



School Newsletter

Friday, August 27, 2021

Message from the Principal...

Hello Shepherd of the Hills School Families and Community!

What a beautiful summer we had, with lots of great weather and opportunities to get out with friends and family. The energy in the building Thursday afternoon from the families visiting was a wonderful reminder of our mission and the partnership we all appreciate.

As we turn our eyes to the start of the school year, the situation around COVID variants, cases, protocols and policies has returned to the forefront. The quiet start to the 2021-2022 school year that we all hoped for, has not quite materialized. To reference the gorilla in the corner, there are families in our community as everywhere, that have very strong convictions around both student use and non-use of a mask. While schools find themselves in the middle of these unusual times, I am so appreciative of the continued decorum shown by our Shepherd of the Hills families, being committed in their position while respecting the fact that others may have a different perspective. How wonderful would it be to see this kind of respect and civility in all issues! What we all absolutely agree upon is that the only thing more important than our children learning, growing their minds and hearts, is their health.

Our COVID plan for the school year still relies on the commitment of our families to monitor the health of the student and family members, attempting to minimize potential exposures and the opportunities for the spread of infection. At the same time, we want the students to have a positive in-person school experience where joy of learning and being together in a community are crucial to their growth.



AND WHATEVER YOU DO IN WORD OR DEED, DO EVERYTHING IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS. COLOSSIANS 3:17

Mask Policy: **Shepherd of the Hills School strongly recommends that students wear masks during the school day.** This policy statement falls in line with the Fond du Lac Health Department, the recommendation of local physicians and our local and Archdiocesan Deanery Schools. Unless requested by the family, just as last year, students working in adequate personal space take off their masks, then re-covering when working in close proximity to others. **Note: Students still MUST wear a mask while riding on a school bus.**

In every school year, as students return from a break, there is a pattern of colds and sniffles in the first few weeks, with the re-introduction of a variety of germs the students have acquired and brought with them to campus. With COVID, and particularly the highly contagious delta variant, the spread is of more concern. Working with the groups above, we will watch and evaluate the COVID numbers closely and revise as circumstances dictate.

It is an expectation that whatever decision a family makes, all community members are treated with respect and courtesy. Using yesterday's interactions as a measure of the Shepherd of the Hills climate, we are in position for another amazing year!

Exposures and Quarantining: **When an individual has an exposure or positive COVID test, we will notify the community and follow the attached directives of the Fond du Lac Health Department regarding contact tracing and return schedules.** [FDL County Quarantine Recommendations](#)

Students that are learning from home will have classroom access via Google Classroom and coordinated with the teacher. Virtual Learning will be available based on the situation and appropriateness of the activity. Teachers will coordinate meetings to share presentations and keep students on pace.

Adults in the Building: With the exception of our 3K-4K parents walking their children into the building via Door E, **Parents are asked to only visit the School Office area during the school day.** If a parent-teacher meeting occurs, we prefer to accommodate that after school.

Other Items of Note:

Our **uniform** supplier, Lands End, is running significantly behind in fulfilling orders. If your uniforms have not arrived yet, please just have your student wear a solid colored polo shirt until the new ones arrive. Similarly, for Wednesday Mass, wear a polo until your student has a maroon uniform to wear with their khaki pants/shorts/skirt. Please remember to visit the uniform rack in the school hallway to look for a solution!

The Home and School Committee will provide **Coffee and Donuts** for parents after student drop-off until 8:30 am on Tuesday, August 31 to celebrate the start of the year! They will be set up on the sidewalk in front of school. Three returning parents will be there to welcome parents and answer any questions if they have any.

Ron Smyczek, Principal
rsmyczek@sothparish.org

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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 - Child Care Registration - Spirit Wear Orders

Back to School Forms are on the [Back to School Page](#) at sothschool.weebly.com. Paper copies of all forms are available by request in the school office.

If you need Child Care services before or after school, please complete and return a registration form, and contact Diane Apkarian in Child Care to make arrangements.

You should have received a spirit wear order form yesterday at Supply Drop Off. Just a reminder that orders are due **September 8**. You can direct all questions to Miss Colwin at ncolwin@sothparish.org Go Rams!

All forms should be completed/returned to the school office by Friday, September 10.

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!

Afternoon Pick Up Procedure - Which Door To Go To!

If you are picking your students up at Shepherd of the Hills at the end of the day (3:00 pm), please follow these pick up procedures:

Please enter the parish/school parking lot from County Road B (by the electronic sign) and then take an immediate left to drive onto the fire lane. Proceed slowly, driving clockwise in a single file line to Door F (Middle School Doors) or Door E (Elementary/Playground Doors). No need to exit your car as a teacher will dismiss your students when they see your car.

- **Families with Last Names A-L: Door F (Middle School Doors)**
- **Families with Last Names M-Z: Door E (Elementary/Playground Doors)**

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE FIRE LANE FROM MERCURY LANE.

On days that you pick your students up early from school for appointments, etc. please come to the school office as students leaving early need to be signed out of school.

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Hot Lunch Program

Shepherd of the Hills is once again participating in the USDA Seamless Summer Option (SSO) program. **This means that SOTH is providing free meals to all students for the entirety of the 2021-2022 school year!** This program provides additional support and flexibility for our district to continue serving meals to children while maintaining safety measures and managing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Even though receipt of free meals does not depend on an approved free and reduced-price meal application, we are still distributing and processing them so Shepherd of the Hills families may qualify for P-EBT benefits as well as other school funding.

When your child participates in our healthy and delicious school lunch program it will save your family time and money. Five food components (grain, protein, fruit, vegetable, and fluid milk) are served at lunch. For your child's lunch meal to be free, they must take at least three different food components, one of which is ½ cup fruit or vegetable. ***Please note: all students are served the components of a free lunch at SOTH.***

A la carte milk at lunch (milk only) and the morning milk program will still be charged a fee of \$.30 per carton of milk.

[Aug/Sept Hot Lunch Calendar](#)

[Free & Reduced Hot Lunch Application and Instructions](#)

SOTH Band Opportunity for Grades 5-8

Any 5th through 8th grade students interested in learning a band instrument: Mrs. Hansen will be at school outside of the Parish Office on **Wednesday, September 1 from 5:00 - 6:00 pm** to have you try out the different instruments.

2021-22 Teacher Emails

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

Kindergarten: Miss 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

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

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

Band & Chimes: Mrs. Kathy Hansen - khansen.me@charter.net

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

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

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

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School Events Calendar

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 Maroon & Khaki Dress Code	All School Mass 8:30 am Gr. 5-8 Band Opportunity 5:00 pm 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 School Commission Meeting 6:00 pm
Wednesday, September 8 Maroon & Khaki Dress Code	All School Mass 8:30 am Spirit Wear Orders Due Today!
Thursday, September 9	K-4 Field Trip to Bookworm Gardens A Volleyball @ Holy Trinity Tournament (through September 11)
Monday, September 13	Student Council Election 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](#)

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Shepherd of the Hills Catholic School and Parish have an UltraViolet Germicidal Irradiation (UVGI) System in all four of our air exchange HVAC units.

This system includes effectively inactivating the SARS-CoV-2 virus which is responsible for Covid-19. It also has a 99% plus destruction rate on first pass efficiency. This technology is safe, reliable and approved by organizations such as the CDC, WHO and ASHRAE, just to name a few.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Our parishioners, our children, our staff, and our guests are breathing clean, healthy air at Shepherd of the Hills Catholic School and Parish.

**CLEAN
AIR**

at

