



THE BRUIN BULLETIN

St. Teresa of Avila



Sharon Willmes, Principal August 17, 2017 471-4530/ www.stteresa.net

“Make a Joyful Noise”



School News

- ❖ Welcome to all of our new students and staff! We are happy you have joined our St. Teresa family. To all returning students and staff, welcome back!
 - ❖ We hope everyone is having a wonderful start to the new school year. Monday we will begin our first full week of school. Hours are from 8 am to 2:30 pm.
 - ❖ This year’s school theme is “Make a Joyful Noise”. This theme will be incorporated throughout the school year.
 - ❖ Please be sure that all of your child’s forms have been completed and returned to school by Friday, August 25th; including the page that indicates that you have read the handbook on-line and that you and your family are aware of the guidelines. Parents and students are asked to complete a "Commitment to Excellence" Agreement that is in your beginning of the year packet. If your child is in kindergarten and cannot sign his/her name, only a parent signature is required. This form is due Friday, August 25 also with the other beginning of the year forms. Thanks!
- Also, please complete the page which requests your email address. We will use that to send out our weekly newsletter, the Bruin Bulletin. Our target date for the first email will be August 31st.
- ❖ All students will be attending weekly mass together on Friday mornings at 8:15 am; unless we are celebrating a special feast earlier in the week. Our first Mass of the year is Friday, August 25th at 8:15. All parents are invited to join us.
 - ❖ St. Teresa does not offer a hot lunch. Students must pack their lunch. Milk, juice and snacks are available for purchase in the cafeteria for .25 each (bottled water .50). Cash is not accepted; therefore, Drink and Snack Cards are available for purchase for \$5 each. An order form was sent home with your student today.
 - ❖ All parents are required to stop by the office when visiting the school for any reason. There is a sign-in book located on the counter. Complete both the badge and “sign out stub” by listing your name, your destination, the date, your initials and your time of arrival (“time in”). Remove the badge and apply it to your clothing in a visible location. Before you leave the building, please return to the office to sign yourself out, locating your initials and sign-out stub. List your departure time on the stub. We do this for the safety of our children, staff and visitors and in the event of an emergency. It is critical that everyone in the building is accounted for.
 - ❖ We will again be asking for two parents to volunteer in the mornings to greet students at the school entrances from 7:30 – 8:00. If you are willing to volunteer a morning a week, please call the school office.
 - ❖ Option C is the on-line grading system that St. Teresa uses. Parent letters were sent home today with one of your students containing information on how to log-on to Option C in order to view your child’s grades.

Gratitude Corner

We would like to thank Mr. Thoman, Mr. Grothaus, Mr. Zigelmier and the summer crew who worked so hard cleaning, remodeling, repairing and installing new features to our school. They are diligent about doing what it takes to make our school look good. Thanks for all the long hours in the heat and for doing a great job!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat., August 19 th	St. William Festival
Sun., August 20 th	St. William Festival
Mon., August 21 st	Regular School Hours
Tues., August 22 nd	7 pm Bingo
Wed., August 23 rd	
Thurs., August 24 th	6:00 Meet the Teachers/PTG Mtg. In Cafeteria 7:30 – 8:30 Soccer Sign-ups in Undercroft
Fri., August 25 th	8:15 Mass (8) All School Forms Due



School Tardies and Absences

Please remember that your child’s teacher and the school office need to be notified when your child is going to be absent, will arrive to school late or is leaving early for an appointment. Also, please remember to send a note with your child when they return after an absence. These are state laws and we must make sure everyone complies to avoid any truancy issues. **We would appreciate these notes on paper and not via email.**



PTG Meeting/Meet the Teacher Night

All are invited to join us on Thursday evening, August 24 for the first PTG Meeting and our Meet the Teacher night! The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria with a blended learning presentation. The PTG meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and then there are two sessions to meet the teachers. The teachers will be discussing curriculum and classroom expectations, not blended learning. So it is essential for you to attend the blended learning session at 6:00 p.m. if you want to hear about our new program. There will be two sessions; so if you have more than two children, both parents might want to attend.



Change in Uniform

The color of uniform shirts is changing. Beginning the 2018-19 school year, acceptable colors will be white, hunter green and dark blue polo shirts. Light blue shirts will no longer be permitted after this school year.



Morning Drop Off

Please remember when dropping off your child in the morning to drive up Rulison from Zula and drop your child off on the right side of the street so that they do not have to cross the street. WE DO NOT WANT ANY CHILDREN CROSSING THE STREET for safety reasons. We also ask that parents NOT get out of the car. The child should be able to get out on their own. We need the car line to move quickly. Another alternative is to drop your child off in the parking lot behind the school and just swing around and exit onto Glenway by the church.

Reminder: Parents should not drop children off before 7:30 a.m. The doors will not be unlocked until 7:30. The only two doors that will be unlocked from 7:30 to 8:00 are the front and back doors by the main office. Children are reminded to go straight to the cafeteria (where there is supervision) when they arrive before 7:50 and they are not to loiter in the hallways. In addition, between 7:50 and 8:00, Mrs. Kohler will be at the primary doors to let the primary children in that entrance.



Spirit Days

This year we will have two kinds of Spirit Days. The first Thursday of the month will be our **Tuition Assistance Out of Uniform Day**. For a charge of \$2, a student may come to school out of uniform (in appropriate attire as outlined in the Student Handbook). This is a way to earn money for tuition assistance which is disbursed to our school families who need a little help.

The last Thursday of each month will be our regular school **Spirit Day**. For .25 a student may come out of uniform; however, they must wear some kind of St. Teresa spirit wear (St. Teresa Tshirt, St. Teresa sports jersey, a green or white Tshirt). Please see the Student Handbook (on school website) for guidelines.

***Our first .25 Spirit Day will be Thursday, August 31st!**



Volunteer Requirements

We welcome and appreciate volunteers in many capacities throughout the school year. Parents and anyone who intends to work or volunteer in any of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati parishes, schools, or institutions, must complete a background check and must attend a VIRTUS® Child Awareness Session. This must be done before you are approved to work with children. This training and monthly updates are **mandatory** for **all** volunteers. St. Teresa conducts this training the second Thursday of every month beginning at 6:45 p.m. We must make sure that everyone meets the requirements before volunteering. Please note this also applies to chaperones of field trips. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call the Parish Office at 921-9200.

St. Teresa on Social Media

St. Teresa is on Facebook and Twitter! Our Facebook link is www.facebook.com/stteresabruins. Our Twitter account is @teresavilacin. Join us online!



Looking Ahead...

Monthly Calendars are available to be viewed on the school website and on google calendar. Here are some dates you may like to add to your calendar:

Upcoming School Events

Monday, September 4	No School – Labor Day
Tuesday, September 8	Grandparent/Special Person Day
Tuesday, September 19	Picture Day
Monday, October 9	No School - Columbus Day
Friday, October 27	No School – In-Service Day
Monday, November 20	1:00 Dismissal for Conferences
November 21- 24	No School – Thanksgiving Break
Thursday, December 7	7pm Christmas Concert in Church
Wednesday, December 20	1:00 Dismissal
December 21 – January 2	Christmas Break
Monday, January 15	No School–Martin Luther King Day
Sunday, January 28	12:30 – 2 pm Open House
January 29 – February 2	Catholic Schools Week
Friday, February 16	No School
Monday, February 19	No School – Presidents’ Day
March 29 – April 3	No School – Easter Break
Friday, April 20	Walk-a-Thon
Friday, April 27	No School – In-Service
Friday, May 4	May Devotions/Graduation Picture

Thursday, May 24
Monday, May 28
Thursday, May 31

Graduation
No School – Memorial Day
Last Day of School 11:00 Dismissal

Sacrament Dates

Thursday, October 26	7 th & 8 th Gr. Confirmation Retreat
Thursday, December 14	2 nd Gr. Parents’ Reconciliation Mtg. 7 pm Avila Hall
Wednesday, January 31	7 th & 8 th Gr. Confirmation Parent Mtg at 7 pm in Avila Hall
Saturday, February 3	11 am 2 nd Grade First Reconciliation
Wednesday, February 21	Confirmation 7 pm in Church (Archbishop Binzer)
Thursday, March 8	First Communion Parents’ Mtg. 7 pm Avila Hall
Wednesday, May 2	First Communion Pictures 7 pm
Friday, May 4	2 nd Grade Jesus Day
Sunday, May 6	2:00 First Communion



Athletic News

Soccer Sign-Ups

Online soccer sign-ups are available for Pre-Passer (birth year 2011 and 2012) and High School level soccer. There will also be an in person sign up on Thursday, August 24th at 7:30-8:30 in the Undercroft.



Around Town

St. William Festival

The St. William Festival is this weekend, August 19 (Adult Night) through the 21st.

PTG News



PTG Folders will be sent home with your student regarding volunteer opportunities and event dates. Please mark your calendars for our annual Grandparents/Special Person Day, which will be held on Friday, September 8.



The Meet the Teacher /PTG Meeting for the beginning of the year is next Thursday, August 24 at 6:00 pm. For our first PTG meeting only, child care will NOT be available. As parents ourselves, we are also looking forward to learning more about the Blended Learning Program and meeting our children's teachers. Thank you for your understanding!



Buddy Cards

PTG will be selling Buddy Cards at the PTG Meeting. Cost is \$10.

Cafeteria Volunteers, Recess Volunteers and Morning Door Volunteers have not yet been scheduled.

Quote of the Week...

“If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you.”



August 17, 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! We are so excited to start the year! The theme for the school year is "Make a Joyful Noise" which mimics the Archdiocesan theme. We are going to emphasize to the children that we should rejoice because God is good and we are all very lucky to be His children. We will take time to celebrate our faith and as you know, we have such wonderful singers here at St. Teresa with our Joyful Noise Choir so this theme fits in beautifully!

Our appreciation goes out to Mr. Bill Thoman, Mr. Kevin Grothaus and Mr. Harry Zigelmeier and the rest of the summer maintenance staff for all of their hard work this past summer getting the school cleaned and looking beautiful for the start of school. They removed the lockers out of the classrooms and new lockers have been installed in the hallways and they coordinated the installation of new LED lights in the classrooms. Thank you for all your hard work!

I would like to welcome a few new faculty members: Mrs. Debbie Faillace will be the new third grade teacher, Mr. Jim Herbe will be the new Computer teacher/Technology Coordinator, Mrs. Daphne Rees will be the new Blended Learning Site Manager and Mrs. Karen Games is the new Spanish teacher for grades 7-8. Miss Haley Rollison is our new latchkey director. We are glad that they have agreed to join our family!

As you know, we are ecstatic to begin a blended learning program here at St. Teresa. It will be a couple weeks before the children actually start using the software. We will begin the year with instructions and practicing the routine of transitioning from chromebook to small group and vice versa. I will keep you updated on what is happening through the Bruin Bulletin.

We are excited to announce that at the time of the printing of this letter, we have registered 219 students! We have 30 kindergarteners also. We are thrilled with our enrollment and want to thank all of you for spreading the word about our wonderful school!

Also, we are excited to be switching to trimesters this year instead of quarters. This move will allow teachers more time to provide students with enough instruction and opportunities for assessment to have grades be a more accurate measure of student growth. Teachers will also have more time to enrich or intervene as appropriate. The first trimester ends November 10 so this will be the first report card you will receive. If your child is in jeopardy of failing, you will receive an interim report October 6.

We will be using OptionC this year for our online grading system. As you know, Ascend went out of business so we had to switch. Information will be coming home today on how to login and this letter will contain your password to login. At this time, OptionC does not have the capability of sending out emails so it will be your responsibility to login to get your child's grades.

I just want to let everyone know that since our school now consists of more than 65% EdChoice students, ALL students in grades 3-8 will be required to take the state tests. Third grade will take a Reading test in November – December and then grades 3-8 will take Math and LA tests in April-May.

Please join us for the Opening PTG meeting and Meet the Teacher Thursday, August 24 at **6:00 p.m.** in the cafeteria. There will be a blended learning session at 6:00 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. you will have an opportunity to hear about the wonderful events that PTG has planned and after the PTG meeting, you can meet your child(ren)'s teacher. There will be two sessions at 7:00 and 7:25 for the teachers to discuss grading policies, classroom expectations etc. If you have more than two children, both parents may want to come to split up to hear the presentations.

For new families, you will be receiving this Bruin Bulletin every Thursday. Beginning August 31, you will receive it via email. Please read the Bruin carefully each week as this is our method to communicate with all of our families.

Again, we are thrilled to be back and are looking forward to a wonderful year with your children. Please keep our students and teachers in your prayers as we transition into the new blended learning model!

Sincerely,

Sharon Willmes
Principal