

**Back-to-School
2017
Newsletter**



Ready, Set, Go!

You are invited to our Open House as a part of our “First Day Celebration” on Monday, August 28, from 5 PM—6 PM. This event provides a chance for teachers, parents, and students to meet together as a school community.

the joy of this beautiful occasion with all of our families.

Pot-Luck Picnic starting at 6:00 PM on the school grounds. If you plan on attending, please call the school office, 442-2446, to let us know how many will be attending.

Immediately following Open House, we hope you will be able to stay for the Annual Family Get-Together

We hope you will be able to share in



THE SCHOOL OF

Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales

Opening Day

The first official day of school for Sacred Heart St. Francis is Wednesday, August 30. 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 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.

Inside this issue:

Safe Environment	2
Renweb	2
New Students	2
After School Program	3
Peanut Safe	3
From the Principal	4
Book Fees	4

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.

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.

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. 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 office, who is our Safe Environment coordinator. There is no cost for any part of this program.

Welcome New Students

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

Giovanni Rodriguez
Connor Duffany
Morgan Purczyki

Ella Kennedy
Lucas Duffany

Carson Herzfeld
Sydney Purczyki



Middle School Soccer Begins!

Students in Grades 5-8 who want to play soccer should contact Coach Rivers (GIRLS) 802-733-5250 or Coach Cody (BOYS) 802-236-7478. Practices begin soon.

Informational Software

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 will also be using Renweb

this year 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

You will need this password in order to access the video is

“ParentsWeb.”

The Sacred Heart St. Francis school code is SH-VT

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

Peanut Safe

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 and assisted by Ms. Chelsea Tiff, will begin on Tuesday, September 5. In order to cover all our expenses, the cost this year will 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 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. Becky Greenslet will be our homework club teacher 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 to attend the program.

New Staff Member Update

We welcome Mrs. Susan Paustian has been hired as our new school secretary/administrative assistant. Mrs. Paustian, a resident of Arlington, Vermont, has banking, clerical, bookkeeping, and school experience. She is married and has

two sons and her first grandchild on the way. Please stop in the office to

welcome her to our school community. She is eager to get to know the school and all of you.

Welcome, Mrs. Paustian!



From the Principal



**The School of Sacred Heart
St. Francis de Sales**

**307 School Street
Bennington, Vermont 05201
802-442-2446**

sacredheartbennington.org

You are to be congratulated on the choice you have made in sending your children to a Catholic school, and we take pleasure in welcoming you to a new school year filled with challenges and opportunities.

You have chosen a school that offers a strong academic skills program. Our staff of dedicated teachers is trained to meet the special learning needs of each individual student. We provide supportive services when students need extra help, and we encourage students who are motivated to go beyond the core curriculum to do individual research or work on special projects.

Academic skills and broad general knowledge are important components of a child's education, but we offer more. The moral values which underlie all of our activities are important in building character. Students take part in activities which deepen their faith and love of God. They learn to appreciate the many gifts which the Lord has provided.

Courtesy toward others, compassion toward those in need, acceptance of responsibility, and a recognition of the rights of others are all qualities we regard as important. As students develop these traits, they become better citizens of the school and the community.

Again, we welcome you as partners in the education of your children. We look forward to working with you.

Book Fee Reminder

Book fees may be paid anytime from now until the start of school on August 30. 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.

Pre-School	\$50
Kindergarten	\$70
Grade 1	\$110
Grade 2	\$110
Grade 3	\$110
Grade 4	\$110
Grade 5	\$130
Grade 6	\$130
Grade 7	\$130
Grade 8	\$130



Our Handbooks for the 2017-2018 school year are now online! www.sacredheartbennington.org

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 5. Bag lunches are required the first 3 days of school.