

BUILDING MEMORIES NEWSLETTER SPRING, 2019

LAUDITS FROM LAURA: Welcome to the latest alumni update from Bishop Flaget School! I wish to thank Bridget Rourke for taking over this endeavor and helping us to get a newsletter out to you! Bishop Flaget is continuing to grow, and this year, we are happy to be the educational home to 212 students in preschool through the 8th grade.

Last spring, we received STEM designation from the state of Ohio, the first school in Ross County and the Diocese of Columbus to earn this designation. What this means is that Bishop Flaget has embraced a school culture which focuses on career skills, social-emotional growth, hands on learning, and an emphasis on the STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering, and math. We have been increasing the amount of technology available to our students through new computers, 1:1 Chromebooks in grades 5-8, and 1:1 iPads at many of the lower levels. Our students are involved in learning keyboarding skills starting in the 3rd grade, every child in grades K-8 participates in an hour of code each year, and 3D printers are available for student use in the STEM hallway. We are currently in the process of adding a classroom in the basement by taking part of a storage room and renovating it so that the teachers have a location where students can be involved in hands on, collaborative, STEM-based activities without concern of “messing up” their classrooms. We also have a greenhouse which was purchased with funds from Monsanto, and the students built a Monarch Way station last spring to provide a feeding and egg hatching location for Monarch butterflies. We have established a bluebird trail on our playground and have several bluebird families making their home here. The students are responsible for monitoring the bluebird boxes and feeding the bluebirds, even growing our own mealworms for them! Several different grade levels participate in this program, but the 4th and 5th graders are most instrumental in this program.

This spring, our students are working on the Ohio STEM Challenge which focuses on food insecurity and how we can make a difference in the lives of Ohio families who struggle with food insecurity. Currently, some of our junior high students are researching pallet garden ideas, recipe books, blessing box initiatives, and work with the area mobile food market. The students have been researching what it means to be food insecure and ways that we can improve this situation for area families. Stay tuned!

This year, we had 54 students in grades 6-8 participate in our school science fair. Twenty-two of those students earned a superior rating and the opportunity to compete at the District Science Fair at Ohio University in March. We are very proud of our students and look forward to further awards as they progress through districts and state.

8th grade student Nilla Rajan will compete in the regional spelling bee in Athens in March in her bid to return to Washington, D.C., for the third time to compete in the National Spelling Bee. Last year, Nilla placed 31st in the nation, and she is looking to better her record this year. We will find out if she is able to return after the regional bee.

Lastly, please feel free to visit us any time. I am always willing to give a tour of the building and invite you to see the many good things that are happening at Bishop Flaget. Bishop Flaget was, and will always be, your home! -Mrs. Laura Corcoran, Principal.

RENOVATIONS: Since we first opened the doors to students in 1963 there have been many renovations and improvements made to the buildings and grounds. Many have been fairly standard projects expected as a building ages. The entire roof has been replaced in stages. We have newer windows and exterior doors to provide greater energy efficiency and security. While the gym looks much as it originally looked in 1963, we have replaced the ceiling, the floor and the bleachers. The original boiler was replaced circa 2001 and most recently, we have completed the last required asbestos removal project. Many projects resulted from needs identified in transitioning the building from a high school to an elementary/middle school. The unfinished basement area between the locker rooms and the far end of the building has been excavated and classrooms installed. One locker room has been transformed to a preschool classroom and the field behind the school building is now equipped for pre-K through 8th grade recess. Lastly, many of the projects have kept our educational environment cutting edge to best prepare our students for high school and beyond. If you have not been in the building recently, you'd be a bit surprised to see the large computer lab where the library used to be. We are most excited about the STEM area established in the basement floor of the building. We have the only state designated STEM Program in Ross County and in the Diocese. Some projects have been funded through our insurance and some through your generous donations.

We do have two major upcoming projects. The first is an expansion of the STEM lab. We have identified storage space to convert to additional classroom/lab space. We have funding from a generous donor and have the permit. Work will start soon and I will let you know the progress in the next newsletter.

The second major upcoming project will require your help. The current HVAC system is simply inadequate to the task at hand. The original AC system did not include service to the classrooms or the cafeteria. No cooling capability was extended into the new classrooms in the basement of the building. As a solution we will install ductless mini-split heat pump systems in these areas of the building that require better climate control.

Bishop Flaget School HVAC Upgrade Fund
Contribution Reply Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and State: _____ Zip: _____

I am Donating \$ _____

I am Pledging \$ _____ To be paid by _____ (date)

Please mail this form, along with your donation to:

Bishop Flaget School
570 Parsons Avenue
Chillicothe, OH 45601
www.bishopflaget.org
740-774-2970



RENOVATIONS (CONT): While the initial cost of these ductless systems is a bit high, the long-term benefits make them cost effective. They are very energy efficient in allowing us to control the climate in each room depending upon its usage. We also avoid the loss of energy that occurs when forced air travels through ducts and, by taking a load off of the current heating system, we will extend the life of the boiler. Installation of these ductless systems and expansion of the STEM lab will require a concurrent upgrade of the building's original electrical system. This is an upgrade that would have been necessary at some point in the near future regardless because of the increased load on the system from all of the technology added to the classrooms, the office and the building operating systems. The overall project is currently out for bids and we expect the cost will range between 200-250K. This is a high-cost renovation, but we can expect the electrical system upgrade to last another 40-50 years and the ductless mini-split systems 10-15 years.

Bishop Flaget School could take out a loan from the diocese to fund this HVAC project. However, a loan has to be repaid and there is little extra money at the end of the year to make the loan payments out of our operating budgets. We would like to make a push now to request our alumni who were blessed to receive an education at Bishop Flaget to help us complete this project with little or no debt. I would ask each of our alumni to prayerfully consider a \$1,000 donation to the newly established "HVAC Upgrade Fund" within the Bishop Flaget School operating budget.

ALUMNI MEMORIAL MASS / 2019 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD: The Annual Memorial Mass for Friends and Alumni of Chillicothe Catholic Schools will be held at Bishop Flaget School on Friday morning, April 5th, at 9:30 a.m. The 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award presentation will follow immediately after the Mass.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES: If you are willing to share your e-mail address with us, please contact Kim Hirsch at kim.c.hirsch@gmail.com. Thank you.



Members of the 1982-83 Bishop Flaget High School Boys Basketball Team Honored at the 2019 Reverse Raffle Dinner.

THE BUILDING MEMORIES COMMITTEE

Regina Breiel, Michael Haller, Frank Hirsch, Jean Malone, Bridget Rourke

Contribution Reply Form

Bishop Flaget School Endowment Fund

570 Parsons Avenue
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
www.bishopflaget.org



Yes, I/we will support the Bishop Flaget School Endowment Fund. Enclosed is my/our tax-deductible contribution for the following amount:

Contribution Categories:

<input type="checkbox"/> Endowed Chair	(\$25,000 or more)
<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Club	(\$15,000 - \$24,999)
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Club	(\$10,000 - \$14,999)
<input type="checkbox"/> Diamond Club	(\$5,000 - \$9,999)
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Club	(\$2,500 - \$4,999)
<input type="checkbox"/> Panther Club	(\$1,000 - \$2,499)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Supporter	(\$100 - \$999)
<input type="checkbox"/> Flaget Builder	(\$25 - \$99)

I/we also wish to pledge an additional gift of \$_____ in the following manner:

each year over five years

in our will

stocks, bonds, real estate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and State: _____

I choose not to be publicly recognized for my gift.

Note: it is also possible to make electronic transfers of money to the Bishop Flaget School Endowment Fund. We appreciate whatever you can do now and pray that you will remember the children in your estate.

Visit CATHOLIC-FOUNDATION.ORG/BISHOPFLAGET