



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

Mrs. Theresa Craig, M.Ed.
Principal

August 17, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are moving through the month of August and more and more details are being finalized for the 2202-2023 school year. New teachers are attending training and becoming familiar with the Diocese of Metuchen and St. Bart's. Veteran teachers are serving as mentors and coaches to our new staff members. Classrooms are beginning to take shape. This week, I am going to share some details about the cafeteria and lunch program.

We are thrilled to announce that it is our plan for students to return to eating in the cafeteria and that we have an agreement with **Catering Solutions** (Raritan, NJ) to provide lunch options to our students on full days of school. Options are varied and include hot and cold choices. You may also choose to add snacks and drinks to your child's lunch. You can visit their website at <https://www.mycateringsolutions.net/school-catering/> to check them out. If you choose to utilize this service, you should create an account and add your students. <http://cateringsolutions.h1.hotlunchonline.net>. Families will have the opportunity to order and pay for meals in advance. These meals will be delivered to school, and students will receive their meals in specifically labeled disposable containers during their lunch time. There are several different options each day and you may also choose portion sizes for your child. All payments and ordering is done online and in advance.

As we continue to return to pre-pandemic normalcy, I ask that you talk with your child about eating in the cafeteria. Some of our youngest learners have never had that experience before or are simply too young to have an accurate recollection of it. If you are the parent/guardian of students in grades PreK3 through fourth grade, I encourage you to practice eating "school lunch" with your child. Talk with them about how to handle it if they don't get to sit with their best friend from school. Make sure they can open everything that you send with them. It can take a while for staff members to open several dozen drinks or reusable containers for our young students and the students don't like to wait. Set a timer for about 15 minutes and talk about how they may not finish eating everything that you send and that's okay. This can be so difficult for young children. Practice packing everything back up and discuss what is trash and what should come back home in their lunch box. Returning to or starting to eat in the cafeteria can be a big adjustment for children and the school staff that has lunch duty (me included) will appreciate it if you have prepared them in advance of the experience.

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

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the Meet the Principal event at the end of the month. Next week, I'll be giving you additional information about clubs and aftercare. Wishing you a wonderful week!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Theresa Craig, M.Ed.
Principal