



Catholic Schools
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AUGUST 16, 2017

ST. MARY SCHOOL

FAMILY NOTES

Welcome to
the 108th year
of
St. Mary's
School!
**We
Believe!**



I will usually send a newsletter via email on the first school day of each week. This first issue of our Family Notes will be emailed and a hard copy is included in the Day 1 packet your oldest student will bring home. If you do not receive the Family Notes in your email, please contact the school office. This is our only distribution method.

These newsletters are also archived at www.st-maryschool.com



Check out our website at

www.st-maryschool.com

Thank you to Nick Clark who created and maintains our site. We hope to make this a useful resource for all of you.

Deadline for physicals and vaccinations is September 30

Students in K and 6 are required to have all necessary vaccinations and an up-to-date physical on file with us by this date or they are to be excluded from school until the exam is completed, the shots are given, and/or the proper forms are submitted.

Note: The physical form has a place for a parent signature.



Medication at School

Medication, prescription or non-prescription, will not be dispensed by school personnel without a request from the parent/guardian and a written order from a physician. Both of these forms are available in the school office. This policy applies to students requiring medicine daily through the year or periodically for an ongoing medical problem, not for a short-term illness.

Assignment Notebooks are available in the school office. The cost is \$3.50. These are used by all students in Gr. 3-6.

ATHLETIC SHOES ONLY at school!



Laces, Velcro & elastic are all ok.

Lunch tickets are sold in the school office. Cost is \$28 for a 10-day ticket. Please send money in an envelope labeled with "Lunch Money" & name of your child. **Lunch money goes into a separate bank account so please do not combine it with any other payments.**



TREATS FOR BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Check with your child's teacher for a convenient time.



You may send an individual container of a non-carbonated beverage (juice) & an individual treat—a cookie, brownie, a cupcake—for your child's classmates. No treat bags, balloons, flowers, or special gifts will be delivered to the classrooms during the school day as they can disrupt a class engaged in learning.

We love to acknowledge each of our students so children with summer birthdays are also encouraged to set a time to celebrate. Because our school day is busy, we keep the celebrations simple.

Invitations to parties outside of school may be sent home backpack mail provided that every student in the class is invited or all of your child's gender are invited.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCHES

If your family received Free or Reduced lunches last school year, you will automatically receive them through the end of September.

Students are checked for eligibility through the Illinois State Board of Education. You will be notified if your child is found to be eligible in this manner. All families will receive enrollment information. Enrollment is based on family income. An income guide will be provided. If your family falls within the guidelines and you were not identified through the ISBE, but you wish to take part in the program, complete the form entitled Application for Free and Reduced-price Meal Services that was sent home in your packet. Return the completed form to our office. If your family is eligible for this service, please take advantage of it. Confidentiality is an important part of the program. Students who receive free or reduced lunch tickets use the same tickets all other students use. There is no difference. No one is aware that a student is presenting a free or reduced lunch ticket.



Happy Day 1! Bishop Paprocki will be here Monday, Aug 28, to dedicate the school. Mass will be at 6:30 p.m. The dedication and open house will follow. We ask that all school families attend and that students wear uniforms. They will sing in the choir! Please join us for this great occasion.

Bus Service

It takes a few days to work out kinks in the system, but bus service is up & running to & from St. Mary's. If you experience problems on your end contact Durham Transportation at 824-5636. Remember to let Durham know if your child is not riding the bus as usual.

Please save & send in Box Tops for Education. Be on the lookout for special 4 Bonus Box Tops Certificates. They are worth 40 cents and make us eligible for an extra 50,000 points!



Before Care is available every school day. Before Care opens at 7:00 in the cafeteria. Cost is \$1.00 per day per child. We are grateful to have Miss Norma and Mrs. Nash as our supervisors.

After Care begins at dismissal and continues until 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Cost is \$6 on 3:00 dismissal days and \$7 on 2:15 days. After Care is not offered on 11:30 dismissal days. We welcome Alix Barlow who will work with Miss Norma at After Care.

Use either program as often or infrequently as needed. Fill out registration forms if you think that you will use Before or After Care at any time during the year. These forms were sent to you in the first-day packet of information. If you sign up for After Care please include a list of people who are allowed to pick up your child. Forms are also available in the office throughout the year.

First mandatory Booster Club meeting & Parent Orientation Night: September 5 **Parent Orientation**, a chance to visit your child's classroom and hear from the teacher, will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the school. Parents will attend 15-minute sessions in each of their children's classrooms. Teachers will present information on classroom rules, curriculum, and other items of interest. The teachers will repeat the session 3 times (at 6:00, 6:15, and 6:30) so that families with more than one child can visit all the appropriate classrooms. If you have only one room to visit, I suggest attending the 6:30 session, then moving directly to the **Booster Club** meeting at 7:00 in the cafeteria. If you have 2 rooms to visit, start at 6:15 and so on. (Four kids? You'll have to divide and conquer!)

Your Family Notes newsletter will generally be sent out at the beginning of each week. From time to time I will send other communications and will use email as often as possible to save paper, ink and duplicating costs. I look forward to sharing this year with all of you.