

WELCOME Back-To-School

SKD 101



ST. KATHARINE
DREXEL
ELEMENTARY

Parental Covenant

Since as parents you are the primary educator of your children, you will participate in the education of your children by:

...recognizing that all that we are and have is a gift from God

...promoting positive attitudes toward school at home and in the community

...bringing concerns about your child directly to the teacher

...showing respect for the teacher as a professional person working for the well-being of your child

...following the policies of the school

...attending Mass on weekends and holy days with your children (Catholics)

...promoting family prayer at home and faith traditions at home



Who:

All SKD Students and Parents

What:

Meet your teachers, drop off school supplies, shop the used uniform sale

[2023-2024 School Supply List](#)

When:

Monday, August 14th from
5:00pm-6:00pm

Where:

SKD Classrooms

Why:

We can't wait to see everyone back!



OPEN HOUSE

Kindergarten-6th Grade

- Thursday, August 17th
- Supervision on the playground begins at 7:30am
- First bell rings at 7:40am and students line up by grade
- Class begins at 7:45am



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Preschool 3 (T/Th)

- Thursday, August 17th
- Drop off at the classroom between 7:30am-7:45am
- 10:45am Dismissal

Preschool 4 (M/W/F)

- Friday, August 18th
- Drop off at the classroom between 7:30am-7:45am
- 10:45am Dismissal

Preschool Plus

- Thursday, August 17th
- Drop off at the classroom at 7:45am
- Students enrolled all day will transition between PS & PS Plus at lunch time
- 2:45pm Dismissal

Preschool 5 (M/T/W/Th/F)

- Thursday, August 17th
- Drop off at the classroom at 11:45am
- 2:45pm Dismissal

Begins on Thursday, August 17th

Before School Care:

- 6:45am-7:30am
- Check in with Mrs. Green at the north breezeway.
- Breakfast is not served, but students may bring a small breakfast to eat.

No School Day Care:

- Held at Holy Spirit Elementary
- Once enrollment opens, sign up promptly as these days tend to fill up.

Contact Information: If you know your child/ren will not be attending or have different plans for pick-up, please call or email the school office as soon as possible. If you need to contact the After School Care Staff between 2:45pm-6:00pm, please call 605-940-4986.



**BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL
CARE PROGRAM**

After School Care:

- 2:45pm-6:00pm
- Students are REQUIRED to be signed out using the attendance binder located inside the gym doors.
- A snack is provided daily.

*****At this time, the After School Care Program is at capacity. We will not be taking drop-ins during the Fall Semester. This will be re-evaluated at semester break.**



ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Arrival:

- Kindergarten-6th grade students may be dropped off between 7:30am-7:45am.
- There is NO outside supervision before 7:30am.

Dismissal:

- Kindergarten-6th grade students may be picked up between 2:45pm-3:00pm.
- Students not picked up by 3:05pm will be sent to the After School Care Program (\$15 drop-in fee).

Preschool Students:

- Enter through the front doors and walk your child/ren to their classroom.
- Teachers and children will meet parents outside by the flagpole at dismissal time.

Student Safety:

- PS-4th grade students are NOT allowed to walk to or from the parking lot to the sidewalk unless accompanied by an adult.
- Students can enter the vehicle, curb-side only, once it has pulled into the circle drive.
- Students biking to and from school must WALK their bike once on school grounds.

Bottoms:

- Navy blue pants (twill or ponte pants-no sweatpants)
- Navy blue walking shorts just above the knee
- Navy blue skorts/skirts must be no shorter than the fingertips with arms at the side
- Black, white and navy blue leggings and/or stretch pants can be worn with the skirt or jumper
- Plaid jumpers and/or skirts MUST be purchased through Dennis Uniform Company



SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Shoes/Socks:

- Tennis shoes are recommended
- Flat soled shoes that do not go above the ankle are acceptable
- Clogs and fashion boots are not permitted
- Socks with no color restrictions are required

Tops:

- White shirt of any style and sleeve length with a collar
- No decorations, logos, contrasting colors, t-shirts, undershirts or tank tops
- Navy blue fleece jackets and royal blue sweatshirts are available to order

[CLICK HERE](#)

**There will be a USED
UNIFORM SALE following
Masses on July 29-30 and
at Open House!!!**

*Please refer to the Parent Handbook for the full uniform policy.



SCHOOL LUNCH

Meals:

- The school lunch program begins on Thursday, August 17th.
- Lunch includes a choice between two entrees, along with an unlimited fruit and vegetable bar, and milk.
- Students may choose to bring a “home lunch” if they prefer.
- No fast food, soda, or candy can be brought into the lunchroom.
- A link to the monthly lunch menu can be found on the weekly school updates.

Cost:

- Elementary student-\$3.35
- Milk only-\$0.55
- Adult-\$4.55
- 4th-6th graders have the opportunity to get ‘seconds’ at an additional cost
- Free and reduced price meals are available. Contact the school office if you need the application form.
- Checks can be turned into the office or payment can be online with MySchoolBucks. Log in or create your free account visiting [MySchoolBucks.com](https://www.myschoolbucks.com).

Allergies/Intolerances:

- Students with food allergies/intolerances must have a medical form (signed by a doctor) on file at the school.
- Please contact the school office if you need this form OR if changes need to be made to your child’s previous form.

Weekly Mass:

- School Mass is held every Wednesday at 8:00am.
- Classes leading the Mass rotate each week.
- All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend this special part of our week.
- Preschool students begin attending Mass following Labor Day.

Mass Mingles (K-6th Grade):

- Following your child's FIRST assigned class Mass of the year, we invite parents and other family members to join the students for donuts in their classroom.

Virtues:

- We are virtue seeking professional learners.
- Each month there will be a focus virtue highlighted during morning messages, classroom lessons, behavior management and daily prayer time.

Service Projects:

- Watch for service project details at Thanksgiving, Advent, Catholic Schools Week and Lent.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:

- This year, we are thrilled to be continuing the CGS journey through 2nd grade. Through this experience, children are helped to form an authentic, faithful relationship with God.



FAITH FORMATION

SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW

Mrs. Amanda Friedline, SKD Administrative Assistant



Before coming to Sioux Falls, Mrs. Friedline was the Administrative Assistant for one year on Fort Moore (previously named Fort Benning) in Georgia. Prior to that, she was the Enrollment Director for Immaculate Heart Central Schools in Watertown, New York.

Mrs. Friedline and her husband, Bill, moved to Sioux Falls at the end of June due to an opportunity with the Army. Outside of work, she likes to travel as much as possible, run half marathons, and spend time with her husband, son Tieler, and their cats.

“I am so excited that the Army provided us with an opportunity to move to South Dakota. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know all the families and do my best to brighten everyone’s day.”

Meet the New Priests on the Block!

On July 5th, a new era for all of the parishes in our diocese began. Please welcome and pray for these priests, as they will be serving our school.



Fr. Andrew



Fr. Nick



Fr. Tyler

From the Office:

- Weekly Updates are emailed to all families each Friday of the year.
- The updates highlight important pieces of information and upcoming school-wide functions, volunteer links, lunch menu and the school calendar.
- If you do not receive these updates, please let the office know.
- Please do not UNSUBSCRIBE from any Bishop O’Gorman System emails. This will remove you from all distribution lists, including the school.



SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

Follow Us!

- Instagram: @stkatharinedrexelelementary
- Twitter: @SKD_Elementary
- Facebook: @stkatharinedrexelelementary

From the Teacher:

- Weekly classroom newsletters will provide class specific information such as focus skills of the week, spelling words, special events, volunteer opportunities, and more.
- **ClassTag** is the platform that **ALL CLASSES** will use this year. More information about ClassTag to come!

*If you have not received an email from ClassTag, check your SPAM folder.

Keep up to date with our school calendar:

[2023-2024 SKD](#)

What is the School-Family Organization?

- By enrolling in the Bishop O’Gorman Catholic Schools, ALL elementary families are automatically part of the School-Family Organization (SFO).

Meetings:

- There will be one SFO Parent Advisory meeting per quarter.
- The meetings are one hour in length beginning at 8:00am in the art room.
- All parents are invited to attend, with the goal of at least one parent from each grade level present.

Functions:

- Advisory to administration.
- Planning and executing guest speakers/topics for parent education nights.
- Planning and executing community building functions for students and their families: Pastries with Parents, Grandparents Day, “Let’s Glow” Dance.
- Helping with our annual fundraiser: Walk-A-Thon.
- Networking for parents.
- Positively promoting our school in the broader community.



**SCHOOL-FAMILY
ORGANIZATION (SFO)**

Daily Snacks and Water Bottles:

- Preschool-6th Grade students are allowed a daily snack break to help get them through the morning hours.
- Students are responsible for bringing their own snack.
- Please keep snacks healthy and single portion sized.
- Suggested snacks: popcorn, cheez-its, goldfish, granola bar, banana, trail mix, beef stick, fruit snacks, string cheese, etc.
- Kindergarten-6th Grade students are allowed to bring a spill-proof water bottle into class. *Yeti and Stanley mugs/tumblers are not allowed.
- Preschool students are provided water cups with during snack time.



SNACKS & BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

- To help celebrate your child's birthday, students may dress down on their birthday. If they have a summer birthday they may dress down on their half birthday.
- **IMPORTANT POLICY...**All treats must be store bought and individually packaged.
- Acceptable treats: fruit snacks, candy bars, suckers, popsicles, ice cream bars, granola bars, chip bags, Hostess or Little Debbie snacks, donuts, etc.
- Please do not send cakes and/or cookie cakes.
- Please check with your classroom teacher for any food allergies and/or intolerances.



TECHNOLOGY

Screen Time Monitoring (for kids of ALL ages)

Just as we prepare our kids for life in the real world, we should prepare them for life in the online world. Here are some tips every parent should keep in mind:

~ **Monitor the pictures your child posts and the messages they are sending/receiving.**

*This tip is specifically important for children who have access to Messenger Kid, SnapChat, Instagram, TikTok, texting, and email.

*Even if your child is not posting, just being a part of the thread, can expose them to a variety of material.

*Inappropriate/degrading language, mistreatment of others, and inappropriate content are areas that must be addressed.

*Encourage your child to speak up if they are concerned about any of the above.

~ **Have your child TURN IN their phone at night.**

*Nothing good happens online after hours.

~ **Monitor the online games they play.**

*Even if the title of the game seems harmless, be sure to look into it and read the parental reviews. For example, Rainbow Friends on Roblox.

*In recent years, we have seen an increase in 'violent play, language, and/or drawings' among our younger students this year. They are reenacting characters that are in common online 'kid' games.

*Children have a difficult time separating reality from make-believe, and then knowing what is appropriate for school, daycare, etc.

*Even if your younger child isn't playing the game, if they are watching an older sibling play, this affects them and can trickle into their social development.

Student Absence:

- Please call the office by 7:30am if your child is going to be late or absent.
- Please leave a message on the answering machine if you call outside of school hours.
- Planned absences need to be communicated by the parent to the teacher as soon as possible.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Why Is Attendance Important?

- Attendance is an essential component to a student's academic and social success, regardless of the student's age and grade level.
- Unexpected events or illnesses are likely to occur during the course of a school year. So, please try to schedule planned events, such as doctor's appointments and family trips, outside of school hours/days.
- Make sure your child arrives at school on time. School begins promptly at 7:45am.

Student Check-In and Check-Out:

- If your child arrives later than 8:00am, please walk them into the school and sign them in.
- If your child leaves during the school day, a parent or designated adult **MUST** sign the student out. If they return, the student **MUST** also be signed back in.
- The check-in/out binder is located at the table in the foyer.

Family Picture:

- All families are asked to bring a **current family photo** for our SKD Family Tree display in the main school hallway.
- If possible, the photo size needs to be 3x5 or 4x6.
- Please label with your names on the back.
- Your family photo can be dropped off in the office on Open House night or your child may bring it in the first week of school.



God Made Us A Family

We need one another
we love one another
we forgive one another
we work together
we play together
we worship together.

Together we use God's word
together we grow in Christ
together we love all men
together we serve our God
together we hope for heaven.
These are our hopes and ideals.
Help us to attain them, O God.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Get Involved with Bishop O'Gorman Camps



SPEND THE MORNING WITH THE O'GORMAN CHEERLEADERS!



This year's Dakota Bowl Cheer Camp will take place on Saturday, August 26th at O'Gorman High School/McEneaney Field. This clinic offers a chance to experience what it's like to be an O'Gorman Cheerleader. They will learn a cheer, dance, chants, jumps and some stunting. During the pre-game festivities, camp participants will perform the cheer and dance alongside the O'Gorman Cheerleaders!

This event is organized and run by the O'Gorman Cheerleaders. All proceeds go to fund cheerleading activities and uniforms. Your support of this event is greatly appreciated!

Who:

Students in grades K-8th

When:

Saturday, August 26th: 9am–10:30am
(check-in begins at 8:30am)

Where:

O'Gorman High School/McEneaney Field

Cost:

\$45 per participant*
(T-shirt, bow, shaker pom, game ticket and treat)
* Camp shirt is your student's ticket to enter the game.
Additional OG Cheer Bow are available for \$15

Register and pay online with Eventbrite!
<https://dakotabowl45.eventbrite.com>

Questions: email Tara Tobin at
ttobin@ogknights.org



2023 Bob Burns DAKOTA BOWL XLV FOOTBALL CAMP

Join this year's O'Gorman football players and coaches
for a mini-camp designed for rising Knights! ★★ ★



Who: Students in grades K-8th

When: Saturday, August 26 • 9-10:30am
(Check in begins at 8:30am)

Where: O'Gorman High School/McEneaney Field

Cost: \$45 per participant

Deadline: Registration and payment due online by 2pm.
Wednesday, August 9th to guarantee shirt size. Walk-up registration also available (shirt sizes will be limited.)

- Learn what it takes to be an O'Gorman Knight.
- Spend the morning learning about the game of football.
- Receive Limited edition Senior Player Cards, camp t-shirt and FREE entrance to the Dakota Bowl.
- Be part of the High-Five Tunnel that greets the team as they take the field for the 45th Annual Bob Burns Dakota Bowl!

Register and pay online with Eventbrite!
<https://dakotabowl45.eventbrite.com>

Questions: email Liz Myscowski at lmyscowski@ogknights.org



Bishop O'Gorman Catholic Schools System Information

Back to School in Style

SHOP IN-PERSON AT
O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL

July. 31 - Aug. 4 & Aug. 7-11

>>> Hours: <<<

Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri. from 8am-4pm
Wed. from 8am-6pm



THE KNIGHT LOCKER 

Always available online!
<https://theknightlocker.square.site/>



Athletic Booster Passes

Family \$175 & Individual \$75

Athletic Booster Passes grant admission to most O'Gorman junior high, freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity home athletic events.



*Passes include
10% discount at the
Knight Locker for the
2023/2024 year



LET'S HAVE A GREAT YEAR!!!