

SMCS Student Parent Association – FAQ for new families

NOTE: This sheet is meant to be a quick reference guide for new families. Please refer to the SMCS Student/Parent Handbook for official school policies and procedures, and be sure to call the school office with further questions.

Where do I find uniform information?

This section of the school website has everything you need to know about the uniform policy and dress code (standard, warm weather and gym) AND what to wear on dress down days vs. spirit days - they are different!

<https://www.stmarymansschool.org/uniform>

How do I purchase SMCS uniforms?

We are glad to have Lands End as our new uniform vendor! This link goes to their school uniform store. Search for St. Mary's or use our school number (900189432).

<https://www.landsend.com/shop/school>

The School Parent Association (SPA) also has a shop for gently used uniforms! We hold two official sales each year: one at Curriculum Night, and another one in the spring. You can also contact the school office during the year to donate and/or purchase uniforms as needed.

What days is hot lunch available?

Hot lunch is available three days a week. Lunch is ordered online, in advance, each trimester. Be careful not to miss the order deadline! The school will not accept late lunch orders.

- Mondays - pasta & meatballs or chicken fingers/rice/green beans
- Thursdays – Subway sandwiches
- Fridays – pizza

If I normally use the car line, what should I do if I need to walk my child in/out of the school at morning drop-off or dismissal?

You should park in the middle school parking lot and walk along the sidewalk so as to avoid crossing the traffic of buses and cars in the queue.

Is the pick up procedure for car line the same, or different, on half days?

The procedure is the same.

Where should we park when visiting the school?

Parents should park in the spaces directly in front of the main entrance. Do not park in the middle school lot after morning arrival; this serves as an emergency evacuation area and recess spot for students.

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How do I apply to be a volunteer?

St. Mary's encourages parent involvement and extends an invitation to parents to volunteer. Please complete the [Volunteer Opportunities Sign Up form](#) to indicate your area(s) of interest. (A link to this online form is provided on page 25 of the Student/Parent Handbook.) Teachers may communicate additional needs and opportunities throughout the year, in addition to those that appear in the weekly Parent Memo and/or on the school website.

If I am already CORI'd with another organization, do I need to be CORI'd again?

Yes. You may not volunteer until the school office has a current cleared CORI and verification that you have completed Safe Environment Training.

How do I notify the school of special circumstances like an absence, early dismissal, change in school pick-up, etc.?

The easiest way is to complete a "Note to St. Mary's." The template allows you to check off the appropriate box and fill in necessary information, without having to write a note from scratch. Blank copies are available in the school office; you can also find them on the Parents section of the school website, under Documents.

How and when do I receive parent updates from the school?

There is usually a weekly Parent Memo that is emailed on Wednesdays.

Does St. Mary's have a social media presence?

Yes! Here are some examples:

- The school's public Facebook page ("St. Mary's Catholic School Mansfield MA")
- A private Facebook group just for parents ("SMCS Parent Community")
- Some classes also have their own private Facebook page

What is SPA?

SPA is the parent organization for St. Mary's. All parents/caregivers of current students are automatically members of SPA!

- SPA's goal is to create a sense of community and caring between parents, staff and students while raising funds to support projects and programs that otherwise would not be funded by the current budget.
- SPA supports the enhancement of education through enrichment programs in all areas of our curriculum as well as community service and social events.