

This Summer @St. Barnabas



In this Issue:

Principal's Corner · Dress Code Information · 2019-20 Important Calendar Dates · School Supplies · Welcome New Staff · Teacher Transitions · Scrip Updates · Student Medical Requirements

Principal's Corner

Dear Parents/Guardians:

While our students and teachers are off this summer, we are hard at work at St. Barnabas School, preparing to make the 2019-20 the best school year yet! When you and your child(ren) return for Information Sunday on August 25 and the first day of school on August 26, here are some of the exciting upgrades you can expect at St. Barnabas, many of which have already been completed:

- The gym floors will be completely redone, complete with new design
- The parking lot will be re-stripped and ready for safe and efficient drop-offs and pick-ups
- The kitchen in O'Connell Hall, (the school café) will be completely redone
- New social studies books for junior high (grades 6-8)
- As another intentional step to prioritize the safety of our children, new locks will be installed throughout the building
- As part of our continued effort to encourage 21st century learning, rooms 210 and 202 will be completely upgraded to flexible seating
- The remaining 2nd floor classrooms (201, 202, 203, 204, 209, 212) will be freshly painted
- Concrete will be laid on the north side of the building near the Media Center door and the rear of the building Walden doors

Our New & Improved Information Sunday is August 25!

With an intention to further our "green" efforts, **much of the important information for the new school year will be shared with parents via an email in mid to late August**, so please watch your email inboxes for this important message! Forms requiring parent signatures will go home the first day of school.

2019 Information Sunday Schedule:

All families are invited to 10 am mass. We will then head to the gym from 11-12 for child(ren)'s homeroom assignments, Big Bucks tickets & FSA gym uniform pickup. School supplies may be dropped off in child(ren)'s homeroom(s) from 11-12, then we invite you to head out the main entrance for hospitality on the front lawn!

Finally, we wish the best of luck to **Ms. Meagan Mojica** and **Ms. Megan Malloy**, who will not be returning to St. Barnabas in the fall.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Elaine Gaffney

School Uniform & Dress Code Information

Please find our updated dress code policy on our website at:

https://www.stbarnabasparish.school/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1428643&type=d&pREC_ID=1475111

Important 2019-2020 Calendar Dates

Information Sunday: Sunday, August 25, 2019

All families are invited to 10 am mass. We will then head to the gym from 11-12 for child(ren)'s homeroom assignments, Big Bucks tickets & FSA gym uniform pickup. School supplies may be dropped off in child(ren)'s homeroom(s) from 11-12, then we invite you to head out the main entrance for hospitality on the front lawn! Please note: It is important that every student attend or have a proxy attend for them to get their room assignments and other important information.



First Day of School: Monday, August 26, 2019

All parents are invited to our first day blessing in the courtyard in front of the school starting at 8 am. FSA will also be hosting a coffee on the Rectory porch after the blessing.

First Week of School Dismissals:

Monday, 8/26: 11:50 am Dismissal, No Before or After Care

Tuesday, 8/27: 1:30 pm Dismissal, Before & After Care Available

Wednesday, 8/28: 1:30 pm Dismissal, Before & After Care Available

Thursday, 8/29: 1:30 pm Dismissal, Before & After Care Available

Friday, 8/30: 1:30 pm Dismissal, Before & After Care Available

ICEP Meetings are August 15 & 16

Parents of students with ICEPs: Letters were mailed to you last month with your scheduled meeting time.

Other Important Calendar Dates for 2019-20:

Last Day of School before Christmas Break (Early Dismissal, No After Care): **Friday, December 20, 2019**

Students Return from Christmas Break: **Tuesday, January 7, 2020**

Last Day of School before Easter Break (Early Dismissal, No After Care): **Thursday, April 9, 2020**

School Resumes after Easter Break: **Monday, April 20, 2020**

Last Day of School for Students: **Friday, June 5, 2020***

(*Unless emergency days are used.)

Thursday 1:30 Dismissal Days for Staff Development (After Care Available):

Sept 26 Dec 12 March 26

Oct 24 Jan 30 April 30

Nov 21 Feb 27 May 21

Did You Order School Supplies Yet?

We are once again using School Tool Box as a convenience for parents to purchase prepackaged school supplies for the 2019-20 school year. Place your order online and have it shipped directly to your home. You will have the option to customize your order by adding or removing items from the teacher-approved list. Already have a ruler or scissors? Remove them. Need an additional box of crayons for home? Add them. It's that simple. Be sure to place your order today to have it delivered in time for the start of school. Click [here](#) or go to schooltoolbox.com to start shopping now!

Welcome New Teachers & Staff! _____

We are thrilled to welcome several new teachers and instructional aides to St. Barnabas this year! Please join us in getting to know the following new members of our Buckeye family:

Mrs. Katie Cimarolli, Instructional Aide, Mrs. Urchell's Preschool Classroom

Mrs. Cimarolli is excited to join our preschool team as a full-time instructional aide and brings with her eight years of experience as a kindergarten teacher. She also has a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Saint Xavier University and a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University.

Mrs. Cimarolli believes in creating a positive and fun environment for students to work to the best of their abilities, and she believes it is her responsibility to utilize different teaching strategies to reach all learners. In her free time, she enjoys going on bike rides with her husband and two sons and trying new restaurants. She also enjoys hanging out with friends and listening to music.

Mrs. Bridget Heebner, 3rd Grade Teacher

Mrs. Heebner is joining Mrs. Hannigan and Ms. O'Neill on our 3rd grade teaching team this year! She holds an M.A. from Dominican University in Teaching with a focus in Elementary Education and a B.S. in Recreation Management from Illinois State University. She has been teaching for 9½ years, starting with Kindergarten for half a year, then teaching 2nd grade for the past nine.

Mrs. Heebner believes students should be challenged and provided with a safe learning environment in which they know it's ok to make mistakes so they can learn and grow from them. She believes in providing opportunities for group collaboration and helping students connect what they're learning in the classroom to what is happening in their lives. When she's not teaching, Mrs. Heebner likes to spend time playing outside and doing fun things with her husband and two sons. She also enjoys teaching yoga, cooking, baking and living an active lifestyle!

Ms. Molly O'Neill, 3rd Grade Teacher

Ms. O'Neill joins Mrs. Hannigan and Mrs. Heebner on the St. Barnabas 3rd grade teaching team from Saint Mary's College, where she recently graduated with a B.A. in Elementary Education and a minor in Mild Intervention. Last year, she student taught in a 3rd grade classroom in the South Bend area. Ms. O'Neill believes that students will truly succeed if they have caring, loving individuals who support them as learners and children of God. Thus, she will prioritize her students and love them for who they are in order to help them grow both in and out of the classroom.

Ms. O'Neill shares, "As a first year teacher, it is my ultimate goal to create a welcoming academic environment that students look forward to learning in each and every day!" In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, going to football and baseball games and going on walks.

Mrs. Keishawna Ballard, 5th Grade Teacher

Mrs. Ballard, whose first name is pronounced Kei-sha-na, joins our 5th grade teaching team! She holds a B.A. in Communications from Purdue University and is currently completing her master's degree in Special Education at Grand Canyon University. She has been teaching for 11 years and has taught several grades--for the past six years, she has been teaching grades 4-6.

Mrs. Ballard believes it is her responsibility as a teacher to provide students with the following:

- an environment conducive to learning;
- knowledge that will help them be successful in achieving their lives' goals;
- materials, opportunities and feedback that will help them learn;
- and help in becoming and remaining motivated to be successful both in their studies and in applying their knowledge to solve problems in their lives.

“As a wife and mother, life can get busy as I search to balance the schedules of my 10-year-old (son) and 4-year-old (daughter). I’m an active member of my church in addition to singing in the adult choir. In my spare time, I find great joy in doing makeup for special occasions; I’m usually the go-to person at my church for weddings, prom, etc. I still enjoy a nice book to occupy my time when I’m not busy. I believe that life is what you make it--make a choice to start over no matter how many times it takes!”

Mrs. Joyce Mendez, 5th grade Teacher

Mrs. Mendez will also be joining our 5th grade teaching team this year. She comes with over 30 years of Catholic school teaching experience in Kindergarten (two years at Our Lady of Peace), 2nd grade (23 years at St. Bernadette), a split 3rd/4th grade class (5 years, also at St. Bernadette) and 5th grade (5 years at St. Jane de Chantal). She has a degree from Chicago State University in Elementary Education. In 2008, she received the Heart of the School award for her work at St. Bernadette.

Mrs. Mendez believes that all students are individuals and learn in their own unique ways. “I use a variety of instruction styles in order to reach all students. I believe everyone should have an equal opportunity to voice his/her opinion and feel safe and secure in the classroom.”

She loves spending her free time with her family (husband and two grown children) and friends. She is also very close with her brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews. When she’s not out with family and friends, she loves shopping, gardening, traveling, photography and music.

Mrs. Molly Meade McGowan, 8th Grade Homeroom/Junior High Teacher

Mrs. McGowan joins the St. Barnabas faculty with 10 years experience teaching grades 6-12, primarily in Language Arts and Religion, with an emphasis on Service Learning. She holds a B.A. in English from Boston College, with a minor in Faith, Peace and Justice Studies. She also holds a master’s degree in Secondary Education from National-Louis University with Endorsements in English/Language Arts (highly qualified) and Middle School. She also brings to SB her experience traveling nationally and internationally to facilitate leadership programs for middle school and high school students.

“My teaching philosophy focuses on supporting students’ academic, spiritual and social-emotional growth. I believe that students thrive on all levels when they are in a classroom environment that is positive and nurturing. I integrate culturally responsive practices and service-learning to build community in the classroom and foster a sense of teamwork. I believe that middle-schoolers can become tremendous leaders when their best selves are recognized and encouraged.”

Mrs. McGowan is a recipient of the St. Ignatius College Prep “Outstanding Teacher Award,” the “Mac of the Month” teaching award at Mother McAuley High School for outstanding contributions and the “Chicago Hero” designation as awarded by the *Chicago Sun-Times* and City Clerk’s office.

In her spare time, Mrs. McGowan loves to read. She has two young daughters (both new students at St. Barnabas School this year), and she enjoys spending time with them and her husband, John, who is a St. Barnabas alumnus ('90). They enjoy exploring the city of Chicago together and traveling to new places.

Teacher Transitions @SB

In addition to welcoming new faculty members, we also want to recognize the following teachers, who will be making transitions within St. Barnabas School this year! Congratulations to the following teachers who will be taking on new roles for 2019-20!

- **Mrs. Kathleen Davies** will be taking on the role of Technology Director in addition to her role as Media teacher
- **Mrs. Lora Sullivan** will be moving from Resource/Project Match to joining Mrs. Urchell as a Preschool teacher
- **Mrs. Jamie Martin** will move from aide in Mrs. Urchell's class to Mrs. Sullivan's Preschool aide
- **Mrs. Mary Aleman** will be transitioning from 1st grade to Resource/Project Match, providing support to early grades
- **Mrs. Jackie Ladislas** will be joining the junior high team with a 6th grade homeroom
- **Mrs. Lyndsey Paula**, who you may know from Bitty Buckeyes, will be joining our Preschool staff as a part-time instructional aide and continuing with Friday Bitty Buckeyes
- **Ms. Emily Wardell** will move from 2nd grade to join Mrs. Clough as a 1st grade teacher
- **Mrs. Judy Fleming** will move to Mrs. Clough's 1st grade classroom as her instructional aide

Updated Scrip Info!

Please welcome Julie McGrath, our new St. Barnabas Scrip Program Coordinator. Scrip questions/concerns can be directed to Julie at the new Scrip email address: scrip@stbarnabasparish.org. Please also note: **Scrip will be sold at Information Sunday!**

Student Medical Req'ts for 2019-20

AttentionParents!

This is a friendly reminder that in preparation for next school year, now is a good time to make your children's required doctor/dental/ eye appointments this summer.

- **All preschoolers entering their first and second years need to provide updated medical records/ proof of vaccinations.**
- **Students entering kindergarten need to provide updated medical records/proof of vaccinations, a dental examination and an eye exam.**
- **Students entering 2nd grade need to provide an updated dental exam.**
- **Students entering 6th grade need to provide updated medical records/proof of vaccinations as well as a dental exam.**

Throughout the summer, you may have your medical records faxed to the school office @ 773-445-9815 or emailed to Sheri Jendra at sjendra@stbarnabasparish.org. We require students medical records/ proof of vaccinations be provided on Information Sunday, if they are not provided beforehand.

If unable to provide records by Information Sunday, the deadline for records/proof of vaccinations is Friday 9/13/19 of the 2019-2020 school year. **Please note: if there are no medical records provided by 9/13/19 of next school year, your student will not be able to attend classes until records are received.**