



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

Mrs. Theresa Craig, M.Ed.
Principal

September 1, 2022

Dear Parents or Guardians,

This is my last summer update letter. After this, I expect to be moving to bi-weekly communications. Please continue to check the website for updates and read carefully to stay informed. If you have not already done so, please read the letter dated August 30th regarding the changes to arrival and dismissal procedures. They are very important and families must be aware so that confusion is kept to a minimum.

This summer has been a very busy one in the office for me. Not only have I been adjusting to a wonderful new community, but I had several positions to fill. We've added an additional five teaching assistants to the primary and early childhood classes due to large class sizes. I have also had to hire seven teachers. I'd like to take the next few paragraphs to introduce our instructional staff to you. Collectively we have over 500 years of experience in the field of education. Yes! You read that right, 500 years! We have degrees in education, sociology, art, music, psychology, theology, mathematics, and many others. Many of our staff hold advanced degrees.

In preschool you'll find Mrs. Perdoni, Mrs. O'Connell, and Mrs. Szul in PreK4 and Miss Giuliani and Mrs. Shun in PreK3. These kind and caring teachers and teaching assistants have worked hard to prepare a program that will help our youngest learners blossom and grow in their earliest experiences at school.

In kindergarten, familiar faces return to St. Bartholomew School. Students will recognize Mrs. Maneri and Mrs. Egan and their teaching assistants Mrs. Bechay and Mrs. Bonk. These pairs of experienced educators will help to ensure that our kindergarten students have an amazing year full of learning.

In first grade, veteran St. Bartholomew teachers Miss Bianchino and Mrs. Burns-Wilmott welcome teaching assistants Ms. Strandberg and Ms. Conti. They are looking forward to moving back to cooperative learning and a more normal classroom experience for our first graders.

In second grade, Mrs. Balestrieri welcomes former fifth grade teacher Mrs. Romano. These teachers will be assisted by Ms. Torres and Mrs. Block. Our team of four educators in grade two will be helping students hone their reading and writing skills, and prepare for sacraments among other things. They are excited to work with their new students in the year that students receive First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

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

In third grade, Miss Januse will be joined by Mrs. Keefe. Both have experience in Catholic education and in grade three. They are excited to work together as a team to help students work more independently and learn new skills like multiplication.

In fourth grade we welcome two new teachers. Mr. Sullivan and Mrs. Fahmy have varied teaching experiences both coming to St. Bartholomew with experience but new to Catholic education. They are looking forward to challenging students in all academic areas.

In fifth grade, veteran St. Bartholomew teacher Mrs. DePalma welcomes Mr. Dillion to grade 5. Mr. Dillion and Mrs. DePalma are looking forward to working together to help students perfect their grammar and writing skills and improve reading comprehension along with enhancing their math skills and deepening their faith. Students in grades three through five will be supported by Mrs. Crovo, a teaching assistant that is available to use through EANS funding.

In sixth grade Miss Foley will be joined by Miss Carreon. Miss Foley will be teaching language arts and social studies. Miss Carreon will be teaching math, science, and religion. Both teachers are excited to transition sixth graders into the middle school and will focus on academic excellence and rigor in all subject areas.

Students in seventh and eighth grade will have a team of excellent teachers. Mrs. McInerney will be teaching seventh grade language arts and religion while Mr. Groisman will be teaching seventh grade social studies and science and eighth grade social studies. Ms. Godhwani will be teaching math to students in grades seven and eight and science to students in grade eight. Mrs. Maligranda will be teaching language arts to eighth graders. Fr. Tim Eck will be teaching religion to our eighth graders as they prepare for Confirmation. Students in sixth through eighth grades will be supported by Mrs. Tee, a teaching assistant whose position is funded by EANS funding.

Special area classes will have many familiar faces. Mr. Granelli will return as technology teacher and will be taking on the role of Dean of Students. Mrs. Dudra will be teaching physical education. Mrs. Peterson will be teaching Spanish to all students in grades PreK4 through eighth. Mrs. Ponds will be joining our teaching staff as the art teacher. Mrs. Kinnucane will be working with students in PreK4 through eighth grade in music. She also works with beginning and advanced band students and chorus. Mrs. Solinski has moved into the counselor's office and will be teaching weekly SEL (social-emotional learning) classes that students will call Life Skills. Finally, Mrs. Phillips will be returning to the library and will be seeing all students in grades PreK3 through eighth grade.

All students who need additional support will be supported by staff provided to the school by ESCNJ. At this time we expect Rachel Castor as the IDEA teacher, Lisa Wolkoff as the 192/193 teacher, and Sufia Masood as the speech teacher. At this time, their schedules have not been finalized.

Families will find Mrs. Tkacenko, Mrs. Ebert, Nurse Joella, and me in the offices, and Fr. Tom and Fr. Tim will be working to ensure that we maintain our Catholic identity and will provide additional leadership. Many thanks to Alberto, Francesca, Judy, and Hugo who have worked tirelessly this summer to ensure that our school is clean and ready for students. I am looking forward to working with the wonderful St. Bartholomew School community. See you soon!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Theresa Craig, M.Ed.
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