



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



St. Bartholomew School fosters close-knit environment of learning, faith formation

By David Karas, Correspondent

Students attending St. Bartholomew School, East Brunswick, are more than just pupils – they are part of the school’s family, and a long-standing legacy and tradition.

“One of the things that makes St. Bartholomew School truly unique are the traditions and the strong sense of family within our community,” said principal Theresa Craig. “We are a close-knit school where each child is known, valued, supported, and challenged to reach and surpass their potential.”

That close-knit environment includes deep involvement by the parish pastor, Father Thomas Walsh, as well as each member of the staff.

“Our pastor, administration and teachers focus on educating the whole child including stellar academics and faith-filled classes while emphasizing creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving,” said Craig.

Teachers share in their faith even before the first student arrives, as faculty and staff gather for morning prayer together. Students then join in a school-wide prayer before hitting the books through their primary subjects as well as specials like art, music, physical education, library, Spanish, technology and STREAM.

This year, the school transitioned to a block schedule, with 85-minute windows for math as well as English and language arts instruction – an extended time that allows students to dive deeper and enhance their understanding of the day’s curricula.

And while project-based learning for the younger students takes place in homeroom classes, the school has built in time in the schedule for students in grades 5 through 8 for “passion projects.”

“These projects emphasize project-based and student-driven learning, giving students the opportunity to explore their interests, think creatively, and take ownership of their learning,” said Craig.

For fifth-grade student Amelia Kulbacki, project-based learning is one of her favorite parts about St. Bartholomew, where she has attended school since Pre-K4.

“I like learning new things, and doing cool projects like our Cereal Box Challenge and our Native Americans Project,” she said, “and we learned about the layers of the atmosphere in science.”

She added that she has made a lot of close friendships at the school.

“I have lots of friends at St. Bart’s,” said Kulbacki. “I met all of my friends here and we are like a family. I really like the teachers, and St. Bart’s is like a second family to me.”

Sixth-grader Mia Gallo also considers teachers among her favorite parts about the school.

“They try to explain concepts and make it easy for us to learn and understand the work,” she said, also noting some of the fun activities she gets to take part in there. “We have so many fun events like the Halloween Parties, International Night, and the Sweetheart Dance. At International Night, we get to learn about the cultures and traditions of our friends and classmates.”

For fellow sixth grader Obrempong Amoah-Boakye, he enjoys his classes – math and science, in particular – as well as the chance to be with his friends each day.

“We get to be together during classes, at lunch, and on sports teams like volleyball and basketball,” he shared. “The sports are a good way to learn new skills, get exercise, and get closer with your teammates.”

Comments like these from students are common, said Craig.

“They know they are part of a supportive and caring environment where they are valued and encouraged,” she said. “Students also look forward to engaging academic lessons and hands-on activities that make learning meaningful and enjoyable. Just as importantly, they cherish time spent with their friends, growing socially. Their faith is also central, as they have regular opportunities to learn about God and live out Gospel values.”

Another highlight is the teachers, who Craig said also cherish their role in the St. Bartholomew School family.

“Our faculty enjoys the camaraderie, as they are passionate about fostering both the academic and spiritual growth of themselves and their students,” she said. “They take pride in creating dynamic lessons and meaningful experiences that inspire a love of learning each day.”

Adrianna Hart serves as the middle school math teacher – and she is also the parent of two students, one in Pre-K3 and one in Kindergarten.

“Being both a teacher and a parent allows me to bridge the gap between



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home and school,” said Hart. “I am deeply invested in maintaining strong communication, fostering a sense of community, and upholding the values that define Catholic education – faith, compassion, respect and service. I want every student in my classroom to feel seen and valued, just as I want that for my daughters.”

Like Craig, Hart said that the St. Bartholomew community is defined by the sense of community that teachers and staff cultivate there, as well as their focus on faith. “Our school lives its mission to love,

educate, and inspire, ensuring that each child is supported, challenged, and encouraged to grow into their fullest potential. We foster a close-knit community where families, teachers, and students work together, creating a safe and nurturing place for children to thrive,” she said. “Most importantly, we help shape not only successful students, but compassionate, faith-filled individuals who are prepared to make a meaningful difference in the world.”

To learn more about St. Bartholomew School, visit school.stbartseb.com.