



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

Mrs. Theresa Craig, M.Ed.
Principal

August 5, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are moving through the month of August and more and more details are being finalized for the 2025-2026 school year. We're so excited for the coming year! We welcome teachers back to the building this week and are getting ready for new family orientation events. New teachers will attend training and become familiar with the Diocese of Metuchen and St. Bartholomew School. Veteran teachers will serve as mentors and coaches to our new staff members. This week, I am going to share some details about the cafeteria and lunch program. But before I do that, I'd like to take a moment to ask you to help us out.

Before school starts, take a few minutes to talk with your child about social situations. Talk to them about being *the nice kid*. Tell them that it is never okay to make fun of someone's lunch, body, hair, or clothes. Remind them that not everyone has what they do, and that's okay. That we are called to treat others the way we would treat Jesus. Let them know that school is for learning not judging, and that teasing isn't harmless. Take those few minutes, because it is our mission to love, educate, and inspire our children to live the teachings of Jesus Christ. And above all else, Jesus was kind to and accepting of all people.

We ask that you send a refillable water bottle and snack with your child daily. Beginning on September 15, disposable water bottles will no longer be allowed. We are working hard to be more environmentally conscious. Please avoid cups with straws that extend above the top of the cup or the sport type of tops on water bottles. They tend to leak and can cause problems in classrooms and hallways. We have four bottle fillers that dispense cold, filtered water for our students. We're proud to share that over the past few years those bottle fillers have helped us keep over 65,000 bottles out of landfills.

Snacktime in grades PreK through five will be at the discretion of the teacher. Due to the earlier lunch time for middle school, snack time has been discontinued at this level. Parents/guardians should not allow their child to bring caffeinated drinks, sports drinks, juice, or milk to drink in the classrooms for consumption during class time. These types of drinks are limited to the cafeteria. Carbonated beverages of any kind are not allowed at school due to the potential for messes. Students are not allowed to bring drinks from food establishments to sip during class. Water is the only drink that will be allowed to be consumed outside of the cafeteria.

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

Everyone is reminded that we are a **completely nut free campus**, that includes peanut and tree nuts (coconut, hazelnuts, cashew, almonds, pistachios, etc). Please be diligent in packing your child's lunch to ensure that we do not unknowingly put students with severe allergies at risk. Ingredient lists and processing at locations changes without notice. Please check ingredient lists. We will be continuing our relationship with Catering Solutions (Raritan, NJ) to provide lunch options to our students on full days of school. Options are varied and include hot and cold choices. You may also choose to add snacks and drinks to your child's lunch. You can visit their website at <https://www.mycateringsolutions.net/school-catering/> to check them out. If you choose to utilize this service, and do not have an account, you should create an account and add your students. Use <http://cateringsolutions.h1.hotlunchonline.net> to get started. Families have the opportunity to order and pay for meals in advance. These meals will be delivered to school, and students will receive their meals in specifically labeled disposable containers during their lunch time. There are several different options each day and you may also choose portion sizes for your child. All payments and ordering is done online and in advance. Delivering a fast food type of lunch to your child is not allowed.

For families of our youngest learners, I ask that you talk with your child about eating in the cafeteria. If you are the parent/guardian of students in grades PreK3 through second grade, I encourage you to practice eating "school lunch" with your child. Talk with them about how to handle it if they don't get to sit with their best friend from school. Make sure they can open everything that you send with them. It can take a while for staff members to open several dozen drinks or reusable containers for our young students and they don't like to wait. Set a timer for about 15 minutes and talk about how they may not finish eating everything that you send and that's okay. This can be so difficult for young children. Practice packing everything back up and discuss what is trash and what should come back home in their lunch box. Returning to or starting to eat in the cafeteria can be a big adjustment for children and the school staff that has lunch duty (me included) will appreciate it if you have prepared them in advance of the experience.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in a few weeks. Next week, I'll be giving you additional information about clubs and aftercare. Wishing you a wonderful week!

Sincerely,
Theresa Craig, M.Ed.
Principal