



School Newsletter

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Message from the Principal...

Dear Shepherd of the Hills Families,

I continue to hope and pray that everyone is having a wonderful summer of fun and time with family and loved ones. It is truly a great time to be in our part of the world. Enjoy the weeks ahead!

COVID-19

The information around health and safety continues to be dynamic. We are all trying to plan and anticipate what is a recommendation, suggestion, or mandate. **New information could appear before we open on August 31, however, as of now, our county and archdiocese deanery schools will proceed with wearing masks optional. We will support the choices that each family makes and continue to be as welcoming and caring a place as anyone will encounter!**

We have a responsibility to maintain the same level of diligence and commitment to student safety, prioritizing learning and attendance as last year! With continued mutual accountability, I believe we will have a year that is as positive and productive as 20-21! We need to monitor our own activities and families, being vigilant in our watch for symptoms so we can continue to have excellent participation and growth for our students. Many, many schools did not have such an experience! It is a tribute to our willingness to use appropriate levels of care and common sense.

If your family has a situation with an exposure risk, please keep your student home for a day. Perhaps wearing a mask full time for a couple days while watching for symptoms is an appropriate step in the pursuit of keeping all healthy and safe.

Also like last year, we will not offer a full time, virtual student experience, preferring that the teachers focus on their preparation for classroom interactions and to deliver the high quality in-person engagement. If a family has a situation that warrants quarantine, we will offer support through Google classrooms and meetings so that the student can stay up to pace.

I loved the message and execution of last year's "Faith over Fear" theme and how that mantra nicely focused our intentions through stressful situations.

I expect another great year and am happy to talk through any questions regarding attendance and health.

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2021-22 Classroom Assignments & Contact Emails

Elementary School

3K and 4K: Mrs. Kelly Schisel - kschisel@sothparish.org

Kindergarten: Ms. Nina Johnson - njohnson@sothparish.org

First Grade: Mrs. Robbi Hughes - rhughes@sothparish.org

Second and Third Grade: Miss Nici Colwin - ncolwin@sothparish.org

Fourth Grade: Ms. Alyssa Mogensen - amogensen@sothparish.org

Middle School

Fifth and Sixth Grade Homeroom: Ms. Katie Schaalma - kschaalma@sothparish.org

Seventh Grade Homeroom: Miss Abbey Carter - acarter@sothparish.org

Eighth Grade Homeroom: Ms. Karen Kutka - kkutka@sothparish.org

Specialist Classes

Art: Mrs. Heather Coughlin - hcoughlin@sothparish.org

Band & Chimes: Mrs. Kathy Hansen

Music: Ms. Wendy Pelletier - wpelletier@sothparish.org

Phy Ed: Mrs. Brittany Bengel - bbengel@sothparish.org

Technology: Mr. Robb Holden - rholden@sothparish.org

Whereas the elementary grades (3K-4th) tend to have static cohorts, we plan to have the 5th-8th grade Middle School students working in their own grade level groups as well as pairing with other student grades based on appropriate subject area and delivery. Our Middle School grades currently have 5-9 students in each group; combining gives the opportunity for increased sharing and higher variety in their interactions.

Specifically, the 5th and 6th grades will not be paired together for every subject and period through the day, as they were in 4th and 5th last year. The exact details are still coming together. Ultimately the teachers know the standards, education goals and student capacities in order to be most effective. For example, the 7th and 8th may be a good pairing for Science, 5th and 8th for Choir, 6th and 7th for Language Arts. etc. This structure is a wonderful opportunity to begin the transition from an elementary cohort to something that will mirror their high school experience.

Enrollment

As of today, we have added 11 new families, in addition to welcoming a couple new or returning students from families already at Shepherd. There are 19 new students enrolled for 2021-22 leading to our current total of 82, with a few families making decisions and a few inquiries continuing. For context, we opened 2020-21 at 79 and ended at 86, including the 13 that graduated from 8th grade in May.

If you are interested in acting as a mentor to a new family, please contact me to coordinate those efforts with our parent committees. If you know families that are looking for the high quality academic and spiritual programs and positive community culture that are offered here, please refer them to me as well!

Ron Smyczek, Principal

rsmyczek@sothparish.org

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[SOTH Outdoor Movie Night - Friday, August 20, 2021 at 8:00 pm](#)

RSVP open through Wednesday, August 18. RSVP to Miss Colwin at ncolwin@sothparish.org.

Shepherd of the Hills Home & School is hosting the first Outdoor Movie Night on Friday, August 20! Arrive at 8:00 pm. The movie 'Coco' will begin at 8:30 pm on the north side of the building. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, bug spray, snacks, and drinks. The Home & School will provide popcorn, water, and glow sticks! The Yearbooks will be available for pick up that night. *All children must be accompanied by an adult.* In case of rain, the movie will be shown in the Gym.

School Supply Drop Off & School Pictures - Thursday, August 26

We're excited to welcome you back to Shepherd of the Hills on **Thursday, August 26 from 3:00 - 6:00 pm** for Supply Drop Off & Picture Day. This is the time to bring in your school supplies, see your classroom, meet your teacher, and get student pictures taken. Quick & Smart Photography will be in the Gym to take student photos.

- All 3K - 8 grade students and staff should have their photo taken.
- **Students are NOT required to wear a uniform shirt for pictures.**
- Parents approve photos while students are being photographed. Green screen technology allows you to choose from a variety of backgrounds.
- Families will be able to order 21-22 yearbooks with their picture packages.

20-21 yearbooks will be available for pick up in the school office for those who did not get a chance to do so on Movie Night!

New Student/Family Welcome - Monday, August 30

Walk through a normal school day with Mr. Smyczek and your teachers on **Monday, August 30 from 9:00 - 10:00 am**. If anyone needs to see the Shepherd Bus pick up point in Fond du Lac (BP Gas Station - 1304 County Road V, Fond du Lac, WI 54937), Mr. Smyczek will be there from 8:15 - 8:45 am to meet them. [Sign up for SOTH bus service with this link.](#)

Back to School Forms

Get a head start on Back to School Forms on the [Back to School Page](#) at sothschool.weebly.com. Paper copies of all forms are available by request in the school office. **All forms should be completed/returned to the school office by Friday, September 10.**

8/18: An Archdiocesan COVID-19 Consent Form has been added to the list of forms needed.

[Home & School Activity Sign Up](#)

Parent help is needed for 21-22 school activities! Please review the available activities at [Sign Up Genius](#). Activities are listed in order by date. Navigate to the bottom of the list to find Room Parents. If you have any questions, please contact the school office at 920-477-3551 or jhively@sothparish.org. Thank You!

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Upcoming School Year Dates and Activities:

- Friday, August 20 - Movie Night at SOTH 8:00 pm
- Thursday, August 26 - School Supply Drop Off & School Pictures 3:00 - 6:00 pm
- Monday, August 30 - New Student Welcome! 9:00 - 10:00 am
- Tuesday, August 31 - First Day of School (Drop Off starts at 7:30 am)
- Wednesday, September 1 - All School Mass 8:30 am (**Maroon & Khaki Dress Code**)
- Wednesday, September 1 - Parent Meeting 6:00 - 7:30 pm (Start in Church)
- Friday, September 3 - First Friday Rosary 11:00 am Church
- Monday, September 6 - Labor Day - No School
- Tuesday, September 7 - Student Council Campaigning Begins
- Tuesday, September 7 - School Commission Meeting 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, September 8 - All School Mass 8:30 am (**Maroon & Khaki Dress Code**)
- Thursday, September 9 - K-4 Field Trip to Bookworm Gardens
- Thursday, September 9 - Saturday, September 11 - A Volleyball @ Holy Trinity Tournament
- Monday, September 13 - Student Council Election
- Monday, September 13 - Volleyball Game @ St. Matt's - B Team Double Header 6 & 7 pm
- Saturday, October 2 - Run for the Hills 5K Fun Run & Walk
- Saturday, October 16 - Family Mass & Steak Fry (4:00 pm Mass, 5:00 pm Steak Fry)

LINKS

[2021-2022 SOTH School Calendar](#)

[Back to School Forms & School Supply Lists](#)

[Hot Lunch Calendar](#)

[Shepherd of the Hills Parish & School Online Google Calendar](#)

[Spirit Wear Order](#) (Orders due Wednesday, September 8)