



ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL'S

BRICK LOT *Bulletin*

May 2026



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

As we enter the final week of the school year, my heart is filled with gratitude for the many moments that continue to remind us what makes St. Sebastian Parish School such a special place. The month of May is always full, fast-moving, and meaningful, and this year is no exception. It is a time of celebration, reflection, thanksgiving, and looking ahead with hope.

SPECTACULAR

First and foremost, thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Spectacular such a wonderful success. The Spectacular is much more than an evening out or a school fundraiser. It is a visible sign of the generosity, commitment, and love that exists within this parish and school community. To our chairs, committee members, volunteers, sponsors, donors, families, parishioners, faculty, staff, and everyone who gave of their time, talent, and treasure, thank you. Your support directly strengthens the mission of St. Sebastian Parish School and helps us continue forming students in mind, body, and spirit.

Events like Spectacular do not happen by accident. They happen because people say yes. They happen because parents, parishioners, alumni, staff members, and friends of the school believe in Catholic education and believe in what happens each day inside these walls. Whether you helped plan the evening, donated an item, purchased raffle tickets, bid on auction items, raised your paddle, attended the event, prayed for its success, or supported from afar, please know how deeply grateful we are.

THANK YOU

This time of year also gives us the opportunity to recognize and thank members of our faculty and staff who have given so much to our students. This year, we give special thanks for two retiring teachers: Mr. Scott Mason and Mrs. Bonnie MacKay.

Mr. Mason has served our school community in so many meaningful ways as our librarian, band director, and director of the Academy of Culture and Arts. Through his work, our students have had opportunities to experience literature, music, performance, culture, creativity, and the arts in ways that have enriched their education and helped them discover new gifts. His impact can be seen and heard in countless student performances, classroom experiences, musical moments, and creative opportunities that have helped make St. Sebastian a school that values the whole child.

Mrs. MacKay has served as our art teacher for the past two years, bringing creativity, patience, and encouragement to our students as they explored their artistic gifts. In a short time, she has helped students see beauty, take creative risks, and express themselves through their artwork. We are grateful for the way she has shared her talents with our school and helped our students grow in confidence and creativity.

In addition to these retiring teachers, there are numerous individuals and groups who continue to give generously of their time, talents, and energy to enrich the lives of our students. Our school community is blessed by the dedication of so many people who help create meaningful opportunities for our students to grow in faith, knowledge, confidence, creativity, and service. Thank you to Scott Mason and Dana Delaney/Jeff Beshore for their continued dedication to our band and choir programs; Jennifer Smee, Carrie Rea, Will Ress, Molly Burns and all who helped guide our Theatrical Terriers Drama Club and musical production; Robert Dedinsky, Cassie Laube, and all who supported our Soap Box Derby team; Mrs. Friedl for her continued support of the mini-Soap Box Derby program; Maggi Blischak and Jennifer Smee for advising Power of the Pen; Robert Dedinsky and Megan Sanford for advising MathCounts; Keith Johnson, Kristin DeKatch, Hannah Reese, and Al Rose for sacramental preparation of our students; Lesley Friend, Michelle Kellner, Jennifer Kidder, Liz Coombs, Tiffany Simonson, Kate Reitz, and Anne McCue for hosting Lego Club, and other club advisors who share their gifts beyond the classroom; our CYO coaches, Booster Club, and volunteers who help our students develop teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship; our Socials Committee for their generous and thoughtful staff appreciation throughout the year; HASA for supporting field trips, special events, teacher appreciation, family activities, and countless behind-the-scenes efforts; and the many parents, parishioners, teachers, staff members, and volunteers who support St. Sebastian Parish School in ways both large and small.

MY FINAL PRINCIPAL REFLECTION

As I write this final Brick Lot Newsletter as principal of St. Sebastian Parish School, I find myself reflecting on just how much this parish and school community has meant to me. It has been an absolute privilege and a tremendous gift to spend 12 years as a sixth grade teacher here and the past 9 years as principal. St. Sebastian Parish School has shaped me as an educator, as a leader, as a Catholic, and as a person.



I will never forget this parish and this school community. I will never forget the remarkable faculty and staff who give so much of themselves each day. I will never forget the families, grandparents, guardians, parishioners, and extended family members who work so hard and sacrifice so much to provide this education for their children. And I will never forget the students, who take the mission of our school and run with it in ways that inspire me every day.

Together, we have worked to make our mission come alive each and every day. That mission is not just something we say. It is something we strive to live. It is present in the classroom, at Mass, on the playground, in service projects, during performances, on retreats, at competitions, in moments of prayer, and in the simple daily interactions that form young people over time.

One of the most beautiful parts of my role has been watching students grow from year to year. This year's eighth grade class holds a particularly special place in my heart. When I became principal, these students were kindergarteners. I have had the unique joy of watching their St. Sebastian journey unfold from the beginning to the end. I have watched them grow as students, as friends, as leaders, and as young people of faith. That is something for which I will forever be grateful.

My hope and prayer for all of you is that you remember how special this time with your children truly is. The days can be busy. The schedules can be full. The homework, practices, meetings, lunches, uniforms, projects, carlines, and calendar reminders can sometimes feel endless. But the big picture is so much greater. An education at St. Sebastian Parish School is about forming young ladies and gentlemen who grow closer to Christ on their journey. It is about helping students think critically, act compassionately, lead courageously, and understand that they are not simply the Church of tomorrow. They are the Church today.

I also want to thank Father Valencheck for his leadership, dedication to this parish, and his faith and trust in me a little over nine years ago when I transitioned from teacher to principal without any formal administrative experience. That trust changed my life. I continue to learn to this day, and I continue to reflect on my leadership every day.

My grandfather always wanted his children and grandchildren to learn something new every day. I have tried to live that lesson in my spiritual, professional, and personal life. As I leave the role of principal, I encourage all of you to continue learning something new every day as well. Continue to grow. Continue to pray. Continue to lead. Continue to serve. Continue to make our school, parish, community, Church, and world a little bit better each and every day.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of this community for so many years. Thank you for your trust, your support, your prayers, your encouragement, and your partnership. St. Sebastian Parish School will always be part of who I am. God bless, and Go Terriers!

Yours in Christ,
Anthony Rohr
Principal

WELLER'S WORLD – ONE MORE WALK THROUGH THE HALLS

Hello St. Sebastian Parish School friends it's me, Weller. I have been thinking a lot lately, which usually happens when I am resting after a busy morning of greeting students, visiting classrooms, or making sure Mr. Rohr is doing his job correctly. As the school year comes to an end, I have realized that I am saying goodbye, too.

I barely remember the first time I came to St. Sebastian Parish School as an eight-week-old puppy. I was so little then, and everything seemed so big: the hallways, the classrooms, the students, and even the sounds of a busy school day. Over time, this place became my home away from home. I learned where to sit and play during morning drop-off, which classrooms were most likely to give me the best smiles, and how much joy can come from simply being present with people.

I am going to miss this community very much. I will miss the students who stop to pet me, the teachers and staff who always make room for me, the families who greet me in the morning, and all the little moments that have made St. Sebastian Parish School such a special place to be a therapy dog.

Before I go, I am excited to make one more special trip around the school. Thanks to the Stuart family during Principal for the Day, I learned a brand-new trick, and I cannot wait to show it off to the classrooms. I have worked very hard on it, and I am pretty sure the students are going to love it.

Even though I am saying goodbye, this is not really the end. I plan to come back and visit, because once you are part of the St. Sebastian family, you are always part of the St. Sebastian family. Thank you for loving me, encouraging me, petting me, cheering for me, and letting me be part of your school days.

With a happy heart, a wagging tail, and maybe one last trick,
Weller
St. Sebastian Parish School Therapy Dog
Go Terriers!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The St. Sebastian Theatrical Terriers Perform Beauty & the Beast Jr.

Under the coaching of directors Jennifer Smee and Carrie Rea, our Theatrical Terriers spent months rehearsing their lines, staging, dancing, and singing to create a stunning production of this classic tale.

The students performed three performances on February 27 and 28, with nearly sold-out shows at each performance! Thank you so much to the directors for their tireless efforts and dedication to this endeavor; thank you to Mrs. Gibson for her assistance with the marketing and ticket sales; thank you to Mrs. Burns for volunteering her time to help with rehearsals and performances, and to Mr. Ressa for all of his hard work in perfecting our sound and lighting; thank you to all the families that supported us in any and all ways needed; thank you to our stage manager, Liam Tripp, and to the stage crew students, who kept the behind the scenes flowing flawlessly; and especially thank you to the student actors who worked so very hard and put their souls into their performances, we are so proud of each and every one of you! A special thank you to Mrs. Spiros and her crew for, creatively and almost miraculously, making our costumes by hand (and talent)!

Our Theatrical Terriers received an outpouring of praise for their performances, and we are so grateful for the community's support and encouragement! We are already eagerly planning for next year's Theatrical Terriers production!



Power of the Pen

The Power of the Pen state tournament was held May 18th at Ashland University. We are so proud of Ava Burgoyne and Connor Whitney who qualified to compete. After a morning of writing, the students enjoyed a presentation from author, Lindsay Puckett, and received an autographed copy of her latest book. Great job, Terriers!



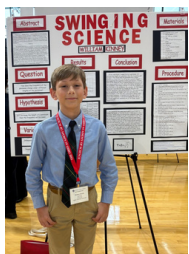
Soap Box Derby

After several weeks of building and testing Super Stock cars, on Saturday, May 9th, St. Sebastian 6th-grade students made their way to Derby Downs for the 16th annual Soap Box Derby. Competing with five Super Stock cars this year, our teams faced tough competition in a field of talented racers. Four of our teams advanced past the first round, three passed round two, and one team, led by driver, Thomas Myers, made it all the way to the champions round, where he led his team to an overall 2nd place finish (missing 1st place by only 0.041 seconds)! The races were incredibly close and competitive, keeping the excitement high throughout the day. It was a fantastic experience for all involved, with students showing great sportsmanship and having a blast both on and off the track. A special thank you to Mr. Dedinsky and Mrs. Laube for leading our team, and to all of the parent volunteers who worked with the students over the weeks to help build and test the cars!



Ohio State Science Fair

Congratulations to our junior high students who qualified to participate in the Ohio State Science Fair, held on Saturday, May 16, at The Ohio State University. William Kinney earned a Superior rating, while Anya Wittler, Sammy Malik, and Connor Whitney each earned Excellent ratings. We are proud of their hard work and accomplishments representing St. Sebastian Parish School at the state level.



7th and 8th Grade Day of Discovery at Borromeo Seminary

Our 7th- and 8th-grade students recently had the opportunity to attend a Day of Discovery at Borromeo Seminary, an experience designed to introduce junior high students to seminary life, religious vocations, and the many ways God calls each of us to serve.

During the visit, students toured the Center for Pastoral Leadership, attended Mass with the seminary community, and had the chance to meet and hear personal testimonies from seminarians, religious women, and religious men. This field trip provided our students with a meaningful opportunity to better understand vocations, ask questions, and see firsthand the joy and faith of those discerning and living out God's call.

For our students, this was more than just a tour. It was a chance to reflect on how God may be speaking in their own lives and to recognize that each of us has a unique purpose in building up the Church. Experiences like this support the mission of St. Sebastian Parish School by helping students grow in faith, think deeply about their future, and understand that they are called to be leaders in the Church today.

Below are reflections from several of our students who attended the Day of Discovery:

Ava Burgoyne - Praying the Liturgy of the Hours in the Chapel was very significant and spiritual for me. It was my first time praying The Liturgy of The Hours.

Reagan Schumacher - Something that was spiritual to me was how they had saints all around the building. I thought this was pretty neat because it shows that wherever you are, the saints are always praying for you.

Christian Schaffner - I loved the music room, it was an awesome place where I felt religious musicians could express themselves.

Grady Kimmell - I feel like the art there was not only beautiful but also captured the fullness of the moment it was inspired from.

Aubrey Coates - I enjoyed the tour and seeing how the seminarians lived and learned. I also enjoyed hearing the priest and nun explain how God called them for holy life.

Molly Conley - Speaking with the mother that was there and getting to ask her questions about how the faith changed her life was so significant and special to me.

Catherine Schlueter - I really liked adoration with everyone and how everyone felt like one community of Christ.

Amelia Kilker - The field trip was very beautiful. I especially liked how calming it was. I am someone who found the idea of vocations very stressful. The field trip showed that it's not as scary as it seems, but a beautiful gift from God that gives your life purpose and peace.

Parker Chapin - Feeling the spiritual connection between all those soon-to-be priests. The artwork was very beautiful.

Ethan Tate - I really enjoyed the Liturgy of the Hours. I felt at peace during and after it.

Ideas for Good STREAM Competition

St. Sebastian students from our “Minds in Motion” enrichment class recently participated in the “Ideas for Good: Innovating for Equity” STREAM Competition. Teams competed across grade levels, showcasing creativity, collaboration, and a commitment to solving real-world challenges. We are proud to share that our students earned both first and second place in the Grades 6–8 Pitch Competition!



St. Sebastian MATHCOUNTS Team Earns Gold Level

Congratulations to our St. Sebastian MATHCOUNTS Team for earning Gold Level status, the highest honor awarded by the National Math Club! This achievement recognizes clubs that complete a collaborative math-based project after first attaining Silver Level status. We are proud of these students for their hard work, creativity, and dedication to excellence in mathematics.



St. Sebastian Track Team Does It Again!

Congratulations to the St. Sebastian Parish School Boys and Girls Track teams who wrapped up their season recently and brought home two more trophies! The boys fifth- and sixth-grade team finished Runner Up in the Sectional Meet. The girls sixth- through eighth-grade team finished third place in the CYO Championship and the boys sixth- through eighth-grade team finished in first place in the CYO Championship! Way to go, Track Terriers!

Eighth Graders Visit Washington D.C.

Our eighth grade students packed an incredible amount into their recent trip to Washington, D.C.! On day one, students toured Gettysburg National Military Park, one of the most well-preserved and commemorated battlefields in the world, featuring over 1,350 monuments. This visit brought their current study of the U.S. Civil War to life in a powerful and meaningful way. That evening, they arrived in Washington, D.C. and visited the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, Franklin D Roosevelt Memorial, and Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

The next morning, students toured Arlington National Cemetery, where they toured the grounds and reflected on the service and sacrifice of those who have served our country. They also viewed the grave site of President John F. Kennedy and the Eternal Flame.

Afterward, students visited the Pentagon Memorial, which captures the moment at 9:37 a.m. when 184 lives became forever intertwined. Each victim's age and location at the time of the attack are honored through the thoughtful design and placement of the memorial units. The group then explored the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and made additional stops at the World War II Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, and Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

While the trip was filled with meaningful educational experiences, students also enjoyed time to relax and connect, including an evening of bowling, food, and fellowship on the second night. On the final day, students toured the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the largest Catholic church in the United States. They also visited the Museum of the Bible, where they explored interactive exhibits highlighting the history, impact, and significance of the Bible throughout the world.

Lastly, students visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where they engaged with powerful exhibits that honor the memory of Holocaust victims and emphasize the importance of remembering history to promote compassion and prevent injustice.

In just three days, students walked nearly 17 miles—over 40,000 steps—while gaining lasting memories, deeper historical understanding, and a greater appreciation for our nation's past.



**SCHOOL
CALENDAR AND
IMPORTANT
DATES**

MAJOR DATES 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

- New Family Picnic – August 20
- Backpack Blessing Mass – August 23
- Welcome Back Open House – August 23
- First Day of School – August 25
- Parent Prep Night – September 10
- Grandparents Day – October 8
- Trunk or Treat – October 16
- Thanksgiving Break – November 25-30
- Christmas Break – December 21-January 1
- Catholic Schools Week – January 31-February 5
- Ash Wednesday – February 10
- Easter Break – March 26-April 2
- St. Sebastian Spectacular – April 17
- Last Day of School – June 3



SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

*St. Sebastian Parish School
is dedicated to Christ and
committed to excellence in education.
We honor the Catholic traditions
of the past, work to develop
our talents today and
prepare for Christian service
in the future.*

A SPECTACULAR SENSATION!



We are so grateful for the incredible support of this year's St. Sebastian Spectacular! Thanks to the generosity of our school and parish community, this event truly blossomed into something special. We are pleased to announce this year's event grossed over \$270,000. We are grateful to share that our Paddle Raise raised over \$140,000 towards building our new playground, which will be open for students at the start of the 2026-27 school year! The general funds raised will help maintain and update technology in our classrooms, further strengthen the stability of our parish school through our school endowment, and continue to support competitive compensation for our faculty.

Thank you to all who attended, sponsored, donated, bid, or volunteered! We could not do it without your support. And a very special thank you to this year's amazing co-chairs, Emily Boarman and Kelsey Casano, for your leadership and guidance. We thank you for helping to make a real difference for the students of our school community!

Interested in getting involved for next year's event? It's never too early for co-chairs or volunteers! Contact Bernadette Gibson to see how you can help.

