

+Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

August 24, 2023

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

We have had a wonderful start to this school year! It is so great having all of our students back in our building. We are happy to welcome so many new families and children to our school community. We are so thankful for your support and prayers as we start off this new school year. We hope students are as excited about the new school year as we are! Our theme this year is "We are all called to be Saints" as we focus on remaining close to God, strengthening our faith in Him, reminding ourselves to thank God for our blessings and listening to God's call for all of us. We began the school year last Thursday 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. We are so excited that our students in grades 2-8 will attend weekly morning Masses and will attend Adoration throughout this year. We also celebrated our first All-School Mass this week with our students in grades 1-8 attending this special liturgy. We are looking forward to celebrating more All-School Masses together throughout the school year. Our students will also be gathering as a school community on Monday mornings during our Leadership Assemblies. This is a wonderful tradition at Blessed Sacrament School and we are looking forward to gathering together for prayer and fellowship.

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 7. There will be a few exceptions to this due to holidays and days off of school.

Thanks for all you do to support our school and to help your children grow in their faith! Enjoy your weekend!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Nicole Kuhlman

Spirit Day Tomorrow, Friday, August 25

Tomorrow, August 25, is our first PSA spirit day of the year. This day is included for everyone who prepaid at the beginning of the year. Otherwise, each student needs to bring \$1 to participate. Students may wear BSS spirit wear with jeans or uniform bottoms. Additionally, since this is the first spirit day and not everyone has BSS spirit wear just yet, students may also wear SHG spirit wear, your favorite sport's

team shirt, or a blue and/or gold shirt to show off our Bruins colors!

Welcome to All of the New Faces!

We know you will join us in welcoming the newest members of our faculty and staff, as well as a few returning members who are in different positions this year. They include Haley Londrigan (kindergarten), Lani Rebbe (7th grade homeroom and history & 6th grade literature and English), Karen Vogt (8th grade homeroom, English, literature & 7th grade literature), Kaye Krimmel (K-5 resource teacher), Margaret Parsons (K-5 resource teacher), Lucy Newcomb (preschool aide), Caitlin Scherer (pre-k aide), Kendra Boesdorfer (1st grade aide), Stephanie Blain (1st grade aide in AM and 3rd grade aide in PM), Rachel Sorensen (part time second grade aide), and Julia Frevert (3rd grade aide). We extend a warm welcome to our kindergarten, pre-kindergarten students, and preschoolers who began their official school year last week as well. We also welcome all of our new students in various other grades. We are happy to have all of them among the newest members of our school community!

PreK Update

Our Pre-K teacher, Sarah Hembrook, unexpectedly resigned from Blessed Sacrament School last Wednesday afternoon. After she met with the board at her employer last week, she made the decision to remain with that preschool program. Obviously, on the eve of the first day of school, this put us into a very difficult position. Gratefully though, Debbie Adams has graciously agreed to postpone her retirement for the time being. We are blessed (as are the students) to have her back in the classroom and team teaching with Melissa Schwoerer. Debbie and Melissa have been at Blessed Sacrament throughout August helping in the classroom: Debbie and Melissa truly have a love of B.S.S. and a love of our children and community. We continue to look forward to a new school year of learning and love at Blessed Sacrament.

Parent Open House

All parents are invited to join us for the Parent Open House on Tuesday, August 29th. The Parent Open House night is for parents and guardians only. We will begin the Open House at 6:00 P.M. with a welcome and brief introductions to our faculty and staff. Fr. Jeff Grant, our pastor, will also speak. Information about the Annual Auction will be available as well.

Following the introductions, classroom teachers will be presenting information in their classrooms. There will be three classroom presentation times. The presentations will be held at 6:30, 6:50, and 7:10. The teachers will be presenting the same information to each group. So, if you have multiple children you will be able to visit the different classrooms. The Parent Open House will give you the opportunity to learn more about your child's classroom, curriculum, expectations, and grading. However, this is not a time for conferences. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to set up an additional time to meet with your child's teacher. We look forward to seeing you all here on Tuesday, August 29th!

Student Water Bottles

Students are permitted and encouraged to bring a clean and filled reusable water bottle to school each day. Students may only bring water in the bottles; no other drinks are acceptable. Water bottles should have a screw-on type lid to prevent spills and leaks. We discourage the use of Stanley Cups, as the lids tend to leak or pop off when tipped while carrying them by the handle or when dropped on the floor.

Spirit Wear Order

Families have the opportunity to purchase new styles of shirts for Spirit Days along with a few accessory items this year.. These are not required purchases, but they are fun shirts to promote school spirit! **Orders are due by September 3.** Please use the link below to access our online storefront.
<https://bruins2023.itemorder.com/>

After School Walkers

We have recently noticed an increase in the number of students and parents crossing in the middle of Laurel Street at arrival and dismissal times. Please be certain to always use the crosswalks when crossing the streets, and reinforce this to your children. There are crossing guards at both intersections on Laurel (Glenwood and Walnut). We want to keep our students and families safe and also not disrupt the flow of traffic on Laurel Street. Thank you for your cooperation!

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

We know the first week back to school is somewhat unusual as everyone is getting used to new procedures and routines. 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!

Please be respectful of our neighbors and do not park in front of driveways or business entrances/parking lots. Also, do not park in front of the drives into our parking lot on either Walnut or Glenwood, even momentarily, as it creates unsafe conditions and narrows the streets to be unpassable.

Arrival: 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. Occasionally, there is a "bottle-neck" when cars are exiting the parking lot due to a line of cars on Walnut waiting to turn into the parking lot.

When that happens, we ask that all cars turn right (south) on Walnut as they exit the lot in order to keep the traffic moving.

Dismissal: We kindly request that cars park in our parking lot as much as possible, rather than on the side streets, when picking up children at dismissal. We are trying to limit the congestion (and near misses) on Walnut and Glenwood with an excessive number of cars attempting to park on the side streets. The entire dismissal time frame has been shortened this year. Please refer to the diagram and dismissal schedule that was in your Orientation Night packet. We appreciate your help in keeping our students safe!

Welcome to the Blessed Sacrament Parent School Association!

Every parent is automatically part of the PSA and encouraged to be involved this school year. We have an exciting year ahead, filled with many activities and events. The PSA President is Abbey Steele, who is the mother of three BSS students. Please contact Abbey if you wish to learn more about how you can volunteer: psa@bssbruins.org.

One of the goals of the PSA is to bring the school closer (and to involve the parish when possible). Hopefully this will encourage parents, students, and parishioners to get to know each other while creating a closer community for Blessed Sacrament. A flier accompanying today's newsletter provides more information about the BSS PSA mixer at Venue 1929 on Wednesday, September 20 from 5-8 pm. Please plan to join us, even just stop in and say hello!

Our first PSA meeting this year is Thursday, October 5, at 5:30 pm. We hope to fill the following PSA leadership positions at that time: vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer. Hope to see you there!

Hot Lunch News and Volunteers Needed

All hot lunches are pre ordered for the following month. You will receive an email when the ordering window opens and may access the online order form at www.ezparentcenter.com. We are not able to reopen the ordering window once it closes, so please be aware of the deadlines. Funds may be added 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, Taco Gringo on Tuesday, Pizza Hut on Wednesday, Cafe Moxo on Thursday, and DJ Cafe 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.

We also need volunteers in our lunchroom everyday. Please follow this link to sign up for the first quarter.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4CACAB22A2F85-lunchroom#/> We appreciate the time and dedication of all of our hot lunch volunteers!

Strike Up the Band!

Mrs. Triphahn is continuing our band program here at BSS for 5th -8th grade students. Rehearsals will be in the music room and will begin after Labor Day. Please email Mrs. Triphahn at triphahn@bssbruins.org by Monday, August 28, if you are interested! Please see the attached flier for more information.

Fall Book Fair Coming Soon! efairs.literati.com

Our annual fall book fair is coming September 11-15 with some new and exciting changes! Literati Book Fairs focus on book buying with affordable book options for every age. New this year will be an option to subscribe to a monthly subscription box of perfectly curated books mailed directly to your door. Purchase the books you love and mail the rest back with free shipping and unlimited returns! We are in need of volunteers for this event, which runs from 8:00-2:30 on school days, and will share the sign up soon so stay tuned. The Book Fair is such a fun event for students to pick out and purchase books of their choice. Plus, the book fair helps support the library! Volunteering is easy--depending on the time slot, you may help with opening cases, straightening up, helping students shop around and choose books, helping students checkout, closing cases, and more! We can't wait to have you help!

Dress Code and Uniform Reminders

Please note that regular uniform shorts are required. Cargo shorts and golf shorts/dri-fit shorts are not allowed. Girls skirts/skorts are not to be shorter than two inches above the knee. Students may not have extreme hairstyles (i.e. haircuts or using styling products to form spiked or "mohawk" hairstyles, hair color, etc.). Hair must also be neatly trimmed, no unusual haircuts (boys - to the top of shirt collar and traditional haircuts), bangs above the eyebrow, face unobscured. Girls are not permitted to wear makeup. Please refer to the Parent/Student Handbook for more information.

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!

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.

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 at www.bssbruins.org/scrip-program.

Leadership T-Shirts

This year all students are being provided with a t-shirt. Our leadership assemblies will be held 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

Requirements for Volunteering at School

Any individual volunteering in any capacity in our parish or school must attend a training through CMG (Protecting God's Children) and have a background check. Once you have completed 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.

The Diocese of Springfield will be using CMG Connect for Protecting God's Children training and is used for tracking background checks. If you need to complete the training, go to <https://springfieldil.cmgconnect.org> to sign in and create an account. After logging in, you will need to select your role at the school (volunteer, coach, etc.). This will then provide you with the training and requirements that you will need to complete. **Please contact Michele Hinds-Greenwood at hinds-greenwood@bssbruins.org if you are needing further assistance.**

Interested in Substituting in our School?

Blessed Sacrament is now accepting applications for substitute teachers and aides for the 2023-24 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 this school year.

Teacher Luncheons

Each month our teachers and staff look forward to a special potluck lunch provided by our fantastic PSA and school parents! Each month, a theme will be picked and sent out to those involved via Sign up Genius. We hope that you will take a moment and sign up to bring a dish for our staff to enjoy on one or more of these highly anticipated dates! Please, use the following link to sign up:

BSS Bruins Coaches

Please remember that **ALL** volunteers (coaches, assistants, etc.) that work with our athletic teams must complete Protecting God's Children training through CMG Connect and have a background check. **Please contact Michele Hinds-Greenwood about completing PGC.**

PSA Wrapping Paper Sales

PSA's biggest fundraiser of the year is about to begin! Informational packets will go home with students soon and the sale will run through mid-September. There will be prizes for the top sellers and everyone who participates will also get a small prize. Please help support our Parent School Association and our school! Watch for more details coming soon.

BSS School Website

Be sure to check out our school website www.bssbruins.org for 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.

#AdventureON Blessed Sacrament BSA Cub Scouts

Pack 31 (K - 5th) and Boy Scouts Troop 31 (6th - 18yrs) invite you to our kickoff and registration night, Monday September 11th, at Blessed Sacrament School. A short parent orientation will be hosted in the cafeteria while kids, grouped by grade, will enjoy circuit activities lead by adult leaders. In scouts we adventure through rank advancements with an emphasis on character development and life skills. Highlights of our program include pinewood derby, camping, Cub mobile races, fishing, hiking, community service, and more. The general time commitment is 2 small meetings by grade each month and 1 group activity a month. Any adult leadership assistance will be accepted and credited for school family service hours. Can't join us? No problem, Visit www.blessedsacramentscouts.com to review our details, register, contact a leader, and see our calendar! email: blessedsacramentpack31@gmail.com

Looking Ahead

Monday, Aug. 28 -
8:15 - Leadership assembly

Tuesday, Aug. 29 -
Parent Open House 6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

Friday, Sept. 1 -
PSA Spirit Day for \$1 (covered by prepaid days)
*Please note that only uniform bottoms or jeans are permitted on regular spirit days! Jean shorts and other shorts are NOT permitted.
2:15 - adoration for grades 2-8

Monday, Sept. 4 -
No school in observance of Labor Day

Tuesday, Sept. 5 -
MAP Testing begins for grades 2 - 8

Friday, Sept. 8 -
All-school Mass

Monday, Sept. 11 -
8:15 - Leadership assembly
PSA Charleston Wrapping Paper Fundraiser Begins!
The Fall Book Fair begins! (All Week)

Tuesday, Sept. 12 -
2:30-4:00 - IMSA Fusion program for 7th and 8th graders begins

Wednesday, Sept. 13 -
1:30 p.m. dismissal for faculty meeting;
BASE available!

Friday, Sept. 15 -
Mid-quarter reports
Fall MAP testing ends

Monday, Sept. 18 -
Leadership assembly

Wednesday, Sept. 20 -
5:00-8:00 pm - PSA Parent Mixer at Venue 1929

Monday, Sept. 25 -
8:15 - Leadership assembly
Charleston Wrapping Paper Fundraiser Closes Today

Monday, Oct. 2 -
8:15 - Leadership assembly

Wednesday, Oct. 4 -
11:00 am - Diocesan Mission Mass

Thursday, Oct. 6 -
6:30-7:30 pm - PSA meeting in the cafeteria

Friday, Oct. 6 -
Grandparents' Day
8:30 am - Arrival for grandparents
9:45 am - Mass followed by dismissal
No BASE available!!
SHG Grade School Night at the football game!

Monday, Oct. 9 -
No school - Columbus Day