



The School of
Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales
307 School Street
Bennington, Vermont
05201
802-442-2446

www.sacredheartbennington.org

Back-to-School News

Open House and Picnic

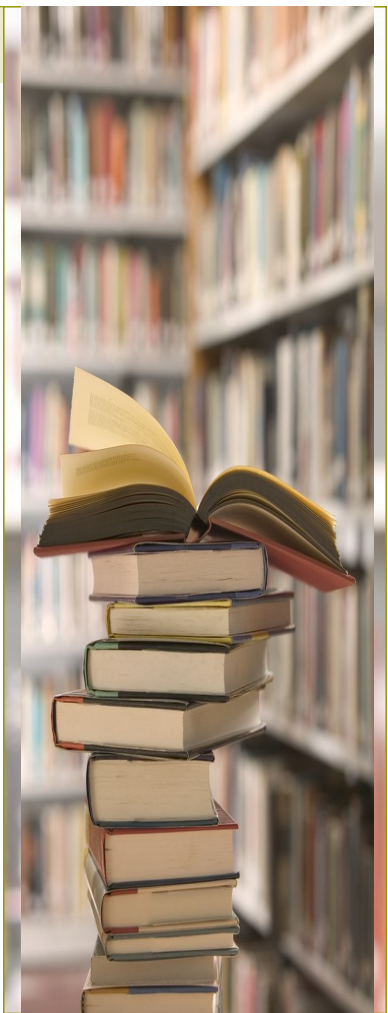
You are invited to our Open House as a part of our FIRST DAY CELEBRATION on Monday, August 31, from 5 PM—6 PM. This event provides a chance for teachers, parents, and students to meet together as a school community. We hope you will be able to share in the joy of this beautiful occasion with all of our families.

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

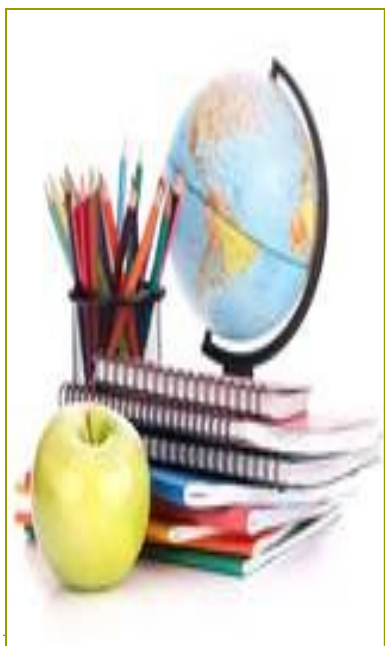
Opening Day—September 2

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



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.



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 staff members, coaches, and volunteers (new and

old) who work directly with children (including field trip chaperones, lunch room helpers, etc.) must complete a new on-line program called "Safe and Sacred." More information will be sent home next week about how to register.

The "Shield the Vulnerable" program previously used, as well as the "Virtus" program are no longer valid.

"What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God."

— Hans Urs von Balthasar

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.

School Lunches

Abbey Food Service will be providing our school lunches this year. The cost will now be \$2.25 per day or \$11.25 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 be available Wednesday, September 2, the first day of school. The cost for lunches for the week of September 2 will be \$6.75.

In the event of any changes, we will keep you notified.

The Abbey Website: www.abbeygroup.net



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 • Behavior Logs • 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

Our school code is SH-VT and the email you supplied the school will be needed in order to access the portal.

Recycling

Our school will continue 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 has recycling containers as will our lunch room. We will 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 your help.

Thank you for supporting our school's recycling program.

After-School Program

Our After School Enrichment program, under the direction of Mrs. Nancy Hopkins, will begin the first day of school, Wednesday, September 2. (providing all paper work has been submitted for those attending) 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 on-line or you may request a hard copy.*

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.

Book Fees

For all consumable books!

You can begin paying your consumable textbook 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.

Preschool 3 \$55 (includes mat)	Preschool 4 \$25 (+\$30 if mat is needed)	Kindergarten \$70	Grade 1 \$85
Grade 2 \$90	Grade 3 \$95	Grade 4 \$110	Grade 5 \$130
Grade 6 \$130	Grade 7 \$130	Grade 8 \$130	



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From the Principal's Desk

We welcome back all the families whose children enrolled in our school last year and extend a sincere welcome to all whose children are just entering our school community. We are beginning another year of shared responsibility in building Christian values and educational skills in the children God has placed on our care.

The unique partnership developed between parents and school staff has been a fundamental reason for the success of our school program. We appreciate your ideas, your cooperation in helping with many activities, and your support. As role models for our students, you are far more important than you may have realized.

We adults are "on stage" much of the time, and the way we respond to a situation certainly affects our children. How do we react when another driver cuts in front of us? What do we do or say when we are delayed in the grocery store check out line? Do we take responsibility for our mistakes? Does our language when we talk to or about others reflect the love Christ expects of us?

Those of you who can take part in our home-school partnership by volunteering become role models for other students as well as your own children. Whether you can be available a few hours each week or only occasionally, there are many opportunities for you to share in our activities. Please talk to your child's teacher or stop by the school office. You are vital members of our school community and we thank you for all that you do.