



ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL'S

# BRICK LOT *Bulletin*

August 2019

## From the Principal's Office



Welcome back to all our returning families, and a very special welcome to all the new families joining our fantastic St. Sebastian Parish School community. I am excited to start my third year as principal of St. Sebastian and my fifteenth

year overall at our school. While much has changed, the school has always remained true to its mission of striving to provide excellent education in a Christ-centered environment, and it is a privilege to see this in action every day.

### Welcome New Teachers and School Advisory Committee Members!

I am pleased to welcome four new teachers to our school: Robert Dedinsky (sixth grade), Christina Friedl (fifth grade), Debra Landis (seventh grade) and Olivia Wilde (first grade). We will include short biographies of each of our new teachers in the next Brick Lot Bulletin and on the school website soon. I hope you will extend a warm welcome to these new teachers and keep all of the faculty and staff in your prayers as we prepare for another year of academic exploration and faith formation.

At the end of last year, the year School Advisory Committee (SAC) welcomed three new members: school parents Ana Borges, Carrie Rea, and Tricia Rothkopf. I look forward to working with them over their three-year term. The returning SAC members are Robert Brownfield (STVM teacher), Lois Gerstenmaier (alumni parent, Foundation board member), Alexis Rizopoulos (current parent), Richard Roberts (parishioner, retired Akron Public Schools educator and administrator), Linda Saliga (alumni parent and University of Akron math professor) and Jennifer Smee (St. Sebastian teacher). Thank you to all of these volunteers who give of their time to serve as advisers to the school administration. Parents may contact any member of the committee to provide feedback on the school or to ask questions. Email may be directed to [sac@students.stsebastian.org](mailto:sac@students.stsebastian.org).

### Math Program

Our math program will continue to offer an option for students with exceptional math skills to test out of a grade level in math. This option, which was established in spring of 2018, begins for selected students at the end of fifth grade. To be considered, students must meet the math enrichment score of the grade level beyond the one they are entering by the end of the year (i.e., a fifth-grader would need to score at or above the seventh-grade enrichment level). Other factors are also considered to help determine whether students are prepared for this responsibility. The summer work for these students is rigorous and the expectations are high to account for skipping sixth-grade content. These students will be on track to complete geometry/trigonometry or algebra II as eighth-graders. This is not to be confused with differentiation and/or leveling within each grade level. The seventh-grade curriculum is based on pre-algebra, and the eighth-grade curriculum is based on algebra. Eighth-grade students will continue to take either basic algebra or advanced algebra; and this year we are offering algebra II as well. Also new this year, we will be scheduling math classes for all students in grades 4-8 during first and second period to make moving students to a different level math class easier and/or minimizing the regular class time they may miss.

### 90th Anniversary of the School

Our parish school opened one year after the church was established. Thus, while the parish celebrated the church's 90th anniversary last year, the school is celebrating this year. Several activities and projects are underway or planned in honor of the anniversary. Over the summer, the exterior of the school was cleaned, and before school starts, all of the hallway floors will



be covered with a polymer epoxy coating. Also, all the steps are receiving new treads, and the railings have been completely stripped and will be freshly painted. The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation has secured many donations toward the costs of the beautiful and durable new flooring and restored stairways from alumni who wanted to make a contribution to the school in honor of the anniversary. The school continues to research the best options for the 90th anniversary classroom improvements initiative, a major project to supply our classrooms with dynamic furniture and storage options. We will be sharing more information on this initiative with parents soon.

Also this year, the school will unveil a completely redesigned website that will be a great, mobile-friendly resource for up-to-date information. The first-floor hallway will have a new statue of St. Sebastian, our patron saint, as well as an updated mural to be completed by art teacher Lizzi Aronhalt. This year's Spectacular on Feb. 22 will feature a Roaring '20s theme in honor of the school's inaugural year of 1929. I hope you join me at this fun event as we gather together to celebrate our 90th anniversary year.

### Open House: August 18

I encourage all of you to attend the welcome back Open House on Sunday, August 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Zwisler Hall will be full of tables with information on activities and programs, and the teachers will be eagerly awaiting your visits to the classrooms.

Yours in Christ,

Anthony Rohr  
Principal

### Questions or Suggestions?

Questions or suggestions for the newsletter? Please email Anne Dennée, Newsletter Editor, at [Anne@DenneeFamily.com](mailto:Anne@DenneeFamily.com).

## Students in the News

Below are a few highlights of student activities and achievements that occurred after the final issue of the Brick Lot Bulletin was published last school year.



### Soap Box Derby:

Our Soap Box Derby team had a great outing at the annual Gravity Racing Challenge on May 18. Three of our four teams advanced to the second round, and our 7th-grade team made it to the third round before being eliminated. Way to go, Terriers! Many thanks to coaches Kelly Gupta and Autumn Gaskins and our many parent volunteers who helped oversee the building of the cars.

**Track and Field:** Our track and field team had an outstanding 2019 season. The 8th-grade girls team took third place at the CYO Division 1 Championship Meet for 8th grade. And at the CYO championship for grades 6-7, the boys 7th-grade team, the girls 7th-grade team, and the girls 6th-grade and under team all took home first-place trophies. Many team members broke school records with their individual performances as well. Congratulations to all our amazing athletes, and thank you to coach Filomena Krejsa and her many assistant coaches for a great year!

**Power of the Pen:** The Power of the Pen team took third place at the state competition May 24 at the College of Wooster, and several team members earned individual honors as well. We are so proud of their outstanding effort! Thanks to moderators Maggie Blischak and Sally Weakland for sharing their time and knowledge with our young writers.

**May Crowning:** At the May 16 all-school Mass, the student body participated in a lovely May Crowning ceremony, with the presentation of flowers and a crown to our Blessed Mother by our 8th-graders, who also led everyone in the singing of "Hail Mary, Gentle Woman."

### Art and Innovation Night

The 2019 Art and Innovation Night was a great evening of exploration and presentation of our students' talents and academic pursuits! Thanks to everyone who helped create all the wonderful STREAM activities and displays, which included everything from lemonade stands, make-your-own slime stations and robot courses, to drone challenges, power generators, and science and art projects.



### 2019 Walkathon

The 2019 Walkathon was a great success! The students had a great time playing games and walking laps together. At the pep rally, HASA President Terri Nass Reeder presented Fr. Valencheck and Principal Rohr with a check representing the over \$14,000 this event raised for our school. THANK YOU to all who contributed to the success of this event. Your support is truly amazing.



### Genius Project

Last spring St. Sebastian participated in the Northeast Ohio Genius Project, a competition that provides a challenge that teams must solve using only the supplies and instructions that come in the Genius Project box. Our students used collaboration, creativity and critical thinking skills to address the challenge, which for 2019 involved a mission to another planet where teams had to design a geodesic dome in an environment of their creation based on a biome found on Earth. The students had to follow a budget, keep a daily log, and create an animal. Congratulations to our team of 8th graders (pictured here) who won "Best Daily Log" at the Genius Project Competition, which included 32 schools across six counties.

## News and Notes

### 2019-2020 HASA Board

Congratulations to the new HASA (Home and School Association) board members: Sara Avalos (president), Carrie Rea (vice president), Carolyn Coleman (treasurer) and Tricia Rothkopf (secretary). We're looking forward to a great year!

**SAVE THE DATE:  
SPECTACULAR FEBRUARY 22, 2020**



*Mark your calendars for the St. Sebastian Spectacular, to be held February 22, 2020. Last year's fantastic leadership team of Natalie Griffin-Kinney, Danielle Petit and Carrie Pozsgay is returning, and they have already begun planning a fabulous and fun event that will celebrate our school's 90th anniversary. We hope all of our families will join us for this special evening where the Roaring '20s theme will take you back to 1929, our school's inaugural year. Stay tuned for more information!*

# Congratulations Eighth Grade Graduates



## 2018-2019 Academic Achievement & Scholarship Recipients

### ARCHBISHOP HOBAN HIGH SCHOOL

Ledgens of Holy Cross Scholarship	Taylor Foster
Henry Thomas Scholarship	Emma Doucet, Camille Ciariariello
Gene & Howard Considine Family Scholarship	Taylor Foster
Knight Award	Elizabeth Savitski
Alumni Legacy Scholarship	Camille Ciariariello, Taylor Foster

### ST. VINCENT-ST. MARY HIGH SCHOOL

Irish Academic Scholarship	Shane Adamczyk, David Armbrust, Kathryn Kastelic, Olivia Kindbom, Noah Meyer, Julia Pentasuglio, John Paul Rybka, Elizabeth Saliga, Elizabeth Schlueter, Andrew Thomas, Ethan Wyszynski
Wheeler Family Green & Gold Scholarship	Olivia DeKatch, Mary Hanlon, Olivia Kindbom, Olivia Oval, John Paul Rybka, Andrew Thomas, Sophia Walker, Jason Walter, Fiona Yori
Irish Opportunity Scholarship	Sophia Walker
Gilbride Family & Memorial Scholarship	Zed Edgar
Irish Crusader Scholarship	Joseph Latrashe
John A. Trecao Scholarship	Sophia Walker
Ralph C. Wheeler Scholarship	Andrew Jewell, Noah Meyer, Julia Pentasuglio
Jim Kelly Memorial Scholarship	Jason Walter
Henkel Family Scholarship	Olivia Oval
Hanlon Family Scholarship	Zed Edgar
Ralph L. and Florence A. Bernard Memorial Scholarship	Dillon Weems
Sandy Singleton Smith Memorial Scholarship	Olivia Oval
Thomas and Margaret Antonino Memorial Scholarship	Dillon Weems
Music Scholarship	Matthew Bobbitt

### ST. IGNATIUS HIGH SCHOOL

Ignatian Scholar Award	Zachary Zahoranski
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### OUR LADY OF THE ELMS HIGH SCHOOL

Alumnae Academic Scholarship	Ella Thomas
Elms Legacy Scholarship	Ella Thomas
Friends of Excellence Scholarship	Ella Thomas
The Beck Family Foundation Scholarship	Ella Thomas

### WALSH JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

The Gerstenmaier Scholarship	Anna Zografakis
The Beck Family Foundation Scholarship	Jack Hanchin, Max Haslinger, Anna Zografakis

### FIRESTONE HIGH SCHOOL

International Baccalaureate Program	Luke Cody, Mara Rizopoulos, Elaina Rooney
Project Lead the Way Engineering Program	Francesca Vaccaro
Visual Performing Arts Program	Elaina Rooney, Faith Sturm-Poth

### ADDITIONAL AWARDS

Deacon Terry Peacock, Knights of Columbus Scholarship	Andrew Thomas, Sophia Walker
HASA Youth Christian Service Scholarship	Taylor Foster, Jason Walter
St. Irene Principal's Scholarship	David Armbrust
Father Byrider Award	Andrew Thomas, Elizabeth Savitski
Athlete of Character Award	Shane Adamczyk, Olivia Kindbom
Daughters of the American Revolution Citizenship Award	Shane Adamczyk, Olivia DeKatch, Elizabeth Schlueter,
	Elizabeth Saliga, Ella Thomas, Zachary Zahoranski
St. Sebastian Sanctuary Society Scholarship	Ethan Wyszynski
Student Christian Athletic Award	Joseph Latrashe, Taylor Foster



# ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH

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## SCHOOL CALENDAR AND IMPORTANT DATES

### SAVE THE DATE

- Explorer Day ~ November 8
- Ladies Christmas Boutique ~ November 17
- Celebrity Night Social ~ November 21
- Thanksgiving Break ~ November 27-29
- Come Home for the 90th – November 29
- Winter Music Program (grades 1,3,5,7)  
December 5
- Baby Jesus Blessing – December 15

### AUGUST

Welcome Picnic for New Families	August 15 (Thursday), 5:30-7 p.m.
Welcome Back Open House	August 18 (Sunday), 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
8th Grade Back to School Social	August 19 (Monday), 6-9 p.m.
First Day of School (grades 1-8)	August 21 (Wednesday), 7:55 a.m.
Kindergarten Orientation Sessions	August 21-22 (Wednesday-Thursday), 8-9 a.m.
Preschool Orientation Sessions	August 21-22 (Wednesday-Thursday), times TBA
Kindergarten Half Day	August 23 (Friday), 8-10:30 a.m.
First Full Day of Kindergarten	August 26 (Monday)
First Day of Preschool	August 26 (Monday)
Welcome Back Coffee	August 26 (Monday) 7:30-9 a.m.

### SEPTEMBER

No School – Labor Day	September 2 (Monday)
HASA Meeting	September 12 (Thursday), 7 p.m.
Confirmation Meeting (8th Grade)	September 23 (Monday), 7-8 p.m.
Picture Day	September 23 (Monday)

### OCTOBER

Parent/Teacher Conferences	October 2-3 (Wednesday-Thursday)
No School, Teacher Professional Day	October 4 (Friday)
Kindergarten Parent Dinner	October 11 (Friday)
No School, Teacher Professional Day	October 11 (Friday)
Trunk or Treat Social	October 18 (Friday), 6-9 p.m.
End of First Quarter	October 25 (Friday)
Halloween Parade	October 25 (Friday)
Confirmation Meeting (8th Grade)	October 28 (Monday), 7-8 p.m.