



St. Bartholomew School
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Dear Middle School Students and Families,

Welcome to middle school at St. Bartholomew School! We are excited to begin this new chapter with our students and look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, new opportunities, and increased independence.

Middle school is an important transition. Students are no longer in one classroom with one primary teacher for most of the day. Instead, they will switch classes throughout the day and work with four to five teachers across their core academic subjects. This change is designed to prepare students for the increased independence and responsibility they will experience in high school.

With this increased independence comes increased responsibility. One of our goals is to help students become organized, accountable, and confident learners. The ownership for projects, assessments, homework, materials, and deadlines belongs to the student.

Staying Organized and Keeping Up with Assignments

Students are responsible for knowing what work has been assigned and completing it on time. Assignments may be provided through Google Classroom and/or in hard-copy form. Teachers will also post assignments on their classroom websites; however, the most current and accurate information about assignments will always be provided in class. Students should listen carefully, record important information, and ask questions when they are unsure about an assignment or deadline.

Parents play an important role in supporting their middle school student, but we encourage you to allow your child to take ownership of his or her responsibilities. Before contacting a teacher about grades or missing work, parents should first check PowerSchool. PowerSchool provides valuable information about grades, missing assignments, and overall progress.

If a student repeatedly forgets an assignment or leaves homework at home, we encourage families not to rush to school to deliver the forgotten item. Sometimes the most effective lesson is allowing a student to experience the natural or logical consequence of forgetting something. These experiences help students develop the organization, responsibility, and problem-solving skills they will need as they grow.

Honor Roll

Academic achievement is important, but so are responsibility, organization, and preparedness. To reinforce these expectations, students must meet both academic and responsibility standards to qualify for the Middle School Honor Roll.

A student will be excluded from the Honor Roll/Principal's List for that marking period if the student has:

- More than five total missing assignments across the core academic courses during the marking period; or
- More than five tardies during the marking period.
- Has two or more disciplinary infractions that warrant administrative intervention.

We want students to understand that being an honor student involves more than earning strong grades. It also means demonstrating consistent responsibility, preparedness, punctuality, good citizenship, and commitment to one's work.

Lockers and School Materials

Each middle school student will be assigned an individual locker for storing school materials and personal belongings. Students are expected to keep their lockers neat and organized and to take responsibility for their belongings. Learning to manage their combination lock is a rite of passage.

Students will also be issued individual Chromebooks and textbooks. These items are school property and must be treated with care. Families will be responsible for the cost of lost or damaged Chromebooks, textbooks, or other school-issued materials.

Learning to manage a locker, organize materials, and remember what is needed for each class are all important parts of becoming an independent middle school student.

Mid-Terms and Final Exams

Students should also be prepared for the increased academic expectations that come with middle school. Mid-term and final examinations will be administered as required by diocesan and St. Bartholomew School policy. Students are expected to prepare appropriately for these examinations and to take them as scheduled.

These exams provide students with valuable experience in reviewing material, preparing for cumulative assessments, managing their time, and demonstrating what they have learned over an extended period of time.

When Things Don't Go as Planned

Middle school students will make mistakes. They will occasionally forget an assignment, miss a deadline, make a poor choice, or encounter an academic or behavioral challenge. That is part of growing up.

When bumps in the road occur, teachers and the leadership team will work with students and use logical consequences when appropriate. The purpose of a consequence is not simply to punish; it is to help students understand the impact of their choices, take responsibility, and learn from the experience.

Our expectation is that students will own their choices, learn from mistakes, and make better decisions moving forward.

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

A Few Middle School Reminders

- Cell phones and smart watches: St. Bartholomew School and the State of New Jersey have a policy that cell phones and smart watches may not be used during the school day. Students must keep them turned off and in their backpacks. If you need to get a message to your child during the school day, please call the main office and we will deliver the message.
- Breakfast: There is no snack time in middle school. Students should eat a healthy, filling breakfast before coming to school so they are ready to learn.
- Water bottles: As in all grades, students should bring a reusable water bottle to school each day.
- Distractions: Students should leave fidgets, squishies, toys, and other items that can become classroom distractions at home. If an item interferes with learning, it may be collected by the teacher.

Our Goal

Our goal is not simply to help students succeed academically this year. We want to help them become responsible, resilient, organized, and independent young people who are prepared for high school and beyond.

Parents and guardians, we ask that you partner with us by encouraging your child to advocate for themselves, communicate directly with teachers, keep track of assignments, meet deadlines, arrive on time, and learn from mistakes. We will always be here to support our students, but we also want them to understand that support does not mean doing things for them.

Students, middle school is your opportunity to take the next step toward becoming the young men and women you are capable of becoming. Ask questions. Try new things. Work hard. Learn from your mistakes. Take responsibility for your choices. And remember that your teachers and the St. Bartholomew School leadership team are here to help you succeed.

We are excited to welcome you to middle school and look forward to a wonderful year together!

With enthusiasm for the year ahead,
Mrs. Theresa Craig, M.Ed.
Principal

Mrs. Veronica Tkacenko
Assistant Principal

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