



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

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

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September 16, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through September. The first few weeks have flown by! The teachers and staff are looking forward to meeting Grade 1-8 parents/guardians at Back-to-School Night this week on Thursday, September 18. As is tradition, the Home School Association (HSA) sells “smencils” (scented pencils) every Back to School Night in the cafeteria. If you choose, don’t forget a few dollars in cash to purchase one for your child so you can leave it on his/her desk with a note. Thank you in advance for your support of this St. Bartholomew School tradition. As a reminder, school is closed on Friday, September 19.

We are pleased to announce that last week we were informed that we were awarded a substantial federal security grant that will aid us in continuing to execute our ongoing, strategic safety and security plan.

This year our school and the diocese as a whole is up for reaccreditation. Our accrediting body is Cognia. Each year we have academic and spiritual goals that we work toward. This year our academic goal focuses around reading comprehension, specifically improvement in vocabulary across academic subjects, reading fluency, and reading informational text. Our spiritual goal is to embrace the Jubilee Year to cultivate hope and unity in daily school life. You will hear more about these goals as the year progresses.

Next week, we will begin administering the MAP tests to students in Grades 1-8. These computer-adaptive tests are the standardized tests mandated by the diocese that are given three times a year. Students will have plenty of time to complete the tests on their school-issued devices. Please make it a priority for your child to arrive at school on time so that they do not feel stressed or disturb the group once testing has begun. Once all tests are completed and we have permission from the diocese, score reports will be made available to parents/guardians.

As a reminder regarding School Mass, families of the class that is “hosting” the Mass are invited to attend. If you are interested in attending the Mass, please contact your child’s teacher for the exact dates and the school office to let us know the day before you attend. For security purposes, please be prepared to show ID upon arrival.

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

As mentioned above, Back to School Night for parents/guardians with students in Grades 1-8 is scheduled for Thursday, September 18 from 6:00PM-8:00PM. *This is an adults only event.* Back to School Night is for informational purposes and not for teacher conferences which are scheduled for November. The schedule is as follows:

**6:00-6:30** - Cafeteria open to visit with special area teachers, HSA, clubs, and activities

**6:30-7:00** - Meet in **Church** for information from Fr. Tom, Mrs. Craig, Mrs. Tkacenko, and the HSA

**7:05-7:25 - Session 1** (Parents/guardians Grades 1-5 meet in classrooms for presentations and middle school (Grades 6-8) parents/guardians meet in cafeteria)

**7:30-7:55 - Session 2** (Parents/guardians Grades 1-5 meet in classrooms for presentations and middle school parents/guardians can visit classrooms)

Families with students in Grades 1-5, should plan to visit their individual homeroom teacher for a presentation. Families with students in middle school (Grades 6-8) will meet in the cafeteria for Session 1. Teachers will collaborate on the middle school presentation so that you can attend other teachers' presentations for children in Grades 1-5 during Session 2. This year, the 8th grade parent/guardian meeting will take place via video conference on September 25.

October 3rd marks the middle of the first marking period. As you may recall, St. Bartholomew School does not send home hard copies of progress reports or report cards. Only the end of the year report cards are sent home. Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to login to PowerSchool to check their child's progress on a regular basis, but minimally twice a marking period. If you are not able to access your account, please contact the office. Mrs. Tkacenko will provide you with your login information.

As we move into fall, I strongly encourage you to label all of your child's outerwear and sweaters or sweatshirts with an indelible marker or name label stickers. Our lost and found is beginning to pile up, and as the season changes, the number of items that are left at school will multiply. It makes things so much easier to return to the student if the lost item is labeled.

With the cooler weather, also comes the increase in illnesses. Please refer to the nurse's letter for information about healthy habits and when to keep your child home. As a reminder, we do not reward students for perfect attendance. We have found that this puts undue pressure on the student and family to come to school when they are ill or should otherwise not be at school. Students are only excused from school for funerals and to attend an official high school visit. Otherwise, students are marked absent from school when they are not present in the building or on a school sponsored trip.

I am looking forward to visiting classrooms and spending time with the students.

God bless,  
Mrs. Theresa Craig, M.Ed.  
Principal