



Principal's August 2023 Newsletter

Welcome Back, St. Patrick School Family!

I hope this letter finds you and your families in good health and high spirits. As we prepare to embark on another exciting academic journey, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to both returning and new families to St. Patrick School. We are eager to begin the new school year, filled with faith-filled opportunities for growth, learning and memorable experiences.



It is with great enthusiasm that I introduce this year's theme: "Faith Can Move Mountains," inspired by **Matthew 17:20**. This theme embodies the essence of belief, determination, and perseverance, encouraging our students to embrace challenges with unwavering faith and the confidence that they can overcome any obstacle that comes their way. Throughout the year, our school community will explore this powerful concept through various educational and spiritual activities, fostering a positive and uplifting environment for all.

Welcoming New Families

To the families who are joining us for the first time, we extend a heartfelt welcome to the St. Patrick School family. We are thrilled to have you and your children as part of our close-knit, faith-filled community. As a school, we strive to create a nurturing and inclusive environment that celebrates diversity, where every child is valued, respected, and supported in their unique journey of faith, growth and learning.

Introducing New Faculty and Staff

As we begin the new academic year, it gives me immense pleasure to introduce our newest additions to the St. Patrick faculty and staff family. For more information regarding our new members, please see the attached.

Megan Bess – Full-time aide for Mrs. Jenna Reinhardt, 5-day Pre-kindergarten class

Julie Birke – Librarian (W)

Paige Burns – Full time instructional aide for Mrs. Santistevan's first grade class

Lindsey Gintz – Skills Coach K-2/Resource Teacher (TTh)

Jaime Grun – 8th grade Homeroom, Social Studies and ELA teacher

Debbie Kloeppel – Full time instructional aide for grades 5 – 8
Michele Kuhl – Learning Resource Teacher (TWTh)
Rachael Love – Full time instructional aide for Mrs. Wood's kindergarten class
Rebecca McGovern – Full time instructional aide for Mrs. Amidon's kindergarten class
Amy McLeod – Learning Resource teacher (M-Th)
Colleen Paisley – Full time instructional aide for Third Grade
Suzanne Smith – Part time Aide for Mrs. Marian Lang's preschool class (TTh)

We are confident that their expertise, dedication, and passion for education will greatly enrich our school community and contribute to the success and well-being of our students.

Changes in Faculty & Staff placement

We have made a few changes from within our current faculty and staff.

Preschool/Pre-kindergarten

Mrs. Schantz will be the full time aide for Mrs. Reinhart

Mrs. Phelan will be an aide for Mrs. Lang & Mrs. Reinhardt part time MWF

Mrs. Crank will be an aide for Mrs. Reinhardt part time TTh

Mrs. Jenice Szarwinski will be a full time aide for Mrs. Essmyer and Mrs. McKenzie

Kindergarten – 8th Grade

Mrs. Santistevan will teach a first grade class

Mrs. Kirchner will teach a first grade class

Specials

Mrs. Edwards will teach grade 3, 4, & 5 SEL in addition to the art classes

Changes in Spanish Program to Skills Program

Please see the attached letter.

~Back to School Notes

~Back~to~School Packets

Every school family, preschool through grade 8 will have a packet ready to pick up. Their Back-to-School packet, will need to have the paperwork completed and returned by the first day of school. Back-to-School packets will be in the back of church this weekend, August 5 & 6 and the following weekend, August 12 & 13. Back-to-School packets will also be at the School Supply Drop-Off on Sunday, August 13. If you complete yours early (please), you may drop it off at the School Supply Drop Off/Mass on August 13th. Thank you!

~Back to School Kick~Off

Please join us on **Sunday, August 13th** for our Back to School Kick-Off! Bring the family to school between 4:00pm for Mass at 5:00pm to drop off school supplies, then head into the gym to celebrate Mass at 5:00pm. Then get reacquainted with classmates and meet new ones at the Home & School sponsored dinner with Dessert food trucks in front of the church after Mass! Please see the attached flyer. **PLEASE USE THE LINK ON THE FLYER AND RSVP ASAP!**

School Supplies Ordered from 1st Day Grades Kdg~8th

If you ordered school supplies through 1st Day, they are in. If you have not already picked up yours, please feel free to come during school office hours. If you are unable to pick them up by August 15, they will be put in your child's classroom.

First Day of School

As a reminder, the first day of the new school year is **Tuesday, August 15th, with a noon dismissal**. We have been working diligently to ensure a smooth and safe return to campus. Our comprehensive health and safety protocols remain in place to prioritize the well-being of everyone in our school community. We encourage you to stay connected with us throughout the year by attending school events, parent-teacher conferences, and engaging in our various community activities. Your active involvement and support play a crucial role in creating a vibrant and thriving learning environment for our students. Please see the attached flyer regarding our School Supply Drop Off, Mass and Social on Sunday, August 13th.

Dismissal for Preschool/Pre~kindergarten

Parents with preschool/pre-kindergarten students will pick up their child(ren) from the lower level entrance. You do NOT need to sign up for a carpool unless you have older children. Vehicles should NEVER be put into Reverse! More information is in your Back-to-School Packet.



KDG through Grade 8 Dismissal – Carpool Sign-Up

Our dismissal procedures will remain the same as last year. Parents picking up will need to sign up for a specific carpool (#1, #2, or #3). The dismissal bell for carpool #1 will ring at 3:00p.m. and students for Carpool #1 will go to the safety box and then to the vehicles. Once carpool #1 has exited and carpool #2 has entered, students for carpool #2 will go to the safety box. Once this carpool has exited, carpool #3 will follow in the same manner. Please note we have not given specific times after the first carpool, simply because we are not quite sure what those times will be and know they will vary. If you are in carpool #1, you will need to make sure you are able to arrive early. The parking lot opens at 2:30p.m. Vehicles should NEVER be put into Reverse! Please see more information in the Back-to-School packets.

THE SIGN-UP FOR CARPOOL WILL BE SENT IN A SEPARATE EMAIL TO THE PARENTS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. Parents with children in both the Early Childhood program and in Kdg through grade 8 will be given an opportunity to sign up first.

Class Assignments

Families should be able to access FACTS/Renweb at this time. You should be able to log in and see the teacher's name of your child(ren)'s class. You will not be able to see a class roster.

St. Patrick School Handbook

The school handbook can be found on Renweb and on the website at www.stpatrickwentzville.org, (Under School, Parents, Family Handbook)

Saint Patrick

Our patron saint, St. Patrick was captured by Irish pirates and taken to Ireland where he was enslaved to herd and tend sheep. During this time, he turned to God and his love for Him grew. We ask St. Patrick to intercede for us as we embark on another school year. We promote virtues that help grow your child's faith, intelligence, and goodness. The growth in these areas will help your child form into a faith-filled and wise person who seeks to evangelize, live as an informed citizen, listen to God's call in their heart and promote a peace-filled and unified community.



St. Patrick, pray for us!

Once again welcome back to St. Patrick Catholic School, and let us embrace the new school year with faith, hope, and enthusiasm as we strive to move mountains together!

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Jill Gould

Mrs. Jill Gould
Principal

Mr. Zach Morrison

Mr. Zach Morrison
Assistant Principal

Welcome St. Patrick New Faculty & Staff Members

Julie Birke – Librarian (W)

I have a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Masters in Education and Masters in Library Science. I retired from the Fort Zumwalt School District in 2022. I was an educator for 29 years. I taught third grade for nine years and was a Library Media Specialist for twenty years.

I am eager to instill a love of reading and inspire life-long learning!

Lindsey Gintz – Skills Coach K-2/Resource Teacher (TTh)

I received my undergraduate degree in English from Truman State and my Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from UMSL. I am currently in my doctoral program for Elementary Education from South College. I taught in both private and public school for seven years before working at the collegiate level helping new teachers build their professional portfolios. My daughters, Kingsley and Maggie, will both attend St. Patrick this school year! My family (including our four dogs and our bunny) live in Wentzville and are proud to call St. Patrick our parish.

Jaime Grun – 8th grade Homeroom, Social Studies and ELA teacher

I am so excited to join St. Patrick's School! This is my 24th year of teaching for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. My last 18 years have been with St. Rose Philippine Duchesne School in Florissant. I received my degree in education from the University of Missouri – St. Louis, and have been in Catholic education ever since. I have one 18 year old daughter, who has been in Catholic education since PreK; so, I understand and appreciate the wonderful benefits of Catholic school. I can't wait to meet my 8th grade students and the St. Patrick school community. This is going to be an amazing school year!

Amy McLeod – Learning Resource teacher (M-Th)

I worked for 33 years in the public schools before retiring from the Wentzville School District and starting off a new venture in private schools. In the public schools, I taught 1st grade and 3rd grade, and I also was a school counselor for many years. I started at St. Patrick's four years ago as a resource teacher/counselor. As an employee of Catapult Learning, I have also worked at St. Cecilia's, Catholic School, St. Louis Catholic Academy, The Freedom School, Epstein Hebrew and Torah Prep for Girls. I am so happy and excited to be at St. Patrick's, as I have come to know several of you and have loved the kids and all the staff I have worked with here. I am also excited about growing my faith at St. Patrick's. My real life outside of school includes my husband, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 2 significant others and the joys of my life, my 5 grandchildren ranging from 6-weeks old to 20 years old!



Megan Bess – Full-time instructional aide for Mrs. Essmyer's, 5-day Pre-kindergarten class.

I started my love of caring for children at the young age of 11. Once I graduated high-school, I immediately began working as a daycare/preschool teacher at La Petite Academy. From there I began working for the Riverview School District for 7 years. I was the the Director of the S.A.C.C. program at Gibson Elementary, and then hired at Moline Elementary after it was built for the same position as well as an office aide. I became the attendance secretary at the Middle School for my last year with the district. In 2005, I married my wonderful husband Jeff, and we welcomed our 3 kids to the world in 2006, 2008 and 2010. In 2008, I started doing childcare out of my home for 15 years. I took a year off to have some "me time" before getting back out into the job world again. I am so excited to get back into the school world working with the littles again!

Paige Burns – Full-time instructional aide for Mrs. Santistevan's first grade class

My name is Paige Burns. I'm a parishioner at St. Patrick and mother of two children attending St Patrick School. After seven years at home nurturing my family of four, I'm overjoyed to be joining the St. Patrick School Family as a First Grade Instructional Aide this school year.

Rachel Love – Full-time instructional aide for Mrs. Wood's kindergarten class

I graduated this past May with degrees in Agricultural Education and Plant Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. This summer while working with plants, I realized that I missed working with children and decided to apply at St. Patrick to be a Kindergarten aide. I am excited to work as an aide this school year!

Rebecca McGovern – Full-time instructional aide for Mrs. Amidon's kindergarten class

I have taught preschool for 22 years. At St. Mark's Mini School in Florissant, I was the lead teacher in the 2 and 3 year old classroom and taught the 4 year old class for two years. I was blessed with the opportunity to work with Mrs. Amidon and her kindergarten class for the last six weeks of the school year. I am a member of the St. Patrick's Parish. I have five grandchildren who currently attend St. Patrick School. I am looking forward to working with the kindergarten students and Mrs. Amidon again this year!

Debbie Kloeppel - Full-time instructional aide for grades 5 – 8.

I have been substitute teaching since 2020 with Warren County, Wright City School Districts, and St. Patrick's in order to assist teachers during Covid. I have been a member of St. Pat's for 10 years and currently have three grandchildren attending the school. My degree is from Lindenwood in HR Management and I am excited to be assisting the Middle school teachers for 2023/2024 school year.

Michele Kuhl – Learning Resource Teacher (TWTh)

My name is Michele Kuhl. I was the Learning Center Teacher at Holy Spirit School for 32 years before I retired four years ago. I really missed teaching and working with students so I'm excited to work with your children in the Resource Room at St. Patrick's School.

Colleen Paisley – Full-time instructional aide for Third Grade aide

I am so excited to be a part of the St Patrick Community! I received my teaching credential at Cal State Long Beach in Southern California. My first teaching job was first grade at Mt Carmel School on

the Island of Saipan - Marianas Islands. That teaching experience awakened in me that I love to teach the faith to children. I taught first grade and pre-K in Catholic schools before I moved to St Louis in 2002. I taught kindergarten in St. Peter Catholic School and St Paul. I embraced my vocation as a Mother and stayed home with my three girls in 2007. In that time, I taught in preschool and substituted at ICD during Covid to help my daughter's school. Last year I was a substitute at The Academy of the Sacred Heart. I enjoy the outdoors with my daughters camping, hiking and swimming. As their biggest fan, my two daughters attend St Dominic High School where they are currently involved in various activities. I look forward to getting to know the children and families at St Patrick's and helping them grow academically and spiritually as they grow in his love.

Suzanne Smith – Aide for Mrs. Marian Lang's preschool class (TTh).

I am a retired teacher with 30+ years in education. I have taught middle school language arts and social studies as well as third through fifth grade. I have tried to retire on several occasions, but it never quite takes; I love children and the joy of seeing them learn too much to leave it behind! I am excited to join St. Patrick School as an aide in preschool.

August School Calendar

- 1 Building open for Faculty & Staff to prepare for the school year
- 1-4 Faculty Meetings/PD
- 5-6 Back to School Packets in Church
- 6 Kindergarten BBQ (details to follow)
- 7-11 Faculty Meetings/PD
- 10 8th Grade Meeting & Shirt pick-up 6:30pm
- 12 Back to School Packets in Church
- 13 School Supply Drop-off
Back to School Mass
Social – BBQ
- 15 Kdg – 8 First Day of School – NOON DISMISSAL – NO MORNING OR AFTERCARE
Kdg – 8 Mass, 9:30am
Kdg Parents' Boo Hoo Breakfast
Preschool Meet & Greet
- 16 Kdg – 8 First Full Day of School – Morning and Aftercare begins
Pre-kindergarten School Meet & Greet
- 17 Home & School Organization Meeting 6:00pm
Meet the Teachers to follow meeting
- 21 Pre-kindergarten First Day of School – 11:30am DISMISSAL
- 22 Preschool First Day of School – 11:30am DISMISSAL
- 23 Gr 4 – 8 Mass, 8:00am
- 25 Gr Kdg – 3 Mass, 8:00am
- 30 Gr 4 – 8 Mass, 8:00am



St Patrick Catholic School

701 S Church Street, Wentzville, MO 63385

Phone: 636-332-9913

Dear St. Patrick School Family,

Subject: Changes in Spanish Program and Introduction of Skills Program

As we prepare for the upcoming academic year, I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you about an important decision that has been made regarding our school's language program.

Over the past several years, we have faced challenges in maintaining consistency with the number of teachers in our Spanish program. These challenges have impacted the quality of instruction and the overall learning experience for our students. After careful consideration and discussions with the school board, faculty, and staff, we have made the decision to forgo the Spanish program.

However, we are dedicated to providing the best possible education and support for our students. To fill the void left by the Spanish program, we are excited to introduce a new initiative known as the "Skills Period." During this period, students will receive coaching in essential areas that are vital to their overall growth and development.

The Skills Period will encompass coaching in the following areas:

1. Social-Emotional Skills: Students will learn to identify and manage emotions, develop empathy, and build positive relationships with their peers and teachers.
2. Executive Functioning Skills: We will focus on developing organizational skills, time management, and goal-setting abilities to enhance academic success and personal responsibility.
3. Study Skills: Students will learn effective study techniques, note-taking strategies, and problem-solving approaches to improve their learning efficiency.
4. Life Skills: Practical life skills such as financial literacy, decision-making, and communication will be emphasized to prepare our students for success beyond the classroom. Life skills will be more for the older students.

We firmly believe that investing in these crucial areas will greatly benefit our students' academic performance, personal growth, and well-being. By focusing on their overall development, we are confident that they will be better equipped to face challenges and succeed in their future endeavors.

Our dedicated team of teachers and staff is committed to ensuring a smooth transition and providing the support necessary for each student to thrive in the Skills Period. We will work together to create engaging and enriching learning experiences that cater to the unique needs and interests of our students.

We understand that you may have questions or concerns about these changes, and we encourage you to reach out to us if you would like further clarification or information.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we strive to provide the best possible education for our students. We are excited about this new chapter and look forward to an enriching academic year ahead.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. Jill Gould".

Jill Gould
Principal

St. Patrick Catholic School



back to
school
kickoff



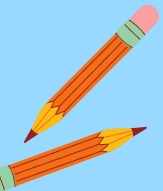
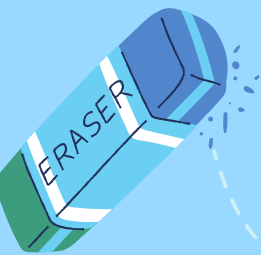
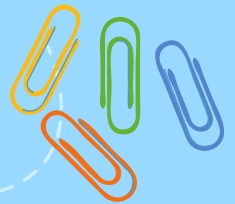
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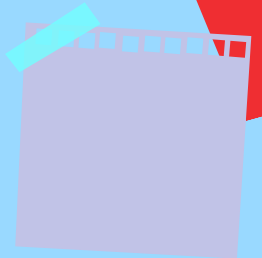
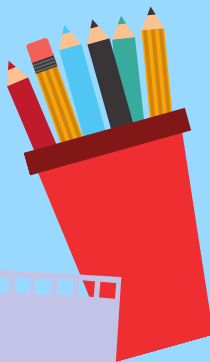
Supply Drop Off | 4-5

Mass in Gym | 5-6

BBQ Social | 6-7:30



Hot dogs provided
Bring lawnchairs



RSVP at
bit.ly/stpBTsk

