

# FAMILY BULLETIN

## Calendar

August 5: Summer at Benilde Ends

August 10: New Parent Orientation, 7:00 PM, Cafeteria

August 11: Returning Parent Orientation, 7:00 PM, Cafeteria

August 12: Family Move In Day, 8 AM - 4 PM

August 12: Principal's Town Hall Meetings, Noon & 4:00 PM, Cafeteria

August 12: City Park Night, 7:00 PM, City Park

August 14: Men's Club Corn Hole Toss Tournament, 1:00 PM, School Yard

**August 15: First Day of School, 7:45 AM**

August 15: Men's Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Cafeteria

**August 17: Opening of School Liturgy, 8:15 AM, Church**

August 23: Advisory Council Meeting, 6:30 PM

August 24: School Liturgy, 8:15 AM, Church

September 5: Labor Day, Campus Closed



## WELCOME to the 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

There is something exciting about the start of a new school year. As I stroll the halls, I can sense that it is time for the children to come back for another year of playing, praying, learning, laughing, and loving at SBS!

This year begins a new phase in our efforts to create a more excellent, more supportive, and more *Catholic* school capable of meeting the complex needs of the world in which our children are growing. This phase builds upon what we have accomplished in the past four years and uses that foundation to create something that is truly unique: *The St. Benilde Difference*.

At the core of the St. Benilde difference is that we do not simply educate children... we *form* them in the Catholic tradition.

We form them in the following ways:

*Academic Formation:* Using our distinctive personalized approach to learning, we form each child's mind. We collect relevant data on what each child knows and can do, and use that data to design learning opportunities that can better target each child's learning needs in the cognitive, physical, and social domains.

*Spiritual Formation:* Each and every moment of the day, we attempt to provide children with multiple opportunities to



experience the saving presence of God in their lives. This is accomplished with constant classroom prayer, dynamic school liturgies, and regular opportunities to receive the sacraments. This year, we aim to also provide children with opportunities to go on retreat and engage in more prayer services, like stations of the cross and rosary devotions. All of these activities help form the child's soul.

*Human Formation:* Human formation goes beyond the textbooks and the catechism and forms a child's character through training in ethics, morality, and discerning the differences between right and wrong. Human formation makes all learning relevant because it directs a child to the essential understanding that all knowledge and technology is intended as a gift to benefit others, especially "the least of these." Through studying the virtues and lives of the Saints through our *Virtues in Practice* program, children are formed to use faith and reason to benefit the poor and marginalized in their communities.

*Apostolic Formation:* Jesus did not tell the apostles to sit still. He told them to get moving, go out into the world to heal the sick, comfort the afflicted, and spread His Word of love and salvation to the whole world! Through service to others and connecting their learning to how to alleviate evil and suffering in the world, St. Benilde School children are formed to be apostles... to be the next Catholic Christian witnesses to a broken world that remains in need of healing.

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year. On behalf of Fr. Cooper, the faculty, the staff, and the parishioners of St. Benilde Parish, I thank you for the opportunity you have given us to partner with you in the education of your children. I am excited for the year to begin, and look forward to the many blessings that God is sure to provide.

Your Brother in Christ,

John "Matt" Downey

Principal & Executive Director

St. Benilde School

## Nuts and Bolts

- ❖ **What are the Parent Orientations?** We have two Parent Orientations scheduled. The *New Parent Orientation* on August 10 at 7:00 PM is for all parents whose children are new to the school this year. The *Returning Parent Orientation* on August 11 @ 7:00 PM is for all parents whose children are returning to SBS this school year. Both orientations should last approximately two hours and are NOT kid friendly. We will begin in the cafeteria at 7:00 PM, where parents will be given their "Back to School Paperwork" to complete. Mr. Downey will also speak about school procedures and what's new for the school year. Representatives for the Men's Club, Home & School Association, and Grandparent's Club will also speak about their organizations and opportunities to get involved. At 8:00 PM, parents will go with their children's homeroom teachers to have a classroom orientation.
- ❖ **What is Family Move In Day?** Family Move In Day is when you can come with your child to "move in" to the classroom... get the desk set up right, get books ready in the cubby, meet the teacher, and more. It is a relaxed, open house environment that runs from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. During the day (at