



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

Excerpted from

SUMMER REMINDERS

July 20, 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents: Happy Summer! I hope everyone is taking plenty of time to renew their mind, body, and spirit. Enjoy your time with family, make memories, laugh together, and start traditions that last a lifetime. While summers for students have a lot of positives, one of the most treasured activities is the ability to simply sit and relax. Our students sometimes have a hard time doing nothing and it is something they need to learn to do and to appreciate. Another summer activity is to rise early, watch the sun come up and to truly see the beauty of God's creation whether it is listening to the birds or smelling the grass. It's a treasured opportunity to say prayers as a family together, to talk to God, and to begin the day in the right frame of mind. Another opportunity is to stay up late and play flashlight tag outside. Play games, watch movies, and eat ice cream. Most importantly, love one another, be patient, and be kind.

I'd like to take a moment to share a few important updates with you:

COVID Protocols for the 2021-22 School Year

In planning for the next school year, as of today, we intend on opening with in-person learning only, and returning to our wonderful pre-COVID activities, traditions, and regular campus experiences. As long as the local COVID-19 situation remains steady, this will be our plan going forward. If anything changes, I will let you know immediately. For now, please plan on the following protocols:

Face Masks: On campus, face masks will be optional for students. I ask that you please let your child find his/her comfort level with mask wearing. The example comes to mind of a student with a broken arm that is casted. They think that as soon as the cast comes off, they will be able to play basketball. The truth is, it will take some time to get used to how things used to be and that might be how your child feels with wearing a mask. We don't want a student to anxiously devote their energy and thoughts to masks, either with or without, instead of paying attention to lessons. I know our community will respect each person's decision.

****All students should have a face mask in their backpack in case they need to put it on in the nurse's office.****



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Cleaning & Social Distancing: Consistent cleaning protocols will continue with sanitizing surfaces frequently, routine handwashing, and air purifiers in each room. Desk spacing and plexiglass dividers will be utilized at the teacher's discretion depending on the classroom design.

On-Campus Visitors & Volunteers: Visitors are welcome on campus and may join us again for our weekly Friday Masses.

****Unvaccinated visitors will be required to wear face masks on campus.****

Our new group, P.A.W.S (Parents Assisting With Students), will offer many opportunities for you to volunteer (more details to come from the HSA). The school Auction is another great way to become involved with our community. If you are interested in volunteering on the Auction Committee, please contact Ashley Ternan at ashleyternan@gmail.com.

2020 Auction - Unredeemed Auction Packages

Speaking of Auction, for those of you who purchased packages at the 2020 Auction that you were not able to redeem last year, please know that they will be honored in the 2021-22 school year as we return to a normal routine. You will be contacted by the school with more details. Thank you for your patience.

Internal Teacher Moves and Classroom Changes

*Alison West is moving from 4th grade to lead our third Kindergarten class.

*Janelle Bain is moving from 2nd grade to teach 4th grade Science and Math.

*We have had some room changes in 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades, so when looking for classrooms during the "Pop-In Meet & Greet" event on Friday, August 13, please look for the teacher name on the outside of the classroom.

Support St. Mark Alumnus Tom Scott During the Tokyo Olympic Games!

St. Mark alumnus **Tom Scott '04** will represent Team USA in the debut appearance of karate in the Tokyo Olympic Games beginning on August 5. Tom continues to give back to the St. Mark community as an inspirational speaker to our students, and as you'll read below, as an after-school karate instructor. Let's all watch, and send our support and prayers throughout his exciting Olympic journey!

New in 2021-22!

*We are thrilled to announce that St. Mark will launch the "Lion Learning Lab" in room 108 this fall to engage student curiosity with more hands-on activities. Classes will have a larger area for their



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STREAM activities and will have new activities available to them. While the lab's main focus is on PK3-2nd grade, students of all ages will be taking advantage of what it has to offer. Watch for more details in the coming weeks about this new facility. Thank you to our families and to HSA for raising funds through the "12 Days of Christmas" baskets, making this lab possible.

*We are adding "gaga" ball pits to our P.E. line-up. Don't know what gaga is? No doubt your student can tell you all about this popular game and will be thrilled to learn that St. Mark will have its own pits.

*We have new student iPads on campus and have made a number of technology upgrades including enhanced technology security and two factor authorization.

*HSA is opening a Used Uniform Store on campus. It will be available for parents to shop on the last Friday of every other month from 7:30-8:30 AM beginning September 24. [Click here for complete dates](#). It will now be easier than ever to replace uniform pieces that your child has grown out of during the school year.

*The St. Mark Athletics Department is introducing a new tradition, an All Sports Banquet. We look forward to this opportunity to further recognize our student athletes at the end of the school year.

Look for more details on these and other exciting developments in the coming weeks and months. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you at Back-To-School Sunday on August 8.

Exodus 33:14 - The LORD answered: I myself will go along, to give you rest.

See you next month!

Peace and prayers,

Pam Steinkirchner
Principal