

August 26, 2021

SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL

Small school. Big heart.

[School Website](#)

[Parish Website](#)



Mrs. Lana and Mrs. Duffey, the Heads of House for Ventura House are ready to "sort!"

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We've made it to DAY 2, despite the shortened schedules for heat. Thank you for arranging transportation for your children.

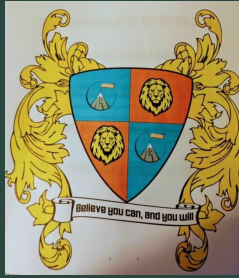
Today we "sorted" our students into Houses. Each House has 45-50 students in it, grades K-8. The students in each house will meet periodically for group activities and games to support social-emotional skills; they will compete against each other for House points, and pull together for some service activities. A house system forges relationships across grade levels, instills a deep sense of pride in a specific identity within our history, and provides a larger supportive community. With time, mentoring and leadership opportunities evolve, and legacies develop. We are looking forward to this new expression of the St. Bernadette family. The four house names and shields appear, below.

Tomorrow, students are encouraged to wear their house colors for our last out-of-uniform day this month.

Blessings on your evening,

A Message
from our Principal





Durbin House
Colors: Red and Blue
Animal: Lion

Heads of House: Sr. Judy and Mrs. Cayton.

History of the Name: Sr. Jean Therese Durbin, SC, was the first 5th-8th grade teacher at St. Bernadette in 1944. Sr. Jean Evelyn Durbin, SC, was the last Sister of Charity to teach at St. Bernadette, leaving in 1983. They were sisters by blood and by vocation!



Nevin House
Colors: Blue and Green
Animal: Dove

Heads of House: Mrs. Mattei and Mrs. Van Huss

History of the Name: Fr. Claude Nevin, C.P. founded St. Bernadette as a mission church in 1944. An accomplished musician and composer of liturgical music, Fr. Nevin served in the Lector of Gregorian Chant and Liturgical Music at the Passionist Preparatory Seminary, taught at Webster University and founded the Mater Ecclesia Society, which was established here at the Shrine of St. Bernadette.



Stievenard House
Colors: Blue and Gold
Animal: Unicorn

Heads of House: Mr. Hoffmann and Ms. Dorsey

History of the Name: The Stievenards were parishioners at St. Bernadette. Upon her death in 2009, Georgette Stievenard left almost her entire estate to the parish - a bequest of over 2.175 million dollars. The Stievenard Fund has made expensive repairs and updates to the parish campus possible. The fund alleviated some church debt and supported single mothers in need among other charities.



Ventura House
Colors: Green and Purple
Animal: Horse

Heads of House: Mrs. Duffey and Mrs. Lana

History of the Name: John Ventura was a parishioner who died in 1994, leaving a generous bequest to the parish. As a result of this bequest, charitable funds were established to serve parishioners in need. The bequest also enabled the parish to build a gym and multi-purpose building, which opened in 1996, and greatly enhanced the parish's ability to offer athletic competitions at "home" and host a variety of parish celebrations.

LOOKING AHEAD...

- Mon. August 30: First day for four-year-olds and PreK
- Tues. August 31: First day for three-year-olds
- **Tues. August 31: Confirmation meeting for Parents 6:30-7:45 in Church**
- Mon. September 6: Labor Day (no classes)
- **Thurs. September 9: PTO Meeting (Shelter by the ball fields, 6:30 p.m.)**
- **Friday, September 17: Picture Day!**

Meal Train

Marcus Binoeder, father of Jenna (5th) and Ben (7th), continues to battle an inoperable brain cancer. If you are able to send a meal to them to simplify their days, click on the Meal Train link above. Marcus, Heather, and the children appreciate the support and love of the St. Bernadette family!

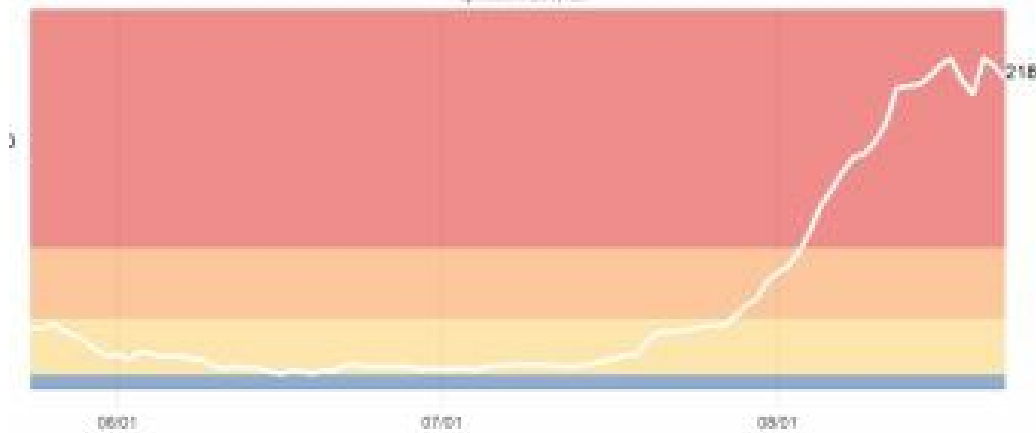
When Will Masks Come Off?

We are abiding by the Department of Health's recommendation to require masks indoors at school if the county's community spread is substantial or high. Making masks optional for vaccinated persons is not recommended until a county is in the "moderate" range, and making masks optional for **non**-vaccinated persons (most of our population) is not done until the county is in the blue range, or "low."

Community Transmission Blue (Low)	Community Transmission Yellow (Moderate)	Community Transmission Orange (Substantial)	Community Transmission Red (High)
School recommends for all eligible staff and students			
School recommends for all staff and students	School requires for unvaccinated staff and students* School recommends for vaccinated staff and students	School requires for all staff and students	
School uses community, district, or building-level data to guide choices on other layers of protection			

Wearing masks is what has makes it possible for us to avoid closing school for days on end or quarantining a lot of students.

I can envision some additional factors to help us reduce mask usage without jeopardizing attendance and infection. When a vaccine is approved for young children, a population with a high vaccination rate may be able to move to "optional" sooner and safely. Or, if the community transmission rate plummets, we may be able to go "optional" even without a vaccine for younger children. This idea is worth investigating. If you'd like to join a group of teachers and parents who have been leading our COVID response, let me know. We will meet periodically to review data, the latest research, and our school community's needs. See the (blurry) graph I received Tuesday, below. In that same report, the positive test rate was 7.2% (moderate). Our case rate is "high" at 218 per 100,000 residents - the 7-day rate sum. I'll return to posting the weekly data next week. In our school community, we have four students/faculty quarantining.



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](#)

[FACTS Login](#)

[Remind Sign-up](#)

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

[Kroger Rewards](#)

[Box Tops Bonus App](#)

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

