



ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL'S

BRICK LOT *Bulletin*

August 2021

From the Principal's Office



Welcome back! We are very happy to be welcoming back all of our students, teachers, staff, and families to the new school year! On behalf of the entire St. Sebastian Parish School community, I

would like to extend a special welcome to our new families and teachers. We have 46 new families joining us this year (preschool and day school), and four new teachers: Cassie Laube (physical education), Ashley Mullen (art), Megan Smith (Spanish), and Tracy Tonkovich (preschool).

I would like to thank all the people who worked so hard over the summer to help us clean and update the school building. Mike Zimmerman, our parish facilities manager, oversaw this summer work, including the installation of new carpet in three classrooms and new AC units in 10 classrooms. Thanks also to seminarians Charlie Bulger and Cameron Ferrell, who painted the trim and walls of all the classrooms on the first and second floors. Additional thanks to parents Todd DeKatch and Brad Horning for their efforts in helping us complete several upgrades to the safety and security of our campus.

Safety and Security Upgrades

New Main Entrance: Over the summer, we completed the majority of the work involved in creating a new main entrance to the school from the Mull Avenue side.

There is now a lobby area inside the exterior doors. The lobby area was created by installing a second set of doors just inside the existing doors. The new doors are glass with a floor-to-ceiling glass wall surrounding them. All visitors will enter through the original exterior doors, which will remain open during school hours so visitors will not have to wait in the rain or snow. Once visitors are inside the lobby, they may buzz the main office for admittance to the school, or they can use the new drop off bin if they just need to drop off something. The main office will be able to view the video feed from cameras at both the exterior doors and the interior glass doors. Artwork and a few final elements will be installed soon to complete the project.

Additional Doorway Security: The school has upgraded our access control system to allow for greater security regarding who has access to each door on campus. The upgrades enable the school to limit access to particular doors and keep data on which card was swiped for entrance at any door. Security cameras were installed at Byrider Hall and several other campus cameras and a server were upgraded for better visibility throughout campus. School officials can now view all the camera feeds from their phones as well as from the office, and they will have better ability to view recorded footage. Safety experts agree that the safest place in times of emergency is in the classroom. Our school now has HAVEN Lockdown devices on all of the classroom doors. The doors themselves were replaced a few years ago with doors of the highest safety rating. Now the doors have the added security feature of a lockdown device that teachers can activate to lock (or unlock) the door in seconds. New outdoor lighting has also been installed in several areas.



Strength with Christ Through Kindness and Love

This summer, our faculty participated in a retreat at the Loyola Retreat House to get ready for the upcoming school year. We examined our participation in the liturgy and in the world, and we focused on an overview of Catholic social teachings. We reflected on the importance of being kind to one another and loving each other regardless of our differences since we are all intentionally created by God. Thanks to the initial idea by Sue Vernon (2nd-grade teacher), we have adopted the following theme for the 2021-22 school year: "Strength with Christ Through Kindness and Love." I pray that our entire parish community will focus on living their lives for others as we build up the Kingdom of God.

Yours in Christ,

Anthony Rohr
Principal

Questions or Suggestions?

Please email Anne Dennee, newsletter editor, at Anne@DenneeFamily.com

Students in the News

In case you missed it, here are a few student highlights from late last spring.

Soap Box Derby

Our students in grades 6-7 had a great time racing in this year's Gravity Racing Challenge through the Soap Box Derby's STEM Education Program. The student teams were challenged to take a car kit and, over several weeks, build their derby cars to create the fastest downhill run. St. Sebastian Parish School entered five different cars, which they raced on Akron's famous Derby Downs hill in May. This year, there was no final competition day. Instead, each team completed official timed runs during their team day, and the cars with the best average time earned top honors. Two of our cars placed in the top 10! Thank you to 6th-grade teacher Robert Dedinsky for coordinating this year's program.

Track and Field

Our track and field team had a phenomenal season, especially considering the many pandemic restrictions and crazy weather last spring. Our athletes, from 3rd-graders to 8th-graders, adjusted, coped and performed very well. Many thanks to coaches Ana Borges, Sarah Chuba, Matt Powell, Richard Robertson, CJ Foster, Filomena Krejsa, Paulo Borges, and Jen Boyd. Thanks also to committed parent volunteers Marie Loyed, Sam Mastromatteo, Charles Rodriguez, and Tim Sullivan, as well as recent graduates Sydney Borges and Kofi Powers, who helped during practices. Several other St. Sebastian graduates also worked at the meets as scorekeepers and event helpers.



A special congratulations to the 8th-grade team. This group earned an incredible 28 medals at the May 23 CYO 8th-grade track and field championship at Padua Franciscan High School. Members of the 8th-grade team were Lyric Ayers, Jacob Dennée, Palmer Hampton, Pilar Hampton, Alex Hayes, Payton Kidder, Luke Kindbom, Claire Kinkelaar, Agatha Llewellyn, Sophia Magee, Isabelle Mastromatteo, Brianna McCafferty, Teagan McCafferty, Gianna Pillitiere, Scarlett Powell, Alyssa Williams, and Heidi Vereecken. The team was composed of St. Sebastian Parish School students as well as PSR students from Our Lady of the Elms and Akron Public Schools. We are proud of all their determination and accomplishments and wish them well in high school!



Science Fair Standouts

We would like to recognize the following students who qualified to compete in the State Science Fair by receiving a superior rating in the 2021 Virtual District Science Day competition last spring. At the State Science Day, which was also held virtually, these students each earned honors:

Sebastian Blaser, Peter de Boer, and Claire Kinkelaar received "Excellent" ratings, and Isabella Incorvia (right) received a "Superior" rating. Congratulations to these students for their amazing accomplishments!



Power of the Pen

Five members of our Power of the Pen team competed in the virtual state tournament at the end of the 2021 school year: Catie Bordenkircher, Sophia Burgoyne, Suzana Borges, Alex Krohn, and Susie Thomas, all of whom are current 8th-graders. Suzana Borges won the Platinum Pen Award for her story "It's Not True." Also winning a Platinum Pen Award, Director's Choice, was Susie Thomas for her story, "Nothing More than Embers." Their stories were selected as the best compared to all the best stories from across the state! In addition, recent graduate Sydney Borges (Class of 2020) was one of five students in the state recognized as an outstanding writer for superior work during the Power of the Pen competitions during 2018-19 and 2019-20. In addition, Sydney was awarded a partial scholarship to Otterbein University. Congratulations to these terrific Terrier writers!

8th-Grade Trips

Due to scheduling and pandemic concerns, the school replaced the 8th-grade trip to Washington, D.C., with two smaller trips. The Class of 2021 took a two-day trip in early May to Gettysburg, where they toured the hallowed battleground, bringing to life their U.S. Civil War history curriculum. Students learned some basic military marching and battlefield techniques, discussed the importance of learning from history, reflected on a monument dedicated to unity and fellowship, and participated in an evening ghost walk. The next day, the group went sight-seeing in Pittsburgh, including the Pittsburgh Zoo, the Carnegie Science Center, and the Duquesne Incline. Thank you to our 8th-grade teachers, Megan Ritchie and Allyn Rose, as well as Principal Rohr and parents Eva Reyes, Christina Mastromatteo, and Tom Bartilson for chaperoning this trip! Later in May, the Class of 2021 traveled to Dearborn, Mich., where they spent the day touring the Henry Ford museum and Greenfield Village.

Congratulations Class of 2021!



2020-2021 Academic Achievement & Scholarship Recipients

ARCHBISHOP HOBAN HIGH SCHOOL

Brother Paul Kelly C.S.C. Scholarship	Alexander Hayes
Associates of St. Joseph Scholarship	Alessandra Reyes
Schmitt Family Scholarship	Andrew Karhoff
Donald A. Wartko Scholarship	Niklas Reeder
Knight Award	Luke Saus
Alumni Legacy Scholarship	Luke Saus
GAR Foundation Minority Scholarship	Alessandra Reyes
Denise Maroon Finley Memorial Scholarship	Luke Saus

ST. VINCENT-ST. MARY HIGH SCHOOL

Irish Academic Scholarship	Jacob Dennée, Payton Kidder, Matthew Large, Josh Skovira
Wheeler Family Green & Gold Scholarship	Reid Armstead, Reese Kelly, Payton Kidder, Luke Kindbom, Claire Kinkelaar, Matthew Large, Gianna Pillitiere, Angelo Puglia, Jackson Vesco
Irish Opportunity Scholarship	Lola Hall
Irish Crusader Scholarship	Jackson Vesco
Irish Academic Rising Scholar Award	Sophia Magee, Gianna Pilitiere
Christopher James Consilio Memorial Scholarship	Reid Armstead, Jacob Dennée, Luke Kindbom, Gianna Pillitiere, Angelo Puglia, Jackson Vesco
John A. Trecaso Scholarship	Claire Kinkelaar, Matthew Large
Ralph C. Wheeler Memorial Scholarship	Jacob Dennée
Hanlon Family Scholarship	Angelo Puglia
Nick and Eileen Antonino Family Scholarship	Claire Kinkelaar
Bader Family Scholarship	Reid Armstead

WALSH JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

The Gerstenmaier Family Scholarship	Lily Hanchin, Isabelle Mastromatteo
William A. Walsh Endowed Scholarship	Lily Hanchin

FIRESTONE HIGH SCHOOL

International Baccalaureate Program	Gionni Ciarlariello, Agatha Llewellyn
Theatre and Performing Arts Program	Clarice Regan

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Deacon Terry Peacock, Knights of Columbus Scholarship	Niklas Reeder, Claire Kinkelaar
HASA Youth Christian Service Scholarship	Niklas Reeder, Isabelle Mastromatteo
St. Sebastian Sanctuary Society Scholarship	Luke Kindbom
St. Irene Principal's Scholarship	Lily Hanchin
Athlete of Character Award	Heidi Vereecken, Luke Kindbom
Student Christian Athletic Award	Heidi Vereecken, Payton Kidder
Father Byrider Award	Jacob Dennée, Lola Hall
Daughters of the American Revolution Citizenship Award	Reese Kelly, Agatha Llewellyn, Sophia Magee, Isabelle Mastromatteo, Gianna Pillitiere
Sons of the American Revolution Citizenship Award	Payton Kidder

“Best Private School”/Top MAP Scores

Beacon’s Best of the Best!

Our school learned in mid-August that we ranked in the top three for “Best Private School” in the 2021 “Best of the Best” competition sponsored by the Akron Beacon Journal. The winners from each category will be featured in the Sept. 26 issue.

MAP Testing Results Indicate High Achievement

The school has also recently learned that our students once again earned high growth and high achievement ratings in math, science, and language usage on the MAP (measures of academic progress) tests. While still at high achievement and showing strong growth in reading, we missed the high growth measure for reading by a few points, as shown in the diagram. These are strong results for any year, but the school is especially proud of our students for continuing to learn and achieve on a high level during the pandemic. Congratulations

and thank you to everyone who helps make this school the best in the area! Principal Rohr plans to provide more explanation and analysis of the school’s MAP results during his State of the School Address at a date to be determined. Stay tuned for details!



SCHOOL CALENDAR AND IMPORTANT DATES

SAVE THE DATE

- Parent/Teacher Conferences ~ November 2, 4
- No School ~ November 5, 8
- Ladies Christmas Boutique ~ November 14
- Explorer Day ~ November 19
- Thanksgiving Break ~ November 24-26
- Christmas Music Program ~ December 2
- Christmas Break ~ December 20-31
- St. Sebastian Spectacular ~ February 26

AUGUST

- New Family Picnic
- Open House
- First Day of School (Grades 1-8)
- Kindergarten Orientation Sessions
- Preschool Orientation Sessions
- Kindergarten Half Day
- First Full Day: Preschool & K
- Confirmation Meeting (8th Grade)

- August 19 (Thursday), 5:30-7 p.m.
- August 22 (Sunday), 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- August 24 (Tuesday)
- August 24-26 (Tues.-Thurs.), 8-9 a.m.
- August 24-26 (Tues.-Thurs.), 9-10 a.m.
- August 27 (Friday), 7:55-11 a.m.
- August 30 (Monday)
- August 30 (Monday), 7-8 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- Picture Day
- No School – Labor Day
- Welcome Back Coffee
- HASA Meeting
- Confirmation Meeting (8th Grade)
- Early Dismissal (1 p.m.) & No Aftercare: Teacher Professional Day

- September 1 (Wednesday)
- September 6 (Monday)
- September 7 (Tuesday), 7:30 a.m.
- September 9 (Thursday), 7 p.m.
- September 27 (Monday), 7-8 p.m.
- September 30 (Thursday), 1 p.m.

OCTOBER

- K & 1st-Grade Parent Dinner
- Trunk or Treat Social
- End of First Quarter
- Monster Mash
- No School, Teacher Professional Day
- Confirmation Meeting (8th Grade)
- Halloween Parade

- October 1 (Friday)
- October 15 (Friday)
- October 21 (Thursday)
- October 21 (Thursday)
- October 22 (Friday)
- October 25 (Monday), 7-8 p.m.
- October 29 (Friday)