



BEAR FACTS

Issue 1: August 27, 2024

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the first day of school! We're so glad you are here. I saw lots of happy faces and heard many excited voices this morning...what a great start!!

The teaching staff has been here the last two weeks participating in training, preparing materials and planning, planning, planning for a great school year. Frankly, we're tired of talking about it...we're ready to DO it! :)

Thanks for taking time to read the Bear FACTS each week. We work hard to make sure the best and latest information is right here for you. You can always find it in your email inbox or on the Bethany website.

Praying for a memorable and wonderful year, keeping our Focus on Jesus!

*Blessed to be at Bethany,
Dr. Fink*



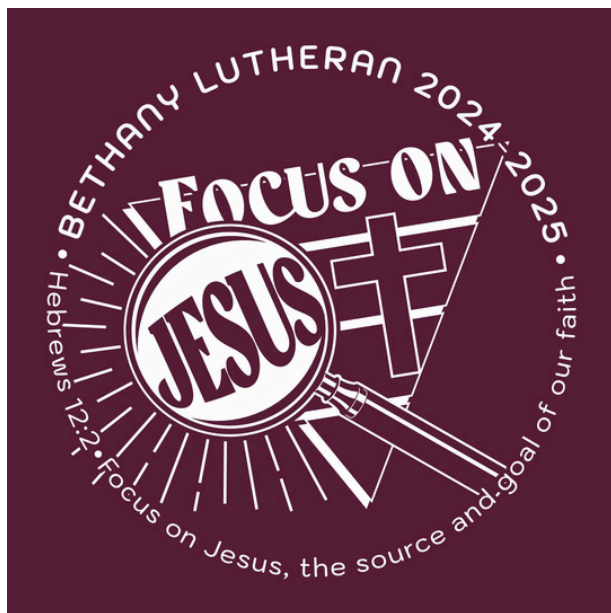
Need lunch?

Sign up for [ChoiCELunch](#) using our code:
bethany

The Bear Facts is our weekly school newsletter. We will email it every Tuesday, post on our website and app AND text you a link so you can read it on your phone! (Can you tell we REALLY want you to read it every week??)

COMING UP

- **Aug. 27**-First Day of School, minimum day, out at noon
- **Aug. 28**-Classes begin at 8:30 for ALL students, K-8.
- **Sept 2**-Labor Day-No school
- **Sept. 3**-7th Grade Catalina meeting-6:00
- **Sept. 4**-New-to-Bethany Parent Zoom-6:30
- **Sept. 5**-5th Grade Astrocamp Meeting-6:30
- **Sept. 5**-8th Grade Launch Party
- **Sept. 10**-Moms in Prayer-Library-8:30-9:30
- **Sept. 11**-8th Grade DC/NY Meeting-6:30
- **Sept. 15**-Trinity and Troubadour choirs sing 9:30
- **Sept. 16-20**-7th Grade to Catalina
- **Sept. 17**-6th Grade Camp Meeting-6:00
- **Sept. 24**-School Photo Day!



Our school theme this year reminds us where to fix our eyes and our focus: on Jesus!

Dress Code Reminders

Students should be in uniform dress with red, white or navy polos on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

On Wednesdays, everyone (staff, too!) should be wearing their Bethany chapel polo.

On Fridays, students may wear jeans (or jean shorts or skirts) and Bethany theme/spirit shirts.

Teachers may choose to offer "free dress" as a class incentive on occasion at their discretion.

The dress code is [outlined here](#) on the Bethany website.

Camp/Outdoor Ed Meetings

Parents, please plan to attend the mandatory information meetings:

7th Grade: Sept. 3, 6:00 Room 205

5th Grade: Sept. 5, 6:30 Room 204

8th Grade: Sept. 11, 6:30 Room 203

6th Grade: Sept. 17, 6:00 Room 222

New for 2024-2025

New Faces!

- We have 29 new students, including our Kindergarteners!
- We have a NEW 8th grade teacher, Mr. Brad Royuk!
- We have a NEW Spanish teacher, Mrs. Sharon Pachon!
- We have a NEW PE teacher, Mrs. Cristan Becerra!
- We have a NEW IT Director, Mr. Josh Hicks!
- We have a NEW Student Success Director, Mrs. Kelsey Cornett!
- We have new teacher aides: Ms. Julie Bunting, Mrs. Cory Steele and Mr. Matt Ranieri!

NEW curriculum materials:

- We have a Spiritual Formation curriculum for Grades K-2.
- We have a new math curriculum for Grades 6-8.
- Grades K-5 will now have introductory Spanish lessons with the Spanish teacher!

Also NEW:

- The science lab and Extended Daycare rooms got a facelift and new LED lighting!
- The library renovation project is *almost* finished...we can't wait to show it off!
- We have a new handwashing station and emergency PA system!

Meet the Staff

K- Mrs. Kendell Blake
1st- Mrs. Lori Lange
2nd - Miss Stefanie Hinrichs
3rd - Mrs. Shannon Morgensen
4th - Miss Samantha Root
5th - Mrs. Heidi Leicht
MS History- Mr. Brad Royuk
MS Math- Miss Abby Einspahr
MS English- Mrs. Carrie Evans
MS Science- Mr. Paul Brege
Spanish- Profe' Sharon Pachon
K Aide- Mrs. Christi Koehlinger
1st Aides- Mrs. Sandi Skiles
2nd Aide- Ms. Julie Bunting
3rd-5th Aide- Mrs. Cory Steele
Student Aide-Mr. Matt Ranieri
Workroom- Mrs. Jen DiCecca
Student Success-Mrs. Kelsey Cornett
Mrs. Connie Kritzer
Math Int. - Mrs. Sarah O'Conner
Art Teacher- Miss Jessica Dueker
Music Teacher- Mr. Kevin Bowers
PE Teacher- Mrs. Cristan Becerra
SEEDS Counselors-Eila Alvarez and
Claire White
Custodian- Mr. Steven Lee
School Secretary-Mrs. Kim Yoshiyama
Admissions - Mrs. Sara Cerulle
Scrip Coord.- Mrs. Ruth Lopez
Financial Admin-Mrs. Maraley Shaeffer
EDC Director- Ms. Carlota Brown
EDC Staff-Michelle Fischer, Sarah Belle,
Janell Jorda
Pastor- Rev. Kevin Kritzer
Pastor- Rev. Kyle Blake
DCE/Children-Families-Mrs. Alissa
Brege
DCE/Youth -Mrs. Kayleigh Lopez
DCE/Care- Mr. Karl Fink
Principal- Dr. Mary Fink



School Photos

School pictures are scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 24. Please avoid out-of-school appointments that day. We do have a make-up day for absent students, but they will not be in the class photo.

Your picture package is pre-paid with your registration fee. You may also order additional prints.

Students should be in uniform dress for photos.



Welcome!

New-to-Bethany Parent Orientation is scheduled for **Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 6:30 PM** by Zoom. (We will email you the link later.) This informational meeting IS REQUIRED and it is important that one or both parents attend. You will receive your electronic copy of our Parent Handbook, meet members of the staff and Bethany community and hear about many of the happenings here on the Bethany campus. We're looking forward to seeing you!



Formerly ShopWithScrip

Ready to up your earning potential? RaiseRight has two new ways to help you earn more!

1. Shop Online - Select the 'Shop Online' tab on the website or app; choose from over 450 brands; select 'Shop Now' on the brands detail page to visit their website and go shopping; complete a purchase on the brands website to earn a rebate. For many brands you can also use a gift card from RaiseRight to earn extra on your purchase.
2. RaiseRight Earnings Extension - By adding the extension to your browser, you will be provided with real-time earning reminders while shopping online. The extension icon will glow with color when earnings are available for the brand - it will let you know if RR gift cards or the new shop online feature is available.

Questions about our RaiseRight program?
Contact Ruth Lopez:
rlopez@bethanylutheran.org.

FISH Hours

FISH stands for "Families Involved in Service Hours." Each Bethany family is required to give 5 hours of service each year. (Many of our families serve many more than 5 hours!) You can serve at events, drive for a trip/sport, bring in classroom supplies, assist your child's teacher and so much more.

You can log your FISH hours from the [Bethany website](#) OR from Gradelink. We'll send you a "FISHing Report" each quarter to let you know how many hours you've served.



Typically we take a weekly offering during our chapel services that is used to support a charity. These offerings teach our students the importance of using our financial blessings to make a difference in the lives of others.

Our end of August and September offerings will go to SEEDS Therapy, the organization that we will be partnering with here at Bethany. Our offerings will help this organization offer scholarships to families who cannot afford needed therapy for their children.

Chapel offerings are entirely voluntary, but we encourage you to support this worthy aid organization!

Middle School Corner

Middle School Families, please keep this list someplace handy, we believe communication strengthens our partnership with you. Looking forward to a wonderful year!

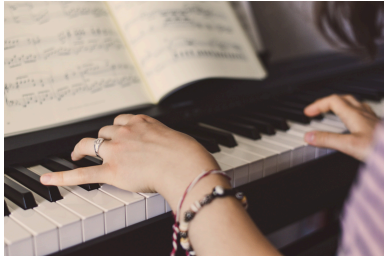
Middle School Faculty

Name	Email	Phone Extension (562) 420-7783	Room/Location
Dr. Mary Fink, Principal	mfink@bethanylutheran.org	Ext. 17	School Office
Mrs. Carrie Evans	cevans@bethanylutheran.org	Ext.37	204
Ms. Abby Einspahr	aeinspahr@bethanylutheran.org	Ext. 36	205
Mr. Brad Royuk	broyuk@bethanylutheran.org	Ext. 38	203
Mr. Paul Brege	pbrege@bethanylutheran.org	Ext. 39	206
Ms. Sharon Pachón	spachon@bethanylutheran.org	Ext. 45	208
Mrs. Sarah O'Conner	soconner@bethanylutheran.org	Ext. 35	217



We are happy to announce a new partnership with SEEDS! This amazing organization will provide our students on-campus access to individual therapy, social-emotional skill groups, parent and staff training and so much more. You can read more about this organization at the end of today's newsletter. We have already benefitted from our SEEDS partnership: our staff participate in Mental Health First Aid training just last week!

We have witnessed over and over again the shortage of available therapy for children, and the frustration parents experience trying to find help. We know this will be a valuable service for our families.



Music Academy

Bethany's Music Academy provides extra-curricular music instruction to students in Grades 2-8 after school, M-F between 3:15 and 6:30 PM.

We have Christian instructors who are professionals in their field and offer lessons in piano (Grades 2 and up) and trumpet (4th grade and up.)

Tuition is \$300 per semester plus a \$25 registration fee which covers 12 lessons each semester.

Brochures and enrollment forms are available in the school office. Enrollment forms are due September 6.

Student Council

Congrats to our Student Leaders for
2024-2025

President: Jacob Murdock

Vice President: Ethan Lo

Secretary: Eric Vega

Spirit Coord.: Reenie Long

Servant Leadership: Sophia Erdman

PTL

Parents, you are all members of the Parent Teacher League, our amazing group of parent leaders/volunteers and an important part of making Bethany such a special place.

We'll need your help to pull off our events in the year ahead (and it's a great way to earn FISH hours!) Please [click this link](#) and let us know where you'd like to plug in!

Our first PTL meeting of the school year will be on Sept. 24. Watch for more details in the weeks to come!

Did you know?

We have students from Valley Christian High School's "Christian Service" class who visit our campus once a week throughout the year. Their role is to be on the playground with our K-2 students and teachers, engaging students in games and conversation while demonstrating a Christ-like demeanor and attitude.

We LOVED our Valley Christian friends last year, and we're looking forward to welcoming a new crew this year!



WHY SEEDS?

There is a current demanding need for emotional, spiritual and overall developmental support for children K-12.

-According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), 1 in 6 U.S. youths between the ages 6-17 will experience a mental health disorder each year.

-The CDC reports that from March 2020 - October 2020, emergency hospital visits that were directly related to mental health rose 24% for ages 5-11 and 31% for ages 12-17 compared to the same period in 2019.

-According to the CDC, in 2020, suicide was the second leading cause of death for children ages 10-14.

WHO WE ARE & HOW WE HELP

SEEDS is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization which started in 2021, when a clear and urgent need was seen to combat the growing mental health pandemic magnified by Covid-19. Our mission is to bring faith-based, mental health services to private Christian schools (K-12) by providing caring and qualified mental health therapists who can assess, diagnose and treat mental health issues. We offer a variety of therapeutic mental health services with the goal that every child could have access to this crucial support.

WHAT DO WE OFFER?

SEEDS offers individual therapy, social and emotional-development groups (taught during school hours), crisis intervention, resources/referrals and teacher/parent mental health education seminars in the evenings.

We believe that teachers should not be alone in trying to handle everything taking place in the classroom and want to provide them with support so that they are free to focus on their mission as an educator.

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We are grateful that our policy makers are prioritizing mental health, however, it currently stands that only public schools can receive funding for these services. Our families in private schools are not given the same opportunity to access this important mental health support for their children. Many families prioritize their financial resources for attending these private schools, as they see the value in a faith-based education, but they cannot afford additional costs for mental health services on top of the tuition. As a recent start up with no public funds, we rely heavily on grants and donations in order to be able to offer the SEEDS program to schools that desperately need it.

Your donation makes it possible for our children to receive the support they need, and we sincerely thank you. We are excited about God's vision for the future expansion of SEEDS and we are dedicated to making this program available to as many as possible.



BENEFITS OF OUR SERVICES

- Assess for high-risk behaviors such as suicide, drugs/alcohol, eating issues, etc...
- Support and trainings for families and school staff
- Healthier social functioning and decreased behavioral/disciplinary issues reducing classroom disruption
- Improve academic performance and engagement in school activities
- Diagnose and treat mental health disorders



For information on our program, how you can help or to make a donation please visit:
www.seedstherapy.org or call 949.243.7600



Moms in Prayer *invites you* to have a profound impact on your children and their schools, from preschool to young adult.

BLS Moms in Prayer

Weekly meetings begin Tuesday, September 10th

8:30-9:30 am • BLS Library

• Starting in October we join MomCo in the Youth Room every 2nd Tuesday •

Join Bethany moms in praying for our children, staff and school.

Meetings are structured and confidential.

Can't commit weekly? That's ok - come when you can!

earn FISH hours for attending Moms in Prayer in person

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12*

Questions or prayer requests: contact Julie Long julieflute@gmail.com



For information about Moms in Prayer International,
visit **MomsInPrayer.org**

Text: GROUPS to 51555



SCHOOL LUNCH DONE RIGHT!™

Enjoy freedom from the daily hassle of packing lunch and **take back your mornings!**

Order faster, enjoy more with the latest enhancements to the Choicelunch app, including:

- **One-Click Repeat Ordering:** Reorder your favorites in a tap.
- **Advanced Filters:** Find meals by temperature, allergens, and more.
- **Edit Lunch Orders:** Easily change or cancel orders.
- **Search Option:** Quickly find what you need.
- **Flexible Ordering:** Choose how you order – by student, by day, or by entrée.

Customize, delight, and repeat – it’s that simple to have enjoyable lunches all school year with Choicelunch!



order.choicelunch.com

Get the App

Our recipe is simple.

We use whole, fresh ingredients sourced responsibly from trusted partners. We avoid anything artificial or processed, especially:

- ⊘ High Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS)
- ⊘ Added Nitrates/Nitrites
- ⊘ Artificial Sweeteners or Colors & Flavors
- ⊘ Partially Hydrogenated Oils
- ⊘ Peanut and Tree Nut-Free
(some entrées may contain coconut oil)

We source fresh, antibiotic-free chicken and beef. With our fresh fruits and veggies, if it’s on the EWG’s Dirty Dozen list, we make every effort to source organic.

Choicelunch founders’ kids are customers.



GOT QUESTIONS? Our super-friendly California-based support team is here to help. Reach out via online chat or email us at support@choicelunch.com. We’re ready and waiting to assist you!

continue →

Lunchtime On Your Terms

BUILD YOUR OWN MEAL PLAN

Looking for lunchtime flexibility? Our Meal Plans subscription service lets you save money and customize meals to fit your family's needs.

Build Your Plan:

- Mix and match days and sides to suit your schedule and taste.
 - » Want lunch 3 days a week with 2 sides? Done!
 - » Prefer lunch 4 days a week with 1 side? No problem!
- Create a meal plan as unique as your child's cravings.

No Strings Attached:

- Change, cancel, or upgrade anytime during the school year.
- Experiment with different plans and adapt as needed.

Start Saving Today:

- Treat your kids to delicious meals while staying within budget.
- Enjoy savings without sacrificing convenience and choice.



Why Families Choicelunch

1. **Convenience.** Take back your mornings and never make lunch again, or at least take a break.
2. **Choicelunch App.** Customize, Delight, Repeat! Order delicious lunch in a flash - anytime, anywhere!
3. **Full Control.** Order everything online, from entrées to snacks, fruits/veggies, and drinks.
4. **More Choices.** Up to 20 options daily, including hot & cold entrées, plus over 40 sides for diverse taste buds & preferences. **Allergen Filter.**
5. Customize your menu to only show items that meet your student's dietary needs & preferences.
6. **Whole Ingredients.** We use whole, fresh ingredients sourced responsibly from trusted partners.
7. **Registered Dietitian.** Our recipes and ingredients are carefully reviewed and approved by a registered dietitian. **Earth-Friendly.** We care about our planet! Our packaging is either compostable or made from 100% post-consumer recycled materials. **Flexible**
9. **Deadlines.** Choose from advance ordering to day-of service until 9 am, with on-campus emergency lunches available too.
10. **Superhero Support.** Contact us online or email support@choicelunch.com. We're ready to save the day!

Ready, Set, Scan!

Scan the QR code below to sign up.

You can also join via our mobile app or at order.choicelunch.com.



1. **Simple Sign Up:** Enter your info, share your child's dietary preferences and food allergies, and we'll handle the rest!
2. **Build a Meal Plan:** Customize each child's meal plan. Change, cancel, or upgrade anytime to match their tastes and needs.
3. **Delight in Variety:** Choose from up to 20 delicious hot and cold entrées daily. Add sides, snacks, drinks, fruits, and veggies for the ideal meal.
4. **Last-Minute Friendly:** Enjoy flexible ordering with various deadlines, from advanced, same-day, and emergency lunches. Perfect for planners, spontaneous decisions, and last-minute needs.