



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

LIFETIME LIONS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER SPRING 2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Alumni and Alumni Families:

I hope this email finds you and your family safe and well. It goes without saying that, since our last Alumni Newsletter, a lot has changed. It also goes without saying that, throughout all of the current challenges, one word continues to sum up this experience: COMMUNITY.

As of March 16, St. Mark moved to a distance learning model due to the shelter-in-place order that was issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. While this is certainly not the way we wanted to end our school year, we are proud that we have implemented a successful model that continues to propel our students forward and allows them to complete the 2019-20 school year without gaps in their education. Our success wouldn't be possible without the help of students, teachers, and parents. COMMUNITY.

We've also been challenged with keeping our St. Mark family together. Many of our families are suffering the economic effects of the shutdown, which has directly impacted their ability to meet their tuition commitments. We reached out to our St. Mark families with an invitation to donate to the Financial Assistance Fund to help provide immediate relief, and you responded. COMMUNITY.

(By the way, if you'd still like to give but haven't had the chance, we are participating in the **North Texas Giving Tuesday Now** event. Early giving is currently open, and ends



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ST. MARK IN THE NEWS



on May 5. [Click here to donate](#). We truly appreciate our community's generosity.)

Regretfully, many of the annual traditions we enjoy each spring have been canceled or postponed including First Communion, Confirmation, the STEM Fair, and the Spring Musical. Of course, the 8th grade Graduation Mass and Ceremony cancellation is weighing especially heavy on our minds as well. On the bright side, many have come together to make sure our graduates are celebrated in a unique way. COMMUNITY.

We just can't say it enough. In good times and challenging times, we are so grateful for our St. Mark COMMUNITY. It is truly what sets us apart, and it's what sees us through. We are so happy that you are a part of it.

Our alumni COMMUNITY continues to shine as well. Read on and enjoy the good news!

As we continue to pray for an end to the COVID-19 crisis, we at St. Mark Catholic School are continuing our mission to educate our students in an effective and meaningful way. Our COMMUNITY continues to be in our prayers, and we ask that you to keep us in yours.

May God bless our COMMUNITY, our nation, and our world.

Sincerely,



Patricia Opon
Principal
patricia.opon@stmcs.net

P.S. Don't see your accomplishment in this newsletter? Please send it to debbie.reed@stmcs.net. We'll include it in the next edition.

ALUMNI UPDATES

St. Mark was recently featured in a [video produced by The Texas Catholic](#) about preparations for distance learning.

One of our current school families was featured in the latest issue of *Catholic Neighbors* magazine.



REMEMBER WHEN



Remember when the St. Mark Class of 2016 visited The Pines? Now they are ready to take on many new adventures as they prepare to graduate from high school!

Post your comments on the school's [Facebook page!](#)

Congratulations to **Carissa T. '16** who has been named the Class of 2020 Valedictorian at Bishop Lynch High School. In addition to her outstanding academic performance, Carissa is a National Merit Commended Scholar, National Hispanic Scholar, BL Ambassador and a member of both Mu Alpha Theta and the National English Honor Society, among other extracurricular involvement.



Sarah H. '16, a senior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, is a National Merit Finalist representing the top 1% of PSAT scores during the 2018-29 school year. Sarah is also a member of the school's CAUSE for Life Club. She and other members of Ursuline's and Cistercian's clubs recently volunteered at In My Shoes, a non-profit and home for pregnant mothers affected by homelessness.

Matthew M. '16, as senior at John Paul II High School, was named as a recipient of the Bishop Grammann Award. This award honors students who exemplify the mission of the school.

The following students were inducted into the National Honor Society at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas: **Luke H. '18, Jack P. '18, Jake R. '18, and Thomas W. '18.**

The John Paul II High School Cardinal Belles drill team competed in the DFW Regional Showcase Competition and came out as Runner-Up Grand Champions for officer, Runner-Up Grand Champions for team, and 3rd Place Overall Grand Champions. Team members include **Ella P. '17, Carley H. '18, and Lauren G. '19.**

LIFETIME LIONS



LIFETIME LIONS

St. Mark alumni are invited to join Lifetime Lions, our official alumni network. Keep up with former classmates, become a mentor to current students, and learn about opportunities to earn high school service hours. [Click here to register.](#)

FAVORITE ST. MARK MEMORY



When

registering for Lifetime Lions, you are asked to share your favorite St. Mark memories.

Christa M. '11 fondly remembers Field Day, her class field trips to the science museum, the aquarium, the Holocaust museum, and the 6th Floor museum, The Pines, Ms. Tammy's Art class, and when her dad was the announcer and she was a

Tom S. '04, a graduate of Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas, Texas Christian University and The University of Texas at Dallas, was named to the Jesuit Dallas Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2020 for his accomplishments in the sport of karate.

Giselle H. '18, a sophomore at Bishop Lynch High School, was named All District Honorable Mention for TAPPS Women's Soccer.

Megan W. '16, a senior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, was named 2nd Team All District and Academic All State for TAPPS Women's Soccer.

Lauren N. '17, a junior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, was named All District Honorable Mention for TAPPS Women's Basketball.

Alonso T. '18, a sophomore at Bishop Lynch High School, competed in the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair and won two Honorable Mentions in his category, "Engineering Mechanics" and "Discover STEM."



Austin G. '19, a freshman at Lovejoy High School, served as the quarterback on the Varsity Football team, and competes on the Varsity Track team where he set the school's freshman record in the 100 meter dash.

Kate S. '08, a graduate of Bishop Lynch High School and Texas Tech University, and current Math teacher at Bishop Lynch, was appointed the new Bishop Lynch Siena House

junior cheerleader at the school Pep Rallies. Great memories!

STAY CONNECTED

Keep us posted!
As we receive alumni



updates, we incorporate them into our social media posts, weekly school bulletins and alumni communications. Tell us about your recent activities and accomplishments -- we'd love to hear from you!

Need to update your contact information? Simply send an email to [Debbie Reed](mailto:Debbie.Reed@stmark.org) with all of your updates.

WAYS TO GIVE TO ST. MARK



St. Mark Catholic School appreciates your support. If you would like to donate time,

Dean, effective in June. She will replace another St. Mark alum, **Amy D. '90**, who is relocating to Nashville for a position as the Director of Houses at Father Ryan High School.

In John Paul II High School Soccer news, **Fitch T. '18** was named TAPPS Division 1, District II Boys Varsity Soccer "Newcomer of the Year." He and **Kyle M. '19** were named 1st Team All-District, and **Diego L. '18** was named 2nd Team All-District. **Kevin P. '16** was named Honorable Mention All-District. **Maggie S. '18** was named TAPPS 1st Team All-District and 2nd Team All-State, and **Veronica J. '18** was named 2nd Team All-District for Varsity Girls Soccer.

Jordan B. '16, a senior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, signed a National Letter of Intent for rowing at The University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In John Paul II High School Swim Team news, **Matt C. '17** won 1st Place in the TAPPS State Championship Boys 200 Yard Freestyle Relay, 2nd Place in the Boys 200 Yard Medley Relay, and was named TAPPS Academic All State. **Rachel D. '16** was also named TAPPS Academic All State for Girls Swimming.

Jackson H. '19, a freshman at Bishop Lynch High School and member of the Varsity Golf Team, was recognized by the BL community as having the "Bishop Lynch Sports Moment of the Year" for his hole-in-one at the Jesuit Invitational golf tournament.



After evaluating several acceptances and scholarships from Vanderbilt University, The University of Notre Dame, Georgia Tech University, The University of North Carolina, The University of Texas at Austin, Louisiana State University, Texas A&M University, The University of Florida, and Baylor University, **Tia T. '16**, a senior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas,

expertise, or financial support, please follow the links below.

*Donate your time or expertise. Simply email [Debbie Reed](mailto:Debbie.Reed@stmarkcatholic.org) and let us know what you are interested in contributing.

*[Financial Assistance Fund](#) - This fund provides immediate financial assistance to qualified school families, helping them to meet their tuition commitments during the coronavirus pandemic.

*[Gap Fund](#) - This fund helps St. Mark bridge the gap between the tuition amount our families pay, and the actual cost to educate each student. For 2019-20, that cost is \$1,111 per student.

*[Technology Fund](#) - This fund assists St. Mark with keeping current on the technology made available to our students.

*[Other Monetary Donations](#) - Make a general donation, or designate funds towards a specific program such as Fine Arts, Athletics, or Robotics.

*[Legacy Brick](#) - Commemorate your time as a LION. Buy a personalized brick for \$100 that will become part of the entryway to St. Mark Catholic School.

*[Merchant Programs](#) - Raise funds for the school simply by

has decided to attend SMU as a President's Scholar. Each year SMU invites 20 of the most academically gifted first-year students in the entering class to receive the President's Scholarship, the highest academic merit award given by the university. The President's Scholarship program provides full-tuition, room and board, and fees. It is valued at \$76,000 per year which is over \$300,000 for four years, and includes international study and meeting world leaders.

Adam B. '16 and **Jamieson M. '17**, students at John Paul II High School, both received Superior ratings at the Visual Art Scholastic Event. Jamieson is also an Area winner and State VASE qualifier.

Newly elected School-Wide House Council Members at Bishop Lynch High School are: **Lainey M. '17**, Student Body Chaplain, Montfort House, and **Jenny C. '17**, Student Engagement Coordinator, Siena House.

Congratulations to **Kara O. '06** who married Chris B. on April 25. Kara graduated from John Paul II High School in 2010 and The University of Arkansas in 2014.



linking your shopper card to St. Mark.

ONCE A LION,
ALWAYS A LION!



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