



Bethel Lutheran School's Weekly Newsletter

BOBCAT BULLETIN

Edition #5 | October 5, 2020

In the beginning God created the heavens and
the earth. Genesis 1:1

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We have all been missing some normal pieces of our lives and schedules lately. One piece of our Sunday morning that has been missing is Sunday School for our children. But there is still a way for you and your child to spend time with the stories that make up the history of our salvation. A series of videos has been produced for at-home Sunday School. They are available at <https://online.nph.net/ss-at-home>. If you would like the physical student lesson pages, sign up at <http://bit.ly/BethelBCSS> or call the church office, and we will get them to you as soon as possible. May the Lord bless your role as Sunday School facilitator!

CHAPEL: Our mission offerings for the first quarter will be used for our synod's Christian Aid Relief program. The offering this past week was **\$40.16**. Our total for the quarter is now **\$109.66**. Encourage your child to bring an offering each Wednesday.

COVID UPDATE: It's been quite a weekend. I am sure most of you have been watching the news and wondering how recent developments will affect our school, its staff, and students. Both our Church Council and Board of Education are on record that our church and school are to obey those God has placed in authority over us, but because of the recent judgment of the Michigan Supreme Court, those in authority will be analyzing the court's

decision and perhaps altering what will be done in Michigan in response to the COVID pandemic.

The most recent EO regarding mandated wearing of masks for students in all grades K to 12 seems likely to be revisited. The next few days should bring clarity to the path forward on the mask issue and others as well, for schools in Michigan. Not knowing where all the dust will settle and not wanting to make the wrong judgments without a complete interpretation of the Court's action; the Board of Education at Bethel has decided to go forward with the mask mandate **in spirit** and as it affects us individually.

The BOE recognizes that our students and staff are in a better place regarding the reopening of schools than other schools which are just now starting up with face to face instruction. Bethel's students have been in cohorts and have adjusted to each other for the past four weeks of instruction with no complications. We thank God for this blessing, and we thank you for help in protecting our school, its students, and its staff.

Because of this Bethel's BOE has decided to allow individual teachers to use their judgment, based on their observations and circumstances in classrooms, and allow breaks from mask wearing as they deem appropriate. Our students will thus be given regular "mask breaks" throughout the day for the time being.

I will be following things closely. I will consult with the leadership of other schools and I will talk to local authorities. As developments happen Bethel's BOE will take another look at its position on face masks. I hope at the least that we can soon return to our original start up plan.

I do believe that there is reason for optimism! Now that our governor and legislature have to work in harmony regarding decisions about the pandemic, it is likely there will be fewer surprises and more consistency going forward. Accordingly, our parents, staff, and students should feel more confident in what the future looks like and less worried about abrupt changes that cause uncertainty and disruptions at home and at school.

Please watch for future newsletter articles or special announcements as this all gets sorted out. I pray that God continues to bless our school and its families. I pray that our nation quickly gets passed this pandemic. I pray that those afflicted with COVID return to health and that our lives safely return to normal as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

HUNGRY HOWIES PIZZA DAY: This coming Wednesday will be our first Hungry Howies Pizza hot lunch. Order forms were sent home today. Please fill them out and return them with the appropriate money tomorrow.

CLASS PICTURES: Class pictures will take place tomorrow **Tuesday, October 6th**. Informational packets and paying options are being sent home with this newsletter. Pictures will be taken in the morning starting around 9:00AM. You are not obligated to purchase pictures and the school does not receive any proceeds if you do.

BIRTHDAYS: I was hoping to ignore today, but others saw it differently. Thanks to everyone for all the birthday wishes and what was done to celebrate it at school. It was quite a surprise this morning in many ways and I am grateful for the thoughtfulness. I sent home a remembrance of the day with all students.

SOCCER TOURNAMENT: Our team played well at Saturday's tournament. They played for third place and lost 2 to 3. Great effort Bobcats!

SOCCER: Our season record for this year was 4 and 1. A great year! Thanks to our coaches Steve Powers and Christine Jacobs for a fine job, our players for their efforts, and our fans for their support.

MAP TESTING WINDOW: Children in grades 3-8 will participate in a testing program called Measures of Academic Progress MAP. These tests will be administered sometime from October 12 to 23. These tests will help us evaluate the progress of our students and the strength of our curriculum. This year we have also purchased rights to use a remedial online resource that tailors programs based on the MAP test results to upgrade the weaknesses of individual students. Please make sure your child attends regularly during this time frame so that make up tests aren't needed. Thanks!

GIRLS' Basketball:

Practices (All practices will be from 3:00 to 5:00 unless otherwise noted)

Monday, 10/5 B Team

Tuesday, 10/6 A Team

Wednesday, 10/7 B Team

Thursday 10/8 A Team

Monday, 10/12 B Team

Tuesday, 10/13 A Team

Wednesday, 10/14 B Team

Thursday 10/15 A Team

Games – Games will begin at 5:30 pm unless otherwise noted

10/16 vs. St. John's Hem./Sag. @ Bethel

10/20 vs. Emanuel Tawas @ Tawas

10/23 vs. Emanuel Tawas @ Bethel

10/27 vs. St. John's BC @ Bethel

10/30 vs. Trinity BC @ Bethel

11/5 vs. St. Luke's/St. Barts & GS @ Trinity

11/7 B Tourney @ Trinity

11/10 vs. St. John's Hem/Sag @ Ch/Shields

11/13 vs. St. John's BC @ St. John's

11/20-21 MALL Tourney @ Tawas

12/4-5 MLS Small School Tourney @ MLS

12/11-12 MLS Large School Tourney @ MLS

COMING UP:

10/6 Class Pictures in AM

10/16 Faculty In-service – Classes Dismiss @ Noon

10/30 Costume Day

11/1 Daylight Savings Time Ends

11/3 Election Day

11/6 End 1st Quarter

Principals' Conference in PM

11/11 Report Cards Sent Home

Veterans' Day

11/16 Faculty In-service in AM & Parent Consults in PM – No School

11/25-27 Thanksgiving Vacation – No School



HAPPY 70th

BIRTHDAY.

MR. DAST!