



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

June 1, 2017

Prayer for the 2016-17 School Year

Lord, help us to come together as a community to support one another, encourage one another and show each other kindness. Amen.

St. Mark Mantra

Every day we treat others as we would Jesus Christ with all our hearts, mind and soul.

REMINDERS

Today, Thursday, June 1:

-Last Day of School; 12:00 NOON dismissal; the After School Program is available until 3:00 PM.

-4th quarter ends; report cards sent home with students



10:00 AM-11:00 PM: Raising Cane's Fundraiser.

Mention St. Mark as you place your order and a percentage of proceeds benefits the St. Mark Athletics Dept.

June 5 through June 27:

The school office will be open Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

June 28 through July 28:

The office will be closed for staff vacations. Messages will be checked periodically and return calls will be made when office personnel and/or administration are available.

July 31 through August 11:



A National School of Excellence

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Follow us and stay connected!



QUICK LINKS

[Calendar](#)
[Lifetime Lions Alumni](#)
[Admissions](#)
[Lunch Menus](#)
[Safe Environment](#)
[Lion's Den Spirit Store](#)

The office will re-open Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM.
The office will be closed from 12:00-1:00 PM for lunch, and periodically during staff development.

Sunday, August 6:

-9:00 AM, Church: All are invited to attend Mass.
-10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Cafetorium: Back To School Sunday

Friday, August 11:

-9:00-10:30 AM, School Buildings: Pop-In Meet & Greet

Monday, August 14:

-First Day of School

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents: What a busy and productive year it has been! Through it all, St. Mark Catholic School continues to be blessed with amazing students, families, faculty, staff and volunteers.

Speaking of amazing students, congratulations to our 8th graders who are now high school freshmen! The Class of 2017 is comprised of a wonderful group of young adults who have accomplished many things during their years at St. Mark. Click [here](#) to see where they will attend high school, and here to see the scholarships they earned (\$126,450 to be exact -- wow)! We can only imagine what we'll be hearing from them in the coming years. We hope they continue to stay in touch and keep us posted on all of their accomplishments. Once A Lion, Always A Lion!

All of our students continue to rise to the challenges we present, and EXCEL. Their dedication and hard work make us all proud to be Lions, and the fact that they have fun doing it is even better.

Our school families provide unyielding support to our students and staff alike. Without you, a Catholic education is simply not possible, and I thank you all.

I'd also like to recognize our teachers and staff who provide the best school environment around. They challenge our students academically, foster their curiosity, push them to be the best they can be, pull them up when necessary, and provide a warm, caring place for them to spend their days. St. Mark truly is the best place to be because of them.

Our volunteers always deserve special recognition including the Home and School Association, the School Advisory



**SCHOOL
ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

The minutes from the May 25, 2017 School Advisory Council meeting are now available [here](#).



**LIFETIME
LIONS**

Calling all alumni ... join **Lifetime Lions**, our official **alumni network!** Keep up with former classmates, learn about mentoring opportunities, and volunteer for service hours. [Click here](#) for more information.

2017-18 LIMITED OPENINGS

There are limited openings in select grade levels for the 2017-18 school year. Take advantage of our referral opportunities:

***School Tour Referral Incentive:** Simply send someone you know to take a school tour. Once they attend in person and indicate you as a referral, we'll send you a \$10.00 gift certificate to the Lion's Den Spirit Store...it's that easy!

***Referral Thank You Program:** Refer a new family to St. Mark and you could receive a \$500 tuition credit. [Click here](#) for details.

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING
TO SPREAD THE WORD**

Council, the Auction Committee, our Athletics volunteers, the Watch D.O.G.S., and the Community Prayer Team. You continue to provide invaluable help, feedback, spiritual guidance, and fun for our entire community, and for that, we are all very grateful.

It's hard to believe that we are already talking about the 2017-18 school year, but I'd like to share just a few important areas that we will be focusing on. First, of course, is our exciting new SmartLab, which will be fully operational by the first day of school. Progress on the lab is moving quickly and we couldn't be more thrilled to see it coming to fruition. We are also planning continued growth in the areas of virtue development and service projects. We received lots of positive feedback on the "End of Year Survey" regarding the changes we made this year. We have even more ideas coming next year! Third, differentiation in the classroom has been extremely effective in meeting the different learning needs of our students (as evidenced by our students' strong end-of-year averages). We plan to continue advancing our proficiencies in this area as well...stay tuned. We do it all with the goal of making tomorrow better than today.

Please remember to join us at "Back to School Sunday" on August 6, beginning with 9:00 AM Mass. This will be a wonderful time for our families to enjoy each other's company and a great opportunity for our incoming families to meet our community.

My wish for each and every one of you is that you will enjoy a relaxing summer filled with fun and quality family time. May God bless us all and keep us safe throughout the summer and may we remember we are always in His presence.



Patricia Opon
Principal

SUMMER INFORMATION AND FORMS

Summer information and forms were sent to all parents via email yesterday. The information is also located on the school website under the "Parents" tab. Please take a moment to read through it carefully at www.stmcs.net/summer-information-and-forms. Many items require action, so please allow yourself and your student ample time to complete them during the summer months.

ABOUT OUR WONDERFUL SCHOOL COMMUNITY!

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS



Monsignor Smyth

Golf Classic Thank You: A big thank you to everyone, current families and alumni alike, who participated in the 23rd annual tournament! It was a great afternoon of golf, food, prizes, and of course, hanging out with friends. Proceeds went to the St. Mark Athletics Department benefitting all students. Couldn't make it this year? Watch for details on the 2018 tournament in the coming months.

Athletics Information for Incoming 5th Grade Families:

If your incoming 5th grader is interested in playing on a school sports team during the 2017-18 school year, please [click here](#) to view a short Powerpoint presentation about the St. Mark Athletics program.

Fall 2017-18 Sports Registrations Now Open
(click links for details):

[JV & Varsity Football:](#)
Deadline Extension = June 10

[JV & Varsity Cheerleading:](#)
Deadline = June 1

USED UNIFORM DONATIONS

We are now accepting gently used uniform donations. Please drop them off in the school office. Donations will be accepted between now and the end of June (during summer office hours).

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE...

If your student is currently keeping a medication in the school nurse's office (including but not limited to Epi-Pens, inhalers, prescription medication, or over-the-counter medication), please arrange to pick up the medication by the last day of school. **Any medication that is left at school over the summer will be disposed of--NO EXCEPTIONS.**

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK WITH THE COMMUNITY

We continue to receive so much positive feedback from our school families about our programs and staff. As you reflect back on your year at St. Mark, we encourage you to share all of that positivity with others in the community. Here are a couple ways you can do this:

Great Schools Website: Please visit www.greatschools.org and post your positive feedback. This is one way to reach others who may be considering a St. Mark education for their child.

Work of Heart: Nominate a teacher or staff member for a Work of Heart Award by [clicking here](#). Awarded by The Catholic Foundation, the Work of Heart honors those in Catholic education who go above and beyond for students and the community.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

Parents: Summer is the perfect time to update your annual Safe Environment Training. Simply [click here](#) for details. This will insure that all paperwork will be processed prior to the start of the 2017-18 school year and you will be cleared to volunteer at all of our wonderful school activities.

ORDER YOUR ST. MARK LEGACY BRICK TODAY

This is a wonderful opportunity to leave your own personal and permanent impression at St. Mark for generations to come. For \$100, purchase a custom-designed, engraved brick with your family name, ministry, organization, your child's name and graduating class, or to honor a loved one. There are many ways to personalize your



JV & Varsity Volleyball:

Deadline = June 1

JV & Varsity Cross Country:

Deadline = August 15

*When registering your athlete, do not type in their present grade level.

Rather, please type in the grade level he/she will be during the 2017-18 school year. Once registration has been submitted, more information and details regarding the specific sport will be sent to your email address indicated on the registration form.

Download Game Photos:

Check out the [Dallas Parochial League Smug Mug photo site](#).

View and purchase photos from recent events.

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMPS

Click the links to learn more:



[Bishop Lynch High School](#) offers a variety of sports and recreational camps for K-12 students.



[Cistercian Preparatory School](#) offers academic, recreational, and sports camps for boys in grades 3-12.

brick, with logos for all kinds of interests including religious symbols, sports, cheerleading, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, band, choir, and music, just to name a few. These bricks will become part of the entryway to St. Mark Catholic School. **Simply [click here](#) to place your order.**



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Open Committee Chair Positions for 2017-18:

Confirmation/Graduation Chairs
Hospitality Committee
Room Parent Coordinator Special Events
Volunteer Appreciation Coordinator

For more information on these positions, please contact [Jill Dourty](#).

Thank You: Thank you to our Field Day & Field Day T-shirt Chairs Tara Roman and LeAnn Wray, and to all the wonderful parent volunteers, faculty and staff for making this year's Field Day a success!

And thank you again to Graduation Committee Chair Victoria James, and all of her helpers, for making sure the Class of 2017 was sent-off in style! Graduation Week was a huge success, surpassed only by the fun and meaningful festivities on Friday evening.



Amazon School Rewards Program: Weddings? Graduations? Be sure to shop at Amazon for all of your gift (and everyday) needs! St. Mark earns money when you shop through the link at the top of our [homepage](#).

Earn Money for St. Mark by Grocery Shopping: Link your Tom Thumb and Kroger shopper cards to St. Mark today by [clicking here](#) and earn money for our school simply by shopping for groceries. Kroger cards must be relinked each year.

Safe Environment: A reminder that you must be [Safe Environment](#) cleared to volunteer in any capacity at school. Contact [Toni Jobes](#) with questions.



Jesuit College Preparatory School offers [Sports Camps](#) for boys and girls in grades PK3-12, and a co-ed [Summer Theater Program](#) for middle school and high school students.



John Paul II High School offers Athletic Camps for middle school and high school students.



Ursuline Academy of Dallas offers Athletic Camps for students in grades 1-12.

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

A few scenes from this week. To learn the stories behind these photos, visit our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages!

Graduation Mass & Reception:



Suzanne Bacot Award for Service:



DPL Softball Champs:

ST. MARK COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM

May's prayer intention for our school: For our First Communion Candidates and Graduates.



A prayer to end the school year:

God of wisdom, We thank you for all the gifts you have given us throughout this school year. We praise you for giving us life, for saving us in Christ, and for choosing us to be your people. As we come to the end of this school year, we voice our gratitude for the good things you have done in us, and we praise you for all who have shared in the work of this school. We ask you to bless them in your love and give them refreshment and peace. We praise you, God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Source: *Catholic Household Blessings Prayers*/Revised Edition. USCCB

HAPPY SUMMER!

Have a faith-filled and fun-filled summer break, enjoying the special family times that renew our minds, bodies, and spirits. We look forward to welcoming our returning families and our new families when we gather again in August. Please keep our faculty and staff in your prayers, as we will keep you in ours.



Field Day:



1st Grade Volcanoes:



6th Grade STEM:



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