

NOV 2020

upcoming events

November 5

BR PRESENTS: Sarah Swafford
Please refer to Page 3
for more information.

November 7

ND Class A Football Semifinals

November 10, 12 & 14

Region 6 Volleyball Tournament
Sites to be determined

November 11

Living Our Mission Campaign
Special Announcement!
12:00pm

November 11

Early Dismissal Day
K-12 Students will be dismissed
at 1:00pm to make time for
teacher development. Preschool
classes will be in session until
the regular 3:00pm dismissal.

November 13

Dakota Bowl
Football Championships
Fargo

November 19

BRCS School Board Meeting
4:00pm; BRCS Library

November 19-21

ND State Class B
Volleyball Tournament
Fargo

November 26-27

NO SCHOOL:
Thanksgiving Holiday

November 30

School Advent Wreath Blessing



monthly highlights

BR PRESENTS: Sarah Swafford 3

Some Roaring Good News 4

October Happenings 5

A LION HEALTH UPDATE

from the desk of Fr. Sady Nelson



Dear Bishop Ryan Parents,

Allow me to give a brief update on school during COVID. Ward County is most definitely feeling the stress of our spike of cases. The virus is working its way through our community, and our health-care professionals are providing heroic care in these days. Let us keep them all in our prayers and remember that the stated goal of flattening any curve is to keep our healthcare system from being overwhelmed. Now is the time to be extra-cautious about potentially spreading the virus.

First of all, I think it is excellent to know that we've only had around 20 student cases of COVID-19 since the beginning of school. We are definitely doing no worse, and from what I hear, probably doing better than many other regional schools with regard to our population being involved in COVID. Furthermore, the majority of our students who have been identified as close contacts were not close contacts due to exposure at school. Nevertheless, the last few weeks have definitely been more difficult for us here at Bishop Ryan. My greatest concern is that we are able to keep teachers safe, healthy, and teaching as we enter flu season.

This is why it is absolutely paramount that every student is checked for symptoms each morning prior to coming to school. No student who is symptomatic should be sent to school. If we find that to be the case, the student will be sent home immediately. (Our daily health checklist is included on the next page.) I understand that it may be an inconvenience for you to keep a symptomatic child home for a slightly sore throat and a runny nose, but we need your help to keep our school healthy and operational.

Finally, a word about our heroic teachers. Teaching in 2020 has been taxing beyond the normal rigors of the profession. The hours are longer, the conditions more difficult, and stress of distance learning is real. Please be patient with our teachers and do everything you can to let the know how much you appreciate their work in the midst of crisis. Bishop Ryan's faculty are the reason we have been able to weather this storm. Let's make sure that we go out of our way to show them our appreciation with a kind word, an unsolicited gift card, or additional work with your children at home to make sure that all is in order with your child when they go to school.

Bishop Ryan Catholic School Office Information

Mrs. Benson and Mrs. Selk can help you find any school-related information or put you in touch with any staff or faculty member!

Contact them at (701) 838-3355, then extension 2 or 3.

Our Reasonable Restart responsibility: keeping our Lion family safe and healthy!

Before entering our school, please review the following questions:

1. Are you or anyone in your household a current positive COVID-19 case, requiring quarantine within your personal residence and monitoring from the State Department of Health?

2. Do you have a fever of 100.4 °F or higher, or have you had one within the previous 48 hours?

3. Are you exhibiting two or more of the following symptoms:

- fatigue
- sore throat
- headache
- congestion
- muscle or body aches
- chills
- runny nose
- nausea
- cough
- vomiting
- shortness of breath
- diarrhea
- abdominal pain

4. Are you experiencing a loss of taste or smell?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions,

do not enter the school.

My Student is a Close Contact; Now What?

These protocols for students are based upon the North Dakota Department of Health’s “Critical Infrastructure Workers and Covid-19 Exposures Fact Sheet”. Please note:

- NDHSAA does not allow student-athletes identified as close contacts to participate. So while an asymptomatic non-residential close contact student-athlete could be at school, they would not be allowed to practice with the team or compete.
- Student residential close contacts are required to quarantine if directed by the First District Health Unit or the ND Department of Health.

Student Identified as a Non-Residential Close Contact of a Positive Covid-19 Case

Student is asymptomatic (no symptoms)

The student may attend school under the following conditions:

- 1) The student must be closely observed for any developing symptoms.
- 2) The student must wear a mask at all times while at school for 14 days after exposure.
- 3) The student must socially distance themselves as much as possible.
- 4) The student must carefully and thoroughly practice healthy hygiene habits.
- 5) The student may test at the discretion of their primary physician.

The student may choose to follow recommendations of the CDC, First District Health Unit, and North Dakota Department of Health to quarantine for 14 days from last exposure in response to a confirmed Covid-19 case.

Student develops symptoms found on BRCS Daily Health Checklist

The student must not come to school.

Unless it is an emergency, **DO NOT GO** to a clinic or hospital without first calling ahead. Calling first will help the clinic or hospital manage your process.

If the student becomes ill and tests negative at any time during their monitoring period, they still need to remain under self-quarantine for the remainder of the 14 days.

If the student becomes sick while at school, the student will be sent home immediately.

NOTES TO KNOW FOR LION FANS

COVID-19 will continue to have an effect on how our sports seasons play out. In our best attempt to keep you informed, please remember:

- THE BR WEBSITE CALENDAR WILL ALWAYS BE THE MOST UP-TO-DATE CALENDAR.

-IF WE RECEIVE VENUE INFORMATION, WE'LL SHARE THAT WITH THE EVENT INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE CALENDAR.

Please make sure to watch the calendar for information regarding not only the location, but also attendance rules for fans and any webcast viewing opportunities.

THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT BEING IN **ORANGE**

As of this publication, Ward County has been recognized as ORANGE on Governor Burgum's Smart Restart Map.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR EVENT ATTENDEES, PER NDHSAA RULES:

- Tickets will not be available to the general public.
- Each team participant (both home and away teams) will be issued two tickets for admission.

• Masks are required for all fans.

Please represent our Pride well by following these guidelines and any issued by the host site when cheering on our Lions!

Lions Football (season record: 9-2)

The Lions have clawed their way to a State Class A semifinal showdown with Langdon Area-Edmore-Munich on Saturday, November 7th. The winner of this rematch from last year's state championship game heads to the Fargodome for the 2020 Dakota Bowl Championship.

Lady Lions Volleyball (season record: 11-6)

The girls are in the midst of the 2020 postseason, coming out of District 12 with the number three seed for the Region 6 Tournament. The opening round starts Tuesday, November 10th with a matchup in Velva. (Please note the new dates for the region tournament games, and also that this tournament has been changed to single elimination.)

Lions and Lady Lions Cross Country

When all the times were tallied at the State Meet in Cooperstown, our Lions had a pretty good day on a chilly course... The boys finished two points out of the top 10, and the girls ran right around season's bests. Way to go!

BISHOP RYAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WELCOMES

Sarah Swafford

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH
BISHOP RYAN GYMNASIUM
7:00PM



Because of COVID restrictions, admission to this event will be limited. We will livestream this event at the link below.

As part of The ROCK Series, Sarah Swafford will be offering a special presentation for parents and adults titled "Looking from the Outside In". This presentation will offer an understanding of emotional virtue, a map for navigating relationships, and it will include a closer look at building up interior confidence for children. Sarah is the founder of Emotional Virtue Ministries. She speaks internationally to people of all ages on a variety of topics such as: Emotional Virtue, Dating and Relationships, Modesty of Intentions, and Interior Confidence. She is a graduate of Benedictine College and has been involved in ministry for over ten years. For three years, Sarah worked as a Residence Hall Director at Benedictine College, and that experience gave her a deeper look into the struggles facing teens and young adults today.

Sarah shares her message at school assemblies, retreats, rallies, and conferences around the world and is the author of **Emotional Virtue: A Guide to Drama-Free Relationships**. She has appeared on EWTN's **Life on the Rock**, **EWTN Live**, and is co-host of EWTN's **At the Heart of Relationships**. She has also been featured in the *National Catholic Register*. Sarah is a contributor to **Chosen**, Ascension Press' confirmation program, and YDisciple's **True Beauty**; she has also contributed videos for www.womenmadenew.com. Sarah is a proud team member of Chastity Project and speaks at Steubenville Conferences in the United States and Canada.

Sarah also works on Special Projects for Catholic Identity at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, where she resides with her wonderful husband, Dr. Andrew Swafford, and their children: Thomas, Fulton, Cate, Kolbe, and John Paul. You can find more information about Sarah and Emotional Virtue Ministries at www.emotionalvirtue.com.

If you'd like to join Thursday night's presentation virtually, please go to

<https://youtu.be/gI8SCmgjN14>

just prior to 7:00pm. Parents are welcome to join us here at the school for the presentation, as well, but admission will be limited.

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CORNER

GO LIONS!



SOME ROARING GOOD NEWS...

Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from a presentation that Bishop Ryan middle school English teacher Mrs. Bailey Wald gave to our Hogan Heritage Society Board of Regents meeting on October 9th. We thought you'd be proud to know...

I would like to share with you about observations that I have made in the past three years about my students' academic growth. During my first year at Bishop Ryan, we finalized our educational plan, although curriculum changes had been starting to happen in the elementary school beforehand. My current sixth graders were in third grade when Bishop Ryan introduced Latin and the reading of great classical children's texts such as *Charlotte's Web*, *The Lion*, *the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and *Robin Hood*. The groundwork that the elementary teachers have laid is becoming more and more apparent with each class that moves up into the middle school.

Thanks to the hard work in the elementary grades and the advancements in their literature curriculum, specifically, by the time a Bishop Ryan student enters high school, they will have read great books such as *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Hobbit*, *Tom Sawyer*, and *Treasure Island*, and they will also have worked through classics like *Beowulf*, *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, and *The Aeneid*. This means that students are prepared to read Shakespeare and *The Divine Comedy*, among others, and understand the depth of those stories because of their foundational knowledge of the Greek & Roman Epics.

During my first year, it was like pulling teeth to teach *Beowulf* to the eighth graders. It took nine weeks for a 50-page poem. They really struggled with the language, and they weren't ready for other classical texts because they hadn't had the preparation from elementary school and they had never taken Latin, so I modified the curriculum. However, with each class that comes up, there is an excitement for reading and writing! Since they can remember, they have read good books in school. They trust that I will not make them read something that they dislike. My current eighth graders just finished *Beowulf*, which includes writing three thesis-driven essays, one with outside sources, and being quizzed three times. This year, the whole process took about six weeks.

The inclusion of Latin has also been a saving grace for me as an English teacher. The students now have a grasp of vocabulary, sentence structure, and grammar that my students didn't have during my first year of teaching because they hadn't taken Latin. The skills that they learn in Latin make them able to read and comprehend texts in class so much more easily. They are also incredible writers, and I attribute almost all of this growth to Latin.

I've also noticed the link between handwriting and academic success. The elementary teachers have been amazing in requiring beautiful cursive. Almost every student has mastered cursive, and it helps their academics: they slow down, they take pride in how their work looks, and their spelling is far better than other middle schoolers I've worked with. I attribute all of this to their success in cursive.

The direction that our academic curriculum is headed is truly amazing, and I am so excited about the progress that has been made in just a couple of years. I know that it is only getting better with each passing year, and the results of will soon show in ACT scores, foreign language tests, and college admission statistics, which are all great indicators of success. But more importantly, the virtue that our students are learning at a young age, in doing things like learning Latin & reading difficult texts, is an even greater indicator of success. Additionally, the moral foundation that they are getting just by reading "the Classics" is an indicator, to me, that our curriculum is achieving the goal of our educational plan: forming the whole person.



It's Pizza for Bishop Ryan ALL NOVEMBER LONG at The Starving Rooster!

For every pizza ordered during the month of November, The Starving Rooster will donate \$1 to Bishop Ryan Catholic School, and all you have to do is turn in your receipt! There are no special days or times, just all day, every day in November; just turn in your receipt to Bishop Ryan. As a bonus, The Starving Rooster will generously match all money raised! Carry-out orders can be made by calling (701) 838-3030 or by visiting thestarvingrooster.com.

Just a Friendly Reminder...

All Bishop Ryan students are welcome to take advantage of free breakfast and lunch at the school for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

THANKS TO YOUR AMAZING GENEROSITY,
WE RAISED OVER

\$100,000

AT THIS YEAR'S COR CHRISTI GALA.

We are so grateful!



SCRIP UPDATE:

TIRES PLUS NOW OFFERS GIFT CARDS!

You can now pick up Tires Plus Scrip gift cards in the administration office for the many services that Tires Plus offers.

For larger purchases, please give us a heads-up and we'll make sure to have the amount you need ready to go!



OCTOBER HAPPENINGS



Celebrating the Month of the Rosary!



Experimenting with bacteria and antibiotics!



Making good on an overdue silent retreat!



Mr. Loper keeping things clean with new tools!



A snowy day at the Pumpkin Patch!

