

Dear St. Mary School Parents,

I hope that you and your family are well! It is so wonderful seeing everyone back at Saint Mary School and to welcome so many new families!

It is apparent how much thought and effort has gone into preparing the school for the reopening. I know that Mrs. MacDonough, Mrs. Dolan, Monsignor Mike, the faculty, and the staff have been very busy preparing the school to welcome all of the students back to a safe learning environment following the guidelines of the Governor, Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and medical experts. In light of this careful preparation, I write on behalf of the SMPA Leadership Team to ask for your help in expanding the learning environment for our children.

Saint Mary School received funds from the CARES act that has been used to purchase hand sanitizer, signs, and personal protective equipment. However, the subsequent additional funds from the state were only allocated to the public schools. Our school has already received generous donations from families including two large HEPA air filtration systems. In addition, it was necessary for the school to purchase certain items in order to provide a safe reopening. None of these expenditures were planned for in the budget.

- HEPA Air filtration systems (9 @\$399.99 each)
- Filters for air filtration systems
- Additional Chrome Books
- Batteries for hand sanitizing stations
- Brown paper bags
- PPE – additional masks, gloves, gowns
- hand sanitizer
- Cleaning equipment such as UV Wands, wipes, sprays, etc.
- Plexiglass shields for lunchroom and office area

As recommended by Dr. Anthony Fauci, schools developing plans for reopening “should find ways to offer as many outdoor activities as possible, from classes to recess and lunchtime.” (August 13, 2020) The opportunity for students to be able to move outside, even for short periods, will make their days at school more enjoyable and allow for more mask-free time. After looking at several options, the Reopening Committee suggested the school rent a large outdoor tent for the first two to three months of the school year. The cost for renting a tent for the first three months of the academic year would be \$6,000. To start the fund for the “Outdoor Learning Space,” grandparents of a St. Mary School family have donated \$1,000.

We know that this is a challenging time for many families, but we ask that you contribute whatever you can to help us expand the outdoor learning space and resulting playful activities that will transform the day for our children.

Gratefully,
Brigid McKenna Carlson
Member of the Saint Mary Parents Association Leadership Team

Donations can be made directly through Venmo or by check made out to SMPA that can be sent in with your child to give to the main office. Contact Katie Apicerno of the SMPA Leadership team if you have questions about your donation.

Katieapicerno@gmail.com