



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

Mrs. Theresa Craig, M.Ed.
Principal

August 22, 2022

Dear Parents or Guardians,

It was wonderful to meet so many new students and their families at last week's New Family Ice Cream Social. I look forward to seeing everyone else in just two weeks. We are so excited at the thought of students in the classrooms and hallways after the quiet summer months. Please read this letter very carefully as it serves as a reminder of arrival and dismissal procedures along with a few other items.

First of all, I invite you to attend the Home School Association's virtual information session on August 31. The Home School Association or HSA is similar to a PTA in that it is the parent/guardian organization for the school. If you are new to the school, we'd love to help you make new friends and become a part of our family. We love involved families and our greater school community is one of the things that makes St. Bart's such a special place. Please join us on Thursday, August 31 at 6:00 pm via this link.

<https://meet.google.com/xnn-zqwj-knm>

We are pleased to announce that we've hired a Director of Safety and Security for our campus. Mr. Anthony Giordano comes to us with a plethora of experience as a retired police officer and spent several years as a school security officer in local public schools. He will be helping us to continually improve our safety and security at school. You will see him in the carline and at Door #6 as well as in other places around the campus.

There is a safety issue (also noted by the East Brunswick Police Department) with the small parking lot in front of the school on Ryders Lane. That small parking lot and the front door of school will no longer be the place to drop off or pick up students or items. **All arrivals, dismissals, and drop off of items will be at Door #6. Students who need an early dismissal must be picked up by 1:20 pm at Door #6.** Please make every effort to keep early pickups to a minimum as this interrupts classes and causes your child to miss valuable instructional time.

Our arrival and dismissal procedures will continue as we did last year. These procedures were developed with the safety and security of our school community in mind. It is important that parents/guardians of students in grades K-8 stay in their cars and in the carline. This year we will have three school bus routes. Everyone is reminded that it is unlawful to pass a school bus that is loading or unloading students. Please be mindful of our buses. In an effort to make sure that the bus process is as smooth as possible, we ask for your support. Most importantly, if your child regularly rides the bus to and from school, please have them do that the first week of school so that the driver and staff supervisor can learn about your child from Day 1.

A special request is that you send in only the supplies that your child will need on the first day or will easily fit in their backpack on the first day of school. After that, things like disinfectant wipes,

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

paper towels, extra markers, etc. can be sent to the teacher over the course of a few days. It's very stressful for our students to carry in a full backpack, lunchbox, and an additional bag of supplies on the first day with all of the other details to manage as they adjust to being back in school. PreK and Kindergarten families are welcome to bring school supplies to Back-to-School Night.

For families that will use the carline, please be patient as new families and little ones have their first experiences in the carline. Plan a few extra minutes into your day the first few days of school as we all get back into the routine of school. Family placards will come home the first week of school to display on your dashboard. These are very helpful for our staff to see, especially at dismissal, to speed up the process. Please move infant/toddler car seats to the seat behind the driver so that students can easily enter and exit the car. Also, make sure that your child in grades K-8 can buckle and unbuckle their seatbelts independently. If your child needs assistance in buckling at dismissal, let our staff know and we'll have you pull up and pull over to a designated area to buckle seat belts.

The doors open at 6:45 am for K-8 early arrivals. Any students who arrive after 7:30 am will be marked tardy. Excessive tardies may result in disciplinary action and will keep students off of the honor roll. Morning prayers will begin promptly at 7:35 am. Please make every effort to have your child at school no later than 7:25 am to avoid stress for everyone involved.

Preschool families will park in the small lot near the church and walk their students up to the door. Please see the letter from our PreK staff for the particulars. Early arrival for PreK is at 7:00 am. In the event that you have a preschool child and an elementary student, all should walk to the preschool building together and then the elementary school students should proceed down the sidewalk and up the path to the building. Once you have dropped off your child, please exit the campus on the side of the church to Ryders Lane, not via the traffic light.

The following information is for families who have students in grades K-8 and no preschool students.

Arrival:

All cars and buses will enter the campus from the light on Ryders Lane. Proceed on the route through the cones. Pull up to the red brick crosswalk or other area designated for drop off and allow your child/children to exit the car on the passenger side. Students should **NEVER** exit on the driver's side of the car and cross between the cars. Drivers should not exit their cars. Exit the parking lot via the driveway and traffic light.

Dismissal:

Enter the campus through the driveway and stop to give a staff member your family name. After that, please follow the same path as the morning, through the coned off path, and pull up near the sidewalk. While you are doing this, your name will be communicated to the office and your students will be sent down the path to the red crosswalk area. Students will be assisted by staff members into their cars. Drivers should not exit their cars.

Please follow the directions of the staff members on duty and be patient as we return to this routine and while new families are learning. I am looking forward to another great year with the wonderful St. Bartholomew School community. See you soon!

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