



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

Mrs. Theresa Craig, M.Ed.
Principal

August 27, 2025

Dear Parents or Guardians,

This is my last summer update letter. After this, I will be moving to bi-weekly communications. Please continue to check the website for updates and read carefully to stay informed. If you have not already done so, please read the letter dated last week regarding arrival and dismissal procedures. There are very important details that families must be aware of so that confusion is kept to a minimum.

This summer has been a very busy one in the office. Special thanks to Mrs. Tkacenko, Mrs. Ebert, Miss Figueroa, and Mrs. Tee for their help in getting things ready for teachers and students to return. I'd like to take the next several paragraphs to introduce our instructional staff to you. Collectively we have over 550 years of experience in the field of education. Yes! You read that right, 550 years! We have degrees in education, sociology, special education, music, psychology, mathematics, literature, and many others. Many of our staff hold advanced degrees.

In preschool you'll find Mrs. Perdoni, Mrs. O'Connell, Mrs. O'Connor, Ms. Rodriguez, Mrs. Strandberg, and Mrs. Mazzamuto. Mrs. Perdoni and Mrs. O'Connell will be in PreK4 in the PreK building and Mrs. O'Connor and Mrs. Strandberg will be with PreK4 in room 117. Ms. Rodriguez and Mrs. Mazzamuto will be in PreK3. Mrs. O'Connor and Mrs. Mazzamuto came to us from ICS, Spotswood. These kind and caring teachers and teaching assistants have worked hard to prepare a program that will help our youngest learners blossom and grow in their earliest experiences at school.

In kindergarten, familiar faces return to St. Bartholomew School. Students will recognize Ms. Cicero and Mrs. Maneri and teaching assistants Mrs. Shun and Mrs. Bonk. These experienced educators will help to ensure that our kindergarten students have an amazing year full of learning and fun.

In first grade, veteran St. Bartholomew teachers Miss Giuliani and Mrs. Burns-Wilmott are joined by teaching assistants Mrs. Napoli and Mrs. Csizmar. They are looking forward to getting to know our first graders and continuing to support our young learners and they master reading and other skills.

In second grade, Mrs. Balestrieri and Mrs. Fornarelli are a dynamic pair. This team in grade two will be helping students hone their reading and writing skills, and prepare for sacraments among other things. They are excited to work with their new students in the year that students receive First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

In third grade, Miss Januse is back and ready to go. We welcome Mrs. Lizares to our St. Bartholomew School family. Both are experienced teachers. They are excited to work together as a team to help students work more independently and learn new skills like multiplication.

In fourth grade we welcome back Miss Bianchino and Mrs. Bechay. They have varied teaching experiences and have already been collaborating to ensure that 4th grade will be a wonderful experience for the students in all academic areas.

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

Veteran St. Bartholomew teachers Mrs. DePalma and Mrs. Egan remain in fifth grade. These educators are looking forward to working together to help students perfect their grammar and writing skills and improve reading comprehension along with enhancing their math skills and deepening their faith.

In sixth grade Mrs. Foley-LaRocca will have a new grade partner, Mrs. Santoro. Mrs. Foley-LaRocca will be teaching language arts and social studies. Mrs. Santoro, who joins our middle school team from ICS, Spotswood will be teaching science to all students in grades 6-8. Miss Carreon will be teaching math to all sixth graders. Mrs. Solinski and Fr. Peter Phan will be team-teaching religion in sixth grade. These teachers are excited to transition sixth graders into the middle school and will focus on academic excellence and rigor in all subject areas.

Seventh grade homerooms will be with Mrs. Hart and Miss Carreon. Each teacher will teach one section of seventh grade math. Seventh graders will have Mrs. McNerney for language arts and Mrs. Craig and Miss Carreon will each teach one section of religion on this grade level. Mrs. McNerney and Mrs. Foley-LaRocca will each teach a section of social studies in seventh grade.

The eighth grade will have a team of excellent teachers. Mrs. McNerney will be teaching religion while Mrs. Diaz returns to teach language arts and social studies. Mrs. Hart will have all eighth grade math classes. Students in sixth through eighth grades will be supported by Mrs. Tee, a teaching assistant.

Special area classes will have many familiar faces. Mrs. Dudra will be teaching physical education. Mrs. Peterson will be teaching Spanish to all students in grades Kindergarten through fourth. Mrs. D'Esposito will teach Spanish in grades 5-8. We welcome Mr. Goodstein as the technology teacher in grades K-5. He is a veteran educator and parent of a St. Bart's alumnus. Students in the middle school will have technology classes integrated into their STREAM period. This will be taught by the middle school math-science team. Mrs. Jaorawala will be returning as the art teacher. Mrs. Kinnucane will be working with students in PreK4 through eighth grade in music. She also works with beginning and advanced band students, chorus, and the school play. Mrs. Solinski continues in the counselor's office and will be teaching bi-weekly SEL (social-emotional learning) classes that students will call Life Skills. Finally, Mrs. Phillips will be returning to the library and will be seeing all students in grades PreK3 through eighth grade.

All students who need additional support will be supported by staff that are provided to the school by ESCNJ. At this time we expect Rachel Castor as the IDEA teacher, Lisa Wolkoff and Gia Riccobono as the 192/193 teachers, and Nagasai Karee as the speech teacher. At this time, their schedules have not been finalized.

Families will find Mrs. Tkacenko, returning to the role of assistant principal and Mrs. Ebert as the school secretary. Miss Figueroa, from aftercare, will continue to work in the office during the school day and supervise the after school program. She will have an assistant in Ms. Musso. Miss Tracey, Mrs. Shun, Mr. Jonathan, and a new staff member, Miss Victoria, will provide supervision in aftercare. Mr. Giordano is returning to the role of Director of Safety and Security. The health office will be staffed by a variety of nurses as we wait for ESCNJ to fill the position permanently. Fr. Tom and Fr. Peter will be working to ensure that we maintain our Catholic identity and will provide additional leadership.

A special recognition goes to Mrs. Soga, our facilities manager, for her diligent work in ensuring that our school plant is ready for September. Many thanks to Alberto, Judy, and Nicolas who have worked tirelessly this summer to ensure that our school is clean and ready for students. I am looking forward to working with the wonderful St. Bartholomew School community this year. See you soon!

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