

# SHSF NEWS



Monthly Newsletter of Information

Back To School 2014

## Back-to-School Open House and Picnic

You are invited to our Open House as a part of our community's FIRST DAY CELEBRATION on Thursday, August 28, 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.

Immediately following Open House, we hope you will be able to stay for our 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 to let us know how many will be attending.

### Opening Day—September 2

The first official day of school for Sacred Heart St. Francis is Tuesday, September 2. Students in Grades 1-8 will line up in the paved parking lot according to grade level at the 8:15 AM bell. Following the second bell students will proceed to their classrooms. Morning Prayer this year will be 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.

### 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 School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales 307 School Street Bennington, VT

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## Safe Environment

For the safety of our children, all new volunteers including parents are required to comply with the school's request for a Vulnerable Record Check. This is in accordance with Diocesan policies and is required for anyone who wishes to work with our students in any capacity. Fingerprinting is not necessary for this background check.

In addition, all new Volunteers who work directly with children (including field trip chaperones) must also complete an on-line certification entitled "Shield the Vulnerable—Protecting God's Children" More information will be sent home the first week of school about how to register.

There are no further requirements at this particular time for those volunteers who have completed everything listed above.

### WELCOME NEW STUDENTS & THEIR FAMILIES

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

Colin Eldred

Madelyn Fleming

Aaliyah Gibson

Aidan LaCasse

Duncan Miles

Jackson Palmateer

Kaidence Vosburgh

## School Lunch

### Lunch Cost

Abbey Food Service will be providing our school lunches this year. The cost will now be \$2.00 per day or \$10.00 for a five-day week. Meals will be sold the first day of each week for the whole week or specific days. Daily lunch will be sold in the event of an emergency situation. A menu is sent home at the beginning of each month.

### Snack Milk

If your child would like to purchase milk for snack, the cost is \$2.50 for a five-day week or 50 cents per day.

Milk must be prepaid on Thursdays so that we may place our order ahead of time.

### First Week

School lunches will available Tuesday, September 2, the first day of school. The cost for lunches for the week of September 2 will be \$8.00.

*The Abbey Website*

*[www.abbeygroup.net](http://www.abbeygroup.net)*

## **BOOK FEES!**

*For all consumable books!*

You can begin paying your consumable text-book fee at anytime, but all monies are due on or before the first day of school. You can pay all at once or you can pay in installments between now and then. This is an important investment in your child's future and well worth the cost.

This is required of all families.

The book fee for each particular grade is as follows:

**New to Pre-School \$50**

**Kindergarten \$50**

**Grade 1 \$70**

**Grade 2 \$70**

**Grade 3 \$70**

**Grade 4 \$90**

**Grade 5 \$100**

**Grade 6 \$120**

**Grade 7 \$120**

**Grade 8 \$120**



## **Peanut Safe Procedures**

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.

## **After School Program**

Our After School Enrichment program, under the direction of Mrs. Nancy Hopkins, will begin on Tuesday, September 2. In order to cover all our expenses, the cost this year will again be \$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 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. Becky Greenslet will be our homework club teacher this year.

Sign-up sheets are sent (e-mailed) home every week. Please note that payment be received 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 Enrichment Handbook is available online or you may request a hard copy.

**PLAYGROUND CLEAN UP  
MONDAY, AUGUST 25  
4 PM—7 PM**

# RenWeb

## What is it? What does it do?

Our school uses a web-based school administration system called RenWeb to enhance communication among teachers, parents, and students.

RenWeb is a fully integrated web-based school information system, and RenWeb can be accessed 24/7, from work, home, school or on the road. Parents and students will utilize a component of RenWeb which is called Parents Web . The Parents Web component of RenWeb provides parents and students password-secure access to SHSF student information such as:

- Attendance • Daily Grades • Progress Reports • Report Cards
- Lesson Plans • Homework • Missing Assignments • Staff & School Directory • Teacher Email Addresses • Teacher Websites

To learn more about ParentsWeb 2.0, please cut and paste this link into your web browser:

[http://www.renweb.com/robohelp/pwdemo/parentswebdemo\\_demo.htm](http://www.renweb.com/robohelp/pwdemo/parentswebdemo_demo.htm)

## Staff News

We welcome Mr. James Caswell and Mrs. Crystal Harris to ur teaching staff.

Mr. Caswell, a Bennington native, is a recent graduate from The University of Vermont. He has a degree in Elementary Education and upon graduation worked in the Special Education Department of the Colchester Public Schools. Mr. Caswell will be our Academic Support Teacher and will also be teaching Math in our middle school.

Mrs. Harris, whose youngest daughter graduated from SHSF in the spring, will be teaching Art in our middle school. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Graphic Design and Illustration from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh.

## Recycling

Our school will be increasing our recycling efforts this year. We believe it is important to teach our students how to protect the environment, conserve natural resources, save money, and reduce waste. We want to teach our students that they can make a difference in preserving one of God's most precious gifts, the world in which they live.

Every classroom will have recycling containers as will our lunch room. We will start here with paper, plastic, and aluminum and then eventually move into composting food scraps left over from snack and lunch. If anyone has ideas about how to make this part of the program work, we are ready and willing to accept you help.

Thank you for supporting our school's recycling program.

***Handbooks are now available on our school's website. There are a few changes, specifically regarding Medication (Health and Wellness Handbook) and Honor Roll and the Use of Electronic Devices during school (Student Parent Handbook). Handbook Verification Forms will be sent home the first week of school.***

**SHSF Window Decals (\$5) and SHSF Drawstring Bags (\$7) Available at the Picnic.**

**Back to School Special , buy both for \$10!**

# From the Principal's Desk

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.



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**Bennington, Vermont 05201**  
**802-442-2446**  
**[www.sacredheartbennington.org](http://www.sacredheartbennington.org)**

*We are always seeking new students. If you know of any family who may be interested in enrolling their children, please let us know or have them give us a call. Word of mouth is a great marketing tool. Maintaining our enrollment is crucial to our existence. Please help your school community.*