



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

Mrs. Theresa Craig, M.Ed.
Principal

August 9, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are moving through the month of August and more and more details are being finalized for the 2023-2024 school year. We will welcome teachers back to the building next week and are getting ready for new family orientation events. 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. This week, I am going to share some details about the cafeteria and lunch program.

We ask that you send a refillable water bottle and snack with your child daily. We have three bottle fillers that dispense cold, filtered water for our students. Snack time will be at the discretion of the teacher. Parents should not allow their child to bring caffeinated drinks, sports drinks, juice, or milk to drink in the classrooms for consumption during class time. These types of drinks are limited to the cafeteria. Students should also refrain from bringing drinks from food establishments to sip during class. Water is the only drink that will be allowed to be consumed outside of the cafeteria.

Everyone is reminded that we are a nut free campus, that includes peanut and tree nuts. Please be diligent in packing your child's lunch to ensure that we do not unknowingly put students with allergies at risk. We will be continuing our relationship 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, and do not have an account, you should create an account and add your students. Use <http://cateringsolutions.h1.hotlunchonline.net> to get started. Families 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.

For families of our youngest learners, I ask that you talk with your child about eating in the cafeteria. If you are the parent of students in grades PreK3 through second 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

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

open several dozen drinks or reusable containers for our young students and they 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.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in a few weeks. 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