

This message is being sent to all St. Mark families registered in FACTS Family Portal.

Dear Parents: As we approach the last month of the 2020-21 school year, I want to take a moment to share some information with you.

First, we have had numerous questions about the changes to the St. Mark Catholic Church logo and color scheme that were announced last weekend, and whether or not these changes affect the school. In short, they do not. The church recently underwent "rebranding" including a new logo and a blue color scheme. The St. Mark Catholic School logo will not change, and the school colors (green and gold) will remain the same as they have been for the past 39 years. The St. Mark uniforms will also remain the same.

Second, I am sure you are all curious about plans for the 2021-22 school year. Of course, our #1 priority is health and safety. We continue to work closely with the Diocese of Dallas Catholic Schools Office, which in turn, works with federal, state and local health officials to provide guidance. Several scenarios have been discussed. At this time, St. Mark is planning to return to a normal school year in terms of classes and activities, with certain safety protocols in place. There will not be an "Off Campus Learning" (OCL) option unless mandated by local health officials/Diocese of Dallas. Should such a mandate occur, St. Mark is prepared with our current OCL program which has been proven extremely successful.

Enhanced cleaning/sanitizing, handwashing, and some form of social distancing will likely continue. We do not yet know if face masks will be required. The Diocese will provide further guidance and we will inform parents as soon as we know more, likely in late summer. Beyond that, we feel we can return to our regular routines. Students will be able to mix with students in other classrooms. All-School Mass will include the entire campus in the church at once. The lunch routine in the cafeteria will return, possibly with some modifications. Volunteers will be permitted on campus. The 7:15 AM drop-off time in the cafeteria will return. Extra-curricular activities will once again be available including academic competitions, drama, speech, band, orchestra, chess, robotics/coding, school sports, and more. Scheduling for these activities is still to be determined, and more information will be provided once plans are firm.

We are so proud of you, our community members, for your role in helping St. Mark Catholic School remain open and safe since August of last year. Our students have continued to benefit from an education rooted in faith, service and rigorous academics throughout this time, and for that, we are most grateful.

We will continue to keep you informed as updates become available. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to me with any questions you might have.

Peace and prayers,

Pam Steinkirchner  
Principal

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