

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

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The School of SACRED HEART ST. FRANCIS de SALES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

BACK TO SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER

Open House and Picnic

You are invited to our Open House as a part of our "First Day Celebration" on Monday, August 26, 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, 442-2446, to let us know how many will be attending.

Thank you in advance to the eighth grade parents for sponsoring this event.

First Day of School

The first official day of school for Sacred Heart St. Francis is Wednesday, August 28. 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.



...a fun place to
play and learn!

After School Program

Our After School Enrichment program is under the direction of Mrs. Nancy Hopkins, assisted by Mrs. Carol Schwartz. 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. Registration packets are available online and at Open House.

*It is important for
you to always
know what your
student is learning
and how they are
progressing.*

FACTS SIS (formerly known as Renweb)

If you are new to our school, you are invited to use our school's information management system – **FACTS SIS** or **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 their Alert System for school emergencies and weather related delays

and closings.

You are encouraged to create an account in the Parent Portal by following this link:

<https://logins2.renweb.com/logins/ParentsWeb-Login.aspx>

Our District code is SH-VT.

Staff Update

We welcome several new staff members this year. Mrs. Chrissy Morrissey and Mrs. Elizabeth Garberich will be joining our middle school team. Mrs. Morrissey, whom many of you know, graduated

from St. Mary's College in Southbend, IN with a teaching degree in secondary English. Mrs. Garberich, new to our area, is a graduate of the College of St. Scholastica in Minnesota. She has a BA in Biology and

Masters in Middle School Science Education.

Mrs. Sarah Sokolowski will be assisting in preschool and Mrs. Carol Schwartz will be helping in our after school program. We welcome them to SHSF.

Peanut Safe School

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.

Safe Environment

For the safety of our children, all volunteers, including parents, are required to complete an on-line certification entitled "VIRTUS." You can access it by visiting www.vermontcatholic.org. There is a link to the program under Child Safety. Completion of this is in

accordance with Diocesan policies and is required for anyone who wishes to work with our students in any capacity. You will receive a certificate upon completion, but It may take a few weeks before for you are cleared to volunteer

due to the large number of volunteers in all our schools completing the program. 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.

Please complete your online training in VIRTUS as soon as possible.

Consumable Book/Lab Fees

Next year's Book/Consumable/Technology fees may be paid anytime from now until the start of school on August 28. (You can even pay a little at a time between now and then. **Any family withdrawing anytime before school begins will now be billed for the book fee regardless of whether or not their children will be attending our school.**)

Preschool	\$75	Grade 2	\$115	Grade 5	\$135
Kindergarten	\$100	Grade 3	\$120	Grade 6	\$135
Grade 1	\$115	Grade 4	\$120	Grade 7	\$135
				Grade 8	\$135



Get your book fees in soon or before the start of school.

Newsorthy Notes

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

307 School Street
Bennington, Vermont 05201

Phone: 802-442-2446

Fax: 802-442-2344



CHROMEBROOK FUND— We are working hard to get more Chromebooks for our students, especially in Grades 2 through 5. We have a donor who is willing to give us a \$10,000 gift if we can match that amount in other donations. If you would like to make a tax deductible gift, please email Mr. Estes at david.estes@sacredheartbennington.org

HANDBOOKS— Our Handbooks for the 2019-2020 school year are now online! www.sacredheartbennington.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER—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

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE— We will be running a before school program from 7:30 AM-8:00 AM for parents who absolutely need to be at work by 8 AM. Participation is by permission only and a note from an employer is necessary. Please contact Mr. Estes if you are interested.

FIRST FRIDAY LITURGY—We will be walking to church on Friday, September 6 for First Friday Liturgy. This monthly devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus will begin at 9 AM. All parents are welcome to celebrate with us.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. and Mrs. Bersaw on the birth of their son, Timothy.

From the Principal

When those lazy summer days come to an end and the structured days of school begin slowly creeping up, heading back to school can often cause anxiety and nervousness in children. The following are tips for you that may help your children prepare for getting back into the swing of things and make the transition from summer time to school time go more smoothly.

Because the first week of school can have a key impact on your child's success during the rest of the school year, you can start an organized schedule one week before the first day of school. You should try having your children in bed at the regular school year bedtime, and have them come home from playing outside at an earlier time. You can set the alarm clock for them to adjust to rising at an

earlier hour.

To get your children in the school mode, you can visit the library and choose a few books with them.

During the last week of summer vacation, you should try to limit the amount of time your children watch television. Cartoons on school day mornings can be a big distraction in the morning and cause both you and children to be late!

You can take your children shopping for school supplies, and let them choose at least one or two of their own supplies.

Keep calm. You should try to hide your own anxiousness about your children going back to school. When they notice you are calm, they have a tendency of remaining calm as well.

Because breakfast can often be the cause of chaos in the morning, you should try to buy healthy breakfast foods that your children enjoy to avoid arguing with them about what to eat.

Have your children pack their backpacks the evening before the first day of school to avoid scurrying around the house looking for scattered school supplies, books, etc.

You should make sure your children's school uniforms are clean and ironed the night before.

Talk to your children about what they are most excited about and what they are worried about. Remember to keep them thinking positively and motivated by words of encouragement and love.