



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

Mrs. Theresa Craig, M.Ed.
Principal

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are happy to welcome you into partnership with our school family for your child's education and encourage you to explore all that we have to offer. We are proud to have faithfully lived our mission, *to love, educate, and inspire our children to live the teachings of Jesus Christ*, for over 60 years. At St. Bartholomew School, we provide students with a life-long foundation of faith in God, excellence in academics, and service to others as a way of life. Pope Francis has called the school a "second home" for children, and Catholic schools a place where our students can experience themselves as children of God. I encourage you to, in the words of Pope Francis, "be aware of the gift" Catholic schools "are able to offer to all."

Thank you for your commitment to St. Bartholomew School. There is strong evidence that supports that the PreK through eighth grade model best serves the educational, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of students. Our setting offers opportunities for younger students to work with older students, and this unique partnership helps all students develop self-esteem and a sense of responsibility. As students progress from the lower to the upper grades, they stay in a familiar family-like environment where they are recognized and valued as individuals. Children make long-term connections with teachers and staff members. Our school is a place where *kids can stay kids*, until they are ready to look at high schools. By keeping students together through their early adolescence, we can focus our energy, expertise, and professional understanding on developing the whole child.

A study in the American Education Research Journal confirms why a K-8 school is beneficial. Students who attend a K-8 school are more comfortable, feel safer, and ultimately perform better academically than their counterparts at traditional middle or 6-12 schools. Studies show that students who attend K-8 schools have higher test scores, better attendance rates and higher self-esteem and feelings of competence than their peers. In the *New York Times* article: *Why K-8 Schools May Be Better for Middle School Students*, it is stated that, "Knowing that middle schoolers, even eighth graders, are still the children who played tag at recess a mere three or four years before, is not infantilizing, but humanizing to the young adolescent."

Without a doubt, Catholic education is a sacrifice for families. However, I am certain that the rewards of the education we offer are incomparable.

Above all, Jesus Christ is the center of all we do and we invite you to join our school family. May God's peace be with you as you consider the gifts Catholic education at St. Bartholomew School provides.

God bless you,

Mrs. Theresa Craig, M.Ed.
Principal

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