



ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND CHURCH

A Helpful Guide for New Families



THE SCHOOL YEAR IN A NUTSHELL

Be In The Know

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Table of Contents

SBS Monthly	1-13
What Is...?	14-20
Getting Involved	21
Parent Associations	21
Student Clubs	22
Sports.....	22-23
Extended Day Program (EDP)	24-25
SCRIP	26
How to Save Money on Tuition	26
Tips	27
Index	27



SBS Monthly

September Back to School

To give you an idea of what's happening in the school on a month to month basis, the next few pages will give you a general idea of events and happenings in the school and what to expect as we move through the school year.

The printed school calendar handed out on Back to School Night will give you specific dates for the events. This guide is intended to give you a broader picture of what's happening, grades involved, and how you too can get involved as an SBS parent.

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

It's **Back to School** time and we all have our plates full. Time to settle in and enjoy the ride:

- **Kindergarten Orientation**

Our Kindergarten students will have a slightly different schedule than the rest of the school during the first week back. The Kindergarten Orientation is the first day for our Kindergarteners that typically begins with a gathering in the school Gym with a brief principal and K staff intro and Q&A session for the parents and new students. The K students are then escorted to their classrooms and experience a short day to introduce them to their new setting. Check the school calendar for the week's dismissal schedule for Kindergarten.

- **New Family Dinner**

All new families are invited to a new family dinner hosted by the PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) in the school cafeteria. This is a great time to meet other new families, as well as existing ones, and begin to feel welcome in a new school. This is also a good time to ask questions about the school, meet parents and other students.

MONTH AT A GLANCE

- **Parish Carnival**

Every September we hold an annual Parish carnival. This is open to everyone, it's usually held over 3 days and the kids love to attend this event for the rides, games, and social activities. Some highlights include the Super 50/50, fireworks show, ride wristband nights, and entertainment.

- **Back to School Night**

Grades K-6 have the first Back to School Night, followed by a separate scheduled Back to School Night for Grades 7 and 8. The principal and teaching staff members are available for introductions, a summary of the school year, and of course, answer any questions you may have. The meetings are held in your child's classroom led by the homeroom teacher. In the school gym, there are usually information tables set up for various groups. You can learn how to get involved in the school as a student and parent.

During this evening, you will also be able to sign up as a Class Parent in your child's classroom.

- **Winter Sports Registration**

Winter Sports registration is for students in grades 3 and up. Registration is held on two days, where you will need to register in person in the school lobby with all of the necessary paperwork filled out and submitted. See the **Sports** section of the website to see all of the requirements. Winter Sports includes basketball (grades 5-8), intramural basketball (grades 3-4) and Junior JV Cheerleading (grades 3-4). Coach and Assistant Coach applications are due at this time. Note that coaches are required to have VIRTUS training, fingerprinting/criminal background check, Rutgers Safety Clinic, Concussion Training, and CPR Training.

- **Breakfast with the Principal**

Every month during the school year, a day is selected to have a birthday breakfast with the principal for grades K-5. For example, students in grades K-5 with September birthdays will have breakfast with the principal during the morning of that selected day. September birthdays for students in grades 6-8 enjoy a Dress Down Day. Summer birthdays are included during the year as well. See the school calendar for the specific date.

- **School Photos**

During the month of September, we take our yearbook school photos. Full school uniform is required for photo day. No Dress Down passes are allowed for school pictures.

MONTH AT A GLANCE

- **Dress Down Day**

Every month, one day is designated as a Dress Down Day for all K-8 students. Dress Down Days allow students to wear clothes of their choice, within reason. No shorts or skirts above the knees are allowed, tank tops, etc. Please refer to the SBS Handbook for dress code details.

- **Drama Club**

The SBS Drama Club is open to all SBS students in grades 4-8. The production is announced before the end of the prior school year. Auditions are held during the month of September and the production takes place in the spring over a three day weekend in Holmdel High School.

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Catholic Schools Mass**

The eighth grade class Student Council attends the Catholic Schools Mass with the Bishop at St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral in Trenton. The school provides transportation and SBS staff chaperones, including the school principal.

- **Fundraisers: Arts Association Magazine Drive/ASNA Yankee Candle Fundraiser (September/October)**

The SBS Arts Association runs a magazine drive fundraiser during October. The ASNA parent association runs a Yankee Candle fundraiser as well, later in the month. All school fundraising participation is optional. Fundraising packets are sent home with the youngest sibling.

- **PTA Presents Pocketbook Bingo – Fall (October/November)**

The PTA hosts a Pocketbook Bingo in the school gym twice a year. All are welcome to attend; including all school and parish community members, family members and friends. This is a great chance to meet other SBS parents at a social event and chance to win some great prizes.

- **Columbus Day**

Yes, we observe the holiday, enjoy the three day weekend!

- **PTA Wine Tasting**

The PTA hosts an annual Wine Tasting in the school gym. Everyone is invited as it is open to all - school, parish, family and friends. Local food

MONTH AT A GLANCE

and wine vendors host the delicious tasting and it is an evening filled with good times and new faces to meet. Look for details on the website.

- **Progress Reports (Grades K-2)**

Students in grades K-2 are sent home with Progress Reports. This is a good indication of how your student is doing in school so far and adjusting to the new school year. Only students in grades K-2 receive a Progress Report in their daily folder sent home.

- **Winter Uniform Changeover**

During the month of October, we officially switch to the Winter Uniform. Refer to the SBS Handbook for uniform dress code.

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

SBS hosts Parent-Teacher Conferences in October where you can meet with the teachers and discuss your child's progress. The conferences are held in the school gym with teachers at a dedicated table with waiting/seating areas at each teacher's station.

- **Unity Day**

All of our students in grades K-8 are invited to participate in Unity Day which is sponsored by parent-led organization Academic Special Needs Association (otherwise known as ASNA); an organization formed to help the special needs students in our school. Unity Day is usually recognized by requesting that the students wear something orange (i.e., socks, headband, shirt, bracelet, etc.) to help spread the message against bullying.

- **Halloween Class Parties and Mission Fair**

Class Parents are required to run a Halloween party in the classroom as part of their Class Parent responsibilities. The Class Parents are given a small allowance for party food (usually pizza) and any other arrangements made for the party like games, crafts, and music. Class parents (typically 3 per class) can coordinate the party agenda, food, and activities with the teacher. Every class is different, as well as every party, as long as the teacher is in agreement with the class parents, the party does not follow the same agenda as the class parties. The school office distributes the funds to class parents prior to the party date. The party is usually held on Halloween or as close to the day as possible. No goody bags or treat bags are allowed. Students are allowed to wear their costumes to school that day, with the exception of bringing any masks or fake weapons.

MONTH AT A GLANCE

In addition to the class party, the students also attend a Mission Fair in the gym, where each student can donate \$2 to the Missions and are allowed to play various games hosted by the students in the upper grades.

- **Photo Retakes**

If your child missed Photo Day in September, make sure to mark this date to make sure he/she is photographed on the retake day. Grade 8 also take their Graduation photo on the same day.

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- **End of first Trimester**

For students in Grades 3-8, be sure to log on to the Genesis Parent Portal to review grades before the trimester ends. Access to the Parent Portal is sent to all parents via email in September. The URL is:

<https://parents.dioceseoftrenton.org/genesis>

- **SBS Talent Show**

All SBS students in Grades K-8 can try out and perform in the talent show. The talent show is run by Mrs. Remick, our music teacher and choir director. The talent show venue is announced closer to the show date.

- **Thanksgiving Break**

The Thanksgiving break is a four day weekend.

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Advent Project**

The PTA sponsors the Advent Project which is a series of fundraisers for those less fortunate during the Advent season; it consists of several fundraisers like art projects, sales during lunch periods, and food drives to raise money for a charity selected by the PTA, which is announced at the start of the project. An Advent Project calendar of events and activities is distributed to students before Thanksgiving break.

- **Report Cards**

- **Feast of the Immaculate Conception – School Holiday**

School is closed.

MONTH AT A GLANCE

- **Christmas Concert**

All choir members (grades 3-8), band members (grades 5-8), and Girls Jam (grades 6-8) members perform in a Christmas Concert in the school gym.

- **Santa Shop**

All SBS students have the opportunity to shop in a PTA sponsored Santa Shop offers a Christmas shopping opportunity filled with small gifts for loved ones available to all students during school hours in the Father Anderson Library (FAL). The Santa Shop is typically spread over 2 days with designated days/time slots for all of the homeroom classes. A schedule and envelope with shopping checklist is sent home with each student. Parents of younger students can specify budget with specific family members on the outside of the envelope. SBS parent volunteers help the shopping process for all grades and help assist the younger students in shopping. Gift wrapping is provided to all students at the end of their shopping spree. Students go home with their wrapped gifts the same day.

- **Christmas Pageant – Grades K-3**

SBS students in Grades K-3 perform in the annual Christmas Pageant, with “A” classes (KA, 1A, 2A, 3A) performing on one night and the “B” classes (KB, 1B, 2B, 3B) on another night. Parents will receive a seating chart with assigned seats per family. Each family receives 4 assigned seats. The rest of the seating in the church is open and available on a first come, first serve basis the night of the pageant. We ask students to arrive at 6:30 p.m., along with their parents, and no earlier. The pageant starts promptly at 7:00 p.m. and is no more than 45 minutes from start to finish. This is a wonderful, spirit filled evening for all who participate and attend.

- **Christmas Class Parties**

Class Parents help run the Christmas class party for their class. Similar to the Halloween party, class parents coordinate the food, activities, and agenda with the teacher. No goody bags are allowed.

- **Christmas Break**

The break is from Christmas Eve until after New Year’s Day.

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Graduation Photos**

Grade 8 graduation photos take place in January.

MONTH AT A GLANCE

- **Polar Plunge**

The Polar Plunge held in Long Branch, N.J. is an annual fundraising event sponsored by the Ancient Order of the Hibernians to support Catholic school education. The SBS Advancement and Alumni Association (AAA) helps coordinate SBS participation in this fun event; including SBS plunger registration and pledges. All funds raised at this event are donated to SBS to support a specific school initiative, voted on by the AAA and approved by the pastor and principal.

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day – School Holiday**

School is closed.

- **Reconciliation for Grade 2**

All First Holy Communicants in Grade 2 are required to attend Reconciliation on the designated date. There are scheduled parent meetings to discuss what to expect and the details beforehand.

- **Progress Reports (Grades K-2)**

Students in grades K-2 are sent home with Progress Reports. Only students in these grades receive a Progress Report in their daily folder sent home.

- **Catholic Schools Week**

The Diocese of Trenton designates a week for “Catholic Schools Week” (CSW) which is usually held late January/early February to showcase our school and host open houses. During the week, SBS holds a kickoff Mass and hosts Open Houses for existing and new family tours and registration. Eighth grade ambassadors typically give school tours throughout the week to prospective families.

The week culminates with the school pep rally for all of the SBS students in the gym. SBS students and staff, along with SBS team coaches, attend the pep rally to watch all of the basketball and cheerleading teams perform for the school.

- **Special Persons Luncheon**

During Catholic Schools Week, the Special Persons Luncheon allows all grade K-8 students to invite their “Special Person” to join them for lunch. This can be a mom, dad, sibling, grandmother, grandfather, aunt, uncle, friend, etc. Each grade is given a specific time slot to have lunch with their Special Person in the cafeteria. Lunch is either brought in to the school by

MONTH AT A GLANCE

the Special Person or students can pre-purchase a special lunch designated for that day from the cafeteria. Lunch order forms are sent home beforehand with each student if you wish to order lunch. Each time slot is approximately a half hour for each homeroom to have lunch; the schedule is provided by the principal and teachers in advance in order for visitors to plan accordingly. In some cases, siblings who are in school together choose to be Special Persons for each other.

- **Ladies and Young Gentlemen Event**

The PTA hosts a Ladies and Young Gentlemen Event for all the boys in the school in grades K-8. The venue is usually Jacques Catering Hall in Middletown. All male students are welcome to attend with their loved one to this special evening. Invitations are sent out early January and the ticket cost covers one admission and sit down dinner per person. The eighth grade boys are honored during the evening, a DJ entertains the crowd, and photo booths are available for memories of the special occasion.

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Spring Sports Registration**

Spring Sports registration is for students in grades 3 and up. Registration is held on two days, where you will need to register in person in the school lobby with all of the necessary paperwork filled out and submitted. See the **Sports** section of the website to see all of the requirements. Spring Sports includes Track & Field (grades 3-8), JV/Varsity Softball (grades 5-8) and JV/Varsity Baseball (grades 5-8). Coach and Assistant Coach applications are due at this time.

- **Gentlemen and Young Ladies Event**

The PTA hosts a Gentlemen and Young Ladies Event for all the girls in the school in grades K-8. The venue is usually Jacques Catering Hall in Middletown. All female students are welcome to attend with their loved one to this special evening. Invitations are sent out early January and the ticket cost covers one admission and sit down dinner per person. The eighth grade girls are honored during the evening, a DJ entertains the crowd, and photo booths are available for memories of the special occasion.

- **Graduation Photos Make Ups**

In case you missed it, Grade 8 graduation photo make-ups are scheduled on a designated day in February.

- **Presidents Day – School Holiday**

School is closed.

- **Ash Wednesday – School Mass**

- **End of second Trimester**

For students in Grades 3-8, be sure to log on to the Genesis parent portal to review grades before the trimester ends.

- **First Holy Communion Parent Meeting**

All SBS parents of First Holy Communicants in Grade 2 must attend a parent meeting to learn about the sacrament, how to properly prepare, and what to expect on the day of First Holy Communion.

- **Report Cards (February/March)**

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- **First Holy Communion Gathering Day**

All SBS First Holy Communicants in Grade 2 must attend Gathering Day which is usually held on a Saturday from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. in the school. The purpose of Gathering Day is to get the boys and girls ready for their Communion day and gather as a group to enjoy fun, faith filled activities.

- **Terra Nova Testing**

Starting in second grade, students will begin taking Terra Nova tests in all subjects during the designated Terra Nova standardized testing week. Teachers will provide more specific information and details about the curriculum areas, proper preparation, and the overall testing process.

- **ASNA Beef & Brew**

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, the Academic Special Needs Association hosts an annual Beef & Brew in the school gym. This event is for adults only and is open to anyone over the age of 21. All proceeds support the efforts of ASNA to help students with special needs.

- **Grade 8 Confirmation**

All SBS Grade 8 students receive the sacrament of Confirmation. There is no school for eighth graders on this day.

- **Drama Club Play (March/April)**

The Arts Association Drama Club presents their annual production over a three day weekend at Holmdel High School. Tickets are sold in advance in school and also at the door on each performance day. All are invited to attend.

- **Lent, Holy Week and Easter (March/April)**

Depending on the date of Easter, the Lenten and Holy Week activities include the eighth grade students presenting the Living Stations of the Cross for the school and Parish, an Easter egg hunt on Holy Saturday and Easter break starting on Good Friday. The students have a half day on Holy Thursday. The break is a week-long.

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

- **First Holy Communion**

The SBS second grade First Holy Communicants receives the sacrament of Communion on either the last weekend of April or first weekend of May. The official date is made available in June for the following year.

- **PTA Plant Sale (April/May)**

The PTA sponsored plant sale is an annual plant sale held in the gym around Mother's Day. Order forms are sent home with students to order various plants from a local nursery.

- **Spring Photos**

The entire school is photographed for spring photos. The students have a Dress Down Day on this particular photo day and everyone is photographed. The purchase of these photos is completely optional and proofs are sent home with the student in their folder. Purchases can be made via the order form attached to the proofs.

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

- **May Crowning**

The eighth grade girls and second grade First Holy Communicants participate in the May Crowning of the Blessed Mother Mary during the May school Mass. All of the second grade First Holy Communicants are asked to wear their communion suits and dresses and participate at the special Mass. This is a beautiful Mass; parents are encouraged to attend.

- **Teacher Appreciation Week**

The PTA recognizes the teachers of SBS by coordinating various activities for the teachers and for the students and parents to recognize the teachers' efforts throughout the week. Student art projects, special letters, and luncheons for the teachers are planned for the week.

- **Mother's Day Tea**

The Kindergarten classes participate in a Mother's Day Tea, usually the Friday morning before Mother's Day. The Kindergarten classes invite mothers or someone special to share tea with them while sharing crafts and a small sampling of what they've learned over the year.

- **PTA Presents Pocketbook Bingo – Spring**

The PTA hosts a Pocketbook Bingo in the school gym twice a year. All are welcome to attend; including all school and parish community members, family members and friends. This is a great chance to meet other SBS parents at a social event and chance to win some great prizes.

- **Spring Concert**

All SBS band and choir members perform a Spring Concert in the school gym. All are welcome to attend. Again, please note that school choir starts in 3rd grade and band starts in 5th grade.

- **Fall Sports Registration**

Fall Sports registration is for students in grades 3 and up for the following school year. Registration is held on two days, where you will need to register in person in the school lobby with all the necessary paperwork filled out and submitted. See the Sports section of the website to see all of the requirements. Fall Sports includes Cross Country (grades 3-8), Girls/Boys Soccer (grades 6-8) and JV/Varsity Cheerleading (grades 5-8). Coach and Assistant Coach applications are due at this time.

- **Memorial Day Weekend**

The students enjoy a 3-day weekend for the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Depending on the scheduled date, SBS staff and faculty participate in a Spirituality Day sometimes the Friday before Memorial Day weekend. If it is scheduled on the Friday before Memorial Day, there is no school for SBS students that day and it is then a 4-day holiday weekend. Check the school year Calendar Highlights for all holidays and early dismissals.

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Mass Honoring Graduating Class – Grade 8**

The entire SBS school honors the graduating class with a special Mass in early June before graduation. During this same week, the eighth graders enjoy their class trip, a “Recognition and Awards” ceremony, and the week culminates with their Graduation ceremony. They complete school this week.

- **Kindergarten Celebration**

The SBS Kindergarteners celebrate the year with an end of year celebration with parents, family and friends. The Kindergarteners perform songs, receive certificates, and invite everyone to their classroom afterwards to share their year’s accomplishments.

- **Field Day – Grades K-7**

Field Day is a day filled with fun indoor and outdoor activities for all of the students in grades K-7. Each grade wears a special color and participates in all the games and activities on a rotating schedule. Parent volunteers are welcomed and encouraged to help for the day.

- **Kindergarten Breakfast of Champions**

The Kindergarten classes host a Breakfast of Champions for all fathers or someone special the Friday morning before Father’s Day weekend. The Kindergarteners host the breakfast in their classroom and share breakfast, crafts, and activities with their special honored guest.

- **Honor Roll Awards Ceremony – Grades 5-7**

The SBS students in grades 5-7 who have made Honor Roll at least once over the course of the three trimesters are invited to attend a short ceremony in the Church to recognize their academic achievements.

- **Class Cup Competition – Grades 4-7**

The SBS students in grades 4-7 participate in a Class Cup Competition in the school gym which consists of a panel of teachers conducting trivia with selected students in various subject areas. The trivia covers grade appropriate curriculum taught over the year. All students in grades 4-7 attend the Class Cup, along with the SBS staff and faculty. The final scores are tallied and the winning grade is awarded at the competition’s end.

- **Class Parties**

Class Parents help run the final end of year class party for their class. Similar to the Halloween and Christmas parties, the Class Parents coordinate the food, activities, and agenda with the teacher. No goody bags are allowed.

- **Camps**

As soon as school ends for summer break, the Extended Day Program (EDP) offers a daily camp until the end of June. See website for registration information.

Other weekly summer art, computer and design camps are available to students in grades K-8. The summer camp registration information is available before school ends.

Notes

The printed school calendar for the year will have specific dates and times of events where applicable. The website Calendar tab will also give you specific details.

For all holidays, early dismissals, and closures for the upcoming school year, see the Calendar Highlights on the website under School/FYI/Weekly Information Packet.



What Is...?

Our School Hours

Full Day 8:00 a.m.-2:15 p.m. dismissal

Half Day 8:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. dismissal

- School doors open at 7:30 a.m.
All students arrive and wait in the school gym by grade until homeroom teachers and aides walk them into their classrooms.
- Students arriving after the 8:00 a.m. bell will be marked late.
- If a student arrives to school by 11:30 a.m., or leaves after 11:30 a.m., due to doctor appointments, illnesses, etc., it is counted as a half day. Outside of those times, it is counted as an absence. For example, if a student arrives to school (signs in) at 12:00 noon, or if a student comes to school at 8:00 a.m. but leaves school at 11:00 a.m., either of these scenarios are counted as an absence.

Our School Website is www.stbenedictholmdel.org

Look under the **School** dropdown menu for all school pages.

Genesis Parent Portal

The Diocese of Trenton provides all parents of SBS third graders and above access to the Genesis Parent Portal to check and monitor student grades. In September, Genesis Parent Portal will send out individual emails to eligible parents with access information and a temporary password. The portal is open and closed throughout the year which coincides with the start and end of marking periods. The direct URL for the Genesis Parent Portal is: <https://parents.dioceseoftrenton.org/genesis>

Honeywell Instant Alert

Once registered on the Honeywell Instant Alert system, you can choose how to receive school notifications from the principal, i.e. school closures, delayed openings, important reminders, etc. It is extremely important that this is one of the first things you do once you register in the school. You can opt for notifications via home phone, cell phone, text message, and email. The messages are usually referred to as an “Instant Alert.” Website URL: <https://instantalert.honeywell.com>

Snow Days and Delayed Openings

In the event of school closures due to snow or inclement weather, the SBS Instant Alert notification will be sent via the preferred contact methods you indicated during your Honeywell Instant Alert registration process. The alert will be sent out as soon as possible from the school principal. The same applies to delayed openings due to weather. For delayed openings, the bus schedules will be explained for the different towns as it can vary from one public school district to another and the various bus companies used to bus our students to SBS.

Based on the number of snow days, the school calendar may have days added on to the end of the school year in June. The school calendar is built based upon the allowance for extra days that may need to be added due to school closures.

Change of Transportation Notes

All SBS students are dismissed from school to their normal mode of transportation as noted in the paperwork filled out at the beginning of the year by parents/guardians. This is Car Rider, Bus Rider, or EDP. If the mode of transportation changes on a particular day, all changes must be sent via written note to the homeroom teacher or email for that day to: transportation@stbenedictnj.org

Early Dismissal – Half Days

The SBS half day dismissal is at 12:15 p.m. Please make sure that change of transportation notes are provided if the half day requires an alternate mode of transportation home for your child. Bus service is provided on half days.

Morning Drop-Off – Car Rider 101 Etiquette

We ask that students who are car riders be dropped off no earlier than 7:30 a.m. as the school doors will not be open and staff not available until that time. Car rider drop-off should follow normal protocol for drop-off in the “chute” – which is the curbside area from the school Main Entrance doors all the way up until the flagpole by the Parish Office, in a single lane.

When arriving to SBS, all car riders are to enter the school property from Hillcrest Road – not Bethany Road – and enter one of two waiting car lines parallel to the baseball field. A traffic director allows each car line to alternate turns to pull up into the chute. Once pulled up in the chute, please make sure your children are prepared to leave the car with all of his/her belongings. Drivers, please do not exit the car, as it will delay the entire drop-off process and if you are a car in the chute queue, regardless of your position in the line (i.e., middle to the last car in the line), drop off your children, do not wait to pull up to the front doors. If you are in the chute, your children need to exit the car regardless of the length of walk and weather conditions that day. If there are concerns with the younger Kindergarten children, please speak to the

principal/teachers and arrange for an alternate drop-off method as we understand the first few days, sometimes weeks, can be a big adjustment for younger children. The 8th grade student ambassadors, along with SBS staff members, are available along the chute's walk to help escort children safely into school every day.

Uniform Dress Code, Policy & Helpful Guidelines

Flynn O'Hara located in the Kohl's shopping plaza on Route 35 in Hazlet is the official uniform store for SBS. The store holds our official uniform guidelines and a store shopper will use the SBS order form in order to ensure the appropriate uniform pieces are purchased. <https://www.flynnohara.com/School-Landing.aspx?scn=NJ006>

For ease of reference, the following SBS dress code from the SBS Handbook is below:

Fall and Spring Uniform (Back to School)

Options for Grade K - 4 Girls

- Khaki plaid uniform jumper (worn no shorter than 3 in. above kneecap)
- Khaki uniform pants
- Khaki walking shorts (worn no shorter than 4 in. above kneecap)
- Khaki skort (worn no shorter than 4 in. above kneecap)
- White oxford short-sleeve shirt (worn inside pants, shorts, skort)
- White banded-waist short sleeve polo
- Navy short or long-sleeve polo
- Navy cardigan sweater or vest
- Navy, white, khaki crew or knee socks
- Uniform school shoes (with crew or knee socks)--worn with jumper or pants
- Sneakers (with no-shows, quarter socks, crew or knee socks)--worn with shorts or skorts

Options for Grade 5 - 8 Girls

- Khaki plaid kilt (worn no shorter than 3 in. above the kneecap--front and back)
- Khaki uniform pants
- Khaki walking shorts (worn no shorter than 4 in. above kneecap)
- White oxford short-sleeve shirt (worn inside kilt, pants, shorts)
- White banded-waist short sleeve polo
- Navy short or long-sleeve polo
- Navy cardigan sweater or vest
- Navy tights or knee socks (with kilt)
- Navy, white, khaki crew socks
- Uniform school shoes (with appropriate tights or socks)--worn with kilt or pants
- Sneakers (with no-shows, quarter socks, or crew socks)--worn with shorts

Options for Grade K - 8 Boys

- Khaki uniform pants (worn at the waist)
- Khaki walking shorts (worn at the waist)
- White oxford short-sleeve shirt (worn inside pants/shorts)
- White knit short-sleeve polo
- Navy long-sleeve or short-sleeve polo
- Navy pullover sweater or vest
- Navy, khaki, or white crew socks
- Black or brown belt (except Kindergarten)
- Uniform school shoes (with socks)--worn with pants
- Sneakers (with no-shows, quarter socks, or crew socks)--worn with shorts

Winter Uniform

Options for Grade K - 4 Girls

- Khaki plaid uniform jumper (worn no shorter than 3 in. above kneecap)
- Khaki uniform pants
- White oxford long or short-sleeve shirt (worn inside with pants)
- Navy long-sleeve polo
- White turtleneck (worn inside with pants)
- Navy cardigan sweater or vest (mandatory for oxford or turtleneck with jumper and pants)
- Navy knee socks or tights (with jumper)
- Navy, khaki, white crew socks (with pants)
- Uniform school shoes

Options for Grade 5 - 8 Girls

- Khaki plaid kilt (worn no shorter than 3 in. above kneecap--both front and back)
- Khaki uniform pants
- White oxford long or short-sleeve shirt (worn inside with kilt and pants)
- Navy long-sleeve polo
- White turtleneck (worn inside with kilt and pants)
- Navy pullover sweater or vest (mandatory for oxford or turtleneck with kilt and pants)
- Navy knee socks or tights (with kilt)
- Navy, khaki, white crew socks (with pants)
- Uniform school shoes

Options for Grade K - 8 Boys

- Khaki uniform pants (worn at the waist)
- White oxford long or short-sleeve shirt (worn inside pants)

- White turtleneck shirt (worn inside pants)
- Navy long-sleeve polo
- Navy pullover sweater or vest (mandatory with oxford or turtleneck)
- Navy, khaki, or white crew socks
- Black or brown belt (except Kindergarten)
- Uniform school shoes

A Note About Polo Shirts

We require SBS students to make a neat, presentable appearance. If that requirement can be met with a polo shirt worn outside of pants or shorts, we will allow the shirt to be worn in that manner. If the requirement cannot be met, the shirt must be tucked into the pants or shorts. In most cases, it will be younger students who can fulfill the requirement with an untucked polo.

The principal reserves the right to make that judgment.

Gym Uniform

For Girls and Boys Grades K - 8

- Gray heather t-shirt with logo
- Navy twill shorts or jams worn at the waist
- Navy sweatshirt and sweatpants (optional in fall/spring; mandatory in winter)
- White no-shows, quarter socks, or crew socks
- Sneakers (laced and tied at all times)

Uniform Shoes

In addition to the uniform clothing, students at St. Benedict School are required to wear uniform shoes. The most important aspect of these shoes is that they have non-marking soles. Two different style options are available for all students, and an additional option is available for boys and girls in Kindergarten to Fourth Grade:

For All Students

Tan Nubucks: Tie shoes; tan nubuck upper; red non-marking soles

Brown or Black Oxfords: Tie shoes; brown or black leather uppers; brown or black traction-style non-marking soles

For Girls in Grades K - 4

Single Strap Buckle Shoe: Navy blue leather upper; non-marking sole

For Boys in Grades K - 4

Velcro Strap (please note that this shoe is not a sneaker): Black leather upper; non-marking sole

Reminder

Sneakers may be worn with the Fall Uniform Shorts Option. If your child will be using this option, you may want to delay purchase of school shoes to allow as much time as possible for foot growth. All students must be in school shoes after the Winter Uniform Changeover, which occurs in mid-October.

SBS Uniform Swap

One of the greatest ways to save money on school uniforms is taking advantage of our Uniform Swap located in the school lobby closet located next to the gym. This large closet contains all SBS articles of uniform clothing organized in labeled bins by clothing type. Many sizes are available in all uniform pieces for boys and girls. It is open all year and the best part of it all is that it is free! Any donations of used uniform pieces in good, reusable condition are also accepted. Back to School Night will also have bins out from the closet for families to sort through and hopefully find some useful uniform clothing.

SBS Spirit Shop

We have a Spirit Shop which is open every Friday from 1:30-3:00 p.m. and during special school occasions like Back to School Night. Located in the main school lobby, you'll find car magnets, sweatshirts, T-shirts, pants, hats, and any other spirit paraphernalia you can think of in the SBS Spirit Shop. Visit the shop online to view items and pricing at www.stbenedictholmdel.org/spiritshop.

Dress Down Day (DDD) & Passes

One day per school month is designated a Dress Down Day. Students are allowed to wear non-uniform clothes to school. Students also have the opportunity to use earned Dress Down Passes on a day they choose to dress down. The only exception to personal Dress Down Days is the Liturgy Day. If a school Mass is being held, the student is not allowed to dress down on that particular day.

There are plenty of opportunities throughout the year to earn Dress Down Passes. On certain Dress Down Days, there are \$1-2 requested donations for various charities. Participation is optional.

Liturgy Days – Monthly School Mass

Every month on the first Friday of the month, the school Mass is held for all SBS students. The Mass is usually at 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise specified. There are additional special Liturgy days noted on the school calendar. All students are not allowed to dress down on a Liturgy Day, the school uniform is to be worn. If students have gym on the Liturgy Day, the students are allowed to wear their SBS gym uniform. The Mass is open to everyone; SBS parents are welcome to attend.

Weekly Information Packet

The principal sends out important school news and updates in the Weekly Information Packet, otherwise known as the “WIP.” Important school information is also posted on the website under the **School** main tab, click on the **FYI** link and you will find all the links to various school information or visit directly at www.stbenedictholmdel.org/FYI to see a listing of all the links.

Constant Contact Emails

The principal will send out the WIP via a Constant Contact newsletter email. It is important that we have at least one family member’s or dedicated family email address to send out information via email. Any updates to email addresses should be given to the School Office. Please note, if you opt out of receiving these emails, you will be removed from the master list and therefore from all SBS email communications.

VIRTUS Training

All SBS parent volunteers are required to go through VIRTUS training, get fingerprinted and have a criminal background check prior to volunteering at any SBS event. You can get a VIRTUS training packet from the School Office. Once training and all necessary steps are completed, the School Office must have a copy of all certifications on file. Being VIRTUS trained means you can volunteer at student activities like class trip chaperones, classroom activities that require parent volunteers like Field Day, or becoming a Class Parent.

Class Parent Responsibilities

During Back to School Night, homeroom teachers request for interested parents to sign up for Class Parent. Once selected, the Class Parent is required to help out on three class parties:

- Halloween Party
- Christmas Party
- End of Year Party

Specific dates for these parties are indicated on the school calendar. The parties are no longer than an hour and a half total and usually occur on Early Dismissal Days. Class Parents are also asked to attend the class trip which occurs towards the end of the school year. Class trips are the entire length of the school day.

Parent Involvement

Parent Associations

- Academic Special Needs Association (ASNA)
- Arts Association
- Athletic Association (AA)
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Check the calendar for the “Open” meetings to learn how to volunteer and get involved in these associations.

Consultative Bodies

School Board

There is an appointed School Board who meets once a month which consists of SBS parents who have volunteered for a 2-3 year term, depending on their role. The School Board reviews and approves the school budget set forth by the Finance Council and discusses important topics like curriculum, enrollment, technology, events and ongoing strategies for the school in various areas. Both the Pastor and school Principal attend School Board meetings and serve as liaisons between the board and the Parish and School.

Any openings on School Board are announced by the Principal in the spring for the upcoming school year.

Advancement and Alumni Association

The Advancement and Alumni Association meet once every other month to discuss various Alumni related efforts like ongoing communications, events, and ways to develop Alumni relationships with former SBS students. The AAA is open to new members throughout the year and new ideas; check the calendar for the meeting dates and times.

Student Involvement

Clubs

- Animation Club – grades 7 and 8
- Art Studio
- Band – grades 5 and up
- Board Game Club – grades 5 and up
- Builders Club – grades 7 and 8
- Chess Club – grades 3 and up
- Computer Craze – grades K-3
- CYO – Jr. CYO grades 6, 7, and 8
- Drama Club – grades 4 and up
- Design U – grades 3 and up
- 3,2,1 Art is Fun – grades K and up
- Girls Jam – grades 6, 7, and 8
- Girls Outdoor Adventure Club – grades 5 and up
- Lego Club – grades K and up
- School Choir – grades 3 and up
- Student Council – grade 8
- Yearbook – grade 8

Sports

The **Fall Sports** at St. Benedict include:

- Cross Country – Grades 3-8
- Girls/Boys Soccer – Grades 6, 7, and 8

Fall sports registration occurs in May.

The **Winter Sports** at St. Benedict School include:

- Girls Cheerleading – Grades 3-4 (Jr. JV Team), 5-6 (JV Team), 7-8 (Varsity Team)
- Girls Basketball – Grades 5, 6, 7 and 8
- Boys Basketball – Grades 5, 6, 7 and 8
- Intramural Basketball Co-Ed – Grades 3, 4

Winter sports registration occurs in September.

The **Spring Sports** at St. Benedict School include:

- Girls Softball – Grades 6, 7, and 8 (Tryouts if necessary)

- Boys Baseball – Grades 5-6 (JV Team), 7-8 (Varsity Team) (Tryouts if necessary)
- Track and Field – Grades 3-4 (JV Squad), 5-8 (Varsity Squad)

Spring sports registration occurs in February.

Extended Day Program (EDP)

The St. Benedict Extended Day Program (EDP) is intended to serve busy families who desire supplemental care in a Catholic environment. EDP hours are from 2:15 school dismissal until 6:00 p.m. The staff strives to provide individual attention, consistency, and fair treatment for the children and to help them grow in maturity and self-respect, as well as to maintain an atmosphere wherein respect and understanding for others is realized.

Program: The EDP program provides care, supervision, and enrichment activities. Some of the varied activities include inside and outside play, gym time, snack time, quiet time, and optional trips on 12:15 dismissal days to the movies, bowling, local parks, or other points of interest.

EDP Forms: All families must register for the new school year for EDP enrollment. EDP can be used regularly on a scheduled automatic monthly basis or occasionally on a day-by-day basis. The EDP rates sheet provides details on both. All EDP forms are located at www.stbenedictholmdel.org/EDP-Forms or under **Forms** and click on the **EDP** button.

Homework: A room and resources are available for children to do homework. Homework is not mandatory but parents may inform staff if homework is to be started and, or completed by the child at EDP.

Snacks: Parents may provide a daily snack or snacks are available for purchase. Individual packs of cookies or crackers, fruit, and juice boxes are \$.25 each.

Lunches: On a scheduled early dismissal day, parents may provide a lunch or pizza and juice will be available for \$2.00.

Playwear: Each child will need a change of clothes as outside activities are scheduled every day that weather permits. Please label all belongings to ensure its return.

Dismissal: We will continue to dismiss all EDP Students at the Main School Entrance.

Change: Notification of any change from EDP Pre-Paid Schedule to car/bus would be greatly appreciated at 8:00 a.m. to homeroom teacher.

Pick-Up: Please try to avoid EDP pick-up between 2:10 and 2:30 during regular school dismissal of all SBS students to bus and/or car.

CAUTION: Please try to avoid Wednesday EDP pick-up between 4:20 and 4:40 or 5:40- 5:50 during Religious Education drop-off and dismissal.

Parking for EDP pick-up will be in the main school parking lot, directly in front of the Main School Entrance. (Before 4:00, a parking row can be started opposite the existing single staff aisle and Fr. JM's home for EDP pick-up only.) No parking along the yellow curb.

Please be aware that the Track & Field team practices in the late afternoon when traffic is at a minimum, but if you are picking up at EDP or driving on school grounds for some other reason, please watch out for the runners. We appreciate your cooperation.

Please keep us informed of any way we can continue to improve our program and dismissal.



SCRIP

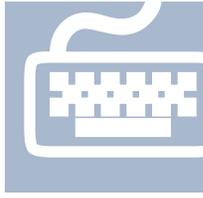
The SCRIP Program provides an opportunity for school families to earn a tuition credit by purchasing gift cards for supermarkets, retailers, restaurants, travel destinations, hotels, service providers, and more.

You purchase the cards at face value just as you would anywhere else. The cards are worth their face value. However, SBS purchases the cards at a discount. The discount varies by vendor and is listed on the SCRIP website. Over the course of the school year, July 1 – June 30, we keep track of the purchase discount amounts you accumulate. For example, the discount amount for a \$100 Shop Rite card with a 4% discount would be \$4. At the end of the year, you get a tuition credit in the amount of 75% of the total accumulated discounts, 25% goes to paying program expenses. The credit is applied to your tuition bill for the upcoming year.

We have a supply of basic, popular cards for purchase in the office. The list of cards we carry is on the Counter Sales Form. Any other cards available through SCRIP can be ordered using the SCRIP Order Form. Both forms can be printed from the SBS website under the SCRIP tab or the Forms tab. Payment for these cards are made with check or cash at time of purchase or order.

Investigate more by checking out the SCRIP website at www.shopwithscrip.com.

If you have any questions about how this program works or about how to purchase cards, please contact Diane Laskowski at laskowski@stbenedictnj.org.



1. Direct any questions to the School Office at **732.264.5578**.
2. Familiarize yourself with the school website at www.stbenedictholmdel.org by looking at the **School** dropdown menu and check out the **Teacher Pages** (organized by class homeroom) for all pertinent class information, **FYI** page for links to all school news, events, and updates and **EDP** page if you use the Extended Day Program.
3. When visiting the school, enter via the School's Main Entrance to the far left on the property. For security purposes, all visitors are required to get buzzed in and make any requests at the window, not in the school lobby. Any visitors entering the school need to sign-in and receive a Visitor's Pass.

Index

attendance, 14	parent associations, 21
car rider, 15	photos, 2, 10
change of transportation, 15	school hours, 14
class parent, 20	snow days, 15
clubs, 22	spirit shop, 19
dress down day, 19	sports, 22
dress down passes, 19	Table of Contents, 3
EDP, 24	SCRIP, 26
genesis, 14	uniform, 16
honeywell, 14	uniform swap, 18
liturgy days, 19	virtus, 20
monthly, 1	website, 14