

Welcome to Saint Bridget School – *"Where Kids Come First"*

We hope that you enjoy your first year and future years here at St. Bridget. The first year in any new setting can be challenging, not only for the children, but also for the parents.

Our school has put together a helpful hints book. We hope that you will use it as a resource.

Parents and Guardians are expected to cooperate with the following guidelines:

Labeling all of each child's clothing and materials including sweater, gym uniforms, and other belongings is a necessity. These items disappear quickly if they are not labeled.

To promote self-confidence, it is the school's policy not to walk children to the classroom.

*Goodbyes should occur at the front door, or outside on the playground. Every child is safe to walk down the hall by himself/herself after the 1st bell.

Teachers are not allowed to give out telephone numbers of students. Contacting the room representative is encouraged.

The room representatives will be available anytime during the school year to answer questions. Parents/Guardians should feel welcome to address any questions to the room representative(s).

Any questions regarding the academics of the classroom should be addressed directly to the child's classroom teacher. Only the present classroom teacher can answer questions that arise during the present academic school year.

Length of the School Day

The 1st bell rings at 8:07 a.m. The children then line up outside in designated areas. Every child will enter the building on **the 2nd bell at approximately 8:10 a.m.** **The late bell is at 8:20 a.m.** If children arrive before the 2nd bell rings, parents/guardians should walk each child around to the back of the school building. Kindergarten children line up against the school building at the far end of the back play area. Unlike pre-school, each child should walk to the classroom on his/her own. Children arriving late should enter through the front door of the school and report to the school office.

Dismissal for kindergarten is **2:10 p.m.** sharp.

Parents/Guardians should be prompt, so that all kindergarten children leave the building safely into the care of the proper person.

Children taking the school bus are dismissed with the rest of the student body at 2:20 p.m.

NOTE: On early dismissal days, the Kindergarten is dismissed at **11:00 a.m.**; the rest of the student body is dismissed at **11:10 a.m.**

Kindergarten Supplies

The following information applies only to the incoming kindergarten class.

What your child needs to bring to school is as follows:

A paint shirt/Father's old shirt with his/her name on it

A box of tissues

A supply of glue sticks (they are used daily)

Lunch box (with name on it)

Book bag large enough to fit lunch box, folder and all art work

Folder to keep in the backpack to transport papers/information

Wet Ones

Clorox Wipes

Large bottle of liquid soap (Purell)

Glass Plus

Elmer's Glue 4ox

Other Supplies

Each teacher will provide a list of supplies required for her/his class. Please visit our web site. All of the teachers have posted a supply list for each class by grade. www.stbridgeschool.us

Kindergarten Orientation

This important event is held the first week of school before the kindergarten children start a full school day. A letter from your kindergarten teacher will be sent some time in the middle of August. They will explain a specific day for orientation. Children are expected to attend this event with Parents/Guardians.

Communication

Information, updates, and calendars from the school are sent home regularly. The classroom teacher may send communication at anytime, so parents/guardians should be aware of such situations. Parents/Guardians should check each child's backpack for information daily.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week (C.S.W.) is held on the last week in January. It is a week of many activities. Open House and school registration for the next year are conducted for new students. Information will be sent home with every child, outlining the week's events.

The PTO organizes a luncheon for the teachers and, also, holds other school-wide social events. Blue and Gold Day is, also, held this week in conjunction with the "Pep Rally". Other Catholic School events have included the Variety Show, Skatetown Family Skating Party, and Spirit Night at the school basketball games.

PTO Meetings

Meetings are scheduled and announced early in the school year; they are a great way to find out what is going on at St. Bridget. PTO provides parents/guardians the opportunity to get involved and to meet people within the school community. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed! Everyone's time, treasure and talents are needed. ***Please get involved!***

Fundraising

Each family is required to meet a \$500 fundraising commitment as a condition of enrollment at St. Bridget School. Families may elect to pay a \$500.00 fee or to purchase/sell 25 "Month of Money" calendars at a cost of \$20.00 each. Cash prizes will be drawn each day in the month of January. Calendars will be issued in early October and full payment is due in December. Keep in mind that these calendars are great holiday gift items.

Assisting Program

In order to ensure the safety and well being of our students, a number of assisting positions are available on a limited basis in different areas. Families who commit to these assisting positions must do so for the duration of the school year. Families who are not placed in this program are required to pay a \$500.00 fee.

Positions include, but are not limited to the following:

- Before and After school yard supervision
- Lunch Duty/Yard duty
- Library supervision
- Office help
- BINGO and other important functions required for operating a first-rate school

Openings are posted in the spring. Families must return a preference form, and positions are filled according to need. For families who cannot fill a position during the school day due to work or family obligations, BINGO provides an opportunity to perform an assisting position. BINGO has provided funding for many capital improvements over the years and can only continue to do so with the support of parent volunteers.

Parent-Teacher Conference, Report Cards and Progress Reports

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled in early December at the end of the first marking period. Conferences are time-limited and provide a formal opportunity to discuss your child's progress with the classroom teacher. If further discussion is required, the teacher will schedule a convenient time to meet with the parents.

Report cards are issued three times throughout the year in December, March and June. For students in Grade 4 and above, Progress Reports are issued mid-term.

Social Events

The main role of the PTO is to contribute to the life of the school by building a strong and caring school community. The PTO sponsors events throughout the school year whose main goals are not fundraising, but rather fostering the community life we strive to share. These events are optional, but are great opportunities to fully partake in the St. Bridget Educational Experience.

Some favorite events include the following:

- Welcome Back Barbecue in September
- Family Dance (previous themes have been a Sock Hop and Tropical Getaway)
- Variety Show features student and parent acts and is always a huge success
- Breakfast with Santa and the Craft Fair are fun events, where we share the holiday spirit with the Parish-School Community
- Spring Book Fair and Open House supports our school library and is another chance to see your child's work in the classroom
- Other activities may also be planned throughout the year

Monthly School Mass and Holy Days

Every effort is made to bring the children together at Mass monthly and on Holy Days. Grades 1-8 have the opportunity to participate at Mass and to prepare for a coffee social after Mass. The Kindergarten traditionally has prepared a mural for the Thanksgiving Mass.

Enrichment Activities

Throughout the school year, a PTO-sponsored Enrichment Committee brings rich cultural and educational experiences into the school to supplement and to complement the curriculum. The goal of the Committee is to provide diverse experiences in the areas of math, science, literature, the arts and values to the entire student body. Prior programs have included Plymouth Plantation, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Native American Perspectives, Higgins Armory, Fuller Museum Quilting, Andrea Lovett-Storyteller, Brown Bag Opera and others.

The Enrichment Committee seeks funding from local and national organizations to fund these programs. Parents who are aware of grants and funding through employers or other sources are encouraged to contact the Enrichment Committee.

Dress Down Days

These are "out of uniform" also known as "TAG" days. A few days each year, dress-down days are offered. Sometimes the privilege is earned by a \$1.00 donation for a charitable cause. Occasionally dress-down days may be offered as a reward for those who participate in fund raising events.

Acceptable clothing is defined in the St. Bridget School Student Handbook.

Community Service

Our school knows that being "not just hearers of the Word, but doers," best does the teaching of social justice. Throughout the year having things like, dress-down days for Leukemia and the Christmas Giving Tree donations are important to the life of our school. Additionally, classes may work with their teachers on community service programs like book drives, food drives and others. The cooperation of the entire school community is important and makes the children feel that they, too, can make a difference.

Value Recognition Program

The faculty and staff of St. Bridget School encourage our students to be caring and responsible. To reward students for behavior that exemplifies the Christian ideal, each calendar month is set-aside to reward values such as generosity, caring, and respect as they are demonstrated by the students. Children are awarded certificates by the Principal and are recognized on the "Values Tree" in the cafeteria.

School Pictures

Individual photos are taken in the fall. Students may be "out of uniform" for individual photos. Class photos are taken in the spring. Students shall wear required uniforms.

Blue and Gold Day

The children are allowed to wear regular, presentable clothing of blue and gold colors to demonstrate school spirit. Details will be announced close to the event.

Field Trips

Field trips are curriculum-oriented, and the classroom teacher needs a few volunteers to help supervise the children.

Christmas Concert

Concert attire will be "Sunday Best" – neat and presentable. Family and friends are invited and encouraged to join in our celebration of the Nativity in song.

Spring Concert

This event is usually held in the early afternoon in the Parish Hall. In the past the children have been allowed to be "out of uniform". Neat clothing and shoes are required. Easter finery or "Sunday Best" attire is acceptable.

Field Day

This event is held near the end of the school year. Grade eight organizes and runs this fun-filled event for the kids. Fun and games are included all day on the school grounds. Traditionally the children wear their gym uniforms.

Welcome Back Barbecue

This is a wonderful, informal time, which gives the children and Parents/Guardians an opportunity to get to know other families. The event is held in the evening at the beginning of the school year.

In-Class Parties

Class representatives will work in conjunction with the classroom teacher, contacting families for the various parties, perhaps to bake something, to provide paper products or to help supervise a party. The classroom teacher will provide most information prior to the event. Kindergarten needs a lot of adult help throughout the year, and everyone has a chance to partake in "some fun" throughout the school year.

Halloween

All students wear their costumes to school for the "parade". Please send a bag labeled with your child's name, so costumes can be accurately returned (if in Pre-K, K2, Gr. 1).

Thanksgiving Feast

Before Thanksgiving, parents usually prepare a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner for the students and faculty. Parents usually are asked to bake and to help out at this wonderful event.

Christmas

Parents/Guardians may be asked to bake or to provide a "goody" for a class party and to come help supervise a party.

Valentine's Day

On occasion, Valentine's Day may be named "Red and White Day," whereby the children are allowed to wear red and white outfits on an "out of uniform" schedule. The classroom teacher will provide more information prior to the event. Valentines are usually exchanged according to the following guideline: Valentines must be signed but not addressed (no names on envelopes please). The teacher makes sure that all of the children receive their cards.

Birthdays

On the day of a child's birthday, Parents/Guardians may send in cupcakes or a simple treat to be shared with classmates. Some of the children bring extra for the teachers, principal and Mrs. Johnson. The kids enjoy delivering their treats. We would suggest you send napkins as well.

Due to the fact that there are a variety of food allergies in any given classroom, PLEASE check with your child's classroom teacher BEFORE sending in goodies.

Regarding party invitations, they should be mailed to each child's home. Addresses can be obtained through classroom representatives, and not from the teachers. However, invitations that include all the students or either all the girls or all the boys may be distributed in class. Please discuss this with the individual classroom teacher.

Welcome Tea

The present Kindergarten class parents graciously handle the "Welcome Tea" in the spring. This is to welcome all of the new Parents/Guardians and children into the school. Parents/Guardians may be asked to attend to help set up, to bake something and/or supervise the present Kindergarten class, so that the Kindergarten teachers are available for the new students.

End of the Year Kindergarten Graduation

This "End of the Year Celebration" will be in the morning and the children are dismissed immediately following the celebration. The Kindergarten class usually is released earlier than the rest of the student body for summer vacation.

Traditionally, the parents of the present 1st grade class handle set-up, refreshments and clean up for the Kindergarten celebration.

Room Representatives

Each classroom teacher will let the class know who has been selected as room representatives in the fall.