

August 4, 2021

# SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL

Small school. **BIG** heart.



Find your masks! Get the shot! Read below about the latest advice for elementary classrooms and COVID-19.

[School Website](#)

[Parish Website](#)



WELCOME, Mrs. Carleski!

Amanda Carleski is our new **Preschool Director**. She has a Bachelor's degree in Communications and a Masters Degree in Public Administration. She also has a lot of experience in early childhood education, preschool staff management, and most recently worked for Jobs and Family Services. Mrs. Carleski is anxious to work with younger children again and will be teaching our Pre-Kindergarten students. She will also use her leadership background and knowledge of preschool certification programs to take our program to a new level!

WELCOME, Mrs. Sharp!

Jennifer Sharp will serve as one of our preschool aides. Parent to Riley Sharp (7th grade), Mrs. Sharp has worked at St. Bernadette as a substitute teacher for the past few years. We look forward to having her officially on our staff!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This is the first of several back-to-school newsletters. Today's focuses on COVID protocols, specifically, masks.



When we dismissed for the summer, I was hopeful that we would have flexibility on the usage of masks. I even wondered if we could use our knowledge from last year (students predominantly got COVID from unvaccinated adults in their family) as some kind of index. That is, if 90% of our St. Bernadette parents were vaccinated, could we make masks optional for all?

After learning of three friends who had break-through COVID infections this summer (getting COVID after being vaccinated), and learning that each of them had received a different vaccine, I started re-thinking that idea, and reading everything I could about the Delta variant. I attended an online meeting with Children's Hospital today, and this idea of "micro" communities with "herd immunity" was quickly dismissed as a practice that could not be trusted. In other words, even if all of the adults in our school community were vaccinated, we could not trust that our unvaccinated children would be safe, because parents and students interact with the public at some point. Also, the Delta variant has been found in the nasal swabs of vaccinated people with no symptoms. Vaccinated people *can* spread COVID-19, and the Delta variant is the main culprit. There's a lot of data to consider.

I ask that all parents complete this short, anonymous [VACCINE SURVEY](#). Your opinion is important, and even though we can't rely on our own vaccination rate to relax mask recommendations, your responses can influence how we move forward. It's vital that we start the school year knowing where our population falls on vaccination numbers.

**At this point in time, I believe we will all be wearing masks while indoors at school this August.**

This is because:

- The American Academy of Pediatricians recommends that all staff and students in school this fall wear masks indoors, based on the lack of a vaccine for younger children, and the amount of transmission currently underway.
- By masking all students and staff, all children can be IN school, instead of distance learning, which has been shown to reduce academic progress, and increase mental health issues.
- The State of Ohio recommends masking indoors for schools in any county where there is substantial or high transmission; Clermont and Hamilton counties are currently rated "substantial transmission."
- Young children are more cooperative with safety strategies that everyone has to use. If some of us are masked, and some are not, it will set up a mixed message and hinder our ability to keep all our students and staff safe.
- Students 12 and older, even if vaccinated, benefit from masks in school to keep the Delta variant transmission low, and other respiratory viruses low. This improves overall attendance rates and academic progress.

**Question: If the Delta variant is so infectious and we're going to be wearing masks in school anyway, why should I vaccinate my child?**

In the newly infected person, the Delta variant has a viral load that is 1,200 times HIGHER than the original virus. That's a lot more virus particles in one sneeze. Vaccination reduces the viral load in vaccinated people. A reduced viral load in the general population will help slow the spread. Also, vaccinated individuals who have experienced break-through infections have milder symptoms and require less hospitalization. 99% of those hospitalized with COVID today were not vaccinated. Numbers are up for children needing hospitalization because of COVID, including those needing ICUs. These numbers will go down as more adults and eligible

students are vaccinated and as younger children become vaccinated, later.

### **GET THE SHOT** (a hotlink to help you)

- If you haven't been vaccinated yet, you have time to be fully vaccinated before school starts, **if** you get started this week. Click on "Get the Shot" for a link to locations and procedures.
- Children 12-15 are now cleared for vaccination, which the pediatric community is **strongly endorsing**. Several 7th and 8th graders have already been vaccinated. Thank you!
- Please encourage those you know to get vaccinated. Reluctance or resistance to vaccination is the biggest obstacle we have to getting ahead of this latest and more transmissible variant. The vaccine is safe, effective, and often provided at no cost to you.

Are you already vaccinated? Read **last week's CDC guidance for vaccinated individuals**. Stay current on the latest guidelines.

And last, remember to take the **VACCINE SURVEY**.

Many thanks,

Mrs. Ingram

P.S. Next edition: What We've Been Doing With Our Summer at St. Bernadette, or "What's a house system, and why will my student love it?"



### **LOOKING AHEAD...**

- **Thurs. August 5: Meet and Greet for kindergarten families Playground 6:30-8:00.**
- **Mon. August 16: Meet the Teacher for K-8 ( evening event)**
- **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)**

### **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!



### **PARENT NEEDED FOR OUR NEW EFFORT!**

PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support, and it is a different way to look at how we teach behaviors to all students and help those who struggle behaviorally. PBIS is being used school-wide next year, in addition to being applied to specific situations. We need at least one parent to sit on our PBIS committee to offer suggestions, share your point of view, and help us launch this new initiative holistically. The time commitment is currently for one meeting per

**ST. BERNADETTE SCHOOL  
CALENDAR  
2021 – 2022**

2021

<b>August</b>	<b>5</b>	Kindergarten Meet and Greet 6:30-8:00 on playground
	<b>19-20</b>	Teacher In-Service
	<b>23</b>	Meet the Teacher Night 5-8:00p.m.
	<b>25</b>	Classes begin-Kindergartners will dismiss at 11:00a.m.
<b>September</b>	<b>6</b>	Labor Day (NO CLASSES)
	<b>17</b>	Picture Day
	<b>27</b>	Teacher In-Service (NO CLASSES)
<b>October</b>	<b>29</b>	Teacher Retreat (NO CLASSES)
<b>November</b>	<b>1</b>	All Saints Day (NO CLASSES)
	<b>4</b>	Picture Retake Day (10:00 - 12:30p.m.)
	<b>19</b>	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> . Trimester
	<b>24-27</b>	Thanksgiving Holiday (NO CLASSES)
<b>December</b>	<b>21</b>	Last Day of Classes before Christmas Break

2022

<b>January</b>	<b>3</b>	Professional Development (NO CLASSES)
	<b>4</b>	Classes Resume
	<b>17</b>	Martin Luther King Day (NO CLASSES)
	<b>30</b>	Open House 12p.m.-2p.m.
<b>February</b>	<b>18</b>	Accreditation Meetings (NO CLASSES)
	<b>21</b>	President's Day (NO CLASSES)
<b>March</b>	<b>4</b>	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Trimester
	<b>18</b>	Teacher In-Service (NO CLASSES)
	<b>25</b>	Spring Pictures
<b>April</b>	<b>15</b>	Good Friday - Easter Break begins (NO CLASSES)
	<b>25</b>	Classes Resume
<b>May</b>	<b>6</b>	Walk-a-Thon
	<b>12</b>	Field Day
	<b>13</b>	Teacher In-Service (NO CLASSES)
	<b>27</b>	Eighth Grade Graduation
	<b>30</b>	Memorial Day (NO CLASSES)
<b>June</b>	<b>2</b>	Last Day of Classes (K thru 7)
	<b>3</b>	Professional Development

## What pediatricians are saying about masks

(AAP News, July, 2021)

The AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) continues to recommend that all staff and students who are 2 years or older wear face masks unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit their use.

Universal masking serves multiple roles, according to Dr. O'Leary. "As we start the 2021-'22 school year, a large portion of students are not eligible to be vaccinated and there are COVID variants that are more contagious. Because of this and because we want to have all students in school, the AAP advocates for all students, teachers and staff to wear masks while indoors in school," she said.

In addition, schools may lack the resources to monitor vaccine status or enforce mask policies based on vaccination status. Another benefit of universal masking is that it protects students and staff from other respiratory illnesses that would take time away from school, according to the guidance.

**Quick Links**

[Newsletters/Handouts](#)

[Parent/Student Handbook](#)

[Parish Website](#)

[Gradelink](#)

[Order FACTS Login](#)

[Remind Sign-up](#)

PTO

Virtues in Practice (at home materials -  
Year I, Year of Faith)

SafeParish instructions

Kroger Rewards

Schoolbells (code S1952)

Box Tops Bonus App

Mind-Peace (for mental health providers,  
click on Search for Providers)

1n5 Foundation (great mental health  
information)

