



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

June 5, 2019

School Office: 414-453-5830

Email: school@saintsebs.org

Fax: 414-453-9449

Ms. Grams, Principal

Website: school.saintsebastianonline.net



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Dear St. Sebastian School Community,

"Perhaps this is the moment for which you were created." - Esther 4:4

As you well know, our theme for the year has been centered on recognizing, preparing for, acting upon, and reflecting upon the **moments** God gifts us in life - and how we use them.

The 2018-2019 school year has held a tremendous number of significant moments for our community, as all years do. Let us offer praise and thanks to God for every moment given, as friendships were formed, growth was experienced, mistakes were made and (hopefully!) learned from, and new opportunities were experienced.

Thank you for sharing the gift of your children and family with us this year. Thank you to our staff who works tirelessly and joyfully with our students to live out our mission's core values, as together we *ENGAGE, INSPIRE, GROW, LOVE God, and SERVE others*. Thank you to our parish and all who support our vibrant and successful parish school.

In closing our final Newsletter posting and the 2018-2019 school year, I want to share with you a post from one of our 8th grade parents on the next page, following graduation last week Saturday - Congratulations again, graduates! **The post pretty much says it all...**

(Post credit: Derek Mosley, photo credits: Lori Golomski & James Steeno).

Have a wonderful summer, be safe, and God bless you all!

Thank you for another great year,

Ms. Grams & the St. Sebastian School Staff

If you ask any parent of the 8th grade graduating class at St. Sebastian, out of all the Catholic grade schools in Milwaukee, why did you choose Sebs, they would all point to this picture. We are Black, We are White, We are Latino, We are Asian, We are Catholic, We are Christian, We are Muslim, We are different economic categories, We are Democrats, We are Republicans, but most importantly, we are FAMILY. We don't run from our diversity, we embrace it. We are Milwaukee. We are America. We Are . . . St. Sebs! Congratulations Class of 2019. Be bold. Be courageous. Be your best.

Photo Credit: James Steeno



STAFF CHANGES FOR NEXT YEAR – We have a number of people transitioning with life changes as we conclude this year and look to the next. Let us thank the following teachers who will be moving on from teaching at St. Sebastian School this year, either moving or pursuing new adventures ahead:

- Ms. Lisa Worklan (K5)
- Ms. Becca Kaja (3rd)
- Mrs. Christine Clementi (5th)
- Mrs. Megan Luke (5th)

Thank you, teachers for your dedication to our kids, our families, and our staff. We are grateful for your years of service, whether for one year or more, and keep you all in our prayers in all that the future holds!

We also want to announce that Mrs. Melinda Runnoe (4th) will transition into a new role in administration, which is a newly created role as “Dean of Students and Culture”. Mrs. Runnoe has loved her time in the classroom and will still be in the classrooms to an extent, however now primarily in a support role, assisting with instructional goals, student interventions, and collaborating on curriculum and professional development for our school and staff. Additionally, she will serve as a point person for those coordinating a number of school events throughout the year. With the emphasis on “culture” in her role, she is eager to explore ways we can continue to grow opportunities and avenues for increased engagement among all stakeholders. She is excited for this role and new opportunity to help St. Sebastian School grow even stronger, believing she “can impact even more lives” in this capacity.

Mrs. Lori Golomski, then, will be transitioning from administration to another highly-anticipated role as “Middle School Instructional Support,” working primarily with students in grades 5-8. She will assist with academic needs, support services, and accommodations. We are so grateful for all Mrs. Golomski has done for our community wearing the many hats that she does, and we look forward to her continued great work with students in this new role. You’ll still see her around wearing some of her same “hats”, so to speak!

We are very pleased to announce the hiring of (4) new teachers for our intermediate grades, given the changes at grades 3, 4, and 5. Though it’s not ideal to have a number of positions changing, God has been good in sending us a wealth of many wonderful candidates. The following teachers have accepted positions and we are eager to welcome them into the community. We will share more information on them in the summer letter:

- Ms. Nora Kleber (joining us from the University of Minnesota)
- Mrs. Trisha Ewig (joining us from Prince of Peace School in Milwaukee)
- Ms. Sarah Raidbard (also joining us from Prince of Peace School in Milwaukee)
- Ms. Andrea Enda (soon to be “Mrs. Schaefer” this summer! She joins us from Holy Ghost – Immaculate Conception School in Kieler, WI.)

The specific grade placements of our new teachers will be shared in the summer letter as those decisions are confirmed. *A special thank you to school staff and members of School Committee who gave of their time to serve on a number of interview sessions with many wonderful candidates.

Last but not least, Mrs. Kerry Schlater will be out on maternity leave at the beginning of the fall, with her baby due in July! As with any situation where a teacher is gone, we will ensure a solid start for our students in how the classroom culture is shaped, who is teaching them, and how the long-term substitute will work seamlessly with Mrs. Schlater until she returns following the Thanksgiving break.

We are still interviewing for both the K5 position and a long-term substitute in 1st grade for Mrs. Schlater. If you know of any strong candidates, please refer them to Ms. Grams. Often times our best candidates come from word of mouth within the community.

Knowing that there is a good deal of transitions in the new ahead, one of Mrs. Runnoe's chief responsibilities will be working with the teachers joining us, new to St. Sebastian School. We feel she is the perfect fit to help new teachers acclimate, find mentorship, and share what makes St. Sebastian such a special place, given her many years at "Sebs" as a teacher, parent, volunteer, parishioner, and Title instructor.

DISCOVERY DAY – THANK YOU, Brad Rochford, Amy Shambarger, Molly Ambrose, and all of our volunteers for a wonderful "Discovery Day" for our students in May! What a special day this was for our kids and community!

FIELD DAY – THANK YOU, Lindsey Mahn and all parent volunteers for an awesome Field Day today! This is a day our kids surely look forward to. We are appreciative for the many parents, recent graduates, and friends who stepped up to help our staff pull off this day. God was good with the weather as well!

LAST DAY FRIDAY – Students in grades 1 – 7 should report to school at 7:55 as usual. There will be a prayer service and awards assembly in church at 8:15. Parents are welcome to join us in church. Students will return to school and dismiss at 11:00.

YEARBOOKS – Grades 1 – 7 will receive their yearbooks today. (They were already distributed to 8th grade and kindergarten.) We do have extras available for sale if you forgot to order one. The cost is \$13. Make checks payable to St. Sebastian School.

7TH GRADE PARENT MEETING - A planning meeting for the 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. is scheduled for Thursday, June 6th from 6 to 7pm in the Cafeteria.

MEDICATION – If your child has any medication stored in the school office, please collect it by 11:00 on Friday. Any medication left behind will be discarded.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS – The school office will be open Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 8:00 – 12:00 during the summer. We are often here at other random times as well. Feel free to leave us a voicemail any time.

LOST & FOUND – Last call for Lost & Found. Anything not claimed will be donated or discarded.

SUMMER SKILLS PRACTICE! - While we hope you have a fun and enjoyable summer with lots of play time, we also hope that you try to keep up the skills you learned this school year! Here are some free ideas:

- iXL - Students in grades 4-8 have accounts with the online program iXL (www.ixl.com). They can continue to access these accounts over the summer to practice Reading skills (grades 4-8) and Math skills (grades 6-8). One great thing about iXL is that your student can access modules that practice skills from the grade they just finished or from higher or lower grades too!
- Xtra Math (xtramath.org) - This can be used as a free website or app to help your child practice math facts, from adding and subtracting to multiplication and division and beyond!
- ABCYa (www.abcya.com)- This free website has hundreds of games at every grade level to practice reading, spelling, math, and more.
- Read, Read, Read! Please encourage your child to read every day. Reading with or to your child counts as well! The more your child is exposed to literacy - through individual reading, read-alouds, audio books, magazines, etc. - the stronger reader he/she will become!
- Milwaukee Public Library Super Reader Program - students in grades K4-5th brought home the Super Reader program for the Milwaukee Public Library. For every 5 hours your child reads this summer (reading to your child counts, along with audio books, magazines, etc.), he/she will win great prizes including free passes to many of Milwaukee's best kid-friendly summer hotspots such as Betty Brinn Children's Museum, the Milwaukee Public Museum, Cool Waters Water Park, etc. Make the library a regular part of your summer plans!

SAFEGUARDING SESSIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS - Anyone wanting to work with students, or chaperone on field trips, needs to complete a 3 hour Safeguarding training course and complete a background criminal records check. **Next year there are 2 Safeguarding sessions scheduled to be held at St. Sebastian Church Hall for your convenience. August 26 and September 18.**

To sign up for a Safeguarding course:

Go to <https://milwaukee.cmgconnect.org/> and register for a new account. Be sure to choose St. Sebastian (Milw) as your site. Once you have an account, you will then need to click: Required Training Curriculums.

Required Training Curriculums

1. INITIAL LIVE TRAINING ONLY – Safe Environment Curriculum/Code of Conduct – Milwaukee.
You will need to sign up for a LIVE SESSION and complete some online items.

Thank you for helping us keep our children safe.