



St. Bartholomew School
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Very Reverend Thomas J. Walsh, M.Div.
Pastor

Mrs. Ann Wierzbicki, R.N., M.A.E./Ed.S.
Principal

September 5, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with joy that I welcome everyone back for another wonderful year of learning. We are excited to have our students back in our classrooms, filling them with energy and enthusiasm for learning. I am pleased to welcome so many new families to our school, which is respected and recognized for our academic, social, and spiritual learning environment. We are so grateful that Tyler is returning and thank you for your prayers and support.

We have been preparing for a wonderful year of learning. As we integrate STREAM and inquiry learning, our students in Grades 6-8 will be utilizing Discovery Education digital techbooks for Science and all students will be using Streaming Plus. Our Science Lab has been updated with a state-of-the-art interactive board. A new air conditioning system was installed in the Technology Center and our two Kindergarten classrooms. Our students will continue to use IXL in Grades 3-8 and Achieve 3000 in Grades 7 and 8.

Back-to-School Night for parents/guardians of students in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten will begin in the auditorium on Thursday, September 7, at 7:00 pm. Back-to-School Night for parents/guardians of students in Grades 1-8 will be held on September 20, beginning at 6:30 in the cafeteria to learn about Home School Association activities and at 7:00 pm in the Church, with classroom visits to follow.

Please send in all Emergency Forms and Handbook signature forms, which are currently due. Please be sure to register for Honeywell Instant Alert System and Power School. Terra Nova results have recently been received and will be sent home during the second week of school.

A beautiful new floor has been installed in the Kelly Gym. Students who attend After School Care should bring sneakers to change into after school in order to play on the Gym floor. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Summer Reading Challenge ends on September 15. Thank you, Mrs. Phillips, for coordinating this event.

A dress down for donation to benefit the people affected by Hurricane Harvey will be held on September 14. As Bishop Checchio stated, "Hurricane Harvey presents us with the opportunity to show to the grieving and displaced persons in Texas the same compassion that was so

***The mission of St. Bartholomew School is to love, educate and inspire
our children to live the teachings of Jesus Christ.***

generously shown to us (during Hurricane Sandy). I encourage the faithful of the Diocese of Metuchen to continue to pray for those who are suffering from this storm.” Please follow the dress down policy in the Handbook. Checks may be made payable to “Diocese of Metuchen” with “Hurricane Harvey” in the subject line. Thank you for your support.

Please be sure to read drop-off and dismissal instructions carefully. Students should not walk unattended through the parking lot and cars should be parked behind the bus lanes.

Wednesday and Thursday of this week, there is Orientation for students in Pre-K and Kindergarten. Students in Grades 1-8 will have an 11:30 dismissal on Wednesday and Thursday, and all students will have a full day on Friday.

Please adhere to the Uniform Policy, as stated in the Handbook. Also, if your child arrives after 7:45 am, he or she is late and must enter on the Ryders Lane side and stop at the School Office before entering class.

Astronaut Mark Vande Hei will be traveling to space on September 12 with a commemorative coin, which was minted with the St. Bartholomew School logo and mission statement. Our students are part of this historic event as Astronaut Mark leaves our coin in the Space Station. There are 100 commemorative coins which may be purchased for the price of \$20.00 each. The proceeds will benefit our STREAM program (science, technology, religion, ELA, art and math inquiry learning). A flyer will be placed in the Communication Envelope next week.

Each year, Mr. O’Grady participates in the Polar Bear Plunge in Long Branch, which directly benefits St. Bartholomew School. Details will be available at Back-to-School Night. Please consider participating!

There is a wonderful article in the Communication Envelope about the benefits and advantages of Catholic education.

For additional information, please refer to my August 22 letter.

As always, I am grateful for the gift of your children and for your support of St. Bartholomew School. I am looking forward to an amazing year.

Be it known to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school. He is the unseen but ever-present teacher in its classes. He is the model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students.

God bless you,
Mrs. Ann Wierzbicki, R.N., M.A.E./Ed.S.
Principal