



Virtue of the Week—VISION



Our virtue this week is VISION— The strength to plan and prepare with imagination, creativity and wisdom. Anything great that we want to achieve in life takes a vision. What is our VISION for this year? What do we want to achieve together?

PRAYER

Lord, we want to see You. We want to see Your Face in Heaven for all eternity. Help us to live our lives with that VISION in mind so that everything we do is for Your glory and honor. Keep our eyes and our hearts pure and strong.

Important Upcoming Dates

- Aug. 18-Sept. 11:** Short Schedule; Early Dimissal @ 2:00pm. After Care will be available.
- Sept. 7:** No School; Labor Day
- Sept. 29:** Picture Day

Athletic Dates

- Aug. 24:** Girls Softball vs. Peoria Christian @ Home 4:30pm
- Aug. 25:** Boys Baseball @ St. Joseph Pekin 4:30pm
- Aug. 26:** Girls Softball Brimfield Tournament @ Home 4:30pm
- Aug. 27:** Boys Baseball @ St. Mary's 4:30pm

St. Patrick School

100 Harvey Street

Washington, IL 61571

309-444-4345

<https://school.stpatswashington.com>

Facebook: St. Patrick Catholic Parish, Washington, IL

Tips for getting kids to wear masks

- 1. Be a role model.** You want your kids to wear a mask? Show them how it's done! By presenting a positive and easy-going attitude about wearing a mask, kids will be able to follow your lead.
- 2. Do practice sessions at home.** Find a time when kids are in a good mood, well rested and have had a little something to eat. Allow kids to hold the mask, sniff it and generally get the feel of it. Then have them either hold it to their mouth or put it on, starting with a few seconds, gradually building up to longer periods of time. Normalizing mask wearing in low risk environments can help avoid unintentional exposure outside your home.
- 3. Make it fun.** Find a mask with their favorite character on it or, if you're crafty, make masks your kids can decorate. You can even make masks for their stuffed animals and dolls.
- 4. Normalize it.** Once they have a mask they like, you can try reading their favorite books or coloring a picture while wearing masks as a way to get used to it. Set up a video call with grandparents or friends with everyone wearing masks to help normalize it. Distractions can be a good way to help them get used to this new sensation of something covering their nose and mouth. Don't forget to give your kids lots of praise for their efforts.
- 5. Provide incentives if necessary.** As with any new behavior, some kids may need a little encouragement. Use ideas that have worked in the past: sticker charts, picking out a small treat, getting to stay up 15 minutes later or an extra book at bedtime can all be good incentives for kids struggling to wear masks.
- 6. Acknowledge their frustration.** Kids may experience frustration with how COVID-19 has disrupted their lives. Wearing a mask and the feeling of tightness around their face may feel like another negative impact of this virus. Acknowledging and normalizing their feelings can be helpful to getting kids to understand the importance of wearing masks. If your kids are still struggling, check out this blog post on [how to talk to your kids about COVID-19](#)

The link to Children's Hospital of Milwaukee for the complete article can be found at: <https://childrenswi.org/newshub/stories/kid-mask-tips>

THE MISSION OF ST. PATRICK SCHOOL is to foster the spiritual growth and academic life of its students, faculty, and staff, and to teach children, with the cooperation of parents, a Catholic way of life.

A Message from the Principal:

Welcome Back! We have missed you! We just completed our first full week at St. Patrick School on August 21st! It has been a long time since March 14th when we were all required to shelter in place. Little did we know on that day this would eventually include closing schools for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year.

Much time and work has gone into planning and preparing for a safe return for our staff and students. I would like to thank all those who helped with this extensive process over the summer. Our Re-Opening Team met several times to work on detailed plans and make the necessary changes for our school to ensure the safety and good health of everyone as best as possible. Thank you to those who helped me on that team: Miss Abby Brancaleon, primary grades representative, Mrs. Kathy Schlack, intermediate grades representative, Mr. Jeff Draeger, jr. high grades representative, Mrs. Lori Biagini, administrative assistant, Mr. Don Jones, maintenance, and Fr. Johnathan Steffen, Pastor. A special thanks to them for their collaboration and patience as plans were made and ultimately again as changes were made again when new updates came from Office of Catholic Schools, Illinois Health Department, and top doctors in the Peoria community who work with infectious diseases. I also want to thank my great staff of teachers and aides who have stepped up with implementing the necessary safety precautions. No doubt, it is a lot of extra work for everyone. Included in the preparation for return to school has been the extra cleaning from our cleaning company to make the school ready and safe. We appreciate and thank them, too.

Our students enter the school through grade specifically assigned doors wearing their masks and have their temperatures taken before proceeding to their classrooms. Bus students get their temperatures taken when they get on the bus and sit in specifically assigned seats to social distance as much as possible. All staff have their temperatures taken when entering school. Students are self-contained in their grade level cohorts to mitigate risks across classrooms and grade levels. Teachers move from class to class rather than students. Everyone wears a mask and maintains social distance to the extent possible. All are required to wash hands often and use hand sanitizer upon entering and leaving a classroom or a specific place on campus. These are just a few of the procedures that put into place to keep everyone healthy.

Students have specially assigned areas on the playground for their cohort's recesses and break times. When students are outdoors they have an opportunity to take mask breaks, but are expected to maintain social distance. Students also sit in their cohorts for lunch separated from other classes to keep within the group guidelines allowed by the IDPH. An extra lunch period was added to help with this.

Students are doing a fantastic job of wearing their masks without complaining! I am proud of them and commend them! They bring their water bottles daily as we had to turn off water fountains to maintain safety. Teachers are encouraged to have their class take breaks and go outside for fresh air or even have their class outside when possible.

I commend all teachers for the extra planning and work they have been doing to provide for the best instruction possible. This includes the preparation they must do for their E-Learners as well. Yes, much has been asked of the teachers and staff, but they have risen to the occasion and are very appreciated. Thank you. Additionally, I applaud the parents for their cooperation and support with all the changes when there have been so many concerns and unknowns to be addressed.

Everyone is learning to adjust being back in a structured environment and we are taking it one step at a time. The students love seeing their friends and teachers again after the long absence of school. The staff loves seeing the students again, too. No one knows where this pandemic will go or how long it will last. We can only do our best each day to keep everyone safe and healthy as possible and to pray for each other and hope for a vaccine soon.

 ***Blessings, Doreen Shipman***



**“Reverence, Respect, Responsibility...
Excellence in Academics and Faith Formation”**

This is how St. Pats Social Distances...

3rd & 4th Grade in their classroom



1st Grade at recess



THE MISSION OF ST. PATRICK SCHOOL is to foster the spiritual growth and academic life of its students, faculty, and staff, and to teach children, with the cooperation of parents, a Catholic way of life.

2nd &
5th
Grade at
Recess



6th, 7th & 8th in the Cafeteria



Sunday Grill Out

August 23rd 11:00-1:30

120 Walnut St Washington, IL

Drive Thru Pick Up in Back Alley of KC Hall

Ribeye Sandwich w/ Lays Chips: \$8.00

Pork Chop w/ Lays Chips: \$6.00

Burger w/ Lays Chips: \$5.00

Hot Dog w/ Lays Chips: \$3.00



**“Reverence, Respect, Responsibility...
Excellence in Academics and Faith Formation”**

Kindergarten's 1st Visit to the Atrium of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



**WELCOME BACK
TO SCHOOL!**

THE MISSION OF ST. PATRICK SCHOOL is to foster the spiritual growth and academic life of its students, faculty, and staff, and to teach children, with the cooperation of parents, a Catholic way of life.