

St. Patrick's School
Tuesday Notes
August 31, 2023

Dismissal Reminders

If you have a family friend, nanny, relative, etc. helping with carpool either occasionally or regularly, it would be very helpful if you introduced this person to Mrs. Ali and/or myself. Recognizing our new parents and drivers is tricky enough for us; and I feel very uncomfortable "questioning" your friends/family who are trying to help you out!

Reminders:

- Please also make sure anyone who picks up is on the Early Release form. Over communication is always preferred in these situations.
- If your child will be going home with a friend after school, please make sure the child's homeroom teacher and Mrs. Ali are aware of this (email/note). Additionally, if your child will be walking/biking home, please send an e-mail or note to Mrs. Ali stating that we have permission to release your child on his/her own.
- Please e-mail Mrs. Ali and the homeroom teacher of any dismissal changes by 2:50 p.m. Mrs. Ali is not able to answer the phones/check e-mail during dismissal, so any last-minute changes must be made before 2:50.
- Please understand all hands are needed to dismiss the children safely and in a timely manner. We ask that you give us about 20 minutes at the end of the day before calling school.
- Please put your family/carpool last name on your dashboard. Very helpful especially these first few days!
- Please do not get out of your cars in the morning/afternoon. Teachers and patrols are there to help the children.
- Do not pull around other cars.
- In the morning, only allow children to get out of the car on the sidewalk side.

And for the safety of our children and the teachers, please no cell phones during carpool.

September Service Project

We will support the Koller Family's annual toy drive. Mrs. Koller, our kindergarten teacher, and her husband have three children, Jordan, AJ, and Hunter. AJ was born in 2004 with Alagille Syndrome, a multi-organ disorder. He had multiple heart surgeries and procedures over the course of his life. In between hospital stays, doctors' appointments and therapy, the Koller Family spent a lot of time together trying to live as normal of a life as possible. As a family, they traveled to amusement parks, the beach and AJ was awarded a Make-A-Wish trip to Disney when he was three years old. AJ was a very good friend and was well loved at his school! Through all of these fun times, AJ's liver and heart disease progressed and he passed away at the age of ten on September 14, 2014. As a family, the Kollers wanted to do something positive on the anniversary of his passing to celebrate the joy he brought into so many lives.

We invite all from the St. Patrick's community to show our love and support and honor AJ's life by participating in the annual toy drive. Toys will be donated to Johns Hopkins Children's Center to the Child Life Department. Please see the flyer for more details.

Archdiocese of Washington Family Survey

I ask for your cooperation in completing the Archdiocese of Washington Family Survey that will help us secure maximum federal and state educational services for the children in our Catholic schools. Providing us with the information requested on the attached form will help us increase the educational and technology services we are able to provide to our children.

Please complete the information (one per family) on the attached Family Survey and return it to the school office. The confidential form will remain at the school. We ask that you return this survey no later than this Friday, September 1st.

Thank you so much for your support and cooperation. Your hard-earned tax dollars are paying for these programs, so please help St. Pat's keep them.

Summer Work

Please help your child get all his/her summer work turned in tomorrow. Teachers are compiling lists of students who met the two different reading & writing incentive levels. Children in grades 1-7 who achieved the Scholarly Shamrock and Brilliant Badger will be rewarded on Friday, September 8th. Those who met the requirements for Scholarly Shamrocks will receive an ice cream treat. Children who achieved the Brilliant Badger level may be out of uniform on Friday, September 8th and will also receive an ice cream treat.

Emergency Packs & Drills

Each year we ask parents to send in a "crisis pack" for your child. This is mandated by the Archdiocese of Washington in case our children ever need to "shelter in place". We will store these packs in our classrooms. We recommend two bottles of water and a couple of snack pack size snacks that have a long shelf life (pretzels, cheese and crackers, goldfish etc.). Please put these items in a gallon size Ziploc bag and label your child's name on the outside. It is not necessary to send in stuffed animals, toys, or blankets.

I know it is scary to think about emergencies, but with a little preparation and practice, we will be fully prepared, and your children will be in good hands and SAFE. We will practice emergency drills with pre-kindergarten-grade 8 students next Friday, September 8th. I recommend that you talk with your children over the next few days about emergency drills (fire, earthquake, bad weather, and an unsafe person in the building) and reiterate to them that the drills we must do next Friday are best to keep our St. Patrick's Family safe.

Back to School Night

Back to School Night is scheduled for next Thursday, September 7th.

There are two classroom sessions scheduled for kindergarten- grade 8 and one session for PK.

If you have a child in our PK, please attend the 6:30-7:00 p.m. session in the PK classroom.

If you have a Junior High student, you can visit his/her classroom for the first session 6:30-7:00 p.m. then come back up after the general information session and visit with Mrs. Cockrell (advanced reading), Mrs. Fecko (science and math), Mrs. Scango (advanced math) and Senora Pappa (Spanish) who will be available in the science lab throughout the evening.

All sessions will be held in your child's homeroom and will be 25 minutes.

There will be a general information session from 7:00-7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. I hope all are able to attend. This night is incredibly helpful to you and the teachers as we work together to support the children. Parents only, please.

Teachers will e-mail back to School Night Information to parents on Wednesday, September 7th.

Teachers of special classes (art, music, P.E., library, & technology) will be available in the school library from 6:30-7:00 p.m. Please stop in if time allows and introduce yourself.

Milk Order

Please submit all milk orders by Friday, September 8th so that we can finalize orders.

Hot Lunch

Hot Lunch begins Tuesday, September 5th:

Yah Lunch will now host the Chick-Fil-A orders.

"Your Menu is here! Check out your [Lunch Calendar](#). The team at Yay designed a custom menu just for us. With so many delicious options (and new ones coming every month), there's something for every luncher.

Please remember to send your child with lunch for the remainder of this week!

Tuesday Notes

I am more than happy to include various activities, announcements, and resources that may benefit our families in my weekly Tuesday Notes. Please create your own information blurb and have any notes to me by Monday at noon.

Additionally, if there is another family member who you would like to receive weekly Tuesday Notes, please send me his/her e-mail address to add to the distribution list.

J.H. Math Study Hall

For our junior high students who need a little extra math support, Mr. Coe is back and offering his free math study hall again this year. He will begin working with students on Monday, September 11th from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Chess Club-Day Change

Attached is a revised Chess Club flyer. There is a day of the week change. Chess will no longer be on Wednesday afternoons. It has shifted to Thursdays due to a schedule change for Instructor Will. Please work directly with Chess Wizards if your child is not able to participate due to the change in schedule.

J.H. Quiz Bowl- After School Club

This year we are excited about a new afterschool activity for our Middle School Students. Mrs. McKelvey, parent to two students in our junior high, will be sponsoring a Quizbowl team afterschool on Tuesdays for interested students. Quizbowl is a collaborative academic competition program similar to It's Academic. Please see the attached flyer for more information about an interest meeting for students on September 12th.

Coding-After School Class

Now a Wednesday afterschool option for students in grades 4-8. Please see flyer with all other documents.

BLAZE: a Ministry of Walking with Purpose

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." - St. Catherine of Siena

Have you ever felt like you needed somewhere to turn in the middle of a rough day? Have you ever thought that the world's ideas of beauty might not be what really matters most? Do you sometimes wonder if you really matter personally to God? If you answered yes, then come check out BLAZE! BLAZE is a ministry for tween/teen girls created by Walking with Purpose, "to speak truth into the hearts of girls who are bombarded by lies about their true worth and beauty". St. Patrick's is starting a 10-week after-school club this fall based on BLAZE, open to all girls in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. We'll gather to look at truths found in the Bible and lived by the Saints, while reflecting how these lessons of life and love

matter for us now. This will be a safe, confidential space, where girls can be their authentic selves and celebrate God's love for them (while enjoying some fun games, videos, and music along the way!)

Location: Parish Center

Time: Mondays after school till 4:15pm

10 Sessions:

September 25

October 2, 9, 16, and 23 (no school Oct. 30)

November 6, 13, and 27 (not meeting Nov. 20, the week of Thanksgiving)

December 4 and 11

Register by Tuesday, September 12! (We need time to order all the fun materials!)

Please fill out this [online registration form](#). We are asking for families to contribute \$25 to help cover the cost of supplies. Please send a check payable to St. Patrick School, with BLAZE in the memo line.

Questions? Contact the BLAZE Coordinators, Elizabeth Hoffmann and Gina Swanda, at:

BLAZEpatrick@gmail.com. Also feel free to text or call Elizabeth at (630) 605-7773.

Calendar Updates

Calendar error: Thursday, March 21st is a FULL-DAY of school. Friday, March 22nd is the half day (wishful thinking!)

Reminder to Parents of Students who Walk

A gentle reminder to the parents of our students who walk home, please refrain from parking and visiting after greeting your child. Please also encourage your child to respect the property of our neighbors and to stay off the grass and their yards.

Back to School Mass

Our Back to School Mass scheduled for tomorrow has been postponed one week due to construction. Our welcome back Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 6th at 9:10 a.m. All are welcome to be with us!

M.A.P Testing

Fall baseline testing will be held Wednesday, September 20th (math) and 27th (reading) for students in grades 2-8. It would be incredibly helpful to have your children here for the whole testing hour (9:00-10:15 a.m.). If possible, please try to reschedule appointments.

Passcode Protected Pages on Website

Some of the pages on the St. Patrick's website are passcode protected for the safety of our children. The passcode to be used only by members of the school community is: Badgers.

Picture Day

Individual student pictures will be taken on:

Monday, October 9th for children in grades 3-8.

Tuesday, October 10th for children in grades PK-2.

Students may be out of uniform on these days but should be dressed nicely.

Class pictures will be held on Wednesday, October 11th for all grades. Students should wear their uniforms (even if it is a birthday-IOU out of uniform). **Boys should wear long khaki pants and girls should wear their jumpers/kilts (not skorts).**

Birthday Out of Uniform & Snacks

Students are allowed to be out of uniform on their birthdays, but because we attend Mass on Wednesday, we ask that the out of uniform day be celebrated the day before or after. Birthday boys and girls can resume bringing birthday treats to celebrate their special day, but these items must be prewrapped and nut free.

High School Information Meeting

Parents with students in grades 6-8 who are interested in learning about the high school process and acceptance into area Catholic high schools are welcome to join me for an information session on Thursday, September 21st at 8:30 a.m. This session will walk you through the application process and help answer any questions you may have as you prepare your son/daughter for high school. Currently the meeting location is TBD, likely the school cafeteria.

Draft of School Directories

The draft of the school directory will be available at back-to-school night, please check your information and initial that it is correct before we distribute the final copies to our families.

HSA Dues and Forms

Please make sure you submit your HSA dues, handbook acknowledgment forms, medicals forms, and early release forms. School directories will go home in the next few weeks to families who have all paperwork submitted.

Walking with Purpose Women's Bible Study

Do you need to refuel and refresh? Would you like to make authentic connections with other women? Please consider joining the Walking with Purpose women's Bible study. This year we will offer Discovering Our Dignity – a 22 week Bible study that explores the lives of women from the Old and New Testaments. Starting on September 27 we will meet weekly on Wednesdays from 10:15-11:45am (childcare provided.) Over the past 5 years we have formed a beautiful community of women - including many school moms – and we would love for you to join us! Please see the attached flyer with more information about how to register or email us at: stpatrickwwp@gmail.com.

Annual Fund and Golf/Pickleball Tournament

This is the third year of our Annual Fund campaign, and we thank all of our school families who have participated in the past. This year, we have an ambitious goal of raising \$140,000 that will support key priorities including academics, teacher retention initiatives, campus improvements and tuition assistance. Gifts of every amount to the Annual Fund are important and appreciated. Monthly recurring donations are available to spread your gift throughout the year. Make your gift to the Annual Fund today by visiting the campaign's website (<https://onecau.se/spsbadgers>).

The annual Badger Open Golf Tournament will have a new look this fall as we are adding a pickleball option to our 18-hole and 9-hole golf events. This year's event, which will be held on September 25th at Manor Country Club, will once again recognize gifts to the Annual Fund. Contributions of \$250 or more will receive a family sign that will be posted on campus and then transferred to Manor for the tournament. Registration for the Golf and Pickleball Tournaments will open next week.

Back to School Picnic

Welcome back to the 2023-2024 school year! To kick off another amazing year here at St. Patrick's, the HSA will host our Back-to-School Picnic this Thursday, August 31st from 6:00pm - 7:30pm. Bring a picnic

dinner or enjoy the pre-order only pizza from Paisano's. DJ Josh will be entertaining us with great music and Kona Ice will be on hand for a sweet treat! Looking forward to seeing you all there! Please note, no furry friends allowed for this event. Questions, please contact Crystal Schmittlein at cschmittlein@stpatrikdw.org.

Let's Get Social!

Have you liked us on social media yet? Lots of photos and reminders will be posted on both Facebook and Instagram throughout the school year!

Facebook- St. Patrick's Catholic School, Rockville, MD

Instagram- [stpatrikscatholicschool](https://www.instagram.com/stpatrickscatholicschool)

Photos

We would love to have you share your photos throughout the year with us! We will include them on social media as well as our yearbook. Please be sensitive and aware of other children's feelings if you send pictures of events that take place out of school. Let's start with your First Day of School Pictures! Upload them to our shared picture drive using the link below. Folders have been created for events and for each grade. Thank you!

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0AAmcyGOdumJDUk9PVA>

The Upcoming Weeks:

Tuesday, August 29 th	Full day; Aftercare begins.
Wednesday, August 30 th	PK Visit Day 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Thursday, August 31 st	First day for PK; Noon dismissal PK only HSA Sponsored Back to School Picnic 6:00-7:30pm.
Monday, September 4 th	Labor Day; No School
Tuesday, September 5 th	Hot Lunch Begins PK-grade 8 Aftercare begins for PK
Thursday, September 7 th	Back to School Night 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Friday, September 8 th	Summer Work Reward Day Emergency Drills
Thursday, September 21 st	High School Information Meeting 8:15 a.m.
Monday, September 26 th	Golf Tournament at Manor Country Club
Thursday, September 28 th	Welcome Back Coffee for Parents of students in PK-Grade 2
Friday, September 29 th	Noon Dismissal PK-Grade 8; aftercare available until 6:00 p.m.