



Dear Parents,

Teachers and students have been very busy! September brought us parent night, high school night, PTO mother & son dodge ball, the magazine drive, Yankee candle sale, school picture day, MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing and the students first Friday faith families of the 2018/19 school year. Many thanks for those who participated!

CONGRATULATIONS to the new St. Mary Catholic School student council members:

- Thomas Duldner, President
- Samantha Przybys, Vice President
- Charles Miller, Treasurer
- Angelyn Oliver, Secretary
- Lorelei Hack & Ava Ornas, Student Ambassadors
- Andrew Leopold & Molly Waters, Stewardship Officers

October is here, and with it comes cooler weather and more comfortable classroom environments. Some items to keep in mind:

1. If your child is cold in the classroom or at recess, they need to wear a uniform approved sweater or sweatshirt. Hoodies of any kind are NOT permitted in the classroom, even on Dress Down Days. Please refer to the school dress code in the Parent/Student Handbook for complete details. Children should be prepared for daily outdoor recess.
2. The students will need to begin wearing the uniform sweat pants as part of the gym uniform on October 15th. The students can also wear the optional nylon sweat pant. It is available at Luna and is an approved addition to our SMS gym uniform.
3. Music, Spanish, and Physical Education teachers will issue letter grades for students in Grades 6-8. These letter grades will be considered when determining student academic awards. These teachers will continue to assess students in Grades 4 & 5 by using: O-Outstanding, S-Satisfactory, N-Needs Improvement, U-Unsatisfactory. Any 'N' or 'U' in conduct or effort on the report card in any subject area will negate the possibility of an academic award. The criteria for Honor/Merit Roll will be as follows:
 - I. 1st Honors – All A's and one "B" in Religion, Social Studies, Science, Reading, English, Math, and a "B" or higher in the specials.
 - II. 2nd Honors - All B's or higher in Religion, Social Studies, Science, Reading, English, Math, and a "B" or higher in the specials.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students have a variety of extra-curricular activities to select from throughout the academic school year. Power of the Pen, Classroom of Champions, Sewing Club, Eager Artist, Chess Club, Lego Club, Drama Club, Video Newsletter, Choir, Running Club, Ski Club, as well as CYO Sports.

CAFETERIA - SMS WELLNESS POLICY (Rev.code 3313.814)

St. Mary Catholic School will continue to focus on our Wellness Policy. The monthly cafeteria menu allows your child to choose a main entrée in addition to a la carte side dishes. The students enjoy the opportunity to make more choices from a healthier selection of food and beverage items containing less sugar, more fresh fruit, and daily salad choices. The SMS Menu conforms to:

- No deep-fried food.
- No more than 35% calories from fat.
- Beverages - milk, water, or 100% fruit juice - All students in Grade 1 through Grade 5 will be limited to no more than two side dish purchases (excludes beverage).
- A “peanut awareness” lunch table for students with nut allergies.

STUDENT ILLNESS

St. Mary Catholic School has been proactive in preparing for the cold and flu season. Each teacher will follow the guidelines posted by the CDC (Center for Disease Control & Prevention) listing action steps for schools to prevent the spread of colds and flu. Teachers will take special care of the classroom environment by sanitizing desks and commonly used items. Our maintenance staff will also take extra steps to insure a healthy environment, and the cafeteria staff will continue to provide students with hand sanitizer to use during the lunch period.

Parents can help by reinforcing with your child the importance of . . .

- Good hand washing using soap and water or a hand sanitizer.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue or into your elbow or shoulder, NOT into your hands.
- Keep your child home if they display symptoms of coughing, sneezing, or fever.
- Get your family vaccinated for seasonal flu.
- Plan ahead for childcare at home if your child gets sick.

VISITORS TO SCHOOL

All visitors MUST report to the school office. Parents and visitors are not permitted to enter the school building unless arrangements have been made in the school office. All messages are to be given to students and teachers through the school office. All parents and visitors must sign in at the school office and receive a VISITOR’S PASS prior to visiting the school campus.

PARENT – TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

PTO will host the annual family hayride on Friday, October 5th, at the Metro Park Chalet in Strongsville. Families come and enjoy a DJ, snacks, and a hayride (yes, hay will be thrown).

The PTO is busy planning the annual fundraiser to be held on Saturday, March 2, 2019 from 6:00pm-11:00pm at the Fr. Garrity Center. More information & details will be posted soon!

HALLOWEEN

Halloween will be celebrated at St. Mary Catholic School on Wednesday, October 31st. The Student Council will once again organize “Trick or Treat Street” and the Halloween Parade. All students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 may dress in costumes. Dress down clothes must be worn underneath the costume. All parts of the costume must be removable. Please, if your child will be wearing a mask as part of their costume, it **MUST BE CARRIED** to school and **NOT WORN** on the bus. Also, advise your children to avoid gory costumes or satanic attire. Each year we continue to see outrageous costumes. Please help direct your child in their selection of costume, and what is appropriate to wear in a Catholic school. Junior High students may dress down on October 31st. Check the Parent/Student Handbook for dress down clothing guidelines.

Junior High students will enjoy a Halloween Dance on Friday, October 26th 3:30-5PM at Father Garrity Center.

**Don't forget! Jr. High students must bring
3 bags of candy to share for “Trick or Treat Street”**

STUDENT ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

The school is responsible for the supervision of St. Mary Catholic School students from 8:30 AM until 3:20 PM. Once the student is dismissed as a walker/rider, or placed on the bus, they will no longer be the school's responsibility. The Extended Care and Preschool Day Care Programs are available for parents that need to drop off their children prior to 8:30 AM or pick up after 3:20 PM dismissal. **NO STUDENT** may be on school campus unless under the supervision of a Faculty/Staff member or attending the Extended Care Program. This policy will be **ENFORCED** for the safety and supervision of the student.

As always, proceed with care through the parking lot. Please pay attention, be alert, and take caution to those entering and exiting the school and their vehicles.

STEWARDSHIP & FATHER MARTY DRESS DOWN DAYS

The St. Mary Catholic School STEWARDSHIP Program encourages students to share their time and talents to serve our community in a variety of ways. This is a school-wide program with a monthly Stewardship focus (see below). We assemble into families (groups) on the specified Fr. Marty Dress Down Days and work on community service activities. Each child truly enjoys being with their Faith Family of younger & older “brothers and sisters”! If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Mrs. Patena, mpatena@smsbera.org.

The Stewardship focus for each month:

September - Sick Children
October-Hungry
November-Veterans
December-Needy

January-Disabled
February-Refugees & Homeless
March-Social Justice & Ed
April-Children

Kindergarten – Gr. 8 students will also participate in a \$1.00 Fr. Marty Dress Down Day once a month on Stewardship days. The donation helps support the mission school Fr. Marty founded in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Fr. Marty is a Marianist and an alumnus of St. Mary Catholic School. He often visits his family in Berea and always finds time to stop by St. Mary Catholic School. It is truly our privilege to support Fr. Marty's mission where both faith and education are brought to the children of Nairobi.

Stewardship Dress Down Days:

September 28	January 25
October 26	February 22
November 30	March 22
December 21	April 12

HEAD LICE POLICY

Unfortunately, it is that season when we detect cases of head lice. Our school policy is shown below along with some helpful hints to treat your children if they become infected.

POLICY: Exclusion from school and treatment of infested individuals is the most important factor in controlling head lice.

The protocol at SMS once head lice have been detected . . .

1. A parent is notified and the child is sent home to receive treatment.
2. The child's locker is emptied, bagged, and sent home with the child.
3. The affected locker and classroom are thoroughly cleaned and sprayed.
4. When the child returns to school trained personnel must check him before entering the classroom in the morning for one week of being lice/nit free. We suggest that parents accompany their child to school during this time in case they are not cleared to enter the classroom.
5. It is advisable to have girls wear their hair up at school. Students should not share any hair accessories, combs, brushes or clothing.
6. Many products are available at the drug store to deter lice, such as special shampoos. Check with your pharmacist or physician.

What parents can do . . .

1. Check every family member. Lice are hard to spot, so look for tiny white eggs (nits) on hair shafts, near the scalp, especially at the nape of the neck and behind the ears. Head lice are small, wingless, grayish-tan insects. Any family member with lice or nits must be treated.
2. Use an effective head lice treatment. Several are available without a prescription. Contact your physician.
3. Remove all nits. Gently comb the child's hair with the special nit removal comb. The combs are provided with most lice treatment products. Schools require students to be nit-free before returning to the classroom.
4. Wash clothes, bed linens, and towels. Use hot water, then dry on the hot cycle for at least 20 minutes. Items such as stuffed animals, headphones and hats that are not machine washable must be dry-cleaned or stored at room temperature in a tightly sealed plastic bag for at least two weeks.
5. Soak combs, brushes, etc. in hot water. The hotter the better, but the temperature should be at least 130 degrees. Items should soak for at least 20 minutes.
6. Vacuum everywhere. You should vacuum carpets, pillows, mattresses, and upholstered furniture, even the car seats.

SMS BUDDY BENCH

St. Mary implemented an exciting new way to make friends at recess. Mr. Leopold, last year, generously gave his time and talents in creating a cute “school friendly” bench that has been placed outside by our recess area. This idea was implemented to help our children who might not have someone to play with at recess.

Rules for the Buddy Bench

When you sit on the Buddy Bench...

- Before you sit on the Buddy Bench, think of something you would like to do. Ask someone else to play with you.
- The bench isn't for socializing. Only sit there if you can't find anyone to play with.
- While you're sitting on the bench, look around for a game you can join.
- If you're sitting on the bench, play with the first classmate who invites you.
- Keep playing with your new friends!

When you see someone sitting on the Buddy Bench...

- Start by saying hello. If you don't know the person, introduce yourself.
- Make conversation. What's up? How are you? I like your shoes.
- Ask them to play with you or suggest an activity you can do together.
- Don't make it the last time you hang out. Keep playing with your new friend!

Please see following page for October calendar date

IMPORTANT DATES for OCTOBER 2018

Monday, October 1 Dibels Testing
 CHESS CLUB, 7:30AM, Activity room #116

Tuesday, October 2 Dibels Testing

Wednesday, October 3 Dibels Testing
 Band Practice, 3:30-4:30PM, Spanish room #119
 ALTAR SERVER TRAINING, 3:30-4PM, St. Mary Catholic Church

Thursday, October 4 Dibels Testing
 Pet Blessing, 2:00PM
 Eager Artist, 3:30-4:30PM, Activity room #116

Friday, October 5 Interims sent home
 Rosary, 2:30PM St. Mary Catholic School
 PTO HAYRIDE, 6:30-9PM, Cleveland Metro Parks Chalet

Monday, October 8 CHESS CLUB, 7:30AM, Activity room #116
 All school Mass, 10:00-11AM

Wednesday, October 10 Dibels Math Testing
 Band Practice, 3:30-4:30PM, Spanish room #119
 Yankee Candle Sale Ends

Thursday, October 11 Gr. 7 & 8 Field Trip
 Eager Artist, 3:30-4:30PM, Activity room #116

Friday, October 12 NO SCHOOL

Sunday, October 14 Sacraments,
 Grades 2 & 8, 9:30AM Mass, St. Mary Catholic Church
 Grade 2, 10:30AM Class, Father Garrity Center
 Grade 8, 6:00PM Class, Father Garrity Center

Monday, October 15 CHESS CLUB, 7:30AM, Activity Room #116

Wednesday, October 17 Gr. 3 Field Trip
 Band Practice, 3:30-4:30PM, Spanish room #119

Thursday, October 18 Eager Artist

Friday, October 19 Preschool Field Trip

Monday, October 22 CHESS CLUB, 7:30AM, Activity room #116

Wednesday, October 24 Band Practice, 3:30-4:30PM, Spanish room #119
 Vision Screening, 8:30AM-12:30PM, Activity room #116 (K, 1, 3, 5, 7)

Thursday, October 25 Eager Artist, 3:30-4:30PM, Activity room #116

Friday, October 26 Stewardship/ Dress Down Day/ Faith Families
 All School Mass, 10:00-11AM, St. Mary Catholic Church
 Jr. High Dance 3:30-5PM, Father Garrity Center

Monday, October 29 CHESS CLUB, 7:30AM Activity room #116

Tuesday, October 30 Picture Retake & P3 Picture Day

Wednesday, October 31 Band Practice, 3:30-4:30PM Spanish room #119
 END of QUARTER