

August 2017



Dear Parents,

It seems like we just said goodbye! Yet, here we are saying hello again to welcome back all of our returning families and offer special greetings to our new families that will be joining us at St. Fabian Catholic School! We hope you all had an opportunity to make some wonderful memories and enjoy the beautiful days of summer. We are excited to see all of you and I'm sure that once again, we will marvel at how much our students have grown!

I have met at length with Monsignor Tim to discuss our students, staff, families, and programming. Both he and Fr. Andrew are very excited to show their support and commitment to our school. They will be popping in regularly to visit the classrooms! We are eager to have them participate in our first school assembly and show their Falcon pride!

We are happy to share with you our staff line up:

Pastor: Monsignor Tim Hogan	Preschool: Mrs. Anderson	6 th , 7 th , & 8 th Grade:
Associate Pastor: Fr. Andrew Dawson	Kindergarten: Mrs. Jacunski	(6) Mrs. Barlow - Math
Principal: Mrs. Szuba	1 st Grade: Mrs. Donovan	(6) Mr. Sharp – Social Studies
Dean of Students: Mrs. Nevers	2 nd Grade: Mrs. Swickard	(7) Ms. Sobolak– Science
Guidance Counselor: Mrs. Gaynier	3 rd Grade: Mrs. Miles	(7) Mr. Watkins – English
School Secretary: Mrs. Sutherland	4 th Grade: Mrs. Swalec	(8) Ms. Nixon - Literature
School Secretary: Mrs. Hale	5 th Grade: Mrs. Campbell	Mrs. Kerwin – Religion 6-8
Maintenance Engineer: Mr. Smith	<i>Early Elementary Aides:</i>	Kid's Club:
PE/Health: Mr. Kessel	Mrs. Cuschieri	A.M. – Mrs. Schumaier
Computer/Tech: Mrs. Sokana	Sr. Nada	P.M. – Ms. Fecher
Media(Formerly Library): Mrs. Sokana	Mrs. Schumaier	Aides – Mrs. Dwyer & TBA
Music: Mrs. Dettbarn	Mrs. Smith	
Spanish: Mrs. SanJuan	Mrs. Waideo	

We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of teachers who have a passion for teaching. We are also grateful to have all of the above returning from last year! Note "Mrs. Campbell" is our newly married, Ms. Polnasek. The teachers are excited to work with you to help your children strive to challenge themselves to become the best they can be academically and spiritually while remembering to live out our mission statement to: *Follow Jesus' example through Strength in academics, Trustworthiness, and Faith in Christian Values.*

This school year we will have 3 trimesters again and we will continue to use the comprehensive online program, Gradelink, to allow you up-to-date information regarding grades, disciplinary issues, and classroom information. We will have further information at Parent Night; feel free to ask your child's teacher for any information regarding Gradelink.

MASS...Our all-school mass will now take place on Tuesday mornings at 8:30. We are looking forward to the inspirational homilies from Monsignor Tim and Fr. Andrew. Please feel free to join us if you can.

SCHOOL UNIFORM... our dress code remains the same as last year. Please follow the rules regarding the uniform and refer to the school handbook at our school website for any clarification throughout the year. As a reminder, the basic information is highlighted for you below:

DRESS CODE

If students are not compliant with school dress code parents may be called to bring appropriate attire.

GIRLS GRADES K-8:

Bottoms: St. Fabian Catholic School uniform jumper or skirt purchased from Education Outfitters (with bike shorts no longer than the skirt), black or khaki dress pants or shorts (Shorts may only be worn as an option from April 1st - November 1st)

Tops: White or Red Polos/Black Sweaters/Black Fleece Jackets and must have St. Fabian logo available for purchase from Educational Outfitters.

The hem of skirts, jumpers, and shorts should rest at the top of the knee and may not be higher than **2 inches above the knee**. If a student wears the pants or shorts, they must wear a dark dress belt with their shirt tucked in unless the shirt has a banded bottom.

Socks and tights must be solid white or black. Socks must be knee high or above the anklebone.

Shoes: Mostly solid black, brown, or white athletic or dress shoe. (No heels) Shoes must have a back and toe. No light up shoes, boots, sandals, flip-flops etc.

Hair/make-up/accessories: Students may only wear clear or white tipped French manicures. No student is allowed any make up. Hairstyles are to be conservative with natural/original hair color, no extreme styles or colors, no bleached tips, dying, or tinting. Hair accessories should remain simple and discrete (no feathers). Students are permitted one watch, one ring, one bracelet, and one necklace as long as they are not a disruption/distraction to learning as determined by staff. There are no tattoo or body piercings allowed. Girls may wear one small discrete hoop or post earring per ear lobe, no multiple sets.

BOYS GRADES K-8:

Bottoms: Black or khaki dress pants or shorts (Shorts may only be worn as an option from April 1st - November 1st)

Tops: White or Red Polos/Black Sweaters/Black Fleece Jackets and must have St. Fabian logo available for purchase from Educational Outfitters.

Student must wear a dark dress belt with their shirt tucked in unless the shirt has a banded bottom.

Socks must be solid white or black and above the anklebone.

Shoes: Mostly solid black, brown, or white athletic or dress shoe. Shoes must have a back and toe. No light up shoes, boots, sandals, flip-flops etc.

Hair/accessories: Hairstyles are to be conservative with natural/original hair color, no extreme styles or colors, no bleached tips, dying, or tinting. Hair must be combed, cut above the shirt collar, cut above the ears, and cut above the eyebrow. Boys must be clean-shaven and sideburns may not extend below the ear. Students are permitted one watch, one ring, one bracelet, and one necklace as long as they are not a disruption/distraction to learning as determined by staff. There are no tattoo or body piercings allowed. Boys are not allowed to wear earrings.

GYM UNIFORMS:

Red St. Fabian t-shirt provided by Educational Outfitters. Black gym shorts (mid thigh or longer) may be worn from April 1st – November 1st. Students must wear the black sweatpants with the St. Fabian logo year round. Athletic shoes must be worn. Any color athletic shoe is acceptable. Gym uniforms are to be worn to school on PE days only.

DRESS –UP & DRESS-DOWN DAYS:

Dress-up and dress-down days are special days when students are not required to wear the school uniform. On these days, make-up and nail polish rules still apply unless special permission is granted. In addition, high heeled shoes, open toe shoes, ripped pants, tank tops, shirts with inappropriate writing/drawings as determined by staff, hats, jeggings, spandex, cut-off shorts, and flip-flops are not permitted. Leggings may be worn only if an appropriate length dress, skirt, or short is worn over the top.

SPIRIT DAYS:

In an effort to promote our Falcon spirit, Spirit Days are on Fridays (except for the last Friday of each month) and students may **ONLY** wear St. Fabian logo clothing or **SOLID** casual clothes that are red, white, black, or gray with no wording. Spirit wear is available for purchase through school several times a year. An order form for approved spiritwear will be available shortly. PTG will be selling spiritwear and there will be some stock samples at Parent Night on August 30th. Remember, students are always welcome to wear their regular uniform on Spirit Days.

PTG DRESS DOWN DAYS will take place on the last Friday of each month. Students are asked to bring in a minimum donation of a dollar for the privilege of wearing jeans/casual school-appropriate clothing of their choice. The money will be used to assist in funding the many wonderful events and services the PTG provides for our school and the students.

PICK UP & DROP OFF...Our K-8 morning drop off routine and pick up process will have a slight change:

- * Students in grades K, 1, 2 will get dropped off at the front of the line up near the church. They will then walk to the doors past the library at the end entrance to their hallway.
- * Students in grades 3, 4, 5 will line up behind grades K, 1, 2 on the sidewalk alongside the library.
- * Students in grades 6, 7, 8 will line up near the main doors parallel to the play area on the sidewalk.
(We will have posted signs for the first week of school to help the students!)
- * Preschool students follow different guidelines --- Mrs. Anderson will explain drop off to you at the start of the year.

If the weather is extreme, we will allow entry a few minutes earlier in the hallways. We will have safeties on duty at 7:45 and the bell will ring at 7:55 for all students to enter. Please do not drop your child off earlier than 7:45. Should you need an early drop off, our licensed childcare program will be available from 7:00-7:55. You must register for this program and will be billed accordingly. **When dropping off your children, please pull as far forward as possible in the drop off zone and have your student exit the vehicle curbside. Our hope is by moving the little ones forward in the line it will help the line move a little faster. Do not zoom past each other in line, please proceed patiently and cautiously!** Once students are dropped off they will immediately walk to their designated waiting area. **IF YOU SEE ANY CARS DRIVING AGGRESSIVELY, PLEASE GATHER AS MUCH INFORMATION AS YOU CAN AND GIVE US A CALL OR SEND US AN EMAIL.** We will do our best to contact those drivers to remind them of our safety policies. As you exit our parking lot please use caution when turning left or right. Left lane should turn left, right lane turns right.

For the pick up process we ask that you park in the provided parking spaces toward the east lot, leaving the closer ones for handicap and elderly drivers, exit your car, and walk with your child back to the safety of your car. This rule is for ALL students in grades K-8. Again, please be kind, careful and cautious as you exit the parking lot!

TARDIES: If your student is late and arrives past 8:00 YOU (THE DRIVER) must enter through the main office doors and escort them to the office to sign them in to pick up a late slip at the office. *Students are considered late after 8:00.* Timeliness is imperative for our students to begin their day of classes in a prepared manner.

HOT LUNCH...Hot lunch will once again be provided by our same chef as last year, however, our ordering will now be through BOONLI. Mrs. Hale sent a form home last week, [but we have attached it here again for you in case you have misplaced it.](#) Hot lunch will begin on Tuesday, September 5th. If you would like to order lunch for your child(ren) please follow the guidelines on the attached lunch information form. Lunch will be from 11:16-11:56 for all students. Grades K-4 will eat first while grades 5-8 go outside, then after 20 minutes they will rotate. Preschool 4 full day students are eligible to order hot lunches as well! Their lunch will also be from 11:16-11:56. ***Orders for September can only be placed through August 20th.*** Each month after, the ordering will be available from the 9th – 20th of that month.

PTG...Our PTG provides numerous activities and events for all of our students and they will be sharing volunteer opportunities with you throughout the year that you can use toward PIP hours (PIP = PARENT INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM). Our School Advisory Committee formed a PIP Committee last year and they updated requirements and opportunities for PIP. [PIP information explaining the volunteer process and requirements are attached here.](#) We can't do this without you! Thank you for giving generously of your time!

Speaking of PTG...We are excited to share with you the line up for the PTG chairpeople:

Mary Morgan & Julie Gascho – Co Leaders

Karen Ingoglia – Finance

Deidre Todd – Fundraising

Bridgette Gumma – Communications

Check out the games painted on the parking lot and the new water refill stations at the drinking fountains in school! Thank you PTG☺

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE..We are forming a Diversity Committee under the guidance of one of our parents, Mrs. Gillery. She is planning a unity walk in early October as well as additional events for each trimester. What a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate and appreciate our similarities and differences. Look for more info to come!

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE...Our SAC has been influential in getting all of our voices heard! They continue to be a great, rational sounding board and they work hard for the benefit of our students and help us all to listen to each other and share concerns. This year our committee members are:

Mrs. Schertel, Mrs. DeFour, Mrs. Jarbou, Mrs. Garmo, Mrs. Wright, and Mr. Dinardo

Feel free to reach out to any committee member or me with any ideas or concerns you may have throughout the year. Several of the positions on the SAC will be open at the end of this school year.

CLASS PLACEMENTS... We know our Jr. High students are filled with anticipation to find out who their homeroom teachers are! If your child is in a grade with more than one homeroom, you will receive an email shortly telling them how to access who their homeroom teacher is. No changes will be allowed unless we have to rearrange due to new enrollees or unforeseen circumstances. Keep in mind...every staff member is FABULOUS! You can't go wrong☺

WHAT'S NEW...We are excited to share with you that we are one of the first pilot schools in the AOD to take part in the MI Virtual Online Class. Our students in grades 7 & 8 are the fortunate ones to take the class. Our Shared Time partner, Brighton, will cover the full cost of this class per student. (\$300+ per student). The class will be taught VIA a state-approved teacher online independently in the computer lab and varying classes will be monitored by our very own Mrs. Sokona, Mr. Kessel, and Mr. Watkins. Parents of students in these grades will receive forms we must have signed for the state in order to participate.

We are also fortunate to be one of the first AOD schools to take part in the Space Program with an opportunity to send an experiment to space in June. Grades 4-8 will directly participate in this. We are partnered with St. Monica Catholic School in Kalamazoo. Our interaction with this program, our media classes, and our religion classes allows us to proudly be full a STREAM school. However, In order to participate in this program we need to raise funds! We have committed to our portion, which will be \$18,000. Payment will be due in late fall. We will have fundraisers and we will reach out to corporations and businesses for support. If you know of any individuals or business owners who would be willing to contribute, please see the attached [Space Program Donation Letter](#). Just think...if we all pitch in a little we can reach our goal and our students will have the opportunity of a lifetime to be personally invested in a space flight! I'm getting my checkbook out! All donations are tax-deductible! If you have questions or would like more information please contact Ms. Sobolak at csobolak@stfabian.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA...Our parish and school websites are getting a facelift! Take a look at our new parish site at stfabian.org. To reach our school website, click on the SCHOOL link at the top. This will lead you to our school site where you will find a wealth of information! The new school site is still under construction and will be up and running very soon! We will continue to post any pertinent school-related information there as needed. Along with our website update, take a look at our STF Facebook site! **Keep an eye out for special challenges and secret games for our students! There may be surprises and prizes...**(hint hint)...be sure to "like us" and keep a lookout on your feeds. Spread the exciting news about what STF has to offer!

MEDIA...formerly Library. Mrs. Sokana has been working very hard all summer along with a few parents who have pitched in, to revamp the Library. She has been gathering curriculum to amp up our media curriculum. Look for exciting things to come from her!

ALICE... (Alert/Lockdown/Inform/Counter/Evacuate) Our staff will take part in a building-wide emergency training with the Farmington Fire and Police Department next week. The safety of our students is always a top priority!

RECESS...we need your help. Our recess coordinator, Mrs. Bracco has a new job and she can no longer run our recess program. If you know of anyone retired/college age...who could come to school M-F 10:45-12:15 to get out equipment (or a portion of the week if we can get 2 different people) please let us know! We also can use parent volunteers from 11:15-12:00 on a daily basis. Earn your PIP hours and enjoy some "playtime" with the students. We truly appreciate our recess volunteers!

KIDS CLUB....we will need aide help after school at kids club from 3-5. No professional skills necessary; you just need to enjoy playing and crafting with students! Again, if you know of anyone retired or a college age student, please let us know!

MONDAY MINUTES will continue! If there are any informational flyers that must be sent home they will generally be sent home on Wednesdays with the oldest child in each family unless it is age specific.

School begins with a half day, 8:00-11:30, for grades 1-8 on August 28th and students may wear casual dress on this first day as well. Childcare begins on the 1st full day of school, August 29th. Kindergarten will hold a Meet & Greet on August 29th from 8:30-9:30 a.m. and Preschool will hold Parenting Days 8:30-9:30 a.m. on August 30th for 4 year olds and August 31st for 3 year olds.

Mark your calendars for our informative Parent Meeting on Wednesday, August 30th, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. The meeting is for parents only and will begin in church with a brief general session with words of wisdom from Monsignor Tim followed by 2 sessions to visit classroom teachers. A full calendar for the school year is attached.

We look forward to working with you and your children in our faith-filled community of St. Fabian. **Together** we can build a foundation for a successful future for your children. Thank you for your commitment to STF and for leading by example to show our boys and girls how to live as Jesus would want us to; as respectful, accepting, loving people. In an outside world that is often full of turmoil, we are truly blessed to be in each others' lives in our school!

Wishing you grace and blessings...

Mrs. Szuba

