



St. Bridget Parish School

135 East Division Street · River Falls, WI 54022 · 715.425.1872 · Fax 715.425.1872 · saintbridgets.org

September 18, 2018

Dear St. Bridget Parish School Families,

**Come Holy Spirit
fill the hearts of Your faithful.
Enkindle in them the fire of Your love.
Send forth Your Spirit
and they shall be created
and You shall renew the face of the earth.**

Spirit Families: A long-standing tradition at St. Bridget's is our Spirit Families. Our entire student body is divided into 17 families with each family having a mix of grades represented, and a staff member assigned. Students remain in their Spirit Family throughout their years at St. Bridget, creating a close bond by the time the student is in the 8th grade. Each Spirit Family has a name, and a symbol. We will meet once each month for an activity.

Our first Spirit Family activity will be held tomorrow, September 19, following our 9 a.m. school Mass. During this activity we will introduce our newest members to our families, and these new members will sign the back of their Spirit Family canvas. Next, we will send a Thinking of You card to those members of our Spirit Family who graduated from St. Bridget's last spring.

These are our Spirit Family Names and Symbols:

Choir of Angels – Red Circle	Army of Angels – Yellow Circle
God's Kids – Orange Circle	Followers of St. Olav – Orange Snowflake
Protectors of the Faith – Pink Circle	Legends of the Lord – Red Heart
Arts of God – Green Circle	Many Hearts – Green Triangle
Stars of God – Blue Circle	Hearts of the World – Purple Rectangle
Light of Hope – Brown Circle	Messengers of the Messiah – Yellow Smiley
The Spirit of God – Purple Circle	Seeds of God – Green Tree
Fire of the Spirit – Black Circle	Shepherds of the Lord – Red Flower
	Blazers of the Light – Yellow Sun

Background Check & Safe Environment Training: Protecting our students is a top priority for our school and our diocese. As part of our Safe Environment program, all employees and volunteers who interact with our students are required to have a background check, and participate in Safe Environment training. Many of you will recognize the term BASE training. Beginning July 1, 2018, the Diocese of Superior has implemented an online process, CMG Connect, created by Catholic Mutual Insurance. The online training is a combination of videos with questions and diocesan documents/information, along with the background check. As before, the background check and training are good for a period of 5 years.

Families new to St. Bridget's are receiving directions for the **initial completion** of this training in today's BEE Books. Families whose training will *expire in the next weeks* are also receiving directions for **renewing** their status in today's BEE Books.

Anyone who would like to volunteer at school or participate in any school activities with your student, such as field trips or classroom activities, will need to complete a background check and Safe Environment training. Approval of the background check takes several working days. Parents who have not completed the process may not participate as chaperone or volunteer.

I highly encourage all new families to complete this important part of our school safety right away in September because we will be scheduling field trips soon, including a PreK trip to the apple orchard. Your child will be disappointed if you are unable to join him/her because your training has not been completed.

Renewing families: throughout the year we will send renewal information to those whose background checks and training are expiring. If you want to know your status or expiration date, Mrs. Gilles or I are able to look this up online for you.

Back-to-School Social Night – Tomorrow - September 19: ALL families are encouraged to attend our first Home and School event of the year: our Back to School Social, tomorrow night, Sept. 19 from 5 – 7 pm. This evening is intended to be an opportunity to come together as a school community, to have fun, to visit with each other, and enjoy pizza. The weather forecast suggests that we will be eating in the gym. You are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or a blanket.

Students are encouraged to bring their yearbooks for autograph signing during this event. I recommend that you write your child's name on the inside cover to avoid any mix-ups with books. We still have a few yearbooks available for purchase (\$19). Make checks payable to St. Bridget Parish School. I'll have a supply of those in the gym.

We are still in need of parents to help with this event! Click on this Sign-Up Genius link to see ways in which you could lend a hand for a portion of the event!

[Back To School Night 2018-19](#)

MAPS Testing – September 24 – October 19: Students in Grades 1-8 will begin their fall MAP testing next week. Students are tested in Reading (1-8), Language Arts (2-8), and Math (1-8). Teachers will each determine a schedule for their classroom. These tests are completed on a computer. The growth and achievement data from MAPS testing helps us to individualize learning as well as develop targeted instructional strategies for school improvement. We will test the same subjects again in Spring, and most likely will test Science in January. Fall test results will be distributed to parents at our fall Parent-Teacher Conferences.

While this testing is very important, it is not something students should worry about. A nutritious breakfast and good night's sleep will help significantly along with encouragement to do their best!

St. Bridget Brat Trot 5K – Saturday, September 29: St. Bridget Parish School will sponsor the 2nd annual Brat Trot on Saturday, September 29. This event is offered in connection with the St. Bridget Parish Block Party.

All skill levels are welcome – run or walk! Start time is 10:00 a.m., with check in at 9:30. Please see the **attached registration form**. We've also send a paper copy home in today's BEE Books. We will need some parent help to run the event, including route guides, check-in table, and so on.

Click on this Sign-Up Genius link to see where help is needed! [2018 Brat Trot](#)

Home & School Meeting – Oct. 1: Our Home & School Committee serves as a connection between our school families and school. All school parents are members of this organization just by having a child at St. Bridget Parish School. Most of our Home & School sponsored events are intended to provide an opportunity for school families to come together to meet each other, socialize, and simply enjoy each other's presence. We believe it is beneficial to know the families of the children our own children spend multiple hours with each day in class. Working together helps to build a strong school community!

Family Directory – Please Check Your Family Listing: Did you know that we have a directory for all school families available through Sycamore? This is helpful if you are looking to coordinate with other parents for birthday parties, playdates, carpooling, etc. When you registered your students, you would have been prompted to choose what contact information you want public or private for your family. However, we know that sometimes preferences or information changes.

To check your family's listing in the school directory:

- 1 – Log into Sycamore. (<http://www.sycamoreeducation.com>) School ID: 2931
- 2- On the blue left sidebar, click "Front Desk", then "Family Directory".
- 3- Click the Letter that corresponds with your last name, or use the search bar to find your students' name.

The information shown is visible to all families. If you would like to change what is visible for your family, or to modify an address or phone number, follow the steps below.

- 4- On the blue left sidebar, click "My Family" then "Information".
- 5- On the right hand side of this screen, you will see checkboxes below the words "Online Family Directory".
- 6- You only need to check the boxes for what you DO NOT want visible.
- 7- Once you modify, click "update" to save your changes.

We would like each family to check their family listing for accuracy. My weekly E-Buzz is distributed using the emails listed in Sycamore. If you have not been receiving this electronic document on Tuesdays, there may be an error in what has been entered for an email address. You may use the directions listed above to make the corrections.

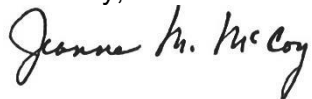
Teacher E-Mails: For your reference:

PreK (Mrs. Ferg):	prek@stbparish.com
PreK (Mrs. Wunrow):	cwunrow@stbparish.com
PreK (Mrs. Nordstrom):	k1@stbparish.com
PreK (Mrs. Langer):	klanger@stbparish.com
Kindergarten (Mrs. Parsons):	eparsons@stbparish.com
Kindergarten (Mrs. Stacy):	tstacy@stbparish.com
Grade 1 (Mrs. Gribble):	mgribble@stbparish.com
Grade 2 (Mrs. Hering):	Grade2@stbparish.com
Grade 3 (Ms. Jarosch):	mjarosch@stbparish.com
Grade 4 (Mr. Pedavoli):	Grade4@stbparish.com
Grade 5 (Mrs. Judy Youngblood-Bourn):	Grade5@stbparish.com
MS Rdg/Language Arts (Mrs. O'Connor):	mclangarts@stbparish.com
MS Math/Science (Ms. Musselman):	mmusselman@stbparish.com
MS Rel/Social Studies (Mr. Leary):	mleary@stbparish.com
Admin. Asst. (Mrs. Gilles):	office@stbparish.com
Admin. Asst. (Mrs. Brantner)	office2@stbparish.com
GOAL (Mrs. Dixen):	sdixen@stbparish.com
Principal (Miss McCoy):	principal@stbparish.com

First Reconciliation – Parent & Candidate Meeting – September 30: Second grade families are reminded of our parent and candidate meeting at church on Sunday, September 30 at 1:00 p.m. This meeting is for all families whose child will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year.

I look forward to seeing you at our Back-to-School Night tomorrow evening!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne M. McCoy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Jeanne McCoy
Principal