



Weekly News for the Week of September 21, 2020

This Week at SMS

Monday, September 21st

- Individual School Pictures today PreK– Gr. 8
- Grade Level Meeting, 2:45pm
- SMPA Zoom Meeting, 7pm

Tuesday, September 22nd

- School Advisory Board Meeting, 7pm

Wednesday, September 23rd

- SMPA Surprise for students and staff
- **October Hot Lunch Ordering Deadline is today!**

Thursday, September 24th

Friday, September 25th

Upcoming Events

- 9/28 MAP testing begins for Grades 2-8
- 9/28 & 9/30: Virtual Curriculum Nights, Format and Times TBD
- 9/29 :SMS Flu Clinic
- 10/12: No School—Columbus Day
- 10/20: Progress Reports sent home, Grades 4 -8

Anyone who knows Mrs. Collins, knows how much she treasures her ELA literature circles. Rather than dismiss them as something impossible to do during a pandemic, she decided to use the great outdoors to her advantage. On a sunny day, the parking lot became an outdoor venue for students to discuss their books while being appropriately distanced from each other.



Did you hear the news? Saint Mary School was featured on the front page of the Sunday Worcester Telegram and Gazette as an example of a school who successfully reopened for full in-person learning this fall. Scott O'Connell of the Telegram and Gazette staff interviewed Mrs. MacDonough, Mrs. Dolan, and Mrs. Muzzy to understand the extensive planning process that began this summer that eventually allowed for the opening of school to become a reality. Mrs. Collins offered a teacher perspective, and students Maria Nagaria, grade 8, and Sam Beaton, grade 4, chimed in with their opinions on how the school year is progressing so far. Click [here](#) to read Sunday's article.

Where do we begin? There are so many individuals we need to thank who assisted us throughout the summer and during these beginning weeks of school. The Saint Mary School community amazed us once again with its thoughtfulness, generosity and talent! A shout-out goes out to:



- ◆ The SMPA for using their fundraising proceeds to provide the white tent to be used as an outdoor classroom space and to the Carlson, McKenna, Barry and Haugli families for their donations towards our tent rental.
- ◆ The Beaton family for donating the materials to create the colorful plexi-glass dividers for the lunchroom. Thank you also to Gabriel Beltran, Marty Kelly and Dave Faucher for assisting Matt Beaton with this construction project.
- ◆ The Bigda family for donating two of the classroom air purifiers.
- ◆ The Fall Reopening Team for donating their time and expertise over the summer to help us craft the Reopening Plan: Mrs. Buffone, Lisa Powers, Mr. Moakley, Mrs. Johnson, Matt Beaton, and Brigid Carlson.

The trust we place in our school community will be the cornerstone of our continued success going forward. Please remember that if you are uncertain about whether you should send your child to school, please err on the side of caution. Make it a habit to consult your Parent Daily Checklist and screen for symptoms. Click [here](#) to print the checklist and post it on your refrigerator.



September 28th marks the opening of our MAP Testing window for the fall. Over the next 3 weeks students in grades 2 through 8 will use Chromebooks to complete subtests in the areas of Reading, Math, and Language.