

Weekly Update from the Principal  
Sunday, September 17th, 2017

Upcoming Dates

---

**School Picture Day - Wednesday, Sept. 20th**

Students may wear a nice outfit to school this day. No Jeans please. No graphic t-shirts. Please wear shorts under skirts and dresses.

---

**Back to School Night - Thursday, Sept. 21st**

Thursday, September 21st, 2017 5:45 pm - 7:30 pm. *Babysitting is Available to those attending this event.*

This event has been modified from past years. Based on prior year feedback from parents and teachers, this night **will not include classroom visits.** There is a lot of redundancy between BEAR Facts, Meet the Teacher Night and Back to School Night. Therefore, in an effort to make this night worthy of the time that our parents and teachers are putting aside, this event will be as follows:

5:45 pm - Teaching Staff available in the commons

6:00 pm - General Assembly

- Introduction of Teaching Staff
- State of the School Address - Mrs. Blahnik
- Layout of the **SAFER Intruder Response Program** (the program and philosophy, the plan for instructing the children in an age appropriate way, materials) - Ms. VanDyke

7:25 pm - Closing Prayer

---

**VIRTUS SESSION - ESPAÑOL, a ESQUELA de SAN BERNARDO - THIS SATURDAY, 9/23**

Saturday, September 23rd at 8:30 am -12:30 pm, St. Bernard School, Bishop Hall. You must take this session in order to volunteer at school. [Register Here](#)

Please call the main office if you need assistance. Or, you can just attend the session on Sept. 23rd and we will get you registered there.

---

**Parent-Teacher Conferences - Oct. 10th & 12th**

Forms were sent home on Friday, Sept. 15th. Please be sure to respond with your request for conference times. Middle School conferences will be held so that parents are able to visit with each middle school teacher on a first come-first-serve basis. MS Conferences will not be mandatory but are highly encouraged. Please see the sign-up form for more details.

---

**Diesiseis de Septiembre - Gracias!**

Gracias! Thank you to everyone who participated in our fiesta this weekend. We had a great time together and most importantly, our kids had fun sharing new cultural experiences.

---

### **MAPS Testing Window - Sept. 13th - Oct. 4th**

Two times per year students in the GRACE system participate in MAPS Standardized testing. The test results have several educational purposes:

1. Scores benchmark student progress in order to measure student growth over time.
2. Scores are used to identify students in need of additional support (not on grade level) or additional enrichment (above grade level).
3. MAPS Scores, student performance, teacher/parent/student input are all used to ensure that a student is placed in the proper middle school math class.
4. Mid-Winter testing is no longer given to all students. This additional testing is provided to students who are in intervention Sept. - Dec. so that educators in the building can ensure that intervention is on track and growth is being made.

Students will receive the MAPS tests sometime over the course of the next three weeks. On your student's testing days, please help make sure they come to school ready to do their best. They should eat a well balanced breakfast and get a solid night sleep the night before.

ENGLISH - [Parent Information](#)

Please help your student "Rock the Test!"

---

### **Snap of Calendar Events for September**

September 20th - **Picture Day!** *Students may wear a nice outfit to school this day. No Jeans please. No graphic t-shirts. Please wear shorts under skirts and dresses.*

September 21st - **Fr. Mark's 7th grade Field Trip & Back to School Night, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

September 22nd - **All School Mass 8:45 am**, Sponsored by Ms. Dudzik's 8th grade Homeroom, all are welcome.

September 23rd - **VIRTUS SESSION - ESPAÑOL**, 8:30 am -12:30 pm, St. Bernard School, Bishop Hall. You must take this session in order to volunteer at school.

September 24th - **Packer Seat Rental**, Volunteer Opportunity

September 27th and 28th (Wednesday and Thursday)- **6th Grade to Camp**

**Tekawitha (Overnight)**

September 29th (Friday)- **All School Mass 8:45 am**, Sponsored by Mrs. MacDonald's 8th grade Homeroom, all are welcome.

---

### **Reminder - Messages for Teachers**

Please remember to send messages to the school office or to your classroom teacher BEFORE 8:00 am if possible. You can also, always call the school office any time of day or night and leave a voicemail message. We will deliver your message as soon as we can. Please save mid-day messages for emergencies rather than everyday reminders as we

cannot always ensure that your message will be delivered due to the volume of communication in our main office. Thank you for helping and understanding!

---

### **IMPORTANT!!! HILLSIDE LN. EXIT ONLY**

**NEW:** We are working on getting directional arrows printed on each of the driveways. The three driveways on Wayfarer will be adjusted to make sense with the end of the day traffic flow.

**PLEASE** encourage others around you to be courteous and follow this new plan. It will take a little getting use to, but the traffic flow and the safety is much better when we all work together!

---

**BROWN ENVELOPE COMMUNICATION HOME-SCHOOL-** No Longer Brown, and it can also be found online!

<http://www.saintbernardgb.com/brown-envelope-archive/>

### **SITE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES & PRINCIPAL REPORT**

These documents are now, consistently available on the [school website](#).

---

### **NEW HIRE ANNOUNCEMENT: HOME-SCHOOL LIAISON**

I am very pleased to announce the hire of our very first, **Home-School Liaison**. Mr. Edgar Zaragoza is now a part-time member of the St. Bernard Catholic School Staff. Mr. Zaragoza has an extensive background in service to the community through his work with the Boys and Girls Club and Curative Connections. Edgar and his wife Ana are parents to three students at St. Bernard School. His understanding of the school community, his work experience and his bilingual skills all make him a perfect fit for this position.

The Home-School Liaison is in place to support the connection between home and school for families who need support communicating with school. Mr. Zaragoza will first reach out to our new, Spanish-speaking families to ensure a smooth transition into the school community.

Secondarily, he will reach out to families who may need support due to family trauma, truancy, language, transportation, student academics, and more. He will work directly with the principal and other school personnel to prioritize the needs of his time each week. When a regular time is established for him to be on campus each week, we will share those hours with the school community.

Welcome Mr. Zaragoza!

---

### **STUDENT TO STUDENT - HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF**

This is a fundraiser for Catholic School Students to help Catholic Schools and their families in the Houston Area. We realize that there will be people to help in the coming

month in other areas such as Central America, Florida, the Caribbean and even the West Coast of California. However, this month, we are working together as a school to support those who are trying to rebuild from the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. **Our goal is to have each student bring in \$1 during the month of September. Please bring your dollar to your homeroom teacher by Friday, September 29th.** All proceeds will be brought forward at our 9/29/17 School Mass.

We will not have a special dressdown to raise these funds. We hope our students can simply give \$1 with the knowledge that they are helping someone in need in our larger Catholic School Community. Thank you for your support of this effort!

---

*St. Bernard Catholic School is rooted in the life and works of Jesus Christ and our patron saint, providing a peaceful, prayerful community while inspiring each student to become a lifelong learner*