



# ST. KATHARINE DREXEL ELEMENTARY

*...to form a community of faith and learning by promoting a Catholic way of life through Gospel values and academic excellence.*

**2022-2023**

## **St. Katharine Drexel Elementary-General Back-to-School Information**

### **Open House**

Open House will be held on Tuesday, August 16th from **5:00pm-6:30pm**. During Open House, teachers will be in their classrooms to meet and greet each family. Students may drop off any school supplies as needed, and school information packets from the office will be on the oldest or only St. Katharine Drexel student's desk.

**Please let the office know if you do not receive a family packet.** If you do not attend Open House, this packet will be sent home on the first day of school. There will also be a Used Uniform Sale located in the gym.

### **Opening Day: Kindergarten-6th Grade**

**Kindergarten-6th Grade classes** will start the school year on Thursday, August 18th at 7:45am. Students may begin gathering on the playground at 7:30am. The first bell rings at 7:40am. At that time, students are instructed to line up and they will be walked into the building by their teacher.

### **Opening Day: Preschool and Preschool Plus**

**Tuesday/Thursday morning preschool class (PS3)** begins on Thursday, August 18th at 7:45am with a 10:45am dismissal. Each day, please enter through the FRONT DOORS by the flagpole and walk your child to the CLASSROOM door (no earlier than 7:30am). At dismissal time, Mrs. Duran-Garcia will walk the students out to the circle drive-up and meet parents. \*Students enrolled in Preschool Plus will attend until the 2:45pm regular dismissal.

**Monday/Wednesday/Friday morning preschool class (PS4)** begins on Friday, August 19th at 7:45am with a 10:45am dismissal. Each day, please enter through the FRONT DOORS by the flagpole and walk your child to the CLASSROOM door (no earlier than 7:30am). At dismissal time, Mrs. Duran-Garcia will walk the students outside to the circle drive-up and meet parents. \*Students enrolled in Preschool Plus will attend until the 2:45pm regular dismissal.

**Monday-Friday afternoon preschool class (PS5)** begins on Thursday, August 18th at 11:45am with dismissal at 2:45pm. Each day, please enter through the FRONT DOORS by the flag pole (no earlier than 11:45am). At the 2:45pm dismissal time, parents are required to pick up their child at the FRONT DOORS by the flagpole. Students with older siblings at the school, may be picked up by them at the FRONT DOORS by the flagpole and join the car pick-up line. \*If your child is enrolled in PS Plus this day, they should arrive at the regular 7:45am time.

**Preschool Plus** class begins on Thursday, August 18th at 7:45am. Each day, please enter through the FRONT DOORS by the flagpole and walk your child to the CLASSROOM door (no earlier than 7:30am). At the

2:45pm dismissal time, parents are required to pick up their child at the FRONT DOORS by the flagpole. Students with older siblings at the school, may be picked up by them at the FRONT DOORS by the flagpole and join the car pick-up line.

### **Before and After School Program**

Our Before and After School Program will begin on Thursday, August 18th. Students enrolled in the Before School Program will check in with Mrs. Green at the north breezeway doors. Students enrolled in the After School Program are required by the state to be signed out using the attendance binder located inside the gym doors. If you know your child will not be attending or have different plans for pick up, please email Mrs. Sandman or the school office as soon as possible ([jsandman@ogknights.org](mailto:jsandman@ogknights.org)). **If you need to contact the After School staff between 2:45pm-6:00pm, please call 605-940-4986.**

### **Student Supervision**

Supervision for Kindergarten-6th Grade students on school grounds is from **7:30am-7:45am** each morning. After school supervision is from **2:45pm-3:00pm**. We thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation in keeping our children safe! Students will be sent to the After School Care Program if not picked up by 3:05. A \$15 drop-in fee will be billed if your student(s) needs to be sent to the After School Care Program.

**PS-4th Grade students are NOT allowed to walk to or from the parking lot to the sidewalk unless accompanied by an adult.** After school, students will be instructed to stay on the sidewalk until their ride picks them up in the circle drive. It is important that everyone follows these procedures to avoid accidents and injuries. We also ask the parents to keep traffic moving by **NOT PARKING** in the drop off/pick up area (circle drive).

Students biking to and from school **must WALK their bike** once on school grounds (the statue of Mary has been a good landmark). There is NO riding bikes allowed through the parking lot and/or playground areas. Bikes are to be parked in the designated area outside of the north breezeway doors.

### **School Lunch**

**School lunch begins on Thursday, August 18th.** School lunch, including an all-you-can-eat fruit and vegetable bar, will be served every school day by our school lunch partner, Lunchtime Solutions. **Information regarding our school lunch program has been sent via email from the Bishop O’Gorman Catholic School President’s Office.** If you have not received this email regarding the school lunch program, please contact the school office. The monthly lunch menu can be found on the Bishop O’Gorman Catholic Schools website.

Please note that the USDA is NOT offering the universal free meals program as in years past, so we will return to normal paid lunch operations during the 2022-2023 school year.

All Elementary Schools - \$3.25 Paid Lunch Price (Includes: 2 daily entrée choices, milk, and an unlimited fruit and veggie bar)

As always, students may bring their own lunch from home and milk is available to purchase for \$.50.

Adult Meal - \$4.25

If your child has an allergy, a medical form must be on file at the school. This allergy form needs to be updated each year. Free and reduced price meals are available. Please read the information about this program in your Open House packet when you receive it. This also needs to be updated each year.

## **Uniforms**

Students are required to wear uniforms on all days except their birthday or those specified by the administration as “dress up/dress down days”.

General uniforms consist of navy blue pants (twill or ponte pants) and white shirts of any style and sleeve length with a collar. No decorations, logos, contrasting colors, t-shirts, undershirts or tank tops. Navy blue walking shorts just above the knee may be worn from the start of school to October 31st and then again in April-May. Navy blue skorts must be no shorter in length than just above the knee. Any of these items can be purchased at local vendors (JCP, Walmart, Target, Old Navy, Kohls, etc.).

Optional uniform plaid skirts or jumpers for individual schools can be purchased only through Dennis Uniform Company (located under Bishop O’Gorman Catholic Schools). Black, white and navy blue leggings and/or stretch pants may be worn with the skirt or jumper.

Tennis shoes are recommended. Flat soled shoes that do not go above the ankle are acceptable. Clogs and fashion boots are not permitted.

Socks with no color restrictions must be worn with all types of shoes.

**Elementary navy blue fleece jackets and royal blue sweatshirts will be available to order online from August 29-September 11. Please watch the weekly updates for the store link.**

### **Used Uniform Sale**

We will have a supply of gently used uniforms available to purchase following weekend Masses on July 30th-31st AND at our Open House on Tuesday, August 16th. At this time, we will also have gently used Knightwear for purchase. **Thank you to Lisa Kunz and Michelle Haase for helping with this sale!**

## **Student Absence**

Please call the office by 7:30am. if your child is going to be late or absent. You can leave a message on the answering machine. If you send an email to your child’s teacher that your child is going to be late or absent, please copy the email to Sandy in the school office at [sfitzgibbons@ogknights.org](mailto:sfitzgibbons@ogknights.org). **If your child arrives later than 8:00am**, please walk them into the foyer and sign them in. **When leaving during the school day**, a parent or designated adult MUST sign the student out as well as sign them back in if they return to school.

### **Attendance MATTERS!!!**

Attendance is an essential component to a student’s academic success. Bishop O’Gorman Catholic Schools expect an attendance rate of at least 95% for all students, or absenteeism of no more than nine (9) days per school year.

#### **Why is attendance important?**

Unexpected events or illnesses are likely to occur during the course of a school year. Even if your child misses just a few days here and there, their school performance will be impacted. Also, elementary students are still learning social and emotional skills that will help them throughout their lives. At school, they learn to interact with others, make friends, and build relationships with adults outside their family.

#### **What can parents do?**

\*\*\*Make sure your child arrives at school on time daily. School begins promptly at 7:45am. Arriving at school tardy is a disruption to the entire class, as well as to your child’s school routine.

\*\*\*Try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours/days.

## **School Mass**

Weekly School Mass will be held every Wednesday at 8:00am, with our first Mass held on August 24th. Classes leading the Mass will rotate each week, with Kindergarten and 1st Grade added to the rotation following Christmas break. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend this special part of our week. \*Preschool students will begin attending our Weekly School Mass later in September.

## **Weekend Mass**

We go to Mass not simply because it's an obligation. Rather, we go to Mass because it's our loving response to the God who has loved us first. Although our school children pray daily and attend Mass each Wednesday, that's not good enough. **In the months ahead, we encourage our parents to make a commitment to regularly attend weekend Mass as a family.**

Going to Mass becomes increasingly important as kids grow older and face rejection, temptation, and hurt. Being close to God can give them the confidence to stand firm in who they are and what they believe. Now, this does not mean they will not stray. However, we pray that the moral compass (Holy Spirit), will lovingly bring them back.

## **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

*"If God is presented to the child through tangible and meaningful activities, it will do more for the child than just arouse interest; it will create in the child a sense of joy, admiration, and wonder." ~Maria Montessori*

This year, we are excited to continue the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd journey with our Preschool 4, Preschool 5, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade students. Mrs. Schmidt and Mrs. Anderson participated in another week-long training and became certified CGS Level 1, Part 2 catechesis. Mrs. Duran-Garcia, Mrs. Harvill, and Mrs. Martin participated in a week-long training and became certified CGS Level 1, Part 1 catechesis. Our goal for the future is to continue expanding the program offering through 6th Grade..

We are continuing to 'build' our atrium and MUCH help is needed to make this happen. **Monetary donations you may be able to provide are greatly appreciated.** Checks can be mailed to: SKD Elementary, Attn. CGS Atrium, 1800 S. Katie Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57106. Thank you in advance for helping us offer this experience at SKD, as we guide our students in building their relationship with Jesus.

## **School Communications from the Office**

We will be communicating with our St. Katharine Drexel Elementary families in a variety of ways this year. Please check your email regularly, as **Weekly Updates from the office are sent out each Friday** outlining upcoming events or other important school announcements. If you are not receiving these updates, please let the office know as soon as possible. **In addition, ALL Weekly Updates can be found on our school website under the "Parent" section.** This will allow parents an option to reference back to information as needed.

## **School-Family Organization (SFO)**

By enrolling in the Bishop O'Gorman Catholic Schools, ALL elementary families are automatically part of the School-Family Organization (SFO). After reviewing the SFO function and its current effectiveness, changes for the upcoming year will be made in each of the Bishop O'Gorman Elementary Schools. Moving forward, we will transition from a SFO Board to a SFO Advisory Committee. **The functions of the SFO Advisory Committee will include, but not be limited to, advisory to administration, planning and executing guest speakers/topics for our three Parent Nights, planning and executing community building functions for students and their families, networking for parents, and helping with our annual fundraising.** There will

**be one Advisory Committee meeting per quarter. These meetings will be one hour in length beginning at 8:00am.** A final list of meeting days/times/location will be provided in the Open House packet and upcoming weekly updates. All school parents are invited to attend, with the goal of at least one parent from each grade level present at each meeting.

For additional information and details regarding the SFO Advisory Committee, please read the official charter approved by the School Board.

[Click here to read the Bishop O'Gorman School Board approved SFO Charter.](#)

## **Immunizations**

South Dakota requires that any student entering school or an early childhood program is required to present to school authorities certification from a licensed physician that he or she has received adequate immunization for childhood diseases. **Preschool, Kindergarten, and new students must have this information in the school office before attending classes.**

**All incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students** will be required to be vaccinated with one dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis vaccine, also known as Tdap and one dose of meningococcal vaccine, also known as MCV4. Both of these vaccines should be received on or after the 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. This requirement will be deferred for students that have not yet reached their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. On the 11<sup>th</sup> birthday the requirement would apply. Please visit with your physician or your local community health nurse to see if your child needs these and other recommended vaccines.

## **Cell Phones & Wearable Devices**

**Cell phones and wearable devices (Fitbit, Smart Watch, Gizmo Gadget, etc.) may not be used in any area of the school and/or on the playground, including the Before/After School Care Program.** These devices can be distracting, can cause academic integrity issues, and have the potential to be dangerous in cases dealing with school emergencies. Cell phones and wearable devices may be stored OFF in backpacks or checked into the office during the school day. Violations will result in the device being confiscated and held by administration.

## **Birthdays**

If you are planning a birthday party for your child, invitations should not be passed out during school time unless they are for the entire class (or all girls/boys). **To help celebrate your child's birthday, students may dress up/down on their birthday.** If they have a **summer birthday** they may dress up/down on their half birthday. Because of the potential health risk for students with allergies, latex balloons are not allowed. Any outside deliveries will be held in the school office and distributed at the principal's discretion to avoid classroom disruption.

**Treats need to be ready to pass out and easy to eat so classroom teaching time is not lost.**

**IMPORTANT POLICY...**All treats must be store bought and individually packaged. Examples of acceptable treats: fruit snacks, candy bars, suckers, popsicles, ice cream bars, granola bars, chip bags, Hostess or Little Debbie snacks, etc. Please do not send store bought treats that need to be 'served' to students (for example: cookie cake, cupcakes, cake, etc.), unless they are in individual packaging.

Students in Kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> Grade will celebrate their birthday with the principal during a pizza lunch. Check the school calendar for each month's date. Students with May, June, & July birthdays will celebrate half-birthdays in November, December, & January.

## **SKD Family Tree**

All families are asked to bring a **current family photo** for our SKD Family Tree display in the main school hallway. If possible, the photo size needs to be 3x5 and please label with your names on the back. Your family photo can be dropped off in the office on Open House night or your child may bring it in the first week of school.

## **Twitter**

Follow school and classroom happenings on Twitter using **@SKD\_School**.