



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

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

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August 26, 2024

Dear Parents or Guardians,

This is my last summer update letter. After this, I will 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 last week regarding arrival and dismissal procedures. There are very important details that families must be aware of so that confusion is kept to a minimum.

This summer has been a very busy one in the office. Special thanks to Mrs. Tkacenko, Mrs. Ebert, Mrs. D'Esposito, and Mrs. Tee for their help in getting things ready for teachers and students to return. I'd like to take the next several 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, special education, music, psychology, mathematics, and many others. Many of our staff hold advanced degrees.

In preschool you'll find Mrs. Perdoni, Mrs. O'Connell, Ms. Rodriguez, and Mrs. Strandberg. Mrs. Perdoni and Mrs. O'Connell will be in PreK4 and Ms. Rodriguez and Mrs. Strandberg 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 teaching assistants Mrs. Shun and Mrs. Bonk. We welcome Ms. Cicero, a veteran primary teacher, to our kindergarten teaching team. These experienced educators will help to ensure that our kindergarten students have an amazing year full of learning and fun.

In first grade, veteran St. Bartholomew teachers Miss Giuliani and Mrs. Burns-Wilmott are joined by teaching assistants Mrs. Bechay and Ms. Conti. They are looking forward to getting to know our first graders and continuing to support our young learners and they master reading and other skills.

In second grade, Mrs. Balestrieri and Mrs. Fornarelli will work with Mrs. Csizmar and Mrs. Napoli as teaching assistants. 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.

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

In fourth grade we welcome two experienced teachers, Miss Bianchino and Ms. Mottola. Miss Bianchino is a familiar St. Bart's teacher. Ms. Mottola comes to us with over 25 years of teaching experience in the elementary grades. They have varied teaching experiences and are already

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

collaborating to ensure that 4th grade will be a wonderful experience for the students in all academic areas.

Veteran St. Bartholomew teacher Mrs. DePalma remains in fifth grade. She will work with the dynamic team of Mrs. Egan and Mrs. D'Esposito who will share teaching responsibilities in the other fifth grade classroom with Mrs. Egan being the lead teacher. We are blessed to welcome Mrs. D'Esposito back to the St. Bart's teaching staff. These ladies 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 and Mr. DeLuca, teaching assistants.

In sixth grade Mrs. Foley-LaRocca will have a new grade partner, Mrs. Hart. Mrs. Foley-LaRocca will be teaching language arts and social studies. Mrs. Hart will be teaching religion in grade 6. Miss Carreon will be teaching math and science. Additionally, Miss Carreon will be teaching math in seventh grade. All of these 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, one section of seventh grade social studies and eighth grade religion while Mrs. Foley La-Rocca will teach one section of social studies for seventh grade. Mrs. Diaz, an experienced middle school teacher, will be teaching eighth grade language arts and social studies. Ms. Sanelli will be teaching seventh grade religion and science and eighth grade science. Mr. Novak will be teaching one section of eighth grade math and technology to all students in grades kindergarten through eighth. Students in sixth through eighth grades will be supported by Mrs. Tee, a teaching assistant.

Special area classes will have many familiar faces. Mrs. Dudra will be teaching physical education. Mrs. Peterson will be teaching Spanish to all students in grades Kindergarten through eighth. Mrs. Jaorawala will be returning 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, chorus, and the school play. Mrs. Solinski continues in the counselor's office and will be teaching bi-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 Mrs. McQueen and staff that are provided to the school by ESCNJ. At this time we expect Rachel Castor as the IDEA teacher, Lisa Wolkoff and Jessica LaMarca as the 192/193 teachers, and Sufia Masood as the speech teacher. At this time, their schedules have not been finalized.

Families will find Mrs. Tkacenko, shifting into the position of assistant principal. Her role will be more student centered. Mrs. Ebert has moved into the role of school secretary. Miss Figueroa, from aftercare, will be working in the office during the school day and supervising after school activities. She will have an assistant in Ms. Musso. Mr. Pablo, Miss Tracey, and a new staff member, Mr. Jonathan, will provide supervision in aftercare. Mrs. Shun and Miss Hailey will be working with the PreK and Kindergarten students after school. Mr. Giordano is returning to the role of Director of Safety and Security. Nurse Joella is returning to the health office. Fr. Tom and Fr. Peter will be working to ensure that we maintain our Catholic identity and will provide additional leadership.

A special recognition goes to Mrs. Soga, our facilities manager, for her diligent work in ensuring that our school plant is ready for September. Many thanks to Alberto, Marco, Judy, and Nicolas 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 this year. See you soon!

God bless,  
Mrs. Theresa Craig, M.Ed.  
Principal