



The Pelican Express

Let Go...Let God

AUGUST 22, 2024

CALENDAR

August 22

- School Mass, 8:15 - See modified uniform policy in handbook.
- Bible Blessing for 6th graders immediately following Mass.
- 5th grade vision screening
- Robotics, 3:15, St. Ursula
- Classroom Coordinator Meeting for those who were selected, 6pm, St. Ursula.

August 23

- Last Day to order extra spirit shirts. See page 2. We will not place another order this school year.
- 6th grade Scoliosis screening
- 7th grade vision screening
- Mercedarian sisters will be on campus.

August 24

- First Day to purchase Fair T-shirts. click [here](#). Ends September 12. See page 7. Students will be able to wear their fair shirts on Thursday, October 17 to school.

August 27

- Altar Server forms due

August 28

- Kindness Club Meeting for Middle Schoolers, 7:20am, Library
- Pelibots, 3:15, St. Ursula
- Last day to register for Parish Football

August 29

- School Mass, 8:15 - See modified uniform policy in handbook
- Adoration
- Altar Server training - new date than originally communicated

September 2

- Labor Day - no school

September 4

- Pelibots, 3:15, St. Ursula

September 5

- School Mass, 8:15
- Robotics, 3:15, St. Ursula

Spirit Shirts

One spirit shirt has been distributed to your student. If you would like to order an extra spirit shirt, please complete the following [form](#) by Friday, August 23.

Altar Servers Needed

All boys and girls in grades 3rd -8th are invited to join the Altar Server Ministry for the 2024-2025 school year. If you are interested in joining the Altar Server ministry, please complete the following [form](#) and return to school, ATTENTION: CELESTE RABALAIS or email it to crabalais@mbsbr.org. The Form is due August 27. Please note that the signup is for BOTH school and/or weekend masses. You can specify one of the other.

Training is mandatory will take place during school hours on Thursday, August 29...this is a new date than previously communicated.

2023-24 Yearbooks

2023-24 yearbooks will begin being distributed tomorrow, Friday, August 23. If you have not received one by Tuesday, August 27, please reach out to Allison Davis at ADavis@mbsbr.org.

Class Mass

This year we will once again offer each grade the opportunity to attend an extra daily Mass. You are invited to attend this mass and sit with your child. This year, you will not be able to sit anywhere in the church. We are asking that you please sit with your child in the pew that they are seated in. This allows the teachers to keep an eye on all the students. The students will be sitting in the back pews.

When Mass is over, the parishioners stay to recite a Novena. The students will not be staying for the Novena so quietly exit with your child out the back door. They will find their teacher and line up to return to school. Any family member(s) are welcome!

CLASS MASSES @ 8:45 AM

- September 17th: 7th grade
- September 24th: 5th grade
- October 15th: 1st grade
- October 22nd: 2nd grade
- November 19th: Pre K
- November 12th: K
- December 10th: 3rd grade
- January 7th: 8th grade
- January 21st: 4th grade
- February 4th: 6th grade

Kindness Club

Attention Middle School Students! If you would like to know more about Kindness Club, join us for the first meeting of the year on Wednesday, August 28, 7:20am in the library. The club is open to all 6th-8th grade students, and the only membership criteria is the belief that "KINDNESS MATTERS"!

Lego Robotics

Students in Grades 1-5 are invited to attend Lego Robotics after school on Thursdays in September through October for the Fall Season. The cost is \$135. Students will build new projects each week using their critical thinking and engineering skills. Follow the [link](#) for the signup and payment.

Chess Club

Students in 5th-8th grade are invited to be a part of the MBS Chess Club. They meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month after school until 4pm, starting September 10. The meeting room is Classroom 15. Questions? Email Moderator Sujad Ehlers at suesu325@aol.com

Flamingo Night

SAVE THE DATE! On Thursday, September 12, we will have our annual FLAMINGO NIGHT. This evening, the 8th grade class PELICANS play volleyball against the faculty FLAMINGOS. Doors will open at 6:00. The game begins at 6:30. Cash donations are accepted at the gate for entry. The donations support MBS Cares, the faculty support group for when a faculty member goes through a life-changing event. Concessions will be sold. Pizza will be available. Students will not have any tests the following day.

Contingency Days

On the school calendar, you will notice Friday, October 18 and Monday, October 21 are both holidays; however, they are also Contingency Days. The BESE Board requires non-public schools to have 178 instructional days each year. On the MBS Calendar, you will see Contingency days noted throughout the year. These days are only used for attendance if we exceed the use of built-in emergency days due to weather, power outages, etc. You will be notified if contingency days must be used.

From the Principal

A note about digital citizenship - Social media can be a helpful tool. Most classes at MBS have a GroupMe or Facebook Page associated with their classes. These are not official forms of MBS communication. There are times when the information shared on these platforms is incorrect. As a member of our Catholic, Christian community we are requesting that our families model positive digital citizenship for the students by posting truthful, positive, and helpful messages. Social media groups, though maybe a private group, the messages are public and permanent and the group "chatter" often gets back to MBS Faculty and Staff. At times the "chatter" is hurtful and even harmful to not only the MBS Faculty and Staff but also the MBS community. Please remember that these people work tirelessly for your children and for you. At Back to School Night I mentioned that as the MBS community we are all keepers of our school mission and vision and we all share our message with the greater community, at large. What do you want MBS' message to be?

There are still spots left for this year's trip to

Washington, D.C. and Williamsburg

April 2025 (Easter Break)

Information meeting:
Thursday, August 29
School Library
6:00 PM

RSVP for more info:

<https://rsvp.efexploreamerica.com/rxf4sf8little>



5-day trip
led by
Ms.
Douet

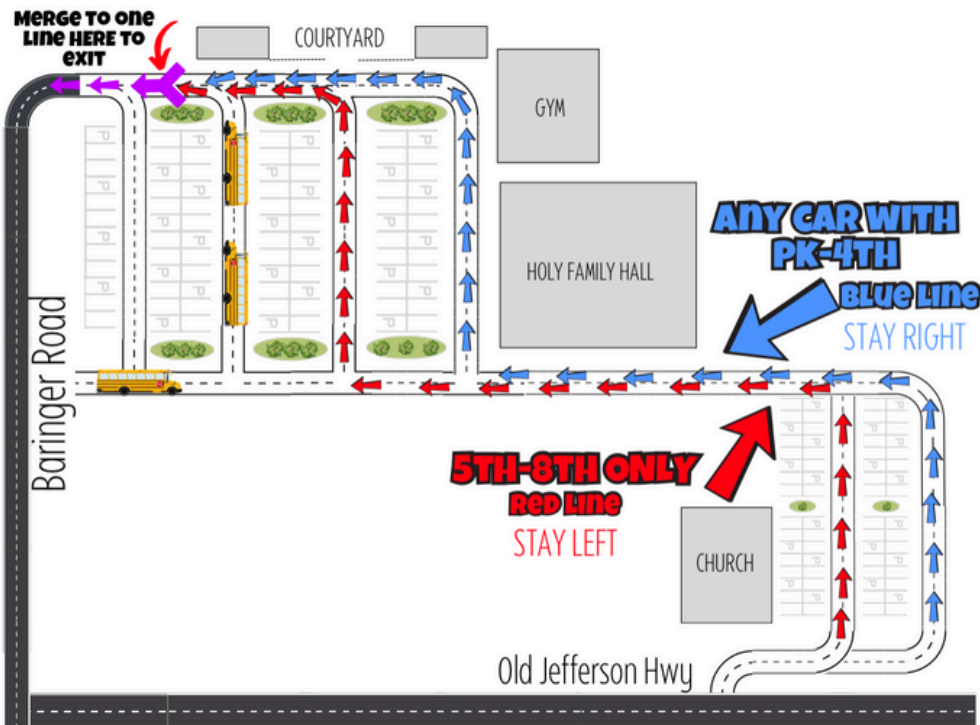


FYI - We do **NOT** have plans for another trip in the next few years.



Open to ALL middle school students.

Carpool Reminders



- All carpool traffic must enter the church parking lot on the **RIGHT** side of the church as shown on the map.
- The left side of the church is reserved for construction and parishioners attending church functions.
- Red line does not have safety patrol helpers, so please only use this line if you have a 5-8th grader.
- Stay off your cell phone while in carpool line.

Volunteerism - Time & Talent

- In order to volunteer on school or church campus, you must go through the Office of Child Protection to update your credentials.
- Opportunities to volunteer and get service hours will be placed here in the newsletter. See next page for save the dates!

OFFICE OF CHILD PROTECTION

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People requires that all children enrolled in Catholic Schools and Parish Schools of Religion receive Safe Environment training. The Diocese of Baton Rouge will provide such training for grades K-12 utilizing the program, Circle of Grace.

The Circle of Grace lessons are grade-level appropriate lessons mandated by the Diocese of Baton Rouge to instruct students on topics of personal safety, making good decisions, developing wholesome relationships, and self-esteem. The age-appropriate Circle of Grace lesson plan for your child's grade level may be reviewed at the following link.

Link: <https://learncat.diobr.org/circle-of-grace>

Password: CareSafeChurch

To opt-out your child from the lesson, please send an opt-out form to childprotection@mbsbr.org. Opt-out forms must be received by August 14, 2024. Click [here](#) for the Opt-out form.

It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to ensure that the Office of Child Protection receives the opt-out form by the deadline.



August Cafeteria Help

September Cafeteria Help



Calling Volunteers!

Home and School is in need of volunteers throughout the school year! If you are interested in volunteering for a specific event scan the QR code below, and sign up!

Attention

VOLUNTEERS:

Giveaway

When you volunteer at one of our school events, your name will be entered into a drawing to win a Pelican swag bag! At the end of each 9 weeks, 1 winner will be randomly selected!

Please see the volunteer save the date flyer in previous newsletters for more information on what events we are in need of volunteers for this year!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Event Dates can be found in the previous newsletters, the calendar on the MBS website, or by scanning this code!



Upcoming
Events:

MBS Parish Fair
October 18th - 20th

Fun Run
November 15th

Grandparents Day
November 22nd

 Cafeteria Volunteers needed!

August Cafeteria Help
September Cafeteria Help



MBS Parish News

All 6th-8th graders are welcome!



Sign Up!

Most Blessed Sacrament

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ministry Night

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

PIZZA . GAMES . FUN

Holy Family Hall
(the new multipurpose building next to the gym)

Sign up at <https://forms.gle/sLq4ry6JzfnxXfUQ9>

SEARCHING FOR MORE?

CATHOLIC 101
BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 11TH

NEW FORMAT! **NEW TOPICS!**



WEDNESDAYS
AT 6:45 PM

COME ENRICH YOUR FAITH!

SCAN FOR SCHEDULE



FAIR T-SHIRTS



MISSION 2024:
MBS FAIR



- Sales Begin August 24
- Sales End September 12
- Shirts \$20
- Order Shirts for the Whole Family!

SAVE THE DATE

ST. NICHOLAS

Christmas MARKET

12/7/24

4PM-8PM

HOSTED BY THE MBS
CHEER & DANCE TEAMS

**MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
8033 BARINGER ROAD**

SANTA | VENDORS | FOOD | ACTIVITIES
NEW THIS YEAR | KIDS MINI MARKET ✨ ✨

EVENT WILL BE HELD IN THE GYM AND HOLY FAMILY HALL

VENDOR REGISTRATION -

[Click here](#)



Time & Talent (Service Hours)

Parent's Commitment to Church and School

Enrollment and/or continued enrollment at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School requires a commitment to ALL of the following:

- **Prayer and Mass** – Families must commit to daily prayer at home. Catholic families must attend weekly, Sunday, Mass on Holy Days of Obligation. Non-Catholic families must attend Sunday services at their home church.
- **Service** - Twenty (20) hours of Time and Talent given to the school and/or Church each year. Hours must be completed between January 1 and December 31 *to receive the in-parish tuition rate*. These hours are reviewed each year.

Definition of an hour of Time and Talent: an actual hour of volunteer work or donation purchases of \$10

- **Weekly Church Offering** – As an Identified Offertory Giver (IOG), a minimum amount of \$325.00 must be donated, yearly, to the Most Blessed Sacrament General Offertory or Building Fund to support the Church stewardship program. Church members who meet the IOG requirement *will receive in-parish tuition*. Donations will be verified by December 15 unless otherwise authorized by the Pastor or Principal. Any offerings thereafter will count towards the next school year.

New Students Clause

Time and Talent hours are prorated for new students. However, new families must still meet the IOG requirement of \$325.00 to receive in-parish tuition.

Log your Service Hours into FACTS.

Go to Family > Family Home. You will see "Service Hours" in the middle of the screen. Click "add" to add the hours. You must type in a description. Select "type a custom value," and then type your description.

Sending Items to School

Please label your items that you send to school from a SignUp Genius:

- Parent Name (signed up on the SUG)
- Name of item
- Title of Sign Up (ex: 5th Grade Auction Basket)

This helps us match your hours in FACTS.

Pelican Power information is coming soon!

Parish Sports Flag Football Registration is OPEN, PreK thru 2nd Grade Boys & Girls!
Use this link: <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/hfD16z0M>

Football Schedules have been posted to the [website](#).

Deadline for Tennis & Parish Flag Football is **Wednesday, August 28, 11:45pm**

Carpool Line and Gym sign information coming soon!! (Email tkrysan@mbsbr.org)

“Louie’s Landing” is now the name of the concession stand in the gym. We are revising the “menu” to better serve those who attend athletic events in the gym.

Save the Date: Fall Sports Banquet scheduled: Wednesday, November 13

Athletics can be an important part of a young person’s life. It teaches discipline and self- pride while helping one realize the importance of cooperation. Athletics are a component of, and interact with, the spiritual, social and academic components of the overall school program. MBS recognizes that support from the administration, faculty, staff, coaches, parents and fans are necessary in providing a positive Catholic athletic experience for the student-athlete. Athletes, parents, and fans are a direct reflection of MBS and should adhere to the philosophy of the school by always acting in a dignified manner.

click [here](#) for 10 reasons why kids should play sports

Go Pelicans!
Tommy Krysan, Athletic Director
MBS Athletics
tkrysan@mbsbr.org



MBS ATHLETICS



Faculty Spotlight

Abbi Fontaine
Art Teacher



“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.” 1 John 4:16

Why did you say YES to MBS?

I have loved this welcoming community since we first became parishioners over ten years ago. I am so excited to meet all of the students and create beautiful works of art with them this year!

What do you want our families to know about you?

I love spending time with my family and if I ever have free time, I am creating some form of art.

Who is your favorite patron saint?

St. Catherine of Bologna, the patron saint of the arts

What is a fun fact about you?

I love to crochet and bake.



Faculty Spotlight

Ali Branigan
Kindergarten Aide



6 years in education

- Zachary
- MBS

Why did you say YES to MBS?

My love for MBS runs deep. So much so that they can't seem to get rid of me. Started off as a young parishioner and growing our family here to becoming a full time teacher on campus. Although I was stepping away from teaching I knew I still wanted my kids to attend MBS and I wanted to be a part of that so I joined the home and school association for several years. And now that I have stepped away from that commitment I am excited to say that I still couldn't be done with MBS. My family and I love it here and are excited for our upcoming year all at school together!

Who is your favorite patron saint?

Mary, our Mother

What is a fun fact about you?

When I am not at school, I am a fitness instructor.



Faculty Spotlight

Heather Riley
2nd grade Aide



“Don’t be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, present your requests to God” -
Philippians 4:6

Why did you say YES to MBS?

I came to MBS first as a parent of a student. After being so impressed and touched at how much the faculty and staff truly care about the students, I jumped at the chance to be a part of this wonderful community. What I'm excited about for this upcoming year is helping teach and guide our 2nd graders towards their First Reconciliation and Communion.

What do you want our families to know about you?

I'm excited to meet and work with your children! I'm looking forward to helping them grow in their faith and as a person with beautiful minds and hearts.

Who is your favorite patron saint?

St. Monica

What is a fun fact about you?

I'm a huge Beatles Fan.



Faculty Spotlight

Holly Swanson
First Grade Aide



16 years in education

- Windermere Preparatory School (Windermere, FL)
- BASIS Baton Rouge
- Cedarcrest-Southmoor Elementary School
- Saint Thomas More Catholic School

Why did you say YES to MBS?

MBS has such a beautiful and warm environment of staff and families. I look forward to sharing my faith with this great community. I also am excited to help provide a top academic program that encompasses the whole child.

What do you want our families to now about you?

Teaching children is such a joy! I love watching their excitement for learning! I am so honored to work with all of the amazing families at MBS while spreading the love of Christ.

Who is your favorite patron saint?

St. Francis of Assisi

What is a fun fact about you?

I love spending time with my family and friends, working out and traveling. I also have a sweet pug named Chip.



Faculty Spotlight

Kelli Armanini

MS Science & Math



**30 years in
education**

- St. Louis King of France
- Redemptorist High School
- Central Private School
- Our Lady of Mercy

Why did you say YES to MBS?

I've been teaching 5th grade for the last three years, but I was ready to get back to working with the older grades. I'm especially looking forward to working with some old teaching buddies and some former students! I'm looking forward to teaching middle school, again. And, (secretly) excited about being only 7 minutes from home!

What do you want our families to know about you?

I will be your child's second biggest cheerleader! And, I'm thankful and blessed that each student is a part of my story and I am a part of their story!

Who is your favorite patron saint?

St. Francis of Assisi

What is a fun fact about you?

I was born in Ankara, Turkey



Faculty Spotlight

Laurie Duplantis

4th ELA & Social Studies



**12 years in
education**

- EBR Parish
- St. Charles Parish
- St. Edward the Confessor in Metairie

Why did you say YES to MBS?

My family and I just moved to Baton Rouge from Luling to be closer to my husband's job. I am so excited to join MBS as a teacher, parent, and parishioner.

What do you want our families to know about you?

I enjoy cooking, reading, and spending quality time with my family and friends.

Who is your favorite patron saint?

St. Therese of Lisieux is my favorite saint because she has helped me along in my faith journey. I admire her vocation to love, and she encourages me to do small things with great love.

What is a fun fact about you?

I grew up going deer hunting with my dad, and now I enjoy going with my husband and kids at least once a year.



Faculty Spotlight

Natalie Virgets
4th Math & Science



12 years in education

- Holy Ghost St. Tammany
- Holy Ghost Baton Rouge
- Holy Ghost Ascension

Why did you say YES to MBS?

My husband is a graduate of MBS, along with his two younger brothers. I knew it was the right place for our family. I am so excited to learn the 4th grade curriculum and work with a new age group. I'm excited to get to know all of the faculty and staff!

What do you want our families to know about you?

I am passionate, motivated, and driven to teach their children and to help them grow academically, socially and emotionally, and within our Catholic faith. I myself attended Catholic school from K - 8th at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School and graduated from Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School.

Who is your favorite patron saint?

St. Therese, the Saint of Little ways

What is a fun fact about you?

I love to cut grass, and I sell houses.



Faculty Spotlight

Megan Smith

Pre-Kindergarten Aide



- Jete Dance Company
- Center Stage
Performing Arts
Academy

Why did you say YES to MBS?

I am an Alumni, class of 2015! I am so excited to be back to continue the legacy.

What do you want our families to know about you?

I love working with kids! I have been teaching dance for five years... to ages 2-18!

Who is your favorite patron saint?

St. Francis of Assisi

What is your favorite Bible verse?

Let them praise His name with dancing.

What is a fun fact about you?

I love Broadway musicals.



Faculty Spotlight

Therese Biletnikoff

4th ELA & Social Studies



6 years in education

- Our Lady of Mercy
- St. Margaret of Castello
REACH Program
- St. Michael Archangel

Why did you say YES to MBS?

My passion, drive, and commitment to continue my teaching career in a Catholic school that encompasses my faith, beliefs, and core values brought me to Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School.

What do you want our families to know about you?

I want MBS families to know that I am passionate, motivated, and driven to teach their children and to help them grow academically, socially and emotionally, and within our Catholic faith. I attended Catholic school from K - 8th at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School and graduated from Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School.

Who is your favorite patron saint?

St. Therese, the Saint of Little ways

What is a fun fact about you?

I have a fraternal twin sister named Mary, who teaches 5th grade at Our Lady of Mercy.