

Dear Parents,

August 2025

Happy August! Summer always seems to pass in the blink of an eye when it's filled with joy and activity. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you who kept me in your prayers during my recent pilgrimage to Rome. It was truly an incredible blessing—an opportunity to deepen my understanding of our faith's history and to walk in the footsteps of saints and martyrs. I've returned filled with gratitude: for our faith, for those who have come before us, and for their dedication in passing it on to future generations.

I am delighted to officially welcome the final two additions to our school staff:

- **Tara Fitzpatrick – 3rd Grade Teacher**

Tara is a Cheboygan native who attended Bishop Baraga School as a child. After graduating from LSSU, she completed her student teaching there and went on to earn a Michigan teaching certificate for grades K–8. She brings 12 years of teaching experience to our school.

- **Heather Walsborn – Secretary and Bookkeeper**

Heather, a St. Mary's parent, holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and has several years of experience as a program service coordinator in San Diego and Sacramento, advocating for individuals with disabilities. Last year, she served as a substitute teacher here, and her warm personality and natural rapport with students make her a perfect fit for our front office.

Important Dates

- **Peek-In Day** – Thursday, August 28, 1:00–4:00 PM
- **Parents' Night** – Thursday, August 28, 6:00 PM (School Basement)
- **First Day of School** – Tuesday, September 2

Peek-In Day is an optional opportunity to meet your child's teacher, visit the classroom, find their desk and locker, and drop off school supplies. This is especially helpful for students feeling a little nervous about the first day.

Parents' Night is for adults. We'll review important school policies and procedures, and you'll have a chance to speak directly with your child's teacher. If you must bring your children, they may sit with you, but please note there will be no babysitting, and for safety and insurance reasons, students may not be unsupervised in the building.

Hot Lunch Program

We're excited to introduce our new Hot Lunch program! The September menu is attached.

- **Cost per meal:** \$3.50 (includes white milk)
- **Milk only option:** \$0.40
- **Free & Reduced Lunch:** Please submit the application if your family qualifies.

To keep costs low and avoid waste, **pre-ordering is required**. Please use the attached spreadsheet to sign up your child for the days they will be purchasing lunch. Orders should be placed weekly, no later than **Friday for the following week**. [Hot Lunch Sign-Up Spreadsheet](#)

Food Allergies

Please read the attached letter regarding food allergies. If your child has a severe allergy, have your doctor complete the attached **Action Plan** and return it to the office as soon as possible. Our staff will have allergy awareness training on **August 26**.

School Hours & Drop-Off Procedures

- School doors open at **7:45 AM**.
- Students are considered **tardy after 8:00 AM**.
- Please aim to arrive before 8:00 AM so your child has time to settle in. Late arrivals disrupt class flow and will be noted on attendance records.

This year, with 72 families, we're balancing drop-off locations as follows:

- **Last names A–L:** Armory Place entrance
- **Last names M–Z:** Maple Street entrance
- **Preschool students and siblings:** Gym doors near staff parking

We have 31 cars assigned to Armory Place and 32 to Maple Street between 7:45–8:00 AM. **Please help us keep the line moving!** If you need extra time, park in a designated area and walk your child inside.

Finally, if you live within the **Sault Area School District**, but your home is more than **1.5 miles** from **St. Mary's School**, Michigan law requires the local public schools to offer reasonable transportation comparable to the service provided to their own students—to help your children attend their school of choice [Justia Law+1](#).

If your family qualifies under these guidelines and requires bussing for your children, please email saulttransportation@eupschools.org to request transportation. If you haven't heard back within a few days—or if your request is denied—please reach out to me immediately by phone at **(906) 635-6141** or via email at mfarney-stm@eupschools.org.

I can't wait to welcome everyone at **Parents' Night on August 28**, and I'll be delighted to see many of the children again during **Peek-In**. We are truly blessed with such a **vibrant and joyful** community of families and children. I look forward to another wonderful school year together!

Sincerely in Christ,

Maria Farney

