

FAMILY BULLETIN

Calendar

May 23: Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences - No Classes for Prek 3 - Grade 6

May 24-25: Middle School Exams

May 24: Advisory Council Meeting, 7:00 PM

May 26: Closing of School Liturgy & Awards, 8:30 - 10:30 AM

May 26: School Dismissal at 10:30 for all students

May 30: Memorial Day - Campus Closed

May 31 - June 3: No Classes; Loreto Center Closed for Cleaning

June 6: Summer at Benilde Begins

July 4: Campus Closed

July 5-8: Bible on the Bayou

August 5: Summer at Benilde Ends

August 10: New Parent Orientation, 7:00 PM, Cafeteria

August 11: Returning Parent Orientation, 7:00 PM, Cafeteria

August 12: Move In Day



The Last Week of School

Thank you families for a wonderful school year. We are truly blessed to have you as partners in the formation of your children. We also pray that you have a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer with your children.

The last week of school is an exciting time! Even though school is almost over, it is important that you make sure that your children still go to bed at a good hour, get a good night's sleep, and eat a healthy breakfast. This will prime them for a great final week.

Here is an overview of some of the major school events this week (please note, that this list does not include activities that may be organized for individual classrooms):

Monday May 23: **Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences** - Please plan to attend at your scheduled time. We find that the



more ownership and knowledge children have regarding their own academic growth and development, the greater their learning. Monday’s conference is designed with this in mind. It also is where your child’s personal summer learning plan will be established.

Tuesday and Wednesday May 24 & 25: **Middle School Exams.** Grades 5 and 6 are not done quite yet! Make sure your child studies hard, gets a good night sleep, and is prepared to do their best each day.

Thursday May 26: **Closing of School Liturgy & Awards!** The Eucharist is the source and summit of Catholic Christian life... so it is fitting that it is how we end our year. Mass will begin by 8:20 AM. After Mass, we will move directly into our End of the Year Awards, recognizing children who have gone “above and beyond the call” and demonstrated excellence throughout the year. At the end of the awards ceremony, children will be symbolically “promoted” to their next grade level for next year. After the awards ceremony, children will go back to their homeroom to say goodbye to their teacher and classmates, pack up their things, and head off to summer. We invite all families to attend the liturgy and awards. Regardless, dismissal on Thursday May 26 is at 10:30 AM for all levels, including the Loreto Center!

A Year of Success

We have had so many blessings and successes this year at St. Benilde School. Here is just a snapshot.

Academic Formation

The end of the year STAR benchmark results are in. They show that our efforts at creating an ever more personalized learning environment for our students are resulting in consistently improving student performance, especially when viewed over a three year period.

% of Students at or Above Grade Level

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
Spring 2014	59%	48%	67%	63%	69%	70%	55%
Spring 2016	100%	92%	70%	84%	77%	67%	65%

To date, we have not received the ACT-Aspire results for the Spring 2016 testing period. We look forward to reporting them as soon as they are available.

Enrollment Growth

Our academic successes have been mirrored by growth in enrollment over the same three year period. St. Benilde School opened the 2013-2014 school year with 277 students, including 78 children in our Early Childhood programs (Nursery - Prek 4). Today, the school has 321 students enrolled for next school year, including 117 in our Early Childhood Programs. Already today, we have 328 students registered for next school year, with 110 (and growing) registered for our Early Childhood programs. The chart below shows exactly how dynamic that growth has been:

Three Year Enrollment Growth

Grade Level	Fall 2013	May 2016	Fall 2016 (Registered)
Birth - Two	9	48	47
Prek 2	14	19	18
Prek 3	17	20	22
Prek 4	30	30	23
Kindergarten	27	23	29
First Grade	28	25	25
Second Grade	20	25	29
Third Grade	28	27	27
Fourth Grade	31	25	28
Fifth Grade	26	25	30
Sixth Grade	24	24	25
Seventh Grade	23	30	25
Overall Total	277	321	328
Early Childhood Total	70	117	110
Elementary Total (K-7)	207	204	218

Third Source Revenue Sources

Another area of growth has been in non-traditional revenue streams. These include revenue driven by the St. Benilde Fund, the Luck of the Irish Spring Gala, Grants, Scholarship Foundations, Extended Day Programs, and Summer at Benilde. Here is a snap shot...

Fiscal Year Ending	2013	2014	2015	2016 (Projected)
Development	\$ 32,030	\$ 66,874	\$ 82,421	\$ 157,000
Extended Day	\$ 101,386	\$ 102,273	\$ 133,466	\$ 156,000
Summer at Benilde	\$ 141,405	\$ 202,832	\$ 262,517	N/A

Results of Growth

This growth has allowed us to make important investments in our school through both human and physical capital.

- ❖ Four years ago, faculty were paid 60% of what their colleagues in public school earned. Even when compared to other Catholic school faculty, SBS teachers earned up to \$10,000 less annually than a

teacher with comparable degrees and years experience in some other Catholic schools. For the 2016-2017 school year, our teachers will be paid 71% of what their colleagues in public school earn, making their compensation more just and competitive with other area schools.

- ❖ We have been able to hire additional faculty and staff to better serve the needs of students. This includes Mrs. Susan Connick (who runs the Literacy Lab), Mrs. Jennifer Kelly (who will run the new Exceptional Learners Lab next school year), and two additional part time instructional assistants in First (Mrs. Beth Monistere) and Second Grade (Ms. Danielle Dalaup).
- ❖ Since high quality, personalized teaching requires high quality, personalized support, we have been able to add three positions that will provide the intensive support and training our teachers need: the Director of Academic Formation (Mrs. Valerie Perez), the Director of Early Childhood Formation (Mrs. Mary Munoz), and starting in Fall 2016, the Director of Faith and Human Formation (Mrs. Cecilia Wilson).
- ❖ We have overhauled the classroom furnishings and supplies in every single classroom from New Beginnings through Prekindergarten Four, including adding two additional Early Childhood classrooms in the Rainbow Building (Prek 2 and Prek 3). An additional Early Childhood classroom will be added for next school year.
- ❖ Thanks to the phenomenal support we received from the parish, school, and alumni communities on December 2 as part of the #iGiveCatholic Day of Giving, we have been able to completely overhaul the furnishings in the middle school math classroom, allowing for more storage, lockers, and desks designed to respond to the needs of contemporary learners. Newer classroom seating has also been provided in other classrooms.
- ❖ Thanks in part to a grant from the Archdiocese of New Orleans, we have been able to purchase furniture and technology for our new Exceptional Learning Lab designed to meet the needs of the children who qualify for our new Exceptional Learning Program.
- ❖ In line with the school's strategic plan, the increased revenue along with donations from the St. Benilde Men's Club has allowed us to expand athletics opportunities with the addition of soccer, fencing, and bowling. As a result, over 100 students had the opportunity to participate in school athletics during this school year.
- ❖ We have been able to purchase an increasing amount of play equipment and climbers for our youngest learners in the Loreto Early Learning Center, while also improving safety with the purchase of additional fencing and gates to ensure that younger children do not access play equipment that is designed for older and taller children.
- ❖ This summer we will be replacing the old chain link fence that is in front of the field on Division St. with a wrought iron fence that will be sturdier than the current fence, improve school security, and allow for our early childhood families to more easily park and walk their children into school if they choose to do so. It will also improve the aesthetic appeal of the school.

- ❖ We have installed new and more secure doors to replace older doors that were in disrepair in the Rainbow Building, Cafeteria, Library, Teen Center, and Loreto Center.
- ❖ We have improved instructional technology, including new computers in the computer lab and in classrooms. New SmartBoards, SmartProjectors, and touchscreen displays have been added to classrooms both in Early Childhood and Elementary classrooms. We have also expanded our wi-fi to allow for our “Bring Your Own Device” program.
- ❖ We have overhauled the cafeteria by removing the old stage to give more room for students to eat and also to make way for a cook-in kitchen that provides children with the opportunity to have a hot breakfast and hot lunch each day.

So again, thank you for your own commitment to St. Benilde School and your many investments of time, talent, and treasure. Working together, we have been able to create a school that is increasingly innovative and personalized to the needs of each learner while retaining the strong Catholic identity and pro-family focus that has characterized St. Benilde School since its founding 48 years ago.

We look forward to what the next year brings!



Summer at Benilde... Still Time to Register!

Even though the school year ends, St. Benilde does not. After a week to clean the school and recharge our batteries, SBS is back with “Summer at Benilde.” If you have never joined us before, here is what awaits you.

Early Childhood Programs: Our year round early childhood programs keep going for children from birth to age two. During summer, you can expect everything you enjoy during the other ten months of the year, but add wet days and many “on campus” field trips.

Camps: Elementary school students can participate in any number of our popular camps. Base Camp is for every student, and includes arts, crafts, games, weekly on campus and off campus “field trips,” and weekly trips to the pool. For an additional fee, children can participate in one of our many specialty camps. They keep their trips to the pool and field trips, but can spend part of their day learning more about art, science, soccer, dance, cheer, and more.

Tutoring: Does your child need some more focused attention this summer to fill in some remaining gaps in their learning? Would you like them to deepen their knowledge and advance their learning? Would you like for them to avoid the “summer slide” and be more ready for next school year? Then sign up for one of tutoring programs, all of which utilize our distinctive personalized approach to student learning.

Summer School: For students of SBS or other schools, we offer a special summer school program using our personalized approach to learning that is designed to fulfill the summer school requirements for admission to the next grade level. These programs are offered both on campus and through out SBS Online learning environment.