

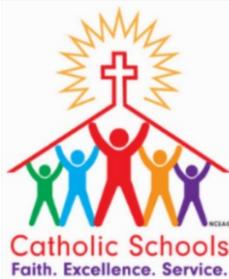
January 20, 2022

SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL

School
Website

Parish
Website

Small school. Big heart.



Catholic Schools Week 2022
January 30–February 5

www.NCEA.org/csw

#CSW22

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Tonight is your second-last opportunity to complete the [Parent Survey](#) for our self-study in the accreditation process. If you've already completed it, thank you!

The survey will close on Friday, January 21, and your input is immensely important for our self-study. If you haven't done this yet, please take care of it right away!

CHESS CLUB starts TOMORROW! Permission forms can still be brought in. See the article below and click on the link for a form. The club is open to students in grades 3-8.

COVID-19 Precautions updated

The data in the chart below shows that the new case numbers doubled in Clermont County from last week. **Over 2.3% of Clermont County is currently reported as sick with COVID.** More important: The positivity rate for 0-4 year-olds is 34%, and for 5-14 year-olds, it is 41%.

Given these incredibly high numbers, the availability of better masks for the general public, and the recommendations from the medical community, we are revising our masking policy. I have announced these revisions as suggestions to your K-8 student so far, and am pleased to see students implementing the upgrades already.

1) **Whenever possible, wear an N95 or comparable mask.** If it is NIOSH approved, it has an electrostatic surface that traps virus particles far better than anything else. N95 masks may not be comfortable or fit a child well. In that case, the next best choice is...

2) **A three-ply disposable medical mask.** These masks are made of melt-blown fabric and non-woven fabric which are proven to filter more effectively while allowing for breathability. We have a moderate supply of these in our entryway.



These masks have a nose wire to help keep the mask closer on the face. If you want even more protection, or really just love the print on your cloth mask, wear a well-fitting cloth mask over the disposable mask.

3) **Ditch the gaiters and other cloth masks for now** . Gaiters are far too loose and too thin to be helpful with Omicron. Three-ply cloth masks can be used if there are no other options, but cloth masks are missing the filtering protection the other masks offer. Students who prefer gaiters should switch to at least a disposable medical mask by Monday.

4) **Tighten up your mask**. Many students let their masks drop beneath their nose, or even past their upper lip. Others wear their mask so loosely that nothing is accomplished. Teachers remind students to pull up their masks, but sometimes the problem is as simple as shortening the ear loops. If the loop is not already adjustable, a small knot or a rubber band on the end of the loop can help.

Earlier today I wrote to parents in the preschool. Those parents still do not have the option of getting their child vaccinated, so this age group is particularly vulnerable. Beginning Monday, all students in the four-year-old and pre K classes will mask and we are encouraging the three-year-olds to develop this skill and a tolerance for wearing masks, too.

What happened to looking ahead and making masks optional?

We have to hit the "pause" button while this variant spreads because it is so contagious, but we still want to find the "off ramp" for universal masking. Given the resilience of the COVID virus, I wonder if we'll ever see a new case number at 10 or below this year, but with the availability of vaccines and boosters, students and families can help us get to a place where transmissibility is reduced even without everyone masking.

We will continue to mask through January and into February, while Omicron burns through the population and hopefully peaks. Be aware that Omicron re-infects, it is a significant threat to the unvaccinated for serious illness and death, there are still dangers to children and adults in the aftermath of an infection, and a next variant may be far more dangerous. **The medical community is stressing this message: Vaccination is the best possible tool we have.**

If your child is vaccinated, THANK YOU! Please make sure the Office has that information. Close contacts who are vaccinated do not have to quarantine; we need to know if your child has been vaccinated as we notify families of close-contacts.

Be sure we are aware of your sick student's COVID status. Please TEST your child if he or she is showing any symptoms. Close contacts who have had COVID in the past 90 days do not have to quarantine, either. Aren't sure whether your child has been around someone with COVID? Test him or her anyway. With the positivity rates so high, it is safer to assume that we are all at least a close contact.

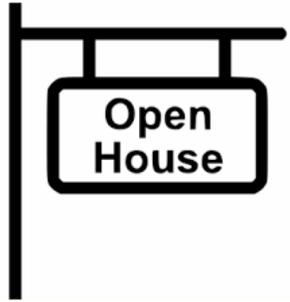
Blessings on your evening,

Mrs. Ingram

P.S. Go Bengals! Students are encouraged to dress out and support the Bengals (and the 8th grade), by paying \$1.00 for Bengals Spirit Day tomorrow. Wear accessories, Bengals tops, comfortable pants, but no leggings as pants. It worked last week!

OPEN HOUSE

Our annual Open House is Sunday, January 30 from 12-2. The Open House is for families **new** to St. Bernadette's preschool or K-8 program.



New preschool applicants, rising kindergartners, and families who wish to transfer to our school are encouraged to schedule a tour in a specific time slot.

Spread the word! Encourage someone you know to join our St. B community.

[Share THIS LINK for an appointment with a friend!](#)



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ACTIVITIES FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

- **Sunday, Jan 30, 2022**
 - Open House from 12-2 by appointment only
- **Monday, Jan. 31st (focus on Community)**
 - Opening Announcements for CSW in gym at 8:05
 - Police Officers are visiting St. Bernadette to share about their job at 8:30
 - Families will be dropping off cookies from St. Bernadette to Pierce Township Police and Fire Department as a thank you for all they do!
 - Grades K-3 have an author visiting via Zoom from Pennsylvania at 9:30
- **Tuesday, Feb 1st (focus on Students)**
 - 8th Grade Dodgeball Competition 8:15-9:15 Teachers vs. Students
 - Ice Cream for Students at Lunch
 - Tom Sparough (juggler, storyteller, catechist) visits Grades 5-8 @1:00 and Grades K-4 @ 2:00
- **Wednesday, Feb 2nd (focus on Nation)**
 - Veterans are visiting St. Bernadette via Zoom to share about their job to protect our Nation
 - Living Rosary at 1:45
- **Thursday, Feb 3rd (focus on Vocations)**
 - Career Sharing Day-parents will share their careers via Zoom or video
 - Father Tim and/or other priests, nuns, and/or missionaries will be visiting classrooms or zooming to tell about their vocations

****Family Fun Night at Beechmont Rollarena tonight FROM 6-8!****
- **Friday, Feb 4th (focus on Faculty)**
 - GAME DAY with our houses! (8:15-9:15)
Bring a game to share with your friends!
 - Student Appreciation Activity– Bowling at Cherry Grove Lanes (10-12)
 - Pizza Lunch and Drinks will be provided for the students courtesy of the PTO (12:30)

Get excited! We will have the best week ever!



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK HELP

If your family attends St. Bernadette Church on the weekends, we would love to have your children's help after the masses on Saturday, Jan. 29 and Sunday Jan 30. We will be passing out thank you letters from the school children to the parishioners in honor of Catholic Schools Week. It only requires a few minutes after whatever mass you would normally attend. The children should be dressed in uniform. If you are able to help, please email Mrs. Roesel at croesel@stbernadetteamelia.org. Thank you so much for helping us promote our school!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

LOOKING AHEAD...

- Sun, Jan 30 - Open House (12-2pm, for new families only)
- Jan 30 - Feb 5 - Catholic Schools Week

ON THE HORIZON...

- Fri, Feb. 18 - No School
- Mon, Feb 21 - No School

Volunteer Opportunities

We've refreshed our Sign-Up links for Lunchroom Help and Recess Duty. Please consider spending time on our campus in these positions. Both of these "jobs" give you an opportunity to see our students socialize and play. Children love seeing their mom or dad on campus - particularly the younger students. (Older students might complain or ask you not to come, but down deep, they're proud of your participation and support!) The links for these signups are in the QUICK LINKS, below.

NEW!! FOR LOVERS OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS, AND MATH (STEAM)

We have been blessed with a very generous cash donation from a past parent. Our task now is to use that money for the development of a makerspace for our students. Mrs. Ingram needs the input and elbow grease of parents who work or recreate in these fields to develop a resource here for our students. Although we take pride in integrating STEAM projects and concepts across grade levels, now we have an opportunity to intentionally equip a classroom that can be used specifically for this purpose. STEAM has been a push in education for many years. Adding Arts to the mix pulls creativity and the humanities into the room. Creativity + Technology is how real-world problems get solved. Would you like to help us dream, vision, shop, and innovate? Contact [Mrs. Ingram](#)

Curious about makerspaces? [Check out this article.](#)

Data Used to Support In-Person Learning						
1 st Metric: Clermont County		2 nd Metric: Clermont County		3 rd Metric: St. Bernadette School data		
7 Day Sum of Daily New Cases per 100,000	Goal: <10	Percent of COVID tests: positive	Goal: <5% (CDC) <3% (Harvard)	Cumulative COVID cases	Isolated (sick)	Quarantined (well) Current
↓9/20/2021	447	↓9/20/2021	10.6%	6	0	3
↓9/29/2021	357	↑9/29/2021	12%	6	0	2
↓10/4/2021	346	↓10/4/2021	9.7%	9	3	5
↓10/11/2021	309	↓10/11/2021	9.5%	14	5	40
↓10/18/2021	224	↓10/18/2021	7.6%	15	2	3
↓10/25/2021	161	↑10/25/2021	10.7%	15	1	2
↓11/01/20	156	↓11/01/20	4.4%	16	2	3
↑11/08/2021	167	↑11/08/2021	5.3%	17	2	0
↑11/15/2021	237	↑11/15/2021	6.6%	17	1	0
↑12/1/202	294	↑12/1/202	10.2%	18	1	4
↑12/7/2021	439	↓12/7/202	9.7%	18	0	9
↑↑1/6/2022	874	↑↑1/6/2022	21.7%	35	17	10
↑↑1/13/2021	1142	↑↑1/13/2021	25.8%	40	5	10
↑↑1/20/2021	2334	↑↑1/20/2021	32.9%	42	2	4

CHESSE CLUB

Chess Club will start on Friday, January 21st. No matter what their skill level may be, all girls and boys 3rd grade and up,



who are interested in playing or learning how to play chess, are invited to join Chess Club on Fridays after school from 3:10 until 4:00. The emphasis will be on friendly competitive gaming that will teach the value of good sportsmanship, as well as teaching strategy and foreseeing consequences. If you have your own board, you are welcome to bring it – but it's not necessary. Any questions, email dhoffmann@stbernadetteamelia.org **CLICK HERE TO**

PRINT PERMISSION FORM



CLOSED DUE TO COVID?

Some of the school districts have shifted to remote learning for several days because of the high absence rates of students, teachers, bus drivers, and subs during the pandemic.

We will do everything we can to avoid school-wide remote learning. High absence rates of students will not trigger remote learning, but they might indicate a need to add layers of protection for students. In other words, we would first consider distancing students more and keeping cohort groups together better before we would go remote. If we have a shortage of teachers, however, we may have to go remote, depending on the circumstances. Keeping students healthy reduces teacher illnesses. Thank you for keeping your sick child home, and testing him or her. This is one of the ways we can keep the school open for instruction.



All Volunteers and Staff must register with SafeParish.

The Archdiocese is now using SafeParish exclusively for safe environment compliance. Even if you have had 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!

If you are interested in volunteering for cafeteria or playground duty, please see the links below to sign-up through Sign-Up Genius.

COVID-19 LINKS

Ohio COVID Vaccine Program
Quarantine and Isolation Calculator
Get the Shot Ohio

Search Available Vaccine Sites
Frequently Asked Questions: Quarantining
Local Statistics

Myths and Facts: COVID Vaccine
Cincinnati Children's COVID site
(appointments, information, FAQs, latest research)
Clermont County Public Health

Quick Links

Parent/Student Handbook

Parish Website

Lunchroom help sign-ups

Recess duty sign-ups

To set up Lunch Instructions

PTO

SafeParish instructions

Schoolbelles (code S1952)

Gradelink

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)**

**Mind-Peace (to find mental health
providers - click on "Search for
Providers")**

**Beacons of Light - Pastoral Planning and
Parish Families**

