

Bishop Baraga Catholic School



October Newsletter 2021

BBCS COVID Update



Currently, we are dealing with small amount of COVID19 cases in our building. We are managing the the cases we have and staying in close contact with the Health Department, the Diocese of Gaylord, and healthcare professionals for guidance and assistance with contact tracing. Please know that with all positive cases, as well as exposure notification, we are obligated to follow certain rules and regulations regarding the privacy of the individuals, therefore, it may seem as though we are not being completely, transparent with all families, however, we are doing everything we can to inform all the parties necessary and take proper precautions to keep students, staff, and families safe. As always, we would like to continue families to speak with your children about the importance of masking, and to monitor the health of your child, and always air on the side of safety if you see any signs or symptoms in your child. We greatly appreciate all of your support and cooperation with this issue. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and will continue to update everyone as needed.

Rapid Antigen Testing



Last week, our school signed up to receive COVID19 Rapid Antigen Testing kits from the local Health Department. These testing kits have been provided to schools by the COPESD and health department to conduct COVID19 testing as they see fit. As we await for our testing kits to arrive, we will be putting together some guidelines as to when we should use a test, and who we will allow to use them. Ultimately, the rapid antigen testing will not be used to confirm whether someone has COVID19, but rather another tool we may be able to use to stay proactive and give our families and staff more information when making a decision as to whether an individual should stay in-person or seek further testing. Although it has not yet been determined as to whether we will use the testing kits for students, it is important to know that staff conducting testing will go through a training session to ensure it is done correctly, and all testing must have parental consent if we choose to open it up to students. More information about COVID testing in our school will follow, please stay tuned for more on this.

Absent Work & Google Classroom

This week teachers will be working closely on how to properly accommodate students that may have to be out of school for an extended period of time. Whether it may be due to exposure, or a positive COVID19 test, we are very much aware of the what the situation looks like for our students right now. Please know that this is not only difficult on our students, but also our teachers as well. As we work to put together some general guidelines and learning plans for students spending consecutive days out of school, please continue to be patient and do the best you can. At this point, some teachers have started to utilize google classrooms, and some teachers have focused more on hard copy packets. By the end of this week, all teachers will have a better idea as to how we will approach absent work, and will communicate changes and/or updates in their newsletters next week. Thank you all for being so helpful and understanding as we navigate through this very complet time in education.



Merging Parent Pick Up Lines

I am very happy to say that our dismissal changes have been very effective and well received by parents. The congestion at the main entrance appears to be minimal and the procedures for dismissing students has gone much better. Thank you all for your valuable input and cooperation as we worked towards making this a smoother process.

As we continue to look at how we can do just a little better, your attention is called to the area in which both parent pick up lines meet. At this time, we have had several instances in which a merging situation could have ended in a fender-bender accident. I would like to ask that we all pay special attention to this area when it applies, and be extra careful when merging lines to exit the parking lot. With everyone's extra diligence and attention to detail, we can hopefully avoid any type of minor accident from occurring. To simplify this, we would like to operate in this area as does McDonald's drive through. Easy enough, right? Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



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Month of the Holy Rosary



The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. Since the prayers of the Rosary come from such excellent sources, it is not surprising that the Rosary is so dear to our Blessed Mother and so powerful with heaven. If we consider the power of the Rosary as seen in its effects, we find a great abundance of proofs of its wonderful value. If we turn to history, we see many great triumphs of the Rosary. The Rosary is the Christocentric setting for the entire life of Jesus Christ, the passion, death, resurrection and glory. Of course, the Rosary honors and contemplates Mary too, and rightly so, for the same reason that the Liturgical Year does likewise. Because of the mission she received from God, her life is most closely linked with the mysteries of Jesus Christ, and there is no one who has followed in the footsteps of the Incarnate Word more closely and with more merit than she. Students and staff will be paying homage to Mary throughout this month and incorporating the rosary into our daily routines. We encourage our parents to do the same at home with your children to honor the month of the Holy Rosary.

Reminders & School Updates



- ✓ As of October 1st, students are no longer able to wear shorts to school. Please be sure your student is aware that shorts are no longer allowed until this spring.
- ✓ Monday's are Baraga Shirt & Jean day for students. Students are asked to bring a \$1 donation or food pantry item to take advantage of this privilege.
- ✓ NWEA Fall testing will conclude Friday, 10/08. Teachers will be working with the data and presenting your child's scores to you during November's Parent-Teacher conferences.
- ✓ We have a variety of volunteer opportunities available for parents looking to get involved. Please call the school office and talk to Ann to get more details.
- ✓ For anyone that participated in the Bike-a-thon, all donations are due to the Baraga office by 10/15/21. Checks can be made payable to St. Judes.

Baraga Student Shoutout!

Great job to all Baraga students that participated in this year's Bike-a-thon for St. Judes. We are so very proud of all of the students that actively participated in this event for a truly great cause.

Also happening this month, students in grades 4-7 will be campaigning for Student Council positions. Each year students in these grades will campaign for officer positions as well as class representatives. This year the student council will be more involved with various programs in the school and will be working towards a number of projects as the voice of the students at Bishop Baraga. We are excited to see the campaigning that will occur throughout the month, and build a strong team of student leaders through our student council elections. Best of luck to these students that are planning to participate. The 2021-22 BBCS Student Council members will be announced in my November newsletter.

BBCS
LEARNING TODAY
LEADING TOMORROW



What's Going On This Month

- 10/07/21 - All Boards Meeting 6 pm
- 10/08/21 - NWEA Ends
- 10/20/21 - Student Photos (Students may dress up)
- 10/27/21 - BBCS Reopening Night
- 10/29/21 - Halloween Parties in Afternoon
- 11/01/21 - No School (Staff PD)
- 11/02/21 - Tentative Date for First School Mass
- 11/08/21 - Term 1 Ends

**All dates and times are subject to change

