

St. Benedict

Feast Day: July 11

Born: 480: **Died:** 547

St. Benedict was born at Nursia in Umbria, Italy. Coming from a rich Italian family, his life was full of adventure and wonderful events. As a boy, he was sent to Rome to study in the public schools but was troubled by the bad behavior of the other students.

Benedict left the city and went looking for a place where he could be alone with God. He found the right spot. It was a cave in the mountain of Subiaco. Benedict spent three years there alone. The devil often tempted him to go back to his rich home and easy life. However, Benedict prayed, did penance, and did not give in to these temptations.

After three years, people started coming to Benedict. They wanted to learn how to become holy. He became the leader of some men who asked for his help. However, when he tried to make them do penance, they grew so angry that they even tried to poison Benedict. He made the Sign of the Cross over the poisoned wine and the glass shattered to pieces.

Later, Benedict became the leader of many good monks. He started twelve monasteries. Then he went to Monte Casino where he built his most well-known monastery. It was here that St. Benedict wrote the wonderful rules for the Benedictine order. He taught his monks to pray and work hard. He taught them especially to be humble always.

Benedict and his monks greatly helped the people of their times. They taught them how to read and write, how to farm, and how to work at different trades. St. Benedict was able to do good because he prayed all the time. He died on March 21, 547. The pope proclaimed him the patron of Europe.

Rule of St. Benedict: *"Put Christ before all else."*

ASSEMBLIES FOR STUDENT RECOGNITION

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 are recognized in monthly assemblies.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES

Regular attendance is a necessary ingredient for success in school. Students are to be punctual in their regular attendance at school.

Please follow these guidelines if your son/daughter will be absent or late:

1. Prior to your child's absence, phone the school (780-986-7480) or send an email to sb.absent@starcatholic.ab.ca and indicate your name, your child's name, the reason for the absence, and the length of time your child will be away from school. An answering machine will record a message left outside regular office hours.
2. When advance notice is not possible, please make every effort to phone the school by 9:00 am for morning absence or 1:00 pm for afternoon absence.
3. Where students are absent without prior notice, the office staff will attempt to contact parents to ascertain a reason for the absence. The school's intention is to maintain clear communication and to ensure the safety of students.
4. Prolonged absence or sporadic attendance can result in a lack of continuity in learning and may have serious consequences.
5. Students arriving late must report to the office prior to going to class. Repeated tardiness can lead to a loss of valuable instruction and the disruption of others.
6. Students who are repeatedly late or absent without a reasonable excuse will be viewed by staff and school administration as violating Alberta's School Act. At this point, a letter will be sent home outlining the seriousness of the situation and subsequent action if attendance does not improve.
7. Students who leave during the school day, must have the parent/guardian sign them out.

ABSENCES DUE TO VACATIONS

We do understand that because of differing circumstances, extended family holidays may occur during the school year. When a child misses an extended period time, there is a possibility that academic progress may be compromised because so much of what they learn in the classroom is hands-on and interactive. Although our teachers are committed to helping your child progress, please understand that it is not reasonable to request that the teacher prepare detailed lessons or homework missed during your child's absence. Students & families are responsible for catching up on all missed assignments within a reasonable time frame determined by the teacher through consultation with the student and family.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Families wishing to register for our Care Programs are to contact the school secretaries for detailed information.

BICYCLES/SCOOTERS/SKATEBOARDS, ETC.

Students are not permitted to ride bicycles, use skateboards, or scooters or rollerblades on school property during school hours. All bicycles and scooters should be locked up in the racks provided.

COMMUNICATION

St. Benedict School is very proud of the excellent working relationship our school has with students, parents and staff. Open, respectful communication between students, parents and teachers allows everyone to work together. When concerns arise at school, parents and school staff often share the same goal. Parents are encouraged to communicate directly with the teacher. We encourage discussions to be in person rather than email. Arrangements to meet may be made by contacting the school for an appointment.

Keep in mind that you do not have to wait until parent-teacher conferences to discuss student concerns or progress. The teaching staff welcomes your contact to set up an appointment when needed.

On the rare occasion where the best efforts of the parent and/or teacher are not successful in resolving the issue, it should be brought to the attention of the school administration.

A newsletter is posted on our school website monthly. Parents will receive an email notification once the newsletter is posted.

DRESS CODE

Students are expected to dress in a respectable fashion in keeping with the Catholic, Christian atmosphere in our school. The following guidelines are to be observed:

- *Articles of clothing which display an inappropriate message are NOT permitted*
- *Revealing clothing is not permitted, including low cut tops, halter-tops and shirt straps that are not at least two adult fingers wide.*
- *Short or skirt length must reach the tip of middle finger when placed alongside the outer thigh.*
- *Hats, caps and sunglasses are to be removed once inside the school.*
- *Parents are asked to ensure that their child is dressed modestly.*

School personnel reserve the right to make any required judgments regarding student dress.

*Health regulations and fire drills mandate the wearing of proper footwear in the school at all times. To protect and preserve our school, we request that all students have **appropriate indoor and outdoor footwear throughout the school year**. All personal items, clothing, shoes, and supplies should be clearly marked with your child's name.*

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

Fire drills are conducted to ensure an orderly evacuation of the school in the event of a real emergency. A regularly scheduled drill will provide practice and prepare all the students to leave the building without panic, as well as develop a sense of self-control in an emergency. In the event of an evacuation, the students and staff will evacuate to Leduc Alliance Church on Black Gold Drive. Students will be dismissed with a parent who will sign to authorize the child's safety.

Lockdown procedures are also practiced to prepare students for the possibility of a situation where this action may be deemed necessary. Parents are asked to remain calm and not enter the building. Remain a safe distance away from the building and follow the directions of the RCMP or designated personnel.

EXTRA CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Programs will be developed based on the interest and skills of students, staff and parents. Depending upon the type of club, it may run before school, during the school day or after school.

HOMEWORK

Assignments are given to practice and enhance instruction given in class. From time to time, it will not be possible for a student to complete all assignments during class time. This will require homework. When homework is assigned, students are to enter their homework assignment into their Agenda Book

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In extreme weather conditions, the final decision to send a child to school rests with parents. In cold and inclement weather or when the health and safety of the students and staff is at risk, it may become necessary to cancel classes or bus service. Refer to www.Starcatholic.ab.ca for specific bus information. It is the responsibility of parents to stay informed.

Children are to **dress appropriately for the prevailing weather conditions** as they will be expected to go outside when conditions are favorable. Students are not to go outside for recess if the local temperature is -20°C or colder, or if the temperature and wind chill factor combined are -20°C or colder. During the spring thaw, our playground is extremely wet and muddy conditions persist. We request you send an extra set of clothes to school.

LOST AND FOUND

The school assumes no responsibility for lost and stolen items therefore; we advise that students not bring items of value to school. All items that are found are put in the Lost & Found box. Found items that are small in size generally are turned in to the office. Parents are urged to check the Lost & Found box for articles that their children may have misplaced. Unclaimed Lost & Found items will be donated to charity three times (usually after each reporting period).

LUNCH PROCEDURES

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will eat in their homerooms while being supervised. Please consider that the inside lunch period is approximately fifteen minutes long and can be influenced by "visiting" with other children. Microwaves are NOT available to students.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 are expected to go outside during morning and lunch recess breaks. Recess is important to children in that it provides a break from regular school routine, a chance to get some fresh air, and an opportunity for daily exercise. Students are expected to follow the expectations of the supervisors. The following locations are OUT OF BOUNDS to all students:

- Parking lot and bus loop
- Bike & scooter racks
- Arena when ice is in place

Play fighting is prohibited on the school premises because it may cause unwanted fighting and injury.

School Wide Behavioral Expectations

Create a safe and caring learning environment

- Respect the personal space of others
- Help others feel safe
- Use appropriate language
- Behavior appropriately outside the classroom
- Allow others to learn

Treat others with dignity and as a child of God

- Set a good example for those around you
- Show responsible by telling an adult when something is not safe

Respect people and property

- Walk quietly and respectfully
- Respect property
- Speak respectfully to all adults

We value each child's safety with the utmost importance. At our school, we give students the skills to work problems out with their peers and we give them support if they cannot solve a problem on their own. We strive to maintain our safe and caring school by adhering to the school wide behavioral expectations.

RECYCLE PROGRAM

We acknowledge our responsibility and stewardship to the environment and feel compelled to reduce, reuse and recycle materials.

Grade Four students' volunteer during recess to collect, rinse and bag all recycle materials. Proceeds from our recycle program fund our commitment to our social justice projects and special events for our students.

REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

Report cards, student led conferences, and student portfolios are used to promote communication between parents and teachers in the reporting of student progress. The report card is prepared from records maintained by the teachers. The process is based on the principle that assessment of the academic performance of students is an on-going process. Report cards are issued three times during the school year. During the months of November and March, conferences will be scheduled for all parents and students. In June, a final report card indicates the child's placement for the following year. This report is given out following the closing celebration on the last day of school. Some families have obligations that they cannot avoid at the end of the school year. If your child will not be at school on the last day, please prearrange with administration to have your child's report card mailed.

SAFETY PROCEDURES

The safety of our students is of the utmost importance. Parents, please ensure the following:

- Supervision of students begins outside at 8:20; students should not arrive sooner
- Bus Loop is for DROP OFF ONLY; please have students exit closest to the curb
- Parking Lot is for staff only; vehicles must display appropriate pass
- Parents picking up students during the day are to report to the office; the secretary will call the student to the office while parents sign out the student
- Students and parents are to cross ONLY at designated crosswalks and follow direction from the school safety patrollers.
- Notify the school of current phone numbers, email address and emergency contacts

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The school council is comprised of parents who volunteer to work with the school staff for the benefit of all the children. Benefits for parents include:

- An opportunity to meet other parents within our school community
- Attend meetings to learn about educational issues and events
- Families empowered through involvement pass that feeling of efficacy to their children

All parents of students attending St. Benedict School are automatically members of the school council. Parents interested in getting involved should watch for meeting times and dates that are announced in our newsletter or on the website.

SCHOOL PATROLS

The School Patrol Program is sponsored by the Alberta Motor Association and is comprised of Grade Five students who have volunteered their services before or after school in order to:

- Assist students and families in safely crossing in the bus loop
- Assist students and families in developing sound and safe pedestrian habits
- Develop good leadership and citizenship qualities

STUDENT HEALTH

Children coming to school with severe colds provide a source of infection for other students and would recuperate faster at home.

Prior to medication administered to students, parents must complete the appropriate authorization forms prescribed by STAR district. Parents are to contact the office for the forms. For children's safety, please do NOT send medication in your child's lunch or backpack.

If a student becomes ill or injured at school, parents will be contacted to pick up their child. In cases where parents cannot be contacted, the school will act on behalf of the parents to secure medical attention for the children. *IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THE SCHOOL HAVE AN EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER WHERE A PARENT OR EMERGENCY CONTACT MAY BE REACHED.*

Located by the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in the front foyer, is a posted list of staff members who have been trained with basic first aid.

Parents, and students themselves, are responsible for making their school and staff aware of severe allergy or anaphylactic concerns. Parents are responsible to provide information about the diagnosis, or a change in diagnosis, to the school principal in order to complete necessary medical protocols.

TECHNOLOGY

Each student must have the St. Thomas Aquinas Responsible Use Agreement signed by themselves and their parent/guardian.

As per this agreement:

- The use of personally owned digital devices during school hours may only be used with teacher permission for educational purposes.
- use of audio or video devices to capture photos, audio or video at school without permission from both a staff member and the subjects of the recording is **NOT PERMITTED**
- The school is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of a student owned device

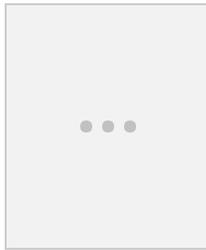
VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

St. Benedict School values your support and participation in school activities. For your child's safety, we require that ALL volunteers must complete a Volunteer Registration Form that includes a criminal record check and a child welfare information services (CWIS) check. Declaration forms must then be signed yearly.

Parents/visitors are to report to the office and sign in upon arrival and departure at the school. It is very important that the school is aware of all individuals in the school. This also includes if you are dropping off an item, or leaving a message for your child.

With the exception of the main entrance, all outside doors leading into the building will be locked for the day to ensure maximum security for your children.

Thank you to St. Benedict School Council for the generous donation to purchase the student agenda!



Help me, great St. Benedict, to live and die as a faithful child of God to run in the sweetness of HIS loving will, and to attain the eternal happiness of heaven.

Amen