

# BISHOP BARAGA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## BACK TO SCHOOL

### SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021

BISHOP  
BARAGA  Est. 1856

#### A Few Words from Mr. Closs

Thank you all for showing so much patience and grace throughout the past months, especially these past few weeks. The school and parish staff, along with some excellent volunteers have been working extremely hard to get the school back up and running in time for school to begin. I am happy to say that after a long wait, we are finally nearing the end of the rebuilding process and are very close to welcoming you and your students back into our school for this school year. As we approach the week before school starts, school staff will be working to put the final touches on their classrooms and the school before students come back. As soon as teachers have their rooms completed and the school is ready, we will begin hosting scheduled meetings and appointments within the school. Until then, we ask that you continue to be patient and flexible with student and/or parent meetings.

#### Building Update

This week we passed our very critical building inspections and received our official Certificate of Occupancy for our building. Teachers and volunteers are now able to begin coming back into the school building. In the final stage of the rebuilding process, final touches on the playground will be completed along with other small jobs around the school. A final cleaning will be done before the end of next week, and as teachers work towards finishing classrooms and learning spaces for the students, our school has finally started to look like it used to. Although we will begin the year without some of the major furniture items, we are so very grateful to all those who have contributed to the rebuilding of the school and are very appreciative to be able to be in our school this year. We are excited to be able to show off our school to our families and community once all of the furniture has arrived and final touches have been completed. A re-opening celebration is being planned and will be announced once all details are finalized.

#### NEW - Absence Protocols

As we work to better our school practices this year, one area we will focus on is our student absence protocols. We would like to encourage everyone to continue to call the school office when your child is going to be absent from school. Many of you are very proactive and already do so, but we would like to kindly ask that you always alert the school office so that all absences are recorded in one place. Of course you are welcome to include your classroom teacher in the communication as well. Teachers will be taking attendance after the final morning bell, and reporting absences to the school office. If we have not received a call from a parent by 10 am, the school office will be alerting the parents to ensure the student is safe. Please feel free to refer to the Parent-Student Handbook for the full policy. Thank you in advance for helping us better our school practices.

#### Uniforms on Day 1

As you know, we are beginning a bit later than normal this year. Since this year's start date falls on a Monday (**September 13th**), and Mondays are normally days in which students wear jeans and their Baraga shirts, we are asking that **the first day back to school is a uniform day**. We will begin allowing students to wear Baraga shirts and jeans the following Monday, 9/20. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you need assistance with uniforms for your student, please contact the school office and speak to Ann this week.

**BBCS**  
**LEARNING TODAY**  
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#### Parent Orientation

This year we will be hosting a Virtual Parent Orientation in replacement of the Ice Cream Social. With the pandemic still prevalent, and our building still not ready to host large groups of people, we feel as though a virtual orientation will be most effective given our current circumstances.

On **Thursday, September 9th**, we will be having a Supply Drop Off from 4-6 pm in the school parking lot. Teachers and staff will be available to take your student's supplies and bring them in to the classroom to alleviate the heavy loads on the first day of school. **At 6:15 pm, we will begin our virtual orientation via zoom.** I will discuss some of the new school policies and procedures for this year, as well as address any questions parents may have. Father Duane will also discuss some key goals for this year. Most importantly, the teachers and staff will be introduced and give a short message to their prospective students this year. We hope to conclude our orientation around 7:30 pm.

After orientation has concluded, parents will be sent a teacher contact list so that you can begin communicating with your student's teacher before school begins. Also included in the post orientation email will be the recording of the orientation and a slideshow of each grade. This document will feature pictures of the classrooms, important communications, and announcements for parents and students.

We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you all Thursday evening!

[Orientation Meeting Link - CLICK HERE](#)

#### Staffing Update

I know that many of you have been patiently waiting to hear who will officially be teaching each grade this year. I am happy to say that we have a finalized staffing plan in place for this school year.

This year we welcome 3 new teachers to our teaching staff. Mrs. Denice Sabolky, Mrs. Linda May, and Ms. Veronica France will be joining our team of teachers. Also joining our staff this year, Mr. Bill Suitor will be working with us as our school custodian, and Mrs. Jody Reager will be the full-time 1st grade aide. Please extend a warm welcome as you get to know them and integrate them into our Bishop Baraga community.

Below is a final list of who will be teaching which grade this year.

#### Lower Elementary

Preschool → Ms. Kayte & Mrs. Dunham  
Kindergarten → Ms. France and Mrs. Franz  
1st Grade → Mrs. Budzinski & Mrs. Reager  
2nd Grade → Mrs. May  
3rd Grade → Mrs. Mousseau

#### Upper Elementary

4th Grade → Mrs. Sabolsky  
5th Grade → Mrs. Kwiatkowski & Mr. Closs  
6th Grade → Mrs. Lentell  
7th Grade → Ms. Homant

Our early elementary classrooms, including preschool-1st grade will be self-contained, with a full time aide in each room. Grades 2 and 3 will also be self contained, but will rotate for Religion and Science. Grade 4 will be self contained as well but will join 5th grade for elective classes. Grades 5-7 will continue with leveled learning for Math, Reading and Language Arts, but will remain in their homeroom classes for Social Studies, Religion, and Science. More communication about our academic model for this year will be available at our Parent Orientation on 9/9/21. Thank you all for remaining so patient as we continuously worked to put the best academic model together for your children.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

**~TO PROVIDE THE HIGHEST QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION, WITH A COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND TO SUPPORT FAMILIES WITH THE SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR CHILDREN~**



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#### NEW - Drop Off /Pick Up Procedures & Foyer Protocols

This year we will be trying a new routine for student drop off and student pick up. As of now, students will continue to enter the school as early as 7:45 am. All student drop off will remain at the main doors in the front of the school. If you are entering the building with your child, please park in one of the designated areas in the parking lot and check in at the main office. Once checked in, we are asking that you remain in the foyer while the teacher or staff member you are requesting to meet with is alerted. Once they are ready, they will come to the foyer to escort you to where the meeting is being held.

**When picking up your child, we will now have a designated area in the parking lot for car seat loading.** Look for the sign that indicates where this designated area is located. Once parked in the loading area, a staff member will assist in dismissing your child safely. Thank you for helping out by utilizing this area and keeping the parent pick up lines flowing.

Also new this year, **bus loading will occur on the north drive near the playground.** Students will be directed to the back hallway if riding a bus, where Mrs. Franz will coordinate bus pick up.

We are asking that each family indicates on their child's emergency contact card up to 4 authorized contacts that will be able to pick up your child. The emergency contact card is located in the 2021-22 Parent Paperwork that will go home with your student the first week of school. In your packet, you will receive 4, colored name plates to place in your windshield. Please distribute the name plates to all of the individuals you listed on your emergency contact card. Please keep in mind that we will only release your child to these individuals without a written permission slip.

Upon dismissal, the parent pick up line will continue to function as it did last school year, with teacher teams working dismissal to safely dismiss students. **We ask that parents wanting to load their children or get out to greet your children park in the designated parking areas to continue the flow of traffic with the parent pick up lines.**

**This year we will NOT be allowing for parents to congregate in the school foyer before and after school as in past years.** We are asking that if you would like to speak with a school staff member, or conduct school business, that you make an appointment through the school office, or simply park and conduct business at the school office when the party you are seeking is available.

We understand that these new procedures are a bit different than normal, however, we feel as though as this time, this is the best plan for our students, staff, and families. We will closely monitor these changes and if adaptations are necessary, we will communicate those changes to you promptly. Most importantly, we appreciate your willingness to participate in these changes, and hope that it will result in a more conducive way of working within our school.

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#### 2021-22 Parent Paperwork

Please be on the lookout during the first week of school for a the 2021-22 Parent Paperwork Packet. This will be coming home with your student(s) and will consist of an updated school handbook, emergency contact card, photo release form, and more. Please do your best to review, sign and return these forms to the school office as quickly as you can. If you have multiple children, you will only need to complete one packet per family.

#### Spaghetti Dinner THANK YOU

We would like to extend a special thank you to all who helped put on the August Spaghetti Dinner at the K of C Hall. We appreciate your time and energy that went in to host this event. Also, a thank you to all who attended the dinner and donated to our school. Congratulations to Roxie Barrette, our \$99 draw winner. We are very grateful to all who help our school in the many ways you do.

#### UPDATE - COVID-19 Protocols

As we approach the start of school, our plans for combating the pandemic is to continue our sanitation and mitigation strategies put in place last year, as well as encourage our students, staff, and parents to make safe decisions with others in mind. **While masking will remain a parental choice for their child within the classroom, students will be asked to wear masks in all common areas, including shared learning spaces, hallways, and the chapel. Students will NOT have to wear masks during recess unless they choose to do so.** While masking will remain a parent/student choice at this time, we ask that you review the recent communications from the Diocese of Gaylord regarding COVID-19.

- We ask all parents to earnestly consider CDC and local health department recommendations. The current CDC recommendation for schools is universal masking for all teachers, staff, students and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- Pope Francis stated in an August 18, 2021 public service announcement: "Being vaccinated with vaccines authorized by the competent authorities is an act of love. And contributing to ensure the majority of people are vaccinated is an act of love — love for oneself, love for one's family and friends, love for all people." Along with Pope Francis, the Diocese of Gaylord encourages all who are able to get vaccinated, contributing with this small gesture "for a better future."

We will continue to monitor this each and every day and update you promptly with any changes in our school COVID strategies. Thank you for your continued support.

#### Study Table

**Study Table will begin on September 20th, 2021.**

Study Table will continue to be based on teacher recommendation, and will serve as our main response to intervention strategy for our students. Study Table this year will be from 2:55-4 pm. If you receive an email from the school office stating your child has been recommended for study table, we strongly encourage that you to take advantage of this opportunity.

#### School Calendar

Attached you will find our school calendar for this year. Please keep in mind that the attached calendar is always scheduled to change based on the number of variables still surrounding our school year. Changes to the school calendar will be communicated through monthly newsletters as well as weekly emails from the principal's office. An updated calendar is always linked to our school website as well. A copy of the school calendar is attached to this newsletter and a hard copy will be included in your Parent Paperwork Packet.

**LOOKING FORWARD TO  
A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!  
SEE YOU ON SEPTEMBER 13TH**

# **BISHOP BARAGA CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

## **2021-22 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

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### **2021**

**August 25th** - Spaghetti Dinner @ K of C Hall  
**August 26th** - School Advisory Board Meeting 6 pm  
**August 30th** - Teacher Orientation Begins  
**September 2nd** - Eucharistic Minister Training  
**September 9th** - Student/Parent Orientation (Virtual)  
**September 13th** - First Day of School  
**September 26th** - BBCS Golf Outing  
**October 2nd** - Bike-a-thon for St. Judes  
**October 9th** - Bike-a-thon Rain Date  
**September 22nd** - ALL BBCS Boards Meeting 6 pm  
**October TBD** - BBCS Re-Opening Celebration  
**October 29th** - PM Halloween Parties @ BBCS  
**November 1st** - Teacher PD (No School)  
**November 4th** - School Advisory Board Meeting 5 pm  
**November 8** - Term 1 Ends  
**November 11-12th** - ½ Days at BBCS/Parent Teacher  
Conferences in PM  
**November 24th** - ½ Day @ BBCS  
**November 25-26th** - Thanksgiving Break  
**December 2nd** - School Advisory Board Meeting 5 pm  
**December 23-January 3rd, 2022** - Christmas Break  
**December 31st** - Booster's Raffle Draw

### **Other Recurring Dates to Keep in Mind:**

- School Masses open to the public will begin late October and will be Fridays at 8:30 am when school is in session
- Stations of the Cross will be held at 1:30 pm on Fridays during Lent
- Assembly will be every Monday at 2:20 pm
- Teacher/Staff Meetings will be held on the 1st Tuesday of every month from 3-4:45 pm

### **2022**

**January 4th** - First Day Back for BBCS Students  
**January 6th** - School Advisory Board Meeting 5 pm  
**January 26th** - Term 2 Ends  
**January 30-February 5th** - Catholic Schools Week  
**February 2nd** - Spaghetti Dinner @ K of C Hall  
**February 10th** - School Advisory Board Meeting 5 pm  
**February 14th** - Teacher PD (No School)  
**March 2nd** - Ash Wednesday  
**March 10th** - School Advisory Board Meeting 5 pm  
**March 16th** - ½ Day at BBCS/Parent/Teacher  
Conferences in PM  
**March 21-25th** - Spring Break (No School)  
**March 30th** - Leadership Lenten Retreat 5 pm  
**April 6th** - End of Term 3  
**April 7th** - School Advisory Board Meeting 5 pm  
**April 14th-17th** - Holy Week  
**April 18th** - Easter Monday  
**May 5th** - School Advisory Board Meeting 5 pm  
**May 17th** - Last Day Preschool 3's  
**May 18th** - Last Day Preschool 4's  
**May 27th** - K-7 All School Retreat  
**May 30th** - Memorial Day (No School)  
**June 2nd** - School Advisory Board Meeting 5 pm  
**June 8th** - Track & Field Day  
**June 10th** - End of Term 4/Last Day of School/7th  
Grade Graduation in PM @ SMSC  
**June 17th** - Last Day for Teachers/Staff

**BBCS**  
**LEARNING TODAY**  
**LEADING TOMORROW**