

August 16, 2021

# SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL

School  
Website

Parish  
Website

Small school. Big heart.

Please join me in wishing Mr. Brunner good luck in his new job at McNicholas High School. We are actively seeking a replacement. Recommendations are welcome!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This is the fourth of several back-to-school emails. Today's focuses on what to expect for Meet the Teacher next Monday evening and contains some additional, important information.



First, I intended to send this out last Thursday, but some of the details for Meet the Teacher were still in flux. I apologize for the delay.

- Parents will be sent a link to a Sign-Up Genius for Meet the Teacher. We will have a number of stations for families to visit outside that evening and need to space our teacher information sessions for maximum flow for our families.
- The PTO has arranged for Kona Ice to be on campus. Free snow cones for students!
- Used Uniforms, Athletics, PTO information, and Saber Wear will all have tables for you to visit.
- Custom Saber Wear shirts will be made that evening, to order!
- The event begins at 5:00 p.m., and the first classroom sessions will begin at 5:15. The campus will close at 8 p.m.

## More News - Still Hiring

We have filled our pre-school aide positions, and are looking for a teacher to fill Mr. Brunner's position. Here is the description that is posted on several job boards. Feel free to copy and send to anyone you think may be interested.

*St. Bernadette School is seeking a dynamic junior high school teacher of math and science for the upcoming school year. Preferred candidates will have a minimum of two years experience, have excellent communication and classroom management skills, provide engaging instruction, and support STEM activities and projects. The teaching community at St. Bernadette is a stable and supportive group of people who rely on collaboration with each other, encourage innovation in teaching, and provide a high level of dedication to growth in their students. Strong candidates will be able to cite examples of the above characteristics. Candidates must be licensed in the State of Ohio for grades 7 and 8 in math and science, and be able to pass the required background checks and safe environment instruction required of all teachers in Catholic schools. Willingness to provide advanced math instruction to gifted students, sponsor after school clubs or provide special interest activities is a plus.*

*Please send a cover letter and resume to Lizanne Ingram, principal at [lingram@stbernadetteamelia.org](mailto:lingram@stbernadetteamelia.org). Provide the names and contact information for two-three*

## Update: COVID-19 Delta

This is a reminder that all students K-8 and all teachers and staff are required to wear masks while indoors at St. Bernadette. This decision is in keeping with advice from local physicians, data from our school last year, state data, and the guidelines put forth by the AAP, CDC, ODH, CCBPH, and CCHMC.

While we are all disappointed that this is necessary, I take heart from the cooperation we experienced last year, the incredibly good attendance our students had (aside from quarantining!), and the joy we were able to make and share throughout the year. The vast majority of our students adjusted to the masks very well. I learned this summer of a student for whom masks created some repeated skin issues. If your child's doctor recommends NO cloth mask, please send that documentation to Mrs. Ingram and we will do our best to work with you. (One possible suggestion is a plastic frame that clips inside the mask and holds the fabric away from the face. See below.)

Over 50% of our students and a third of our teachers had to quarantine last year before new data was collected. Quarantining was so common at first and it was hard on everyone. Once the rate of transmission at schools with universal mask mandates was examined at the state level, the quarantine guidelines shifted, and far fewer children had to learn from home. Simple cloth masks alone are not enough to stop the spread, but cloth masks used in the classroom, along with additional ventilation, good hand hygiene, and keeping kids home when ill, were extremely effective last year for us. Our goal then and now is to create a safe environment where students can be in class everyday. Like last year, if the data shows the ability to reduce a protocol, we will.

A chart below shows the differences between last year's and this year's protocols.

In schools this year where some children are masked and some are not, more children will be exposed and more children will be learning from home because of quarantining. **By having everyone wear masks, our need to quarantine children will be greatly reduced. See ODH's [Quarantine Flowchart for contact in K-12 schools](#).**

Thank you for your cooperation this year, for your trust in us, and for keeping every child and teacher at St. Bernadette safer during this fourth surge. I know we can do it!

Enjoy your evening,  
Mrs. Ingram

P.S. Next up: What to expect for the first day of school; lunches this year.

## Tired of inhaling your mask, or sounding muffled?

I purchased the [4-Ocean mask frames](#) and am so much more comfortable behind a mask. Unlike some of the other plastic frames out there, this one is lightweight, provides a cooler breathing space, is not hot or sticky, and helps clean up the ocean all at once. They come in a child's size, too.

If you're concerned about your child being too hot or uncomfortable in a mask, I HIGHLY recommend this frame. (And no, I've not been paid to say that!)

~Mrs. I

COVID Protocol changes	Last year	This year
optional remote instruction	Yes	No
masks indoors	Yes	Yes
masks outdoors	Yes	No
3-6' distance	Yes	3'
static classrooms	Yes	No
hallway traffic restricted	Yes	No
temperature checks	Yes	No
reduced class size	Yes	No
6' distance at Mass	Yes	No
nightly electrostatic spray	Yes	No
hand-washing	Yes	Yes
sanitizer	Yes	Yes
air circulation/exhaust fans	Yes	Yes
air filtration	Yes	Yes
option for classes outdoors	Yes	Yes
water bottles in classroom	Yes	Yes
disinfecting shared items	Yes	Yes
lunch in HR	Yes	Maybe not
indoor assemblies	No	Yes
clubs	No	Yes
field trips	No	Yes
indoor parent programs	No	Yes w/ masks
grandparents day	No	Yes w/ masks
student concerts, art fair	No	Maybe
parents attend Mass, awards	No	Yes w/ masks

### Full-Length Adult Capes Needed!

When we "sort" the students into Houses next week, we'd like to jazz it up a little bit. If you have some kind of full-length cape or academic robe at home, could our Heads of House borrow it? We'd also love some plumed Musketeer hats. :)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### LOOKING AHEAD...

- **Thurs. August 19: Booster Meeting 7:30 p.m., gym**
- **Mon. August 23: Meet the Teacher for K-8 ( evening event 5p-8p)**
- **Weds. August 25: First day of school for K-8 (half day for kindergarten)**
- **Mon. August 30: First day for four-year-olds and PreK**
- **Tues. August 31: First day for three-year-olds**
- **Mon. September 6: Labor Day (no classes)**

### Come to the Booster Meeting!

Join us at the St Bernadette athletic boosters for a meeting on **Thursday, August 19th at 7:30 in the gym**. Among topics planned to be discussed: the upcoming volleyball season, interest in golf for students, planning our upcoming golf scramble fundraiser.



### VACCINES are NOT Required

A few respondents to our survey have written in their personal reactions to mandatory vaccinations based on the questions asked on the survey. Please be advised that the only vaccinations required for school or school employment are clearly listed by the State of Ohio. St. Bernadette School is not

requiring COVID vaccinations of eligible students, although they are highly recommended by physicians, and we have been advised that both the COVID vaccine and the flu vaccine reduce the overall incidence of respiratory illnesses. Questions about vaccines on our survey are there to help us understand where our community falls on the continuum of COVID vaccinations received so far, to hear attitudes and opinions, and to help us make projections about future vaccination rates. Teachers, at this point, are not required to be vaccinated, although most of our teachers and staff are.

Unlike some childhood illness vaccines, COVID and flu vaccinations are a personal choice for school attendance. Like all vaccinations, though, the rate of vaccination impacts the safety of the general population. We will continue to encourage families to consider COVID and flu vaccinations, but this encouragement is not intended to be pressure. We simply consider it a responsible community service to remind the public and encourage behavior for the public good.

Please remember to complete the short [Vaccine Survey](#) if you haven't yet. So far, 116 surveys have been submitted. We'd love to see even more.

### All Volunteers and Staff must register with SafeParish.

The Archdiocese is now using SafeParish exclusively for safe environment compliance as of July 9. Even if you have a Virtus account, you must open an account with SafeParish. Virtus accounts are no longer being used. Instructions for setting up your SafeParish account are [HERE](#). New to volunteering? You start by opening a SafeParish account, get the needed on-line training, and learn about any required background checks. Click on the link to get started!

## Quick Links

[Newsletters/Handouts](#)

[Parent/Student Handbook](#)

[Parish Website](#)

[PTO](#)

[SafeParish instructions](#)

[Schoolbelles \(code S1952\)](#)

[Mind-Peace \(for mental health providers, click on Search for Providers\)](#)

[Gradelink](#)

[Grade FACTS Login](#)

[Remind Sign-up](#)

[Virtues in Practice \(at home materials - Year I, Year of Faith\)](#)

[Kroger Rewards](#)

[Box Tops Bonus App](#)

[1n5 Foundation \(great mental health information\)](#)

