



**ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

## **SUMMER REMINDERS**

**July 15, 2015**

The purpose of this bulletin is to serve as a reminder of some of the important news, policy changes, upcoming events, and activities for the end of the summer and the reopening of school. These are general announcements. If you need more detailed information, please refer to the school website ([www.stmcs.net](http://www.stmcs.net)), or the "End-of-the-Year Bulletin" that was emailed to St. Mark families in May, and sent to new families at the time of registration.

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year at St. Mark Catholic School. It is truly a blessing and a privilege to be a part of your children's lives. Thank you for sharing them with us.

Many new plans are underway to make this upcoming school year exciting and more meaningful. These plans include addressing suggestions in the parent survey that was completed at the end of the last school year.

Our iPads have arrived, we are moving forward with adding STEM-based\* programs to our curriculum, we will be incorporating a new series of monthly virtues, service projects have been retooled, and teachers have met and revamped our approach to centers and enrichment, just to name a few. Without hesitation, this year is lining up to be exceptional, fueled by a dedicated staff, focused students, and supportive parents.

Many of you know our new Assistant Principal, Pam Steinkirchner, from her twelve years of experience teaching third grade. Pam has been a member of the St. Mark parish for eighteen years, and prior to joining the St. Mark staff, she was active in many parish and school activities while her two boys attended our school. Pam has a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from Oklahoma State University, EC-4<sup>th</sup> grade Teaching Certification for the State of Texas, and is currently working on her Master's degree in Catholic Leadership from Saint Louis University. She is excited for the opportunity to broaden her reach in serving more students, while helping them grow personally, academically, and spiritually. Her door is always open, so please feel free to contact her if needed. She is looking forward to a great school year that will continue to foster a love of learning.

One of our most important traditions is the high level of parent involvement in school events and activities. I would like to extend a special invitation to all St. Mark parents to become involved at the school, and by extension, in their child's education. There are a variety of ways for this to happen. Please watch the "Weekly School Bulletins" during the school year and find one or two activities that suit your interests. We have something for everyone, whether you can contribute a little or a lot of time. Keep in mind that your Safe Environment training must be current in order for you to volunteer, so please be sure it is updated by the start of school. [Click here](#) for more information.

We are committed to making St. Mark Catholic School a place where students enjoy learning and growing in their spiritual and academic journeys. Working together, we can continue to provide the ultimate learning environment and continue to make our mission statement, "to educate each student in a spirit of faith, gospel values, and academic excellence according to Roman Catholic principles," a reality.

Many blessings,

Patricia Opon  
Principal

\*Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

## **NEWS AND REMINDERS**

### **New PreK-3 & PreK-4 Policies**

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, the following preschool procedures have been revised:

#### Snacks

All PreK-3 and PreK-4 students will be required to bring a snack to school each day for afternoon snack time. Please send a nutritious, nut-free snack with your child each day of the week.

#### Dismissal

All PreK-3 and PreK-4 students will be dismissed at 3:30 PM (the same time as the rest of the school). They will **no longer** be dismissed early.

### **Revised Middle School Dismissal Procedure**

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, and due to the revised preschool dismissal time mentioned above, ALL middle school students will be picked up in Carpool Area C (the middle school line). Please refer to page 56 of the [Parent-Student Handbook](#) for a map of the carpool dismissal areas.

### **New Handbooks**

In addition to the Parent-Student Handbook, which is updated each school year, we have developed three additional handbooks to assist our parents and students. These include a Volunteer Handbook, an After School Program Handbook, and an Athletics Handbook. Please

review them carefully. **Each one contains a signature page that must be signed and returned to the school office.**

**Copies of all handbooks will be accessible at any time on the school website.**

1. Parent-Student Handbook

Each school year, the St. Mark Parent-Student Handbook is updated. Parents and students are required to read the handbook in its entirety and sign a signature page acknowledging that they agree to the contents. Please pay special attention to policy changes for the 2015-16 school year (highlighted in yellow).

This year, instead of printing hard copies, an electronic version will be made available on the school website.

**Please [click here](#) to read the Parent-Student Handbook, then print, sign and return the signature page to the school office on or before the first day of school.**

2. NEW -- St. Mark Volunteer Handbook

A new St. Mark Volunteer Handbook has been developed to assist all of our wonderful school volunteers. It provides general volunteer guidelines that we ask everyone to follow. The last page of this handbook is a "Volunteer Pledge" form that every school volunteer must sign and return to the school office prior to serving.

**Please [click here](#) to read the Volunteer Handbook, then print, sign and return the Volunteer Pledge form before beginning your volunteer service.**

3. NEW - After School Program Handbook

A new After School Program Handbook has been developed as a reference for our families who participate. If your family will take advantage of this program during the 2015-16 school year, please read the handbook in its entirety, then sign the acknowledgement page and return it to the school office.

**Please [click here](#) to read the After School Program Handbook, then print, sign and return the Parent Signature Page by the first day of your child's attendance in the program.**

4. NEW - Athletics Handbook

A new Athletics Handbook has been developed for those 5th-8th grade families who have students participating on school sports teams through the Dallas Parochial League. It provides general guidelines pertaining to St. Mark and DPL athletics. If this applies to your family, please read the handbook in its entirety, then sign the Parent Code of Conduct Agreement and return it to the school office.

**Please [click here](#) to read the Athletics Handbook, then print, sign and return the Parent Code of Conduct Agreement before the first practice (click the link on the last page of the handbook, and scroll down to the "Documents" section to access the agreement).**

**Uniform Guidelines**

In an effort to avoid confusion when school begins, we'd like to stress a couple of points regarding uniform shoe and hair policies:

\*For boys, Sperry shoes are **NOT** allowed. Please do not purchase them. They are expensive, and students will not be allowed to wear them to school.

\*For all students, hair guidelines will be more strictly enforced. Please do not have your child dye or highlight their hair, and then send them to school. We will request you cut it out of their hair. This includes Kool-Aid, highlights, or other blonding agents. For boys, there are no mohawks, or lines shaved into the scalp. Again, we will request it be cut.

\*In addition, we want to reiterate that "existing" yellow polo shirts, including those that you may already own, and those purchased at the Used Uniform Sale, do NOT require an imprinted school logo. Existing yellow polo shirts without the logo will continue to be acceptable for a few more years. Only newly purchased yellow polo shirts are required to have an imprinted school logo.

If you have questions about the school uniform policy, please contact Pam Steinkirchner, Assistant Principal, at [pam.steinkirchner@stmcs.net](mailto:pam.steinkirchner@stmcs.net).

### **RenWeb Updates Due July 31**

If your contact information (address, phone, cell or emergency pickup) has changed since February, please update in RenWeb. To review and update your RenWeb information:

Log in to RenWeb by [clicking here](#). From the left hand menu, select "School Information," then "Web Forms" and then click on "Family Demographic Form."

There are six forms that must be reviewed and updated:

- Student Demographic Form
- Student Medical Form
- Custodial Parent Form
- Emergency Contacts
- Transportation Form
- Grandparents Form\*

Please do not add a student e-mail, student cell phone number, or automobile information.

\*A "Grandparents Day" is in the works. Please complete the contact information for all grandparents so that we can be sure to invite them.

Note: The information in the HSA Family Directory is pulled from RenWeb. If you do not want your information included in the directory, be sure to check the appropriate section.

Please make sure all information is updated by July 31, 2015.

### **Cafeteria Accounts**

A reminder that parents may set-up a school Cafeteria account online where funds can be added and purchase activity can be monitored.

The August cafeteria menu has also been posted on the school website.

[Click here](#) for more information.

### **After School Program**

New enrollment forms are required for the After School Program each year. **Space is limited and spots are filled on first-come basis.** Forms are available on the school [website](#) and may be turned in to the school office between August 3-17. The After School Program will be available starting the first day of classes on Monday, August 17. As a reminder, students must be registered for the After School Program **prior to attending**. It is not a program that is designed for drop-ins.

### **Announcing St. Mark Spirit Days!**

We are pleased to announce "St. Mark Spirit Days!" On the first Monday of each month, students will be allowed to wear jeans, slacks, Capri-style pants, the school skirt or the school shorts with a St. Mark t-shirt or sweatshirt of their choosing. Students may wear any closed-toe shoe. This is a great opportunity for them to show their LION PRIDE!

Our Lion's Den spirit store sells a variety of shirt styles. [Click here](#) to place an online order. The Lion's Den is also open every Friday morning during the school year from 7:30-8:15 AM. Just check-in at the front desk and shop 'til you drop!

**The first St. Mark Spirit Day will be September 14 , 2015. For your reference, Spirit Days for the entire school year have been added to the electronic calendar located on the homepage of our website.**

### **Service Hour Reminder/Opportunities For Rising 7th/8th Graders**

A reminder that all rising 7th and 8th grade students are required to earn at least five service hours during the summer months. Please [click here](#) for more information.

We have a couple of volunteer opportunities coming up. See the "Home and School Association" section below.

In addition, Holy Trinity Seminary needs volunteers to spread the word at masses about their upcoming Seminarian Welcome Dinner. Service hours are available. If interested, please contact [agnes.denvir@stmcs.net](mailto:agnes.denvir@stmcs.net).

### **Join Us for "Bingo Knight" and Support Our School**

On Saturday, July 18, the Knights of Columbus are hosting a "Bingo Knight" at 6:30 PM in the Cafetorium. A portion of the proceeds will benefit St. Mark Catholic School. Reserve your individual spot, or reserve a whole table with family, friends, and fellow school families. Either way, come out and enjoy a fun evening of bingo and fellowship, and show your LION PRIDE! Visit [www.KOFC-6065.org](http://www.KOFC-6065.org) for more information and to register online.

**SAVE THE DATE for the St. Mark Fall Festival & All Souls 5K -- October 31, 2015**

Be sure to follow the St. Mark Fall Festival and All Souls 5K on the [church website](#) and also on their [Facebook page](#). Interested in helping with the event planning? Contact [Claudine Humphries](#).

## **FROM THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT**

### Medical Form Reminder:

Fall athletes who have not turned in a current medical form to the Athletic Director, Marlene Ehring, for the 2015-16 school year, must do so immediately in order to be cleared to participate in practices. Find the form on the school [website](#).

### 2015-16 Athletic Fees:

All athletic registration fees are due August 1. Fees can be paid by check made payable to "St. Mark Catholic School," and sent to the attention of Marlene Ehring, Athletic Director (please remember to include your athlete's name and sport on the memo line), OR they can be paid [online](#). The fees are as follows:

Football - \$115

Volleyball - \$115

Cross Country - \$70; Cross Country is still open for registration.

Swimming - Registration will open September 1. More details will be sent after school starts.

For more information about these sports, please [click here](#) and follow the links to the individual sport pages on the school website.

## **HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS**

### **Help Needed - Used Uniform Sale & School Supply Pick-Up - Service Hours Available**

Would you or your student like to volunteer to help with the Used Uniform Sale or School Supply Pick-Up? Volunteers can work all or part of the shifts. [Service hours are available](#).

\*To volunteer at the Used Uniform Sale, [click here](#).

Available hours:

\*August 8 - 3:00-5:00 PM (set-up), Lion's Lair Gym

\*August 9 - 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Lion's Lair Gym

\*To volunteer at the School Supply Pick-Up, [click here](#).

Available hours:

\*August 9 - 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM, Lion's Lair Gym

### **Used Uniform Donations**

Used uniforms in good, gently used condition, will be accepted in the school office from August 3-7.

### **HSA Committee Chairs Needed**

There are still a few HSA committee chair positions available. [Click here](#) for the full job descriptions, and contact HSA President, [Ashley Ternan](#), if you are able to help:

Auction Baskets  
Auction Class Crafts  
Scripts Gift Cards

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**August 3:** The school office reopens.

**August 3-7:** Used uniform donations accepted in the school office.

**August 9:** Class lists posted in the main school hallway & Lion's Lair Gym; Used Uniform Sale and School Supply Pick-up, 9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON in the Lion's Lair Gym

**ALL** school supplies (including assignment books, PE bags, pencil bags, etc.) will be available for pick up. If you will not be able to pick up your supplies on this day, please contact the school office to arrange for an alternate pickup time.

A limited number of school supply packs will be available for sale. Cash or check only, please.

**August 12:** Newcomer's Welcome, including tours of the school, from 9:00 - 10:30 AM in the Cafetorium

**August 10-14:** These days are reserved for faculty and staff development sessions. While the main office may be open at select times during these sessions, there may be times that all faculty and staff are not available. If you need to come to the school office on any of these dates, we recommend you call ahead of time to verify if office staff will be available. Faculty will not be available for appointments during the staff development week.

**August 17: First Day of School and Back-To-School Breakfast.** School hours are 7:55 AM - 3:30 PM (including preschool). After you drop-off your children, come join other parents in the Cafetorium for a Back-To-School Breakfast hosted by the Home & School Association.

**August 21:** Early Dismissal - 12:00 NOON. Lunch will not be served. The After School Program will be in operation. Please send a lunch with all After School Program students.

**August 25:** Back-To-School-Night for parents of students in Middle School, grades 6-8, at 6:30 PM in the Cafetorium, followed by classroom visits.

**August 27:** Individual School Pictures. Students should be in complete uniform, including the school sweater.

**August 27:** Back-To-School-Night for parents of students in PreK-3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade at 6:30 PM in the Cafetorium, followed by classroom visits.

**ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SUMMER!**  
**WE WILL SEE EVERYONE BACK AT SCHOOL ON AUGUST 17.**

