

Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran School

AUGUST 21, 2026

BITS & BARK

6318 West California Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46818 | (260) 483-9371 | <https://www.suburbanbethlehem.org/>

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Greetings!!!! It's been an AWESOME start to the school year!!! Some of the greatest joys are to hear chatter in the hallways, see excited and cheerful faces, watch relationships being built, and most importantly, share Christ each day!! We are filled with gratitude for all that God has in store for Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran School this year!

Our theme this year, **"Rooted in Christ,"** reminds us that everything we do begins with Jesus. Like a strong tree with deep roots, we grow in faith, stand firmly in God's love, and reach out to others with kindness and compassion. We will have so many opportunities to integrate this year's theme into our daily lives.

As we continue to learn and grow together this year, may our faith guide us in all we do.

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." Colossians 2:6-7

Rooted in Hlm, Mrs. Latin



Lucky Ducks!!! This year at SBLS, each student and staff member has a "Lucky" rubber duck assigned to them. During morning announcements, one or two ducks are drawn by another student who is reading a bible verse for the day. The only information given during announcements are the duck numbers, not the names. At the end of the day, Mrs. Latin does a check-in with the teacher whose student(s) number was chosen. If the student had a good day, then they are recognized the following day during announcements, get their Lucky Duck, a duck sticker, and one or two small prizes. The idea behind Lucky Ducks is to encourage and follow through with expectations displayed in the SBLS Motto. During the first quarter, we are talking about the S: Seek God's wisdom in all I do. Families are encouraged to talk about the SBLS Motto (and school theme), too!!



UPCOMING EVENTS

•	Band and Strings Demonstration with Sweetwater and CLHS August 19
•	Plant Show August 20
•	BAND & STRINGS (RETURNING STUDENTS) Week of August 24
•	BAND & STRINGS (NEW STUDENTS) Week of August 31

CHAPEL OFFERING

For the First Quarter, our Chapel Offering will be going towards Lutheran Heritage Foundation's project, Juan 3:16.. This past Wednesday, Mrs. Latin shared with our students their mission and more about the organization. For every \$5 that is raised, a child in Central or South America will receive a Children's book titled, "Un Jardín de Historias Bíblicas." (A Child's Garden of Bible Stories) For more information, visit <https://lhfmisions.org/>



FROM THE OFFICE

As we begin the new school year, Please Remember:

- Carline tags are important! PLEASE make sure to have these with you at all times when picking up your child.
- School BEGINS at 7:55, please make sure your child is present and in class no later than 7:55. Please see attendance policy attached.
- ALL Back to School paperwork is due back to the office no later than Monday, August 24.
- Dress Code: Please make sure we are following dress code as it is stated in the handbook:
 - NO colored hair, must be natural.
 - Shorts MUST be 4" midseam and all around.
- *Bits and Bark is our weekly newsletter that will be sent electronically on REMIND on Friday mornings. They will also be on our website, if you would prefer a paper copy, please contact Mrs. Johnston in the office.

If you have any questions or need any additional forms, please contact the School Office. Thank you!

SBLS STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Each week we will spotlight one of our staff members here at SBLS!

STAFF: MRS. KERI LATIN

POSITION: Principal

FAVORITE SUBJECT: Handwriting

MEMORY: Having my dad as both my 7th and 8th grade teacher and principal.

FUN FACT: I love the smell of skunk.

FAVORITE SPORT: Volleyball

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE: "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." Romans 12:11

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

Salad Choice: Cobb Salad

(Peanut Butter and Jelly and Yogurt and Cheese are available)

Monday: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes and Cooked Carrots

Tuesday: Fiestada Pizza, Corn and Cauliflower

Wednesday: Chicken Parmesan, Romaine Salad and Green Beans

Thursday: Scrambled Eggs with Cinnamon Roll, Cinnamon Apples and Hashbrown Potatoes

Friday: Loaded Fries with Bacon and Cheese, Baked Beans and Broccoli

Addendums to School Handbook

“Attendance and Tardiness” p. 15

Attendance

All Kindergarten through 8th grade school-aged children in Indiana are required by law to attend school regularly and be on time. Students are expected to be in school except in cases of emergency or illness. At Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran School (SBLS), we believe that students gain more than just facts or knowledge about subject matter while in school. Through regular attendance, students benefit from insight learned during class discussion, explanation, or supervised activities. Students who are consistently present develop strong work habits, attendance habits, and responsibility, and they build relationships that contribute to their academic achievement and social interaction skills. Additionally, since nurturing the faith in our children requires constant care, our Christian team of administrators, teachers, pastors, and student service staff is equipped to provide this daily role-modeling and instruction. The school administration shall assume leadership for all matters relating to school attendance.

Tardiness

1. A student is tardy after the school day begins. Students are expected to be in their classrooms by 7:55. Tardies may be excused (known appointment, e.g.) or unexcused (running late or arriving unprepared, e.g.)
2. Students and parents must report to the office when arriving late with closed doors.
3. Promptness, as well as faithful attendance, are characteristics to be developed in even our youngest children.

Stages for Multiple Unexcused Tardies

- Five (5) unexcused tardies - email notification
- Nine (9) unexcused tardies - email notification and possible meeting held with the parent(s), administrator, and/or other school personnel to address chronic tardiness
- Ten (10) unexcused tardies - student's family account assessed \$25 tardy fee
- Fifteen (15) unexcused tardies - student's family account assessed \$50 tardy fee
- Eighteen (18) unexcused tardies - student will be placed on tardy probation in order to enroll for the following school year

Excused Tardies and Absences

If your child is absent or will arrive late, please make all attempts to call the school office before 8:15 am. Be specific about why your child will be late or absent for the day.

In case of absence due to illness or injury:

- If a child is absent due to illness/injury lasting four (4) or more consecutive days, the parent must present a note from a medical provider upon the child's return to school.
- If an illness/injury requires several days of recovery, a note from the medical provider indicating the estimated time of recovery is required.
- All excuses will be kept in the office and on file for the school year.
- Students are permitted one day for each day excused to make up for work missed. Arrangements to pick up assignments should be made with the school office at the campus your child attends. Assignments will be available at the end of the school day.

- If your child cannot go outside for recess or must be excused from P.E., you must send in a note stating the reason for being excused.
- Frequent or extended absences from recess and/or P.E. require a doctor's statement.

Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences occur when the parent cannot produce any reason or documentation that explains the absence or if the parent presents documentation that does not meet criteria for excused absences, as listed above. This includes failing to notify the school office before 9:00 am. Students may also be marked unexcused for in-school suspensions and chronic absenteeism as described in those policies.

School attendance is regulated by state and federal law. If your child has more than nine (9) absences in a school year, each additional day that your child is absent will require a doctor's notice, or it will be recorded as unexcused. A student who receives an unexcused absence may not receive credit for work missed or the opportunity to make up tests or assignments.

Stages for Multiple (Excused and Unexcused) Absences

- Five (5) absences - email notification of accumulated absences.
- Nine (9) absences - email notification and possible meeting held with the parent(s), administrator, and/or other school personnel to address chronic absences.
- Ten (10) absences - a student will be recorded as having one (1) full-day unexcused absence for the 10th absence and every one thereafter unless meeting the requirements listed above.
- Eighteen (18) absences - The Indiana Department of Education defines chronic absenteeism to include students absent from school for 10 percent or more of a school year for ANY reason. Therefore, if absences exceed 18 school days in one year, being promoted is not assured regardless of a student's academic standing. Additionally, the enrollment status of the student will be at risk and will result in attendance probation for the following school year.
- Having a pattern of extreme absences or tardiness may lead to truancy proceedings. Administration may consult with the school board or hold a hearing to determine if the student should advance to the next grade or should be ineligible to re-enroll altogether. Chronic absenteeism **during any part of the school year** (being absent for 10% of a given period) may also result in a student being suspended from participating in school extracurricular activities.

"Dress Code" p. 18

Dress Code

- Hair should be clean and neat, and a natural color. Efforts should be made to keep it away from the face and eyes. No distracting hairstyles, headbands, or hair accessories are allowed. Such examples include, but are not limited to: feathers, tinsel, glitter, colored hair extension clips, animal or pom pom headbands.
- Students may not have permanent tattoos on any exposed part of the body. Temporary tattoos are permissible, given they are not distracting or inappropriate in nature. Students may not intentionally mark, draw, or paint on themselves or others. Teachers have the right, at any time, to ask a student to wash off any marking if it is found to violate the dress code.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. ***Athletic shoes must be worn for PE and indoor recess.***
- Facial piercings such as nose rings, hoops, bars, dermals, and gauges are not permitted during the school day. Students may wear a clear or flesh-toned spacer while at school.



Foundations of THEATRE

CLASS INFORMATION

Join us for an exciting journey into theatre! In this class, you'll develop essential voice skills like articulation and projection, along with movement and improvisation. You'll learn key theatre vocabulary and etiquette while exploring various acting techniques. We'll celebrate your hard work with a Parent Showcase Night at the end of each semester, where you'll perform in a captivating short play!

- OPEN TO AGES 9-12
- TUESDAYS, Sept. 8 - Nov. 10
4:45-5:55 PM
- COST: \$100

 Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
1636 Saint Mary's Ave. | 46808

INTRODUCING:

KATHRYN PEPERKORN

Kathryn Peperkorn has been teaching voice privately and in various colleges since 1993. From 2016-2021, she taught music and drama for the PACT Academy of Natomas Charter School in Natomas, California. Since 2021, she has taught music for students from preschool through 8th grade, directed musicals for Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran School in Fort Wayne, and has led the music portion of the middle school musicals for Concordia Lutheran High School.

Ms. Peperkorn has performed numerous operatic roles in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Italy, including: Mimi in La Boheme; Marguerite in Faust; Norma in Anna Bolena, to name some of her favorites. She loved her time singing with the Florentine Opera Chorus and was thrilled to be part of the Grammy-winning cast of Elmer Gantry.