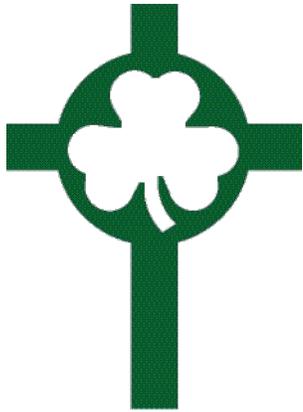


St. Patrick School

Early Education Newsletter

February 2019



122 West Street
Portland, MI 48875

Come to Our Early Elementary Open House

Thursday, February 21
6:00 p.m.
in the Parish Hall

Bring your kids!
Meet the teachers!
Tour the classrooms!

See complete information
on the back page

See what's
happening at St.
Pat's School by
visiting our website
and our Facebook
page!



www.portlandstpats.com
St. Patrick School -
Portland, Michigan

Why send your child to St. Pat's?

The education that your child will receive at St. Patrick School is different, and that difference is valuable.

WE PRAY

Prayer at St. Patrick's extends well beyond our church and school. A prayer-filled life develops well-rounded citizens by teaching not only spiritual values but the importance of community service and volunteerism. Prayer also helps develop good morals and strong values, virtues that all parents want their children to have.

WE LEARN

The curriculum at St. Patrick school is rigorous and challenging. Beginning in 2nd grade, our students participate in a dedicated STEAM program that uses hands-on lessons to teach them the skills and technology they will need in their 21st-century lives.

We have a 1:1 Chromebook program that provides a computer to every student in grades 8-12. Next year that program will expand to include all of the middle school students, as well.

Our high school students take dual-enrollment college classes, so that they can graduate from high school with a full-semester's worth of college credits, or more. And we go one step further, by partnering with Aquinas college. They provide professors to teach the college classes right in our building, so our students learn from a live person. Our high school students can also take vocational classes through the Heartland Institute of Technology in Ionia.

WE ACHIEVE

Our students consistently score high on standardized tests. Scores from testing done in the spring of 2018 show that our students scored higher than state averages in almost every category recorded.

The Class of 2018 had some amazing stats: 24 out of 26 graduates enrolled in college. Those 24 accepted a combined \$270,000 in scholarship money from their chosen colleges. Seven of the grads had a GPA over 4.0; 24 had a GPA over 3.0

Our 2018 Girls Cross Country team had the highest GPA in the state of all Division IV teams, earning them the Academic All-State Championship honor.



(Continued on page 4)

A letter from our principal

Dear parents,

If your children are not yet attending St. Patrick School, I invite you to take a look at us, think about all that we have to offer, and prayerfully consider enrolling them here when they are old enough to attend school.

St. Pat's has been a part of the Portland community for over 110 years. We work hard to give our students an education which allows them to grow intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually in a loving, Christian environment.

We take our mission statement seriously: We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve! Prayer and Christian morality are infused in everything we do. Our rigorous curriculum challenges the students to become life-long learners. Our students do extremely well on standardized tests and almost all of them go on to college.

A unique feature at St. Patrick School is that our entire school family is housed in the same building. In the same way that your family lives and interacts together, so does our school family. Older siblings can assist younger ones; and the little children love seeing the bigger ones in the halls, the classrooms, and in church.



In addition, we're proud of our Big Rock Little Rock program which fosters strong relationships between our older and younger students.

You are invited to attend our **Early Elementary Open House on Thursday, February 21**, to learn more about our programs, to talk to our teachers, and to tour the school.

I'm looking forward to meeting you and talking to you about what we can offer your family. Please bring your children with you, we want to meet them, too!

Sincerely,
Randy Hodge
St. Patrick Principal



All are welcome

Just as Jesus invites all to come to Him, our doors are open to all families who are looking for an educational alternative for their children where God is embraced, not marginalized.

You do not have to be Catholic to attend St. Patrick School.

Scholarships are available

No child should be denied an education at St. Patrick School for financial reasons.

The *Welcome Scholarship* provides grants to new families who enroll their child(ren) in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Preschoolers and DK students are eligible for a \$250 grant; students in grades K-8 are eligible for a \$750 grant; and 9-11th graders may receive \$1000.

In addition, our *Try Us You'll Like Us* program allows any student in grades 1-11 to try St. Patrick School without paying tuition for one quarter. Over 85% of students who try us out become permanent Shamrocks!

Other scholarships and financial aid are also available. Contact the school office for details.



Our Preschool



Our preschool is located in the lower level of the school, in a large and brightly decorated room where learning is fun!

Preschool children are growing socially, emotionally, intellectually, spiritually, and physically. We believe that their best growth will occur if they are provided with an environment that is inviting, caring, stimulating, safe, and flexible.

Our preschool teaching team is led by Mr. Aaron Thelen, who is the only male preschool director in the diocese. Mr. Aaron is assisted by aides Mrs. Carol Kahn and Mrs. Merry Hass. All three are passionate about their vocations. They focus on teaching the children about God's world, helping them develop friendships, and instilling a lifelong love of learning.

Preschool Schedule

Monday/Wednesday

Morning 8:30-11:30 a.m.
Afternoon 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Tuesday/Thursday

Morning 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Mon/Wed/Fri

Morning 8:30-11:30 a.m.
Afternoon 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Monday thru Friday

Afternoon 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Three-year olds must be three by the first day of class and toilet trained.

Our Developmental Kindergarten

Developmental Kindergarten acts as a bridge for children who need the gift of time. They don't quite fit the age cut-off for kindergarten, or they need a little more time to mature socially, emotionally, academically, and/or physically before they begin kindergarten.

Through interaction with the kindergarten students, our DK children become familiar with the teacher and the classroom that they will have next year, ensuring a smooth and seamless transition in the fall.

Our DK students attend school all day and are able to ride the bus to and from school. Before and after school care is also available if needed.

Our DK teacher is Mrs. Amy Weems who has been teaching our young Shamrocks since 1999.



Our Kindergarten



Today's kindergartners are expected to learn so much more than their parents did in their own kindergarten classes. While our curriculum might seem very rigorous, we keep it fun so that the children enjoy learning!

The students learn letters, sounds, how to put words together, rhyming, sentence building, number sense, patterns, shapes, and the list goes on. They paint, use crayons, markers, pencils, etc. to strengthen those fine motor skills. In addition, a kindergarten education in 2019 wouldn't be complete without technology. Our young Shamrocks have regular computer time and do much of their work with the help of a Smartboard.

Our kindergarten teachers are the dynamic duo of Mrs. Stacy Russman, and Mrs. Cortney Smith.

Why send your child to St. Pat's?

IN CONCLUSION

St. Patrick School provides:

- A strong academic program from preschool through graduation.
- Small class sizes at all grade levels, allowing for lots of individual attention.
- A culture that focuses on good values, strong morals, and character development.
- A uniform dress code which eliminates much of the stress that accompanies clothing choices at all age levels.
- A full roster of athletic teams where cuts are never made.
- Many non-athletic extra curricular activities (Drama Club, Chess Club, Quiz Bowl, Art Club, Protect Life Chapter, Coding Club, etc.).
- School counselors for all students.
- A loving environment where all are welcome.



Elementary students test their inventions from their STEAM class.

This a partial list of reasons to send your child to St. Patrick School. Give us a try!

We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!

You are invited to our Preschool/DK/Kindergarten Open House

Thursday, February 21, 2019
6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Bring your child along so that he/she can see the classrooms and meet the teachers. We'll start with introductions in the Parish Hall, followed by time to walk through the school, ask questions, meet the staff, and receive information about our school and our programs.

If you have questions, please call Principal Randy Hodge at (517) 647-7551 or send an email to randyhodge@portlandstpat.com.

DK/Kindergarten Screening

Screening for DK and Kindergarten will be held on Friday, April 26, 2019. Complete information will be available at the Open House. Please call the school office at (517) 647-7551 to schedule an appointment.

