep throat and scarlet fever, students should not return to school until 24 hours after the time the antibiotic treatment started. Please let the office know if your child has been diagnosed or has been around any siblings or family members with chicken pox/shingles or measles as these also are very dangerous for some of our students. Thanks for your help in making sure all of our students have a healthy school year!

### **Engrade, Online Behavior Reports & Class Dojo**

Once again, we are utilizing EngradePro for online grade access for parents and students in K-8. All teachers will have grades updated every Monday by 5:00 p.m. although most choose to update grades throughout the week. Parents will also be able to view assignments, check attendance, and also communicate with the teachers through the Engrade message system. There is an app available for both IOS and Android operating systems. *If you communicate with the teachers through Engrade, please indicate that you are the parent, as the student and parent communication goes through the same account, and it is sometimes difficult for the teachers to determine who is writing the message.*

Returning students and their families may use the same Engrade password and log-in information that you had last year. All new students and their families should receive an e-mail no later than tomorrow with their usernames and passwords. Both are case-sensitive. Please contact Mrs. Burke if you do not receive this information or have difficulty accessing your account from last year. She is able to reset your password if necessary. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we get the system up and running this year!

Again this year, grades 4-8 will also utilize Engrade for tracking behavior reports. Each child has a specific class labeled for behavior, discipline and/or pink slips. Parents and students will be able to see if a child received a pink slip by accessing that particular page. The behavior page will be updated by the homeroom teachers daily by 3:30 p.m. Please note that pink slips, with details of any infractions, will still come home with the child for a parent signature and must be returned the next day.

Students in the all-day Pre-K 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.

### **Seventh and Eighth Grade Spanish Elective**

Due to scheduling constraints, Spanish will again be offered as an elective for interested seventh and eighth grade students. The classes will meet during their study hall from 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. once a week. The seventh graders will meet on Wednesdays, and the eighth graders will meet on Thursdays. An informational sign-up sheet was sent home with them yesterday and is due back on Monday, August 27. Each class will be limited to 30 students on a first-come-first-serve basis. The classes will begin next week.

### **Back to School = Back to Scrip**

Resolve to use Scrip gift cards throughout the school year - each purchase generates revenue for the Blessed Sacrament School operating budget AND results in an annual tuition rebate for your family. If you're looking for motivation, check out our Scrip Fundraising Potential chart attached to the newsletter.

### **County Market Max Cards**

Max Card Dollars for Education is designed to aid our local schools in the difficult task of fundraising, simply by shopping with the Max Card! Customers register their Max Card each year to support a local school and at the end of the program, spending is tallied and rewards are given to schools with the most Max Card spending. Sign up between July 27 - December 31, 2018, using the information below. Spending accumulates August 1 through December 31, 2018.

1. Sign up your Max Card in-store or at [mycountymarket.com](http://mycountymarket.com)
2. Register your card to "**IL, Springfield - Blessed Sacrament School ORG#18034**"

Don't forget to scan your Max Card on every purchase, because every dollar counts!

### **Requirements for Volunteering at School**

Effective July 1, 2012, 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 Fee Night packet.) Very soon we will be starting to ask for chaperones for field trips and volunteers for our lunches. To volunteer, you must meet these requirements.

**The session at Blessed Sacrament will be held TONIGHT, August 23 at 5:30 p.m. in our cafeteria.** There are usually several other 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](http://www.dio.org).

### **Leadership T-Shirts**

This year all students are being provided with a t-shirt with a logo of *Back to Basics* to go along with our discipleship theme. The shirt will also include the Bible verse "When you go through deep waters, I will be with you" as we focus on the virtue of faith. Our leadership assemblies will be held on Mondays mornings this year. **Once the t-shirts arrive, students should wear their leadership t-shirts every Monday even if we do not have an assembly on a Monday.** These shirts may also be worn on Spirit Days, which are typically the first Friday of the month.

### **Summer Reading Challenge**

The librarians are collecting summer reading challenge forms now. All completed forms are due by September 3. Great job to all who participated!

### **Band**

Once again, Theresa O'Hare will be directing the Springfield Catholic Elementary Schools' Band this year for grades 4-8. A Meet and Greet was held on August 20, but if you were unable to attend, band presentations and information will be coming to our school soon. Ms. O'Hare will visit our school during the first week of September to share information about the band program with our 4th and 5th graders and any interested students in grades 6-8. Please look for information to come home with students at that time.

### **Interested in Substituting in our School?**

Blessed Sacrament is now accepting applications for substitute teachers and aides for the 2018-19 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 2018-19 school year.

### **Arrival & Dismissal Procedures**

We know the first week back to school is somewhat unusual as many parents are parking and walking their children into the building. We appreciate all of you following the directions of the teachers and the student patrols as we direct cars for our arrival and dismissal procedures this year. We ask anyone who wants to park and walk their child(ren) into the school to park in the spaces closer to the field and, if possible, park so that you do not have to back out into the drop-off lane. All other cars should proceed to the next lane of traffic to drop off students. (Cars dropping off students can also enter from Walnut into the additional drop-off lane.)

For dismissal procedures, please refer to the back of the diagram in your Fee Night packet for parking directions. **Please remember to park facing east in the lot, facing Walnut Street, with the exception of those cars backed into the places in the lot 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 should go to 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!

### **SHG Junior Cheer Camp**

The SHG Cheerleading Squad will be hosting a Junior Cheer Camp for Pre-K through 8th graders on Friday,

September 7, 2018 from 4:30 p.m. to game time at SHG West Campus. The campers will cheer during the first quarter of the SHG Football game vs. Lanphier. Pick a form up from your school's main office or email [shgcheerleading@gmail.com](mailto:shgcheerleading@gmail.com).

### Looking Ahead

Thursday, Aug. 23 –

5:30 p.m. – Protecting God's Children class in the cafeteria

Friday, Aug. 24 –

First day of school for MWF PreK

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

Monday, Aug. 27 –

8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly in cafeteria

Tuesday, Aug. 28 -

8:20 a.m. weekly Mass begins for grades 2-5

Wednesday, Aug. 29 –

6:00 p.m. – Junior High parent meeting in the cafeteria

6:30-7:30 p.m. – **Parent Open House**

Friday, Aug. 31 -

8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass

Monday, Sept. 3 –

No school in observance of Labor Day

Friday, Sept. 7 –

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

8:20 a.m. – Weekly Mass begins for grades 6-8

2:15 p.m. – First Friday Benediction for grades 2-8

Monday, Sept. 10

8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirt)

Wednesday, Sept. 12 –

1:30 p.m. dismissal for faculty meeting;

BASE available!

Friday, Sept. 14 -

Vision and hearing screenings

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 15 & 16 -

Ministry Fair in church following all Masses

Monday, Sept. 17 –

8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Tuesday, Sept. 18 –

Vision and hearing screenings

Wednesday, Sept. 19 –

11:30 a.m. dismissal for faculty in-service;

**NO BASE!**

Friday, Sept. 21 –

Vision/hearing screenings for MWF Pre-K and re-screenings

Mid-quarter progress reports for grades 2-8

Monday, Sept. 24 –

8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Fall Book Fair begins (all week)

Tuesday, Sept. 25 –

Band lessons start

Friday, Sept. 28 -

8:20 a.m. - All school Mass