



Welcome to Marquette Catholic Middle School!

Dear 5th and 6th grade students and parents,

This fall will begin an exciting new chapter at Marquette Catholic School! You will be the first students to enter into our new Middle School Program! In this packet, we want to introduce you to some new changes. As a follow up, we will be sending you a couple videos before school to help you understand and see the changes. (We will be emailing these videos to parents and also posting them to our renovated website at marquettecatholicschool.com).

We have been planning and praying about this Middle School Program for months! We feel confident in the program we have set up – but please know we may need to make some minor adjustments over the first month or two to best serve everyone!

In Christ,



Fr. Brandon Moravitz
Pastor



Lisa Kvas
MCS Principal



Tisha Frost
Middle School
Advisor



Mary Wildes
Middle School
Teacher



Adam Lemieux
Middle School
Teacher



Michelle Berlin
Middle School
Teacher

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
September 16, 17, 18!

We will be having a **Middle School Overnight Retreat** at the Fitzgerald Manor outside of Two Harbors. This will replace the 6th grade trip to Wolf Ridge and give students an "introduction" to our new Middle School program. This is an awesome opportunity for team building among the students. See the back of this letter for more information regarding the retreat!

WHAT TO EXPECT THIS FALL AT MARQUETTE CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

1. COMMUNICATION

- As a school, we are working to improve communication with families. A new feature this year is our News Feed on our website www.marquettecatholicschool.com
- If you would like the the News Feed sent directly to your email, there is a Subscribe Box on the home page of the website.

2. LUNCH AND RECESS OPTIONS

- 5th & 6th graders will have their own lunch 11:40-12:00pm and recess 12:00-12:25pm
- Every day students will be dismissed from the lunchroom around noon. Students can choose between going outside or up to the auditorium for their 25 minute recess Monday through Thursday (there will be no indoor option on Fridays as we will have a Middle School Staff Meeting).

3. SOME NEW THINGS!

- 5th & 6th grade boys will have PE together; 5th & 6th grade girls will have PE together
- Both Technology and Art will be 45 minutes on Tuesdays (instead of 30 minutes)
- In addition to School Mass on Wednesdays, Middle School students will attend the Daily Mass on Thursday mornings from 8:30-9:00am.
- All students will attend “Middle School Meetings” throughout the week that will focus on leadership and growing in virtue. Mrs. Wildes will oversee these.
 - Each Wednesday afternoon Fr. Brandon will come talk with students
 - Each Thursday morning, students will learn about Saints and Virtues (2x/month) and have library time (2x/month)
 - Each Friday morning students will participate in Service Projects
- Middle School Students will have “Formation time” every Monday afternoon with their Formation Team: Fr. Brandon, Ben Frost, Tisha Frost and Hannah Milani (all parish staff)
 - See Mentorship Sheet that is enclosed for more details

4. TECHNOLOGY

- Our goal for Middle School is to have students develop a healthy relationship with technology and use it as a powerful tool to aid in their education. So in addition to their regular Tuesday Technology class with Mrs. Beukema, students will be in the Technology Lab Monday and Fridays with Mrs. Wildes.
- Students will have access to IXL both at school and at home for supplemental math help. This can be individualized to each student's needs in math. (www.ixl.com)
- Once school starts, we will be working to develop some additional technology tools, and we will be sure to communicate to both parents and students how to use these tools!

5. SWITCHING CLASSROOMS AND TEACHERS

- **SCIENCE CLASSES:** 5th and 6th grade students will go to Science class three times a week with Mr. Lemieux. He has his educational training in Middle School Science and is excited to be teaching Science!
- **SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSES:** Mrs. Tisha Frost will be joining the Middle School Staff part-time and will be teaching both 5th and 6th grade Social Studies three times a week. She has her educational training in MS/HS Social Studies and thrilled to teach this subject!
- **5th GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS:** Mrs. Michelle Berlin will be joining the Middle School Staff part-time and will be teaching both 5th Language Arts and Religion. Her educational speciality is reading and she is delighted to be able to focus on Language Arts!
- **ADVANCED MATH:** With our new middle school schedule, Mr. Lemieux will be working with the 5th and 6th grade Advanced Math students every day.

6. PROJECT LABS

- We are SO EXCITED to provide students an opportunity to learn new four skills throughout the year!
- HOW PROJECT LABS WILL WORK:
 - i) Students will be divided into 4 small groups of 5-6 students
 - ii) They will meet in a small group every Friday afternoon for an hour or more
 - iii) Students will experience a new project lab every 9 weeks (each quarter)
- We hope to offer various project labs throughout the four years of Middle School and will continue to find great mentors and teachers to work with our students!

PROJECT LABS FOR 2019-2020

- **Mrs. Michelle Berlin will teach Writing Lab.** Students will have a chance to work on both their creative writing and formal writing through different exercises and projects.
- **Mrs. Tisha Frost will teach Media Lab.** Students will have a chance to improve their typing and video skills to update the News Blog on our website among other things.
- **Mr. Adam Lemieux will teach Robotics Lab.** Student will be working with Lego Mindstorms and learning various STEM skills.
- **Mrs. Mary Wildes will teach Drama Lab.** Students will have a chance to try out their public speaking and acting skills by performing short skits for the younger classrooms



Marquette Catholic Middle School

Overnight Retreat

DATE:

September 16, 17, 18 (Monday–Wednesday)

We will leave from school at 8am on Monday and return back by 1:30pm on Wednesday for after-school pick up.

LOCATION:

Fitzgerald Manor outside Two Harbors, MN



PACKING:

- Sleeping bag and pillow (some will need to bring air mattresses)
- Clothes: pajamas, outdoor gear, shoes that can get dirty
- Toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrush)
- Snacks (must be nut free)
- Students can bring a cell phone but they will only be able to use it at designated times. All chaperones will have cell phones that students can use if they need to contact parents.

CHAPERONES:

Fr. Brandon Moravitz, Ben Frost, Hannah Milani and Middle School Team (Mrs. Wildes, Mr. Lemieux, Mrs. Berlin and Mrs. Frost)

COST:

Covered by school

*Any questions, please contact Ben Frost at 507-206-9675 or bfrost2@gmail.com

Please fill out the attached permission form and return the first day of school.



Marquette Catholic Middle School

Mentorships

Decades of research has shown that in all fields (education, work, faith) – mentors do matter! During these years of Middle School, we want students to have a chance to develop a healthy relationship with an adult in the school and parish. Parents, of course, are the primary educators of their children – but we know we can use all the help we can get! Having many positive role models in a student's life matters.

Every Monday afternoon will be dedicated “formation” time at Marquette Middle School.

- One Monday afternoon a month will be time for prayer and Adoration in the church with an opportunity for students to go to Confession.
- One Monday afternoon a month will be time for students to meet with their mentors in the Auditorium. Students will have time to journal and reflect on their month while they are not meeting with mentors.
- Every other week, students will meet their mentors for small group discussions:
 - 5th and 6th grade boys will meet with Fr. Brandon and Ben Frost
 - 5th and 6th grade girls will meet with Hannah Miliani and Tisha Frost
 - This will be a time to talk about living out the faith, growing in virtue, Scripture etc.

Below you will find your child's mentor's name and contact information. We will have an open door policy – please contact us anytime. We will also be available during the weeks/months of parent-teacher conferences – we will keep you posted on those dates and times.

Tisha Frost (tisha.greenslade@gmail.com)

- All 5th grade girls

Hannah Milani

(hannahmcusack@gmail.com)

- All 6th grade girls

Ben Frost (benfrost2@gmail.com)

- All 5th grade boys

Fr. Brandon Moravitz

(fr.brandon@mediacombb.net)

- All 6th grade boys



**FALL
SMALL GROUP:
ENCOUNTER
BIBLE STUDY**

