

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL NEWS AT SHSF

Issue 2  
August 2018

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS

You are invited to our Open House as a part of our "First Day Celebration" on Friday, August 24, from 5 PM—6 PM. This event provides a chance for teachers, parents, and students to meet together as a school community. We hope you will be able to share in the joy of this beautiful occasion with all of our families.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL PICNIC  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 24 at 6 PM

Immediately following Open House, we hope you will be able to stay for the Annual Family Get-Together Pot-Luck Picnic starting at 6:00 PM on the school grounds. If you plan on attending, please call the school office, 442-2446, or return the signup sheet that was included in last month's emailing.

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### Mission Statement

Providing excellence in academics and a deepening faith in God and Gospel Values in an environment that is caring, challenging, and respectful, striving to develop in every student the habits of thinking critically and acting responsibly in daily life.

## THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first official day of school for Sacred Heart St. Francis is Wednesday, August 29. Students in Grades 1-8 will line up in the paved parking lot according to grade level at the 8:15 AM bell. Their teachers will be there to greet them. Following the second bell students will proceed to their classrooms.

Morning Prayer this year will remain at 9 AM, after first period class.

Preschool and Kindergarten parents are welcome to accompany their children to their classrooms beginning at 8:10 AM.

The playground is not available in the mornings prior to the start of any school day.

# AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our After School Enrichment program is under the direction of Mrs. Nancy Hopkins, assisted by Ms. Chelsea Tifft. In order to cover all our expenses, the cost this year will remain at \$10.00 per day per student for the entire time or \$5.00 for the first hour. The program will run from 2:45 PM until 5:05 PM every full school day.

There will be an opportunity for homework assistance Monday through Thursday and special activities are planned for the children as well. This is an important service we can provide for our families. Mrs. Greenslet and Mrs. Gorry will be our homework club teachers again this year.



Sign-up sheets need to be filled out weekly. Please note that [payment must be received in advance](#) for the days your child will be attending. If you should have questions about our ASEP, please call the main office. An After School Handbook is available on-line or you may request a hard copy. Registration packets are available online and at Open House. These must be on file

with Mrs. Hopkins in order for your children to attend the program.

**BACK to SCHOOL  
Open House  
FRIDAY, August 24  
from 5:00 PM—6:00 PM  
Please Join Us!**

# SCHOOL STAFF UPDATE

We welcome Mr. Lee Arrington to our school. Mr. Arrington will be our new fifth grade homeroom teacher. He will be teaching Middle School Science and fifth grade Social Studies this year.

Mr. Arrington has a dual degree in Biology and Chemistry and a Masters Degree in Education

from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts..

Mr. Arrington enjoys middle school aged children because of their energy, enthusiasm, challenges, humor, and potential.

He and his family live in Sandgate, Vermont. Welcome, Mr. Arrington!

# BOOK FEES FOR 2018-2019

Book fees may be paid anytime from now until the start of school on August 29. Thank you to everyone who has paid their book fees already. Please note that students will not be given their books until this fee is paid. If you haven't made your payment, you will want to do it soon.

Preschool	\$55	Grade 2	\$115	Grade 5	\$135
Kindergarten	\$75	Grade 3	\$115	Grade 6	\$135
Grade 1	\$115	Grade 4	\$115	Grade 7	\$135
				Grade 8	\$135



## PEANUT ALLERGY ALERT

We have students at Sacred Heart St. Francis School who have life threatening allergies to nuts, especially peanuts. We are asking that you work with us to make Sacred Heart St. Francis [a peanut safe school](#) by refraining from sending your children with peanut butter or other products containing nuts or nut oils (i.e. nutella). If these students come into contact with anything containing nuts, nut oils or derivatives, it could be life threatening.

It is only necessary that physical contact with

these substances be made, even on a second hand basis. For example, a severe reaction may occur should the child touch a desk, toy or book previously handled by another student who has touched peanut butter, peanuts or peanut oil. If you do send any treats into the school to be shared, keep this in mind. Thank you for your support, understanding, and cooperation with this serious matter.

## RENWEB—SCHOOL INFORMATION

If you are new to our school, you are invited to use our school's information management system – [Renweb](#). This is a private and secure parent portal that will allow parents to see academic information specific to their children, while protecting their children's information from others.

We also use Renweb's Alert System for school emergencies and weather related delays and closings.

Renweb has created a 5 minute [ParentsWeb Overview video](#) which will give you an introduction to the system. Please watch it at your



convenience by pasting this address in your browser [vimeo.com/126932181](https://vimeo.com/126932181)

You will need this password in order to access the video is "[ParentsWeb](#)."

Together we can improve our children's academic development and the communication between our school and your home.

**SHSF Family Picnic**  
**Friday, August 24,**  
**starting at**  
**6 PM. (Right at school!)**  
**Please Join Us!**

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT

For the safety of our children, all volunteers, including parents, are required to complete an on-line certification entitled "Safe and Sacred." You can access it by visiting [www.vermontcatholic.org](http://www.vermontcatholic.org). There is a link to the program under Child Safety. Just a note, you will be required to do a background check as part of the certification if this is your first time doing it. Completion of this is in accordance with Diocesan policies and is required for anyone who wishes to work with our students in any capacity. Fingerprinting, however, is not

necessary for this background check.

It may take a few weeks for you to receive a certificate of completion due to the large number of volunteers in all our schools completing the program.

Safe and Sacred is a yearly program, so please keep your certificates up to date.

If you should have any questions, please contact Mrs. Gilarde in the main office. She is our Safe Environment coordinator.

There is no cost for any part of this program.

## THE SCHOOL OF SACRED HEART ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

307 School Street  
Bennington, Vermont 05201

Phone: 802-442-2446  
ax: 802-442-2344

[www.sacredheartbennington.org](http://www.sacredheartbennington.org)



### WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

We wish to welcome these new students and their families to our school community.

Charlotte Burnham  
Marley Clark  
Christopher Farnam  
Wyatt Lozier  
Katie Moses

### SOCCER STARTING SOON!

Students in Grades 5-8 who want to play soccer should contact Coach Ted Rivers (GIRLS) 802-733-5250 or Coach Chris Bevin(BOYS) 802-447-3638. Practices will begin soon. Coaches will have the information packets to give to their teams.



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The start of a new school year is always an exciting time. Enthusiasm and expectations are high. Parents, students, and teachers share the hope that this year will bring outstanding achievement in education, in community spirit, and in affirming our faith in God.

Realization of that hope requires both commitment and a plan of action. Your prayers, your participation as a volunteer, and your spirit of cooperation are essential to its success. We plan our curriculum to meet the high standards which characterize Catholic education. Our goals focus on areas of knowledge to be studied, skills to be acquired, and habits and attitudes to be developed.

We are partners in the process. The close ties between family and school reinforce moral values and nurture our faith tradition. You are always welcome to call or visit to talk about ways we can help each other in educating your child spiritually, intellectually, and physically.

Let us enjoy our partnership as we work closely together during this new school year.

School Lunch menus will be emailed to you at the beginning of each month. Lunches are free again this year. School lunches will not begin until Tuesday, September 4. Bag lunches are required the first 3 days of school.