



NEW PARENT ORIENTATION

NEW PARENT ORIENTATION

DATE: Friday, August 5th, 2022

TIME: 3:30pm-5pm

LOCATION: Daybreak (1270 Kailua Rd.)

GOAL: Want to make parents feel comfortable, secure, excited, and at ease with the school.

3:30 pm- Hang out and chat

3:40 pm- Begin Orientation

Welcome! It's so exciting to have so many new families join us this year! We have a total of 55 families, and 24 of those families are new. So we've experienced a tremendous growth spurt, which is wonderful, but it's important to make sure that you all have two things: First, a good idea of what we are aiming at in our culture by sharing more of our vision and mission. The second, is to make sure your transition into the rhythms and flow of the school is as smooth as possible.

So this afternoon we're going to address those two aspects: the mission of the school first and then address more of the nuts and bolts to make your on-boarding transition smooth. Then we'll hit these two issues again later this evening with the all the parents as it applies to everyone.

- Mission Statement: “Saint Benedict Hall **partners** with families in a **hybrid classical homeschool** program to raise-up **Christians** who delight in God’s **truth, goodness, and beauty.**”
 - Partnership
 - School takes leadership in the academic structure
 - Parents take leadership in character, habits, and spiritual growth
 - More substantial partnership in this model. Our teachers are committed to consistent communication. This is not a drop off and go program.

- We recognize that YOU as parents are best equipped and most motivated to invest in your children at home, and we want to support each other in this partnership for the sake of our children.
- Hybrid/Collaborative
 - Best of both worlds
 - External structure, support, community, social growth
 - At Home flexibility, travel, more opportunity to invest in education/growth of children, and time together as family.
- Classical
 - Education is about growing to love the right things
 - Just as Tik Tok and Instagram is an education in the desires/values/affections of pop culture, Classical education seeks to capture the desires/values/affections of our children to the Good, Beautiful and True of what has stood the test of time
 - We recognize the telos of a good education is wisdom and virtue. Learning facts and skills are not an end in themselves in our model→ they serve the greater purpose of developing wisdom and virtue in our children.
 - We see struggle and even sometimes conflict, as golden opportunities for our children to grow and learn. We don't shy away from this, but press into it when it happens. See it as an opportunity!
 - Participating in the Great Conversation
 - Latin opens up new vistas for our children; strengths their critical thinking; understands roots of all the latin languages
 - House System
- Homeschool
 - SBH is technically a homeschool resource program
 - We keep DOE letters of intent on file
 - When your kids graduate from SBH, their transcript will be a home school transcript with classes listed taken at SBH
- Christian Community
 - We are unapologetically a Christian education– Bible every day, worship twice a day, sing hymns, chant psalms... in all we do we begin and end in prayer.
 - We center our daily rhythms around seeing Christ as literally the Alpha and Omega: the beginning and the end. We believe as Colossians 1 says, "In Christ all things hold together." At the deepest level, we recognize that the meaning and purpose of Language, History, Nature Studies, Stories...they all hold together in Christ.

- For example, with language: We believe humans have language as a gift from God because we are made in his image. And as John 1 says, “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.” Jesus is the embodiment of Word/Language which is the means of communication, relationship and love. So even our Latin Class and Language Arts classes are participating in the life of Christ. This is equally true in all the classes and content we pursue and teach and learn to love at SBH.
 - We want Christ not only at the center of our ideas, but also our time. So we are rooted to the Church Calendar– conformed around the life of Christ
 - So though we are deeply committed to training our children up in the knowledge and love of Christ, we are open to families that may or may not attend church regularly or don’t even consider themselves Christians. We come from over 20 different churches on the island. We have a respect for all traditions, but are committed to our Anglican tradition. This roots us in a way that makes us more resilient and stable when we encounter the cultural pressures of things like progressive gender ideology. We have a bishop, a diocese, a network of churches here in Hawaii all backing us up on these things. We aren’t alone.
 - We are not a church, but a ministry of the Anglican churches on the island.
- Delights in God’s
 - Truth- ideas that correspond to reality. Philosophy/Wisdom/Mind/Intellect/use of reason/logic; thinking God’s thoughts after Him.
 - Goodness- behavior that properly corresponds to reality. Ethics/actions that reflect God’s actions. Goodness is the embodiment of Love in the world.
 - Beauty- Is the outward manifestation of truth and goodness. It has a pulling/drawing characteristic; aesthetics. All of our experience can participate in beauty: Visual, taste, smell, texture, even math. Beauty is essentially undefinable and mysterious; We often recognize beauty is poetry, visual arts, design, music can all participate in beauty.
- So this was an deep dive into our mission statement and peeling back these terms there that were all intentionally chosen to communicate our mission, culture, and identity.

4:05pm- 5 minute break

4:10pm- Communication, Nuts and Bolts,

Communication

- [Slack](#)
 - PLEASE Sign Up ASAP.
 - This is the crucial connection point between tutors and parents.
 - Feel free to direct message your child's tutor on Thursday or Friday
 - Direct Message Dcn. Ben and teachers on Slack if your child is sick or your family will have a planned absence.
- Friday SBH Malanai Newsletters
 - I avoid trying to send a lot of informational emails out through the week, and keep everything to a single weekly email.
 - But it is Critical to read to stay posted.
- What do I do when there's a problem? Talk to the teacher first!
 - We recommend that you go straight to your teacher if you have a question or a concern with something in the class.
- Come visit SBH classrooms!
 - As parents you are ALWAYS welcome to come visit and see what is going on in our classes! Just email me to arrange a good time!

Finances

- Invoices on the 15th of each month
- Pay in 10 monthly installments or all at one time.
- [How can I pay my program dues?](#)
 - Suggest Auto Payment is best, Venmo is great, and check is good too.
- \$50 late fee after the 1st of the month

Overview of Homeschooling in Hawaii

- [Overview of Homeschooling Laws](#)
 - Letter of Intent
 - Annual Report
 - Standardized Testing in Grades 3, 5, and 8
 - No vaccinations required

Calendar & Academics

- Review [Calendar](#)
- What to expect at [Parent Tutor Conferences](#)
 - Rotation through all your children's tutors
 - Receive Students Comments 3 times a year
 - Copy and Paste those comments into your annual report

- [Grades at SBH](#)
 - By default we don't use
 - Not the focus but helpful to gauge
 - Should not be a source of stress, pride, or competition
 - If you need them, students don't need to know

Home Days

- What does a Home Day look like?
 - Math, Spelling, and Keyboarding
 - [Auntie Chrissie's Sample](#)
 - Other tips:
 - Turn off all screens during school
 - Dedicate some space to home to work
 - Kids thrive on routine and clear expectations at home
 - Keep Pressing On! It's a marathon!
- [Math and Curriculum Suggestions](#)

5pm- Break and Pick up Shirts and Stickers



PARENT IN-SERVICE

PARENT IN-SERVICE

DATE: Friday, August 5th, 2022

TIME: 5pm-7pm – *dinner provided*

LOCATION: Daybreak (1270 Kailua Rd.)

GOAL: Want to make parents feel comfortable, secure, excited, and at ease with the school.

TABLES: setting placed by Form.

5pm- Hang out and chat – Stickers and single info sheet. Give parents their kids' shirts at door.

5:10pm- Welcome Vision Talk - Sturdy Kids, Healthy Growth, Integrating new families, (1300 words) .

Well good evening! We'll get started here. My name is Deacon Ben Moore. Some of you I've only met over Zoom before today, so it's wonderful to see everyone here in person!

We're so thankful this year to be based here at Daybreak Monday, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, and we are excited to be partnering with Daybreak! I want to thank the Daybreak Staff for their generous support and partnership as we share this space for the common Gospel ministry work here in Kailua. They've been awesome.

This evening, I want to share some of my reflections on the ideas presented by Keith McCurdy on Raising Sturdy Kids. McCurdy is a family psychologist in Virginia, and works with Classical Christian school parents and educators. One of his main themes he speaks on is the importance of struggle in child development. His thesis is simple, but somewhat countercultural:

[change slide]

“Healthy Struggle is the Engine to Growth and Maturity!” “Healthy Struggle is the engine to growth and maturity.” He observed that maybe 10 or 20 years ago, there was a stereotype of the “helicopter parent” who would hover over their children and make things easier for them. But now, he observes parents going beyond that...they are more like bulldozers...trying to completely eliminate all struggle and difficulty from the lives of their children. McCurdy notes that when you read books like Little House on the Prairie, children didn't avoid struggle and difficulty, they were expected to embrace it. He believes that as we've moved away from these kinds of norms for children, that our children, in general, have become more fragile— quick to give up— easily discouraged if things aren't just a certain way. McCurdy suggests that despite the best intentions of Bulldozer parents, removing struggle actually does a disservice to children rather than being a blessing. He has observed that children who don't experience difficulty or healthy struggle as they develop, become accustomed to the absence of challenge and expect that this is normal— it's how they come to believe the world ought to work. So when these children come of age, and they go out into the world to go to college or begin working or going to a church, they have no healthy category for struggle and often shut down and isolate when faced with adversity.

So I've been reflecting on these ideas over this summer, speaking with friends and family about them, and wanted to share some of my vision for how these things could help inform how we think about these things at SBH.

...

I think it's important that SBH to be a place where healthy struggle is not just tolerated, but embraced. To explain this, there's a few things I DON'T mean when I use the term "healthy struggle":

[slide change]

First, healthy struggle is not children struggling with not being treated as persons in the classroom. Unfortunately, the conventional approach to education today treats children more like a widget being manufactured in a factory, rather than a person. The educational system has become very transactional: teachers jobs are like technicians putting the right ideas into the heads of students, so they are "prepared" for the next step the process. While some might call this a "prep school model", I call a "work-prep school model"-- it's orientated to perpetuate this cycle of mere work and labor...on preparing people primarily for the workforce...Students are viewed as valuable in-so-far as they grow up to be valuable workers for the workforce, not as image bearers of God...the imago dei. The cart has come before the horse.

Progressive school models are based on the factory. The school thinks of itself as a venue to produce a product (children) using the latest industrial technology and technicians (teachers). The end product is a student who can perform to get good grades and an acceptable SAT score. Everything in the school is oriented toward this goal. Those of us who have grown up in this model knows how dehumanizing this model can be. I know I struggled with adapting to this model, but this is not the kind of healthy struggle I'm talking about.

At SBH we view our students as first and foremost, persons-- children of God, innately valuable. We will still recognize distinction and excellence, but as a celebration of each other's hard work-- not a competition for value. Our children are born persons with a capacity for growing their God given mind, body, and soul. Like a plant, they are created to learn and grow. As Saint Paul says in 1st Corinthians, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow." At SBH we believe we are more like gardeners than technicians.

So when we at SBH speak of healthy struggle it is in the context of a philosophy of education that treats children with dignity, respect, and honor. Of raising children to *love* what is good, beautiful and true. We want to call our students into maturity, where they are not overcome with despair at a difficult assignment or reading a challenging book, but encouraging them with a slow and steady diet of prior struggles to make them sturdy.

[slide change]

Second, just throwing a difficult assignment at a student without any scaffolding or preparation, is also not healthy struggle. Part of the job of parents and teachers is to equip students to have the tools to do what we ask them. Healthy struggle is only healthy when our children have the support and mentoring to equip them in three ways:

- 1st We give them the tools and training,
- 2nd, we know they are capable of doing it, and
- 3rd, we then give them the space and accountability to do it for themselves.

After we equip them, Charlotte Mason says we are to have “masterly inactivity”. This is when we allow our children to be the primary agent to work through something, rather than the parent or teacher doing it for them. As a parent I know what it is like to watch my own child struggle with something, but know that to interfere would not be best. We all know what it's like to see the face of our children after they have accomplished something difficult for the first time on their own– that look of joy, excitement, discovery in their ability to overcome. This is what we want at SBH.

Here's a quote from one of McCurdy's articles: “When we raise children with a large sense of entitlement, they look for and expect a country to take care of them. When we raise children with a strong sense of self-reliance, they look for a country to serve ... they realize they can take care of themselves. The most confident children I have ever met are the ones that understand self-reliance. I rarely deal with a depressed or anxious child that has a strong sense of self-reliance. ... If we truly want our children to experience freedom, we need to build self-reliance into them. We need to do less for them and require more of them. We need to encourage and affirm their achievements and developments rather than buy them happiness. As parents, we all struggle with this balance, but the battle with our current culture is worth it.”

[slide change]

Finally, healthy struggle is NOT just sustained misery– it has to have both the experience of difficulty *and* accomplishment. Pure difficulty without ever a sense of making progress leads to despair. Sometimes *there are* long stretches of doing something difficult where there isn't that satisfaction that it's making a difference, and that's okay, but as parents and teachers we should highlight accomplishment and growth when we can after a long stretch like this.

There is a separate category of things we learn to endure...things that are just miserable, tragic, unjust, wrong, or even evil. Sometimes when we have these kinds of struggles, we aren't in control and don't have the agency to change the situation, and only have control

in how we respond. These experiences too *can* be an opportunity for growth and maturity, but it needs to be dealt with differently, and it's not exactly what I have in mind as being the same thing as "healthy struggle" that I want us to embrace at the school.

The goal of all this healthy struggle is growth and maturity. McCurdy interestingly defines maturity for a child as doing things even when they don't feel like it. But it's growth and maturity that is the point of this struggle.

[new slide]

McCurdy at one point in his presentation says that the end goal for our children is not happiness but maturity. This prompted me to think more deeply— I admit that there was a part of me that was like "Really? But I want my kids to be happy when they grow up!"

I think what he meant was that happiness shouldn't be the end goal for which we shoot, but being content and joyful can often be a byproduct of maturity. We simply cannot ensure our children will be happy when they grow up, and God doesn't call us as parents to this. But we can nurture them into maturity— in their faith, hope, and love. A person who has a deep faith, a sustaining hope in Jesus Christ, and an overflowing love for God and others...this person is more likely to be truly content and joyful.

So as we enter into this partnership this year to educate our children, it's my hope that we will see the value together in giving opportunities to our children for healthy struggle that will lead to growth and maturity.

[change slide]

Next up, I'd like to welcome Fr. Mark, our Dean of Culture, to share our vision for our culture here at SBH.

5:20pm- Fr. Mark- Culture at SBH

5:30pm- Fr. Joe- Family Evening Prayer. Opening Song: In Christ Alone. Chant a Psalm.

5:40pm- Dinner Dish up and then listen to presentation

6:10pm- Inservice

- Calendar always available on the parents dashboard

- With our move to Daybreak, we will be synced with the public school calendar for all our breaks
- The Halawai Houseless Event- Last Tuesday of each month
- Excursion Team Leaders please stand.
 - We'll have 8 excursions for the last Tuesday of each month that we have class: Bishop Museum, Kaena Point Hike, and Waiahole Poi Factory
 - If you'd like your child to attend these events, parents will need to attend these excursions or you need to explicitly entrust your child with another adult. (the program staff can't accept liability for all the students off campus)
 - SBH students and SBH staff will be covered for all admissions fees
 - SBH parents and siblings will need to pay for their own admissions tickets if applicable.
- Our first excursion will be to Baby Makapu'u Tidepools on August 30th!
- Additional Parent Trainings
 - Monday August 15th: 12:00pm Form IA Language Arts Training @ Daybreak
 - Monday, August 29th: 12:00pm all Forms Latin Training @ Daybreak
 - Monday, September 12th: 12:00pm Form 1B and 1C Language Arts Training @ Daybreak
 - Wednesday, Sept 21: 12pm "Q&A with Kat"
- Peter Leithart Lecture on a Hopeful Education on October 11th.
- Communication
 - Slack
 - Choose carefully how much communication you want to be notified of: highest level is to get alerts on your phone every time something is posted in one of your channels. The lowest is no notifications. If you are starting to feel like you are missing things, consider being notified a little more.
 - Use the tread function if possible to keep particular conversations together.
 - Parent Dashboard
 - Particularly draw attention to the new safety policy
 - High school section
 - What do I do when there's a problem? Talk to the teacher first!
 - We recommend that you go straight to your teacher if you have a question or a concern with something in the class.

- For bigger concerns who can address me, Fr. Mark, or Bishop Ken (email is found in the SBH Handbook).
- First Trimester: a checklist pdf will be emailed out to Form 1A and 1B families by Thursday morning
- Parent Involvement
 - **ALL returning parents need to Complete the Parent Volunteer Form**
 - Join the Sub List
 - According to our Diocesan safety requirements, all substitute teachers must be part of our school community for at least 6 months before being in the classroom. That means all the new parents joining us now will be eligible to sub in January.
 - If you are a returning family, I would strongly encourage you to volunteer to help us with this. We are very low on subs for the next 6 months!
 - Supervise during Staff Meetings
 - Help coordinate an annual event like the Christmas Concert, May Day, or the Fundraiser
 - Help Scribe for Form 1A and 1B during exam weeks (25 students)
- Drop Off and Pick up
 - We will have over 70 K-8 students to make sure they safely get dropped off and picked up, so we'll need to tighten our pick up procedure some:
 - Drop off anytime after 7:45am
 - It would be helpful to have some students set up tables and chairs in the sanctuary and lanai on Monday morning
 - Students need to drop off their bags in their classroom and then head over to sit in the chapel. We don't have staff available to monitor dozens of kids playing on the field before school this year.
 - Pick up anytime during Math Study (1:50-2:30pm each day.)
 - All students need to be in Math Study on the lanai or in the Coconut Room until 2:30 and then they will wait there until they are picked up.
 - No playing on the field unless parents are supervising them
 - Please pick up by 2:35pm
 - For Pick up and Drop off:
 - First, Please create two lanes in the parking lot like at the airport: the right lane you can pull over and have your kids jump in, the left

lane keep clear to exit. You can park in the parking lot to come collect your children too.

- Second, don't park on the right side.
- Third, Please don't let your children cross the street in front of oncoming traffic without accompanying them.
- Finally, All the staff have access to the authorized pick up list, so we will be ensuring that familiar faces are taking your children that we've checked are on your list.

- SBH Chapel

-
- We'll have two lines for communion on Wednesday. If your child has been baptized they are welcome to join us, otherwise they will receive a blessing. Parents are ALWAYS encouraged to join us for morning worship. We'll have a rotation of 3 pastors leading communion: Fr. Mark, Fr. Joe, and Fr. Dan. They will start wearing a white robe this year during that service. We want to cultivate the kids' affections to God to recognize God's glory in reverence and symbolism.

- Other Nuts and Bolts:

- We've changed the name of Classics & Composition to Language Arts
- **Students need to wear shoes while playing outside to reduce the amount of dirt they are tracking into the classrooms. If they are barefooted, they'll bring in all that red dirt.**
- **We will use the door near the bathrooms as our main door to the sanctuary this year.**
- As you drive through the neighborhood, please be mindful to slow down even when you're in a rush. We will be increasing the amount of traffic for the YMCA and the whole neighborhood.

- Miscellaneous

- Tell parents to label their books, bags, and lunchboxes
- House Duties House T-Shirt Days will be the last Tuesday of each month.
- Wear SBH Polos on Eucharist day (Wednesdays).
- Next week, we'll have the students wear their House Shirts on MONDAY, but then after that, it will be Polos on Wednesdays
- House Duties
- We'll be putting together a SBH Parents Yellowpages of businesses that SBH parents own, operate, or can take personal clients, so that you can work with

6:40- Breakout sessions with Tutors to share about classes: 3 minutes each class

7pm- Closing Prayer by Fr. Mark and dismissal