

Letter from the Principal

Hello St. Joseph School families,

I hope you are all off to a good start to your summer. Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction issued their guidelines for schools on Monday. This is just guidance from the state at this time, and I am also receiving continual updates and guidance from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and our local Mukwonago school district. We will continue to communicate with you as we plan for the 2020-2021 school year. We are currently assessing the situation and reviewing all of the guidelines. The Covid-19 crisis has taught us to be prepared for the unexpected. Our staff and families desperately want to have our students back in school in August. We will continue to keep the safety of our students and staff at the forefront of our goals and planning. We will be planning throughout the summer, and as soon as we have some more concrete plans we will share them with you.

The link below gives updates and FAQs from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee as of June 16th. We also attached them at the end of this newsletter.

<https://www.archmil.org/Our-Faith/CoVID-19-Updates/Updates-for-Schools.htm>

May God continue to bless you,

Jeff Van Rixel
Principal



Backyard Vacation Bible School - BOLT! Towards Faith in Jesus!

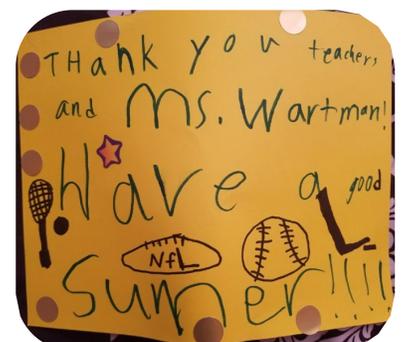


St. Joe's Child and Family Ministry is so excited to announce that BOLT VBS is coming to YOUR house this summer! With minimal preparation, easy-to-follow instructions, and a video that leads your family step-by-step through each day, BOLT is designed to bring the fun and faith-formation of VBS to your home. This special VBS can be done at home, WHEN YOU CHOOSE, with your family! Registration is FREE! Just go to: <https://www.stjoesbb.com/vacation-bible-school> to sign up. Feel free to invite your friends & neighbors to join in on the fun.

Scrip

If you are interested in signing up for scrip, please call the school office at 262-662-2737 or the parish office at 262-662-2832 for the enrollment code, then go to <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Login/Enroll>. If you have any questions, please call one of the above numbers. Thank you for joining and supporting us.

End-of-Year Drive By Parade





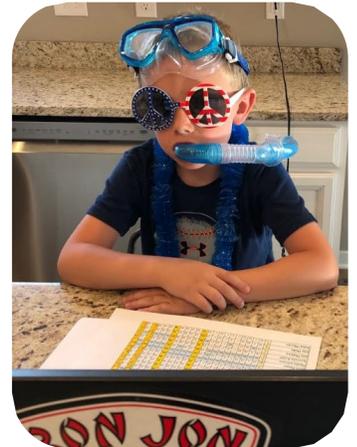
To say he was excited about his new treasures from Mrs. Kinderman would be an understatement!!!!



Field trip to the beach.



Enjoying a virtual field trip.



Lego Club - Lunar Rovers by Carolyn and Veronica.



Flat Mrs. Kinderman enjoyed some outside adventures. While doing an outdoor sight word scavenger hunt the boys found something extra in a tree! They also had a blast cooling off with some field day games!

CONGRATULATIONS ST. JOE'S!!

St. Joseph School applied for and was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant for the 2020-2021 school year from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for our initiative titled "Enhancing Reading Growth with Renaissance."

Goals for this initiative include:

- Increased student habit and love of reading,
- Increased reading achievement through data-driven, evidence-based instruction strategies, and
- Increased school-family partnership through parent-child-teacher communications and reports.

This award will support multiple facets of our Accelerated Reader program, including:

- Purchasing two new Chromebooks for each classroom, to facilitate on-demand quizzing,
- Supporting teacher implementation through professional development resources,
- Rounding out our library where we may find gaps specific in subject matter or level, plus
- Subsidizing the licensing fees for Accelerated Reader, Star Reading, and Bookguide for the 2020-2021 school year!

Special thank you to Mrs. Kopp, Mrs. Campbell, and Mr. Van Rixel for submitting the application!!

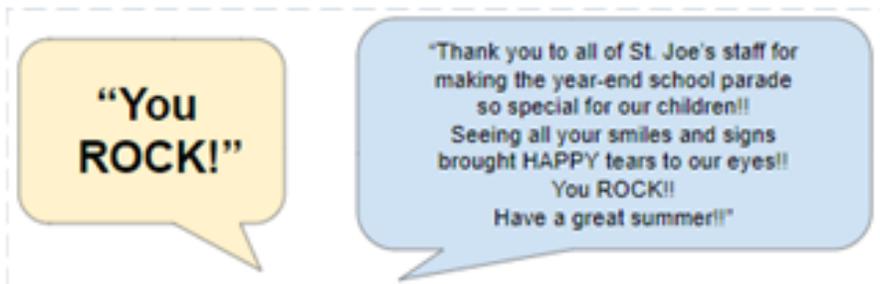
Beat the Summer Reading Slump!

Thanks to our partnership with Renaissance, the company that brings us Accelerated Reader, we can share a special opportunity with you. Renaissance's myON.com offers over 6,000 digital books with many useful, embedded features such as read-aloud, dictionary, and more. The topics are endless, and easily matched to your child's reading level. There is even a daily news section with articles, videos, and links to related books! Watch this brief [demo](#) to learn more about this fun, educational tool! To login, just go to <https://www.myon.com/login/index.html> and use the following:

- School Name: Read at Home
- Username: readnow
- Password: myon

Thank you survey respondents!

80% of families shared their feedback in the year-end school survey! SAC will review the overall results, relay any specific feedback to necessary parties, and ensure that your responses help guide planning for 2020-2021. Overall results will be communicated to everyone at a later date.



Don't forget! You, too, can recognize teachers and staff anytime by submitting the quick & easy [You ROCK! Recognition form!](#)

A Letter From Fr. Kevin

As you probably are aware, we have begun the "Catholic Comeback" and have started to come back to Mass, as people are feeling more comfortable. The Mass is a bit simpler, and we are without our usual ushers, cross bearers, choir, and servers, but we're back!

We are really in need of some help at Mass.

To make Mass happen, we really need volunteers. Your entire family could work on this together, or you could sign up individually and work with other people. The volunteer opportunities are: "Hospitality Minister" and "Cleaning Crew". We need 3-4 people at EACH Mass in EACH of these positions. You would arrive about 20-25 minutes prior to Mass for the Hospitality Minister, or stay after Mass about 20-25 minutes if you are on the Cleaning Crew. You could complete BOTH jobs at one Mass if you were so inclined. You will have to wear gloves and a mask while volunteering in either position. Please watch the video or read the info sheet (linked below). We so appreciate your time, and really can't have Mass without your help. If you have any additional questions please reply to this email or call the parish office at 262-662-2832. The sign up genius is also listed below so that you can sign up right away! Thank you!

Video to watch for "Hospitality Ministers": https://youtu.be/to_NwqvDQds.

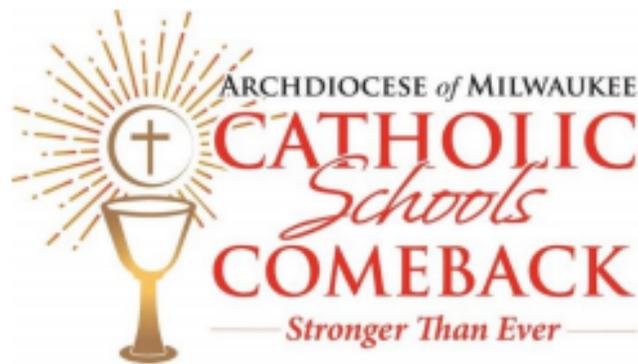
Video to watch for the "Cleaning Crew": <https://youtu.be/DNto89RMT7U>

Sign up for Future Masses here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b094caaaf22a0fe3-mass>

Thanks so much for reading this. I hope you'll consider helping out!



The Knights have completed another community service project. A highway clean up was completed by 8 Knights and their families on Saturday, June 20th in front of St. Joseph's Parish. This event is held 3 times a year. The Knights also support a Food Drive and a couple Pancake breakfasts at the parish throughout the year. If interested in joining Knights of Columbus, go to <https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-the-knights.html>



Dear Parents,

When we chose “We teach you like family” as our Archdiocese of Milwaukee Catholic Schools theme for the 2019-2020 school year, we never envisioned how fitting it would become, in light of the work-from-home transition that took place within our schools during the recent pandemic.

Our mission of providing students with a solid foundation for every aspect of their lives begins with the recognition that they need and deserve educators who take seriously their responsibility to be role models of faith, competence and character. Students in our Catholic schools are formed and supported by *everyone* in our school communities who contributes to their spiritual, intellectual, social and moral growth.

In amazing ways, our Catholic school educators stepped up to the challenge of abruptly transitioning into virtual learning in mid-March, yet they still closed out the academic year with remarkable success. This strong and almost seamless continuation of learning could not have happened without you. Thank you for your understanding, hard work, and support throughout these difficult months in assisting teachers remotely with your child’s education. As is the case in any family, through the toughest of times and through the most daunting challenges we become stronger than ever – together.

As we look forward to the coming 2020-2021 school year, we will continue Catholic education this fall stronger than ever and back together again. We are currently working with our schools to plan for the fall and will continue to provide updates, regulations and advice as we alter and adjust to the constantly changing effects of the pandemic. With safety as our first concern and in compliance with appropriate guidelines, we want you to know we are planning for our schools to re-open in a traditional manner at the end of the summer break.

With 102 schools within the 10 counties of southeastern Wisconsin, the first day of school may not look the same for everyone. Schools may have different plans and procedures due to their locations and communities. Regardless of circumstances, the

assurance of a safe, caring and Christ-centered environment will continue to be a top priority within all of our Catholic schools.

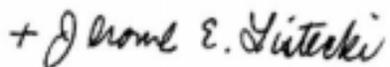
We have received some specific questions pertaining to the 2020-2021 school year. Please see the Q&A below which includes some of our most-asked questions. Also, please take a look at some of the recent case studies that highlight Catholic school success.

From pre-kindergarten through high school, our schools are shaped by communion and community, both inside and outside the classroom. Through this pandemic, these are values we have come to hold more strongly than ever. As we approach the coming school year, be assured that we look forward to welcoming your children back into our schools, “teaching them like family,” and continuing their preparation for success in this world and the next.

No matter how cautiously or carefully we will need to “come back,” we look forward to it as a true home-coming for us all.

Please join us in celebrating and praying for the continued success of our Catholic schools, and be assured of our prayers for you and your family.

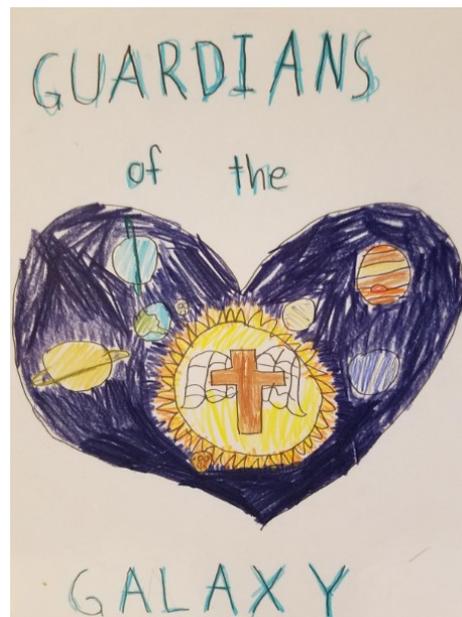
Sincerely yours in Christ,



Jerome E. ListECKi
Archbishop of Milwaukee



Kathleen A. Cepelka
Superintendent of Catholic Schools





Q&A

Are teachers going to be teaching differently in the classroom after the Virtual Learning experience of the past three months?

The sudden closure of schools in March required all teachers to adapt their teaching with little or no notice. Our schools utilized, reallocated, and when possible expanded their resources to meet the challenge. Teachers learned and embraced new approaches to how they teach and assess student learning, often with significant use of technology. The best practices that supported Virtual Learning will continue to be of value during face-to-face instruction.

How will my child's academic progress be monitored this fall to assure that "gaps" that may have occurred because of the sudden move to Virtual Learning are covered?

Principals and teachers have been engaged in collaborative discussions since May to identify gaps in instruction that resulted from the move to Virtual Learning. Work will continue throughout the summer to identify content and skill gaps for grade levels and individual students, and plans for how those gaps will be addressed at the next grade level this fall.

When school resumes, how will teachers determine what is taught to make sure that critical learning in each grade level is covered, regardless of how instruction is delivered?

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has identified critical content and skills for each grade level in the form of priority standards. Those standards appear on the report card for core content areas in grades 1-8. We are blessed to have made those important decisions as an archdiocese prior to Virtual Learning so all schools are able to make instructional decisions that assure a strong academic foundation is in place, regardless of how learning is experienced.

Will there be differing tuition rates if instruction would at some point need to be provided to students virtually vs. in-person?

The delivery method of the instruction has little impact on a school's cost to provide the instruction. The tuition amount charged in exchange for this instruction is determined at the local level and should be clearly communicated to parents.

Policy 3240.1: Rules for the Collection of Tuition states: *Every school must have a tuition/enrollment contract that specifies tuition, fees, and other terms and conditions for student enrollment and parent/guardian involvement. The contract must identify if and when tuition and other fees are nonrefundable.*

Who has the authority to determine whether our school will be open in fall and what it may look like?

The decision on whether or not to open for in-person instruction, and what safety protocols will be in place, will be made at the local school level. This is a complex decision, and each school should consult with its local health department and local public school district in making its determination for how school will function in the fall. Important factors to keep in mind:

- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has the statutory authority to close schools during health emergencies. The current DHS order closing schools, which was upheld by the Wisconsin Supreme Court (*Wisconsin Legislature v. Palm*), expires on June 30, 2020. There is currently no expectation that DHS will issue a new order impacting schools.
- The local health department, which may be either at the county or municipal level, has the authority to issue local orders or guidance. There must be an underlying local enforcing ordinance in place to allow the health agency to issue an order, otherwise the health agency can only issue guidance.
- The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will issue guidance for the local public school district to consider when the district decides what is best for its community in the fall. DPI will not tell the local public school district what to do in this regard.
- While we encourage consultation and collaboration with the local public school district for the benefit of all students, our schools are not bound by the decision of the local public school district.

How will busing be handled?

The local public school district has a legal obligation to provide transportation to eligible private school students in its district. When this obligation is met through the use of a school bus, the district has the authority to establish the route the bus will use, including pick-up and drop-off times. Within this authority, we anticipate the district will work with its bus company to establish the guidelines for transporting students, including, but not limited to, the number of students per bus, seating restrictions, and whether the use of a mask is required by student riders. The district should provide this information to parents, either directly or through the private school.

How will lunch be handled?

Each school will need to determine how to provide lunch for its students in the safest way possible. This may include options such as staggering lunch times so that fewer students are in the cafeteria at any one time, providing pre-boxed lunches instead of the traditional hot lunch, or having students eat in their classrooms.

Will there be elementary school athletics?

Athletics in our elementary schools by necessity involve multiple schools and leagues. Due to this configuration, the decision to proceed with, delay, or cancel, athletics, and under what precautions, will be made by the Office for Schools in consultation with the leadership of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the Athletic Advisory Board. The Athletic Advisory Board is comprised of the directors of each sanctioned league, three elementary school principals, representatives for the Seton

and Padre Serra tournaments, a representative for game officials, and a representative from the Catholic Mutual Group.

High schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee will follow the guidelines of the WIAA, which is the governing body for high school athletics in the state. We will consider the WIAA's guidance and adaptations in determining if, and under what precautions, there will be elementary school athletics when school resumes in the fall.



**Have a safe and happy
4th of July!**

