
St. Michael's Lutheran School - Richville, Michigan

Principal's Pen - Aug. 31 - Sept. 4, 2020

“Living By Faith” - *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.- Joshua 1:9*

We're all in this together!



Ready.... Set.... Go! ALL IN!!!

Well we made it to the end of Week 2 and there have been many little successes along the way. Sure, we continue to work on the parts which need adjustment but, in today's world it is important that we recognize the efforts and success that our staff, students, and families experience. Everything from waking up on time to making sure we got our backpack and masks for the day, can make or break our day. Some important things to remember as we continue into our third week of school are briefly outlined. Together, working with parents and students, we can provide and maintain a learning environment which is both healthy and sustainable. Together, we prioritize what is most needed for our students in their daily lives so they can be ready for the day ahead of them.

Take a minute to review these simple, daily reminders in order to start our students off on a great start to their day of learning:

1. Make sure your students **EAT BREAKFAST**. It makes a huge difference in their attentiveness levels in the classroom and helps provide a nutritious start to the day.
2. **Set** the homework and other items like backpacks, water bottle, lunch box, and mask out the night before to help cut down on the time it takes to get ready **the night before**.



3. Should the morning drive be a bit under the weather, **allow yourself some extra time** to bring your students in to school if you're driving. If they ride the bus, make sure they are ready to go out the doors.

4. Please remember that at this time, **we should just be having students dropped off in the morning**. We only allowed parents to enter the

building the first couple of days. The kids are good and we will help where necessary to get them to their destination.

5. Please remember that your student needs to bring a water bottle, full of water, to school in the morning. The **bottle must be a screw-top with a water tight seal**. There are paper cups available for those who forget their bottle or need additional water. Athletes can refill their bottles when a coach assists them.

6. Thank you for those of you who have been contacting the school office regarding late arrivals, early pick-ups, or appointments during the day. It is very beneficial to us in making sure we can have your student ready for pick-up. **As a reminder, please call the school office (989-868-4809) when you arrive and we will bring your student out to you.** When/If they return during the school day, please follow the same procedure and we will come get them.



7. Regarding after school pick-up... **please make sure your student(s) knows what your plan is for after school**. Your student(s) can either ride the bus home (Vassar/Reese), be picked up by car, or go to Latchkey. Be sure to touch base with your child(ren) regarding your travel arrangements each day.

St. Michael's COVID Reminders



Children and staff will be monitored for signs or symptoms of COVID-19 daily and will be asked to stay home or return home if any of the following applies:

- Have a fever of 100 degrees or higher

- Have had a fever of 100 degrees or higher or other potential symptoms of COVID-19, such as shortness of breath or persistent dry cough, within the last 72 hours

- Have come in contact with others who have tested positive for or have symptoms of COVID-19.

- Exceptions to St. Michael's absentee policy will be handled on a case by case basis if and when necessary for individuals in consultation with Tuscola County Health Department.

To clarify statement #3 of the COVID policy, please be advised that in compliance with executive order 2020-166 and guidelines from the CDC, persons who have been exposed to but not displaying symptoms of COVID-19 are supposed to isolate/quarantine 14 days from the last "close contact" (Within 6ft for 15mins). This is specifically important when it comes to parents and their children. If you know or believe you have been in this situation, please contact Mr. Chaveriat as soon as possible.

Additionally, it should be noted that if you are planning to travel, please do some online research about the areas you are traveling through and ultimately to. Currently the CDC recommends those traveling to a level-3 status state or area with higher number, stay in a 14-day quarantine from the day they arrive back home.



Picture Day - Sept. 16

Reminder that on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 we will once again be having our school picture day. Students should be bringing home a flyer and form in the next week or so for you to fill out.

Regardless of whether or not you want school pictures printed for yourselves, this day is important as we use these photos in our school yearbook as well as for individual student academic files. It is suggested that students be dressed nicely and presentably for the formal picture.

As a point of information, all students will wear their mask up to the point the picture is to be taken. They will then be asked to remove their mask for the picture and place it in their assigned box while the picture is taken. Following the process, the mask will go back on.

All necessary COVID protocols will be followed for this process and social distancing will be enforced.

Internet Safety Applies to ALL OF US!

<https://www.consumernotice.org/data-protection/internet-safety-for-kids/>; Authors Terry Turner & Kim Borwick

BEFORE YOU SKIP THIS, DON'T THINK THAT "MY CHILD WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS." THESE THINGS ARE REAL! Threats to children's internet safety include invasions of privacy, cyberbullying, sexting and harassment. Options to protect your children include parental controls, apps and tracking software. But the most effective way to keep your kids safe is to talk with them about online risks, how to avoid them and how they can come to you when something goes wrong. Internet safety for kids depends on parents being aware of online risks and understanding how to help their children and teens avoid them.



Almost every American child and teen has access to the internet. They socialize in online games or on smartphones just as they would on a playground. They live largely in a digital community. But like any community, there are risks and dangers. Parents are the best suited to monitor kids' online activity. They are also the most trusted adults most kids will turn to if they experience online dangers. Understanding what your children or teens do online is vital to protecting them from digital threats.

Ninety-five percent of teens have access to a smartphone, and 45 percent of teens say they are online "almost constantly,"

according to the [Pew Research Center](#). Even younger kids are accessing the internet in large numbers. Roughly two-thirds of fourth to eighth graders have access to phones or tablets. And almost half of them have a computer in their bedrooms, according to the 2016 Children's Internet Usage Study conducted by the Center for Cyber Safety and Education.

Teaching your children about the online risks they may face and how to avoid or report threats is one of the most important steps you can take to ensure their safety online. But first, you have to understand those risks for yourself. This means keeping up-to-date on the latest technologies, apps and social media trends. It can be challenging, but it better prepares you to talk to your kids about what to expect online. You'll also need to keep an open dialog with your kids. Let them know you are looking out for their safety and be sure to listen to their questions and concerns. An open conversation can help them feel comfortable talking with you even about uncomfortable things they later encounter online. It will also help you better understand how your children use the internet.

What Are Kids Doing Online?

- **30 percent** have used the internet in ways their parents wouldn't approve
- **21 percent** have visited sites where they can chat with strangers



Raider Nation - Athletics

Our student athletes continue to press on and train for their potential seasons this fall. Decisions from the Tri-County Lutheran League and the Michigan High School Athletic Association as well as Governor Whitmer's office have been released as of 9/3/2020. These changes allow all sports to begin competition under limited circumstances due to COVID precautions. You can find the statements from MHSAA and the Governor's office here <https://www.mhsaa.com/Portals/0/Documents/AD%20Forms/MHSAA%20Guidance%208.pdf> as well as Executive Order 2020-176.

Details are still being worked out to specifics however, the basic guidelines for our school is as follows:

- Student athletes must come prepared to play, already dressed in uniform. Players/coaches must enter buildings wearing a mask and may be allowed to remove them when instructed or by TCLL/MHSAA guidelines.
- Student athletes must bring their own water bottles full of water only to each match. These should reflect the same standards used within the school

including a screw-top lid and water-tight seal. Bottles should have the names of the athletes clearly marked.

- Especially for indoor sports, it is recommended that student athletes use a backpack to store/keep all of their belongings and stuff in for easy access and transport as necessary.
- Outdoors sports (soccer) spectators are encouraged to social distance between families.
- Additional guidelines for soccer may be in play including ONLY PLAYERS chasing out of bound balls and other adaptations as necessary. These will be announced by the AD as they become known.
- At this point in time, MHSAA has dictated that students may designate 2 guests to attend their games. These people will be asked to sit in designated spots only. Any changes to this mandate will be announced by TCLL and our Athletic Director as needed.
- At this point in time, time will be given between "B" and "A" games to allow for a quick cleaning of the bench areas and bleachers. We ask that parents and students respectively wait outside of the school, socially distanced, until allowed to enter. Student athletes will be given priority entrance first.
- In keeping with the safe practices of the current St. Michael's COVID Policy, all players, guests, and parents will be screened upon entering the facility including a verbal wellness check and a temperature check. This is subject to change at any point with guidance from MHSAA and/or the TCLL.

- Since there is no gate admission, a free will offering will be accepted at the door to help offset expenses for refs and athletic department needs. We encourage our parents to give generously to support this program.
- Protocols for visiting other schools will be announced as needed and when able to do so by either the TCLL or individual school.

All guidelines and rules are subject to change and most likely may see slight changes in the coming days and weeks. This information will be distributed to our families as soon as possible. Please stay in touch with your coaches and Athletic Director for more information.



Our Girls' Volleyball teams are currently under restricted practice rules which allow them to practice following acceptable social distancing measures and cleanliness standards. As of Wednesday, September 9, 2020 we are allowed, and looking forward to being back in the gym for practices and games under strict conditions for proper social distancing and COVID precautions. Volleyball is coached by Mr. Chaveriat and Ms. Nicole Rodammer (Alumni).



Our Boys' Soccer team has also been hard at work as they condition themselves for their season. Just like volleyball, soccer is practicing good social distancing skills and techniques which allow them to participate safely. Competition resumes for them on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020. Soccer is coached by Mrs. Krause and Assistant Coaches Ms. Kinzlee Karst & Ms. Kiera Kern (Alumni)



Finally, our cross country team has seen some growth this year as more student athletes join their ranks. Our boys and girls running XC are excited to begin their season and are looking forward to several meets as they are able. The athletes continue to work hard and are making progress both as a team and as individuals. They are looking forward to their season starting as are all of our student athletes. Cross Country is coached by Mrs. Hoepfner & Mrs. Sella.

Media Center Notes



Great job reading over the summer! All the students who turned in their summer reading bingo sheets will receive their prizes Friday, Sept. 11 at Chapel. A quick reminder that students and their families are able to browse the library card catalog online. Students all have a log in to be able to put books on hold, so that the books can be delivered to their classrooms. Login is not required to browse.

To access Destiny Discover, go here:

<https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/103349>

*Change in Car Pick-up Procedures

In order to help with the number of calls and messages our office receives on a daily basis, as long as your child knows who is picking them up by car. You don't need to call/email our office. We only ask that they have a "pink" card in their windshield on arrival at the end of the day.



Upcoming Events

9/4 NO SCHOOL: Labor Day Wknd.

9/7 NO SCHOOL: Labor Day Wknd.

9/8 HOME Soccer Game @ 4:30pm

9/9 HOME Volleyball Game vs. CTK

9/10 Girls' Volleyball Away @ St. Paul Millington

9/14 PTL Meeting

9/16 School Picture Day

9/21 Board of Education Meeting

Student of the Week

Let's Meet...



Name: Brooke Bickel

(Parents Jason & Jennifer Bickel)

Grade: 5th Grade

Favorite Color: Sea Green

Favorite Food: Chocolate

Things I Like to Do: Ride horses, have sleepovers with friends, & go camping.

Things I Like about St. Michael's: I like all of my teachers and hanging with my friends at school. I like to learn about Jesus too!