



# 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.*

**2021-2022**

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

### **Open House**

Open House will be held on Monday, August 16th from **5:00pm-6:30pm**. Families who are interested in attending, please sign up for a time on the provided link: [OPEN HOUSE](#). 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 and Knightwear Sale located in the gym.

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

**Kindergarten-6th Grade classes** will begin the school year Thursday, August 19th at 7:45am. **Students will report DIRECTLY TO THEIR CLASSROOM on Thursday and Friday before school (7:30am-7:45am).**

They will gather on the playground beginning the following week.

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

**Tuesday/Thursday morning preschool class (PS3)** begins on Thursday, August 19th at 7:45am with a 10:45am dismissal. Please walk your child to the NORTH BREEZEWAY door (no earlier than 7:30am) and check in with the staff member there. Mrs. Duran-Garcia will walk the students out to the circle drive-up to meet you at dismissal time. \*If your child is enrolled in PS Plus this day, they may attend until the 2:45pm regular dismissal.

**Monday/Wednesday/Friday morning preschool class (PS4)** begins on Friday, August 20th at 7:45am with a 10:45am dismissal. Please walk your child to the NORTH BREEZEWAY door (no earlier than 7:30am) and check in with the staff member there. Mrs. Duran-Garcia will walk the students out to the circle drive-up to meet you at dismissal time. \*If your child is enrolled in PS Plus this day, they will attend until the 2:45pm regular dismissal.

**Monday-Friday afternoon preschool class (PS5)** begins on Thursday, August 19th at 11:45am with dismissal at 2:45pm. Please walk your child to the NORTH BREEZEWAY door at 11:45am and check in with the staff member there. At the 2:45pm dismissal time, parents are required to pick up their child outside the main school entryway. \*If your child is enrolled in PS Plus this day, they will arrive at the regular 7:45am time.

**Preschool Plus** class begins on Thursday, August 19th at 7:45am. Please walk your child to the NORTH BREEZEWAY door (no earlier than 7:30am) and check in with the staff member there. At the 2:45pm dismissal time, parents are required to pick up their child outside the main school entryway.

## **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.

## **Before and After School Program**

Our Before and After School Program will begin on Thursday, August 19th. Students enrolled in this program are required to be signed in and signed out using the QR code located in the foyer. 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)).

## **Student Supervision**

Supervision for Kindergarten-6th Grade 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.** The students will be instructed to stay on the sidewalk until their ride picks them up. 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.

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.

## **School Lunch**

**School lunch begins on Thursday, August 19th.** 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.

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 pant) 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.

**Used Uniform Sale:** We will have a supply of gently used uniforms available to purchase following the SKD 10:30am Mass on August 8th, as well as during Open House on August 16th. **Thank you to Michelle Haase and Lisa Kunz for organizing this sale!** Any uniform donations may be dropped off at the school office the week of August 2nd-August 6th.

## **Masks**

Masks are **optional** for students, staff, and visitors while in the building. If you desire that your child wear a mask during the school day, it is the student’s responsibility. Masks will not be handed out in the office.

## **School Mass**

Weekly School Mass will be scheduled every Wednesday at 8:00am, with our first Mass held on August 25th.

## **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 begin the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd journey with our Preschool 5 and Kindergarten students. Mrs. Schmidt and Mrs. Anderson participated in a week-long training and became certified CGS catechists this summer. In time, we look to expand the program offering to other grades.

We are currently working to ‘build’ our atrium and MUCH help is needed to make this happen. Donations you may be able to provide are greatly appreciated. **If you’d rather make a monetary donation for us to use to buy materials, those are being accepted as well.** 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. [DONATION LIST](#)

## **School Communications**

We will be communicating with our St. Katharine Drexel 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. **New this year, 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.

## **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**.