



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

August 19, 2016

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 treat Jesus Christ, with all our heart, mind and soul.

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REMINDERS

TODAY, Friday, August 19:

-12:00 PM: Early dismissal for students. No lunch will be served. The After School Program will be in operation until 6:00 PM.



A National School of Excellence

St. Mark Catholic School is a two time recipient of the U.S. Department of Education "National Blue Ribbon Award." This means that our students consistently score in the top 15% in the nation on standardized tests.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Follow us and stay connected!





1/2 Days are Cane's Days at St. Mark! Visit Raising Cane's across the street from the school anytime today between 10:00 AM-11:00 PM, mention St. Mark as you place your order (drive-thru or inside) and a % will be donated back to our Athletics Dept.

Monday, August 22:

-6:30 PM, Cafetorium: Parent Information Night for middle school (grades 6-8). This is the former "Back To School Night." See details below.

Tuesday, August 23:

-6:30 PM, Cafetorium: Parent Information Night for grades Preschool-5th. This is the former "Back To School Night." See details below.

-Student Picture Day (students should be in complete uniform including the school sweater)

Wednesday, August 24:

-6:30 PM, Cafetorium: Band Parent Meeting & Instrument Pick-up

Thursday, August 25:

-7:30 AM, School Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, August 26:

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass. The Mass is planned by the 8th grade. They will offer the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.

IMPORTANT TIME CHANGE - PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS

Please make note of a change to the start time of our upcoming Parent Information Nights. **We will begin at 6:30 PM in the Cafetorium** (instead of 6:45 PM). Formerly called our "Back To School Nights," these events are for parents only, and provide an opportunity to learn more about the school year from your child's teacher(s).

Middle School (6-8) Parent Information Night:
August 22, 6:30 PM, Cafetorium

Preschool-5th Grade Parent Information Night:
August 23, 6:30 PM, Cafetorium

QUICK LINKS

- [Lions Den Spirit Store](#)
- [Lifetime Lions Alumni Network](#)
- [Referral Thank You Program](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



Vocations Chalice:

8th grade was presented with the Vocations Chalice at the conclusion of today's All-School Mass. They will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.



Charity:

Teachers discuss the Virtue of the Month with students by using stories and activities to engage them into seeing the virtue in action. Ask your child what he/she is learning about "Charity" this month. [Click here](#) for the full list of monthly virtues for 2016-17.



All-School Service

Project: Service is an integral part of the mission of the Church. To help students understand that by serving others, they are serving God, they will participate in a required all-school service project each month.

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

A warm St. Mark welcome to the new students who are joining our community this year:

Audrey A.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Jozsi A.	5	Ms. Pennartz
Anna B.	6	Mrs. Rodriguez
Anthony B.	4K	Mrs. Coursey
Anna B.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
CJ B.	2	Mrs. Brooks
Charlie B.	K	Mrs. Blankenship
David B.	7	Mrs. Mitchell
Catherine B.	6	Mrs. Smith
Dante C.	4K	Ms. Escobar
Mia C.	5	Mrs. Ferri
Kyle C.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Andy C.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Clara C.	1	Mrs. McCormick
Madeline C.	1	Mrs. Helm
Bear C.	TK	Mrs. Young
Elizabeth C.	4K	Mrs. Coursey
Sophia C.	K	Mrs. Blankenship
Dio D.	2	Mrs. Brooks
Bruno D.	4K	Mrs. Escobar
Salvador D.	3	Mrs. Dansby
James D.	3K	Ms. Robinson
Ansley D.	2	Mrs. Crider
Michael D.	5	Mrs. Ferri
Sophie E.	4K	Ms. Escobar
Breck F.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Ava F.	6	Mrs. Oliver
Bridgette F.	TK	Mrs. Young
Michael F.	TK	Mrs. Young
Brooke G.	K	Mrs. Thompson
Bas G.	1	Mrs. McCormick
Jingqi G.	4	Mrs. Samples
Jingyao G.	7	Mrs. Rivera
Jaxon H.	4K	Mrs. Coursey
Kayden H.	3K	Ms. Robinson
Maxen H.	3K	Ms. Robinson
Ray I.	3	Mrs. Paulson

August Project: 5 Random Acts of Kindness in 10 days. Teachers provide students with a form to record their work.

Catholic Social Teaching: Solidarity

Who Benefits? Various individuals and organizations

Due Date: Wednesday, August 31

APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STUDENTS NOW AVAILABLE

Do you know anyone interested in a Catholic education for their child? We still have limited openings in various grade levels for the 2016-17 school year. Please refer potential new families to the school office at (972) 578-0610, to our website at www.stmcs.net, or give them one of our information cards (available in the school and church literature racks).

NO RESCUE

Children take great pride in showing all of us that they are responsible individuals ready to fully participate in a successful school experience. We discourage parents from rescuing students who tend to forget assignments or school supplies at home. Truly, it can be a learning experience if they are given the chance to deal with the natural consequences. A forgotten lunch can be an exception, but we ask that you work with us to help students leave home fully prepared. If

Nead I.	5	Mrs. Ostermann
Omar J.	2	Ms. Eisele
Roman J.	4K	Ms. Escobar
Blake J.	7	Mrs. Mitchell
Ria J.	4K	Ms. Escobar
Valentina K.	K	Mrs. Blankenship
James K.	K	Mrs. Blankenship
Robbie L.	1	Mrs. McCormick
Ethan L.	K	Mrs. Thompson
Jayna L.	3K	Ms. Robinson
Esmond L	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Yerik L.	TK	Mrs. Young
Cameron L.	8	Mrs. Smith
Tucker L.	TK	Mrs. Young
Logan M.	7	Mrs. Smith
Daniela M.	1	Mrs. Helm
Fernanda M.	3	Mrs. Ehnis
Joshua M.	3K	Ms. Robinson
Hope M.	6	Mrs. Smith
Elijah M.	4K	Ms. Escobar
Gaby M.	4	Mrs. Mercado
Mia M.	4K	Mrs. Coursey
Vincent M.	3	Mrs. Dansby
Aram M.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Alisa M.	K	Mrs. Thompson
Anthony M.	2	Mrs. Crider
Claire N.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Aleks N.	3K	Ms. Robinson
Rooney O.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Orion O.	K	Mrs. Blankenship
Laura P.	4	Mrs. Flores
Marilyn P.	2	Mrs. Eisele
Alexa P.	K	Mrs. Blankenship
Oisin P.	K	Mrs. Blankenship
Preston P.	6	Mrs. Pantuso
Kellan Q.	4K	Mrs. Coursey
Mateo R.	K	Mrs. Blankenship
Jacob R.	5	Mrs. Ostermann
Mya R.	TK	Mrs. Young
Hannah R.	5	Ms. Pennartz
Gabriella R.	1	Mrs. Helm

items (other than lunches) are brought to the school office, we will not be able to deliver them.



DPL Sports Team Registration Information:

*Cross Country is open for registration until September 2. Please [click here](#) for details.

*Coming soon: DPL Tennis Tournament date & DPL Swim Meet date



All Souls

Remembrance 1K/5K Run: Mark your calendar for the annual St. Mark All Souls Run -- Saturday, October 29! Register before September 1 and your complimentary t-shirt will be upgraded to a tech shirt! [Click here](#) for registration and more information.

Sponsorships Available: We are currently seeking sponsorships for the All Souls Run, and we are offering some fun incentives to anyone who brings in \$250 or more in sponsor dollars:

*Any athlete who raises over \$500 in sponsorships receives a St. Mark Letter Jacket!

*Any athlete who raises over \$250 in sponsorships receives a certificate to the Lion's Den

Hannah R.	7	Mrs. Salvia
Jacob R.	8	Mrs. Pantuso
Nathan R.	5	Mrs. Ferri
Abby R.	K	Mrs. Blankenship
Addison S.	K	Mrs. Thompson
Paloma S.	K	Mrs. Blankenship
Charlotte S.	1	Mrs. Helm
Christopher S.	5	Mrs. Ostermann
Ellie S.	3K	Ms. Robinson
Sofia S.	K	Mrs. Thompson
Ross T.	3K	Ms. Robinson
Santi T.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Stella T.	K	Mrs. Thompson
Gus V.	3K	Ms. Robinson
Kenny W.	K	Mrs. Thompson
Sydney W.	4	Mrs. Samples

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM WORKERS NEEDED

The St. Mark After School Program is in need of workers. Workers earn \$15.00 per hour, and their children may attend the program for free. Interested? Contact toni.jobs@stmcs.net.

Flexible schedules are available:

*Work 1-5 days per week, or be a substitute

*Arrive at 3:15 PM and work until 5:00 or 6:00 PM

SCHOOL CALENDAR UPDATES

Please be sure you have the most up-to-date versions of the school calendars (links below). Keep in mind that a more detailed online calendar is always available on the homepage of our [school website](#). You can also add dates to your electronic device by clicking on the red ".ICS" link located at the end of the online calendar.

[2016-17 Academic Calendar](#)

[2016-17 Events Calendar](#)

REMINDER: PREFECT FEES DUE AUGUST 31

Upon enrollment, all families with students in grades Preschool - 5th grade make a registration commitment of five days of Prefect Duty (lunchroom and recess supervision). (Prefect duty is not required of families with only a Middle School student.) A \$100.00 Prefect Fee is paid at the beginning of each school year and is a deposit on

Spirit Store to purchase the gear of their choice!

Click the link above for more information about sponsorships.



Monsignor Smyth

Golf Classic: This annual event is tentatively scheduled for May 19, 2017. We are looking for volunteers to head various committees. Please email marlene.ehring@stmcs.net if you are interested in helping.

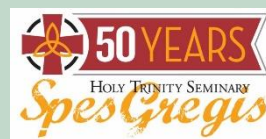


GO LIONS!



HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

St. Mark Catholic School has formed a special relationship with [Holy Trinity Seminary](#) and takes great pride in supporting our future priests. Following are upcoming opportunities to become involved:



You are invited to attend

the Holy Trinity Seminary "50th Year" Spes Gregis Dinner (the hope of the flock), welcoming their seminarians and introducing them to the Catholic community. The dinner will take place on Friday, September 23, 2016 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. For tickets, sponsorships, underwriting or

this time commitment. This fee is refunded upon completion of all five days. Fees can be paid directly to the school office, or online by [clicking here](#). Please be reminded that a \$25.00 late fee will be assessed on any payment made 5 business days after the due date (refer to page 15 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) for details). If you still need to sign-up for your Prefect days, please [click here](#) for the online Prefect Calendar.

ST. MARK COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM

The mission of the Community Prayer Team is to provide ways that we, as a community, can come together and pray throughout the year. For more information about our Prayer Team, [click here](#).



30 Days of Prayer for the School Year:
[Click here](#) for 30 days of school year prayer.

Thank You: Thank you to all who were able to join the Community Prayer Walk today and to those who prayed from where they were. This was our first event, and we had a wonderful turn out. What a great way to start the school year! We welcome all school families to consider using the intentions of today's prayer walk as a way to periodically pray for our school throughout the year. The Community Prayer Team will meet monthly at 8:00 AM on St.

Mark Spirit Days (check the [online school calendar](#)). If you are unable to make these meetings because of work or other obligations, it's okay! We still want you to be part of this team. There will be plenty of ways to participate for everyone this year, no matter what your schedule. For more information on joining, please contact Kathleen Frye at KathleenFrye@yahoo.com or 214-551-8887.

POPCORN SALE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK

The Middle School Yearbook elective will be selling popcorn to all students (PK3-8th grade) next week. Popcorn orders will be taken during class time between Monday, August 22 through Thursday, August 25. Popcorn bags are \$2.00 each. Choose from Butter, White Cheddar, Salsa, or Vanilla (Texas wildflower colors). Order extra bags for gifts or snacks. Exact change is appreciated. Payment must be made during the order process. The popcorn will be delivered to students on August 30. If your child would like to enjoy a bag of popcorn, be sure that he/she pre-orders and pays between 8/22-8/25.

donations, contact Mrs. Agnes Denvir directly at agnes.denvir@stmcs.net.

Public Masses: Join us for upcoming Public Masses at Holy Trinity Seminary @ 9:15 AM at 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX 75062: August 28, September 11.

CAMPUS SECURITY REMINDER

For the protection of our students and staff, visitors to the St. Mark campus must enter through the main entrance, check in with the receptionist, and obtain a yellow visitor sticker. Visitors who are not wearing a yellow sticker will be stopped and escorted to the receptionist desk for check-in. Thank you for your cooperation in making St. Mark safe for our entire community. If you have any questions about campus security, please contact Mrs. Opon at patricia.opon@stmcs.net.

DISMISSAL LINES

Thank you to everyone for making our first week dismissal lines go so smoothly! Being patient and courteous to others has made a big difference. Please be sure you display a sign with your last name written in big, bold letters in the front window of your vehicle to help expedite the process.

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

A warm St. Mark welcome to Mrs. Gina Harris, the newest addition to our Cafeteria staff.

Please help support the middle school yearbook elective and enjoy a tasty treat!



Calling all "Dads of Great Students!" Watch D.O.G.S. will be hosting its annual "Pizza Night" on Wednesday, September 7, from 7:00-9:00 PM in the Cafetorium. This is a great opportunity to meet new dads, get your questions answered, choose dates to serve, win some door prizes, and enjoy a free meal! Please RSVP to Aaron Baldwin at ab3163@att.net by September 4. For more information about St. Mark's Watch D.O.G.S. program, just for dads, [click here](#).



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

IMPORTANT HSA DATES:

-September 7, 8:00 AM: Committee Chair & Room Parent Meeting

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Thank you to everyone who has already committed to be involved in the 2016-2017 school year. [Click here](#) for more information.

The open **Committee Chair** positions are: Hospitality Chair, Graduation/Confirmation Chair, and Auction Baskets Chair. Please contact Ashley Ternan at ashleyternan@gmail.com if you are interested in one of the positions.

There are still several opportunities to volunteer as a **Library Helper** (grades TK-5), **Paper Puller** (grades 1-2), or **Reader** to the class (grades PK3-2). Please contact Jill Dourty (dourtyj@gmail.com) or Paola Colon (paolabcolon@icloud.com) to sign up.

Are you interested in volunteering as a **Room Parent**? We are still looking for volunteers for Mrs. Robinson (PK3); Mrs. Escobar (PK4); Mrs. Helm (1st); Mrs. Brooks (2nd); Mrs. Crider (2nd); Mrs. Paulson (3rd); Mrs. Samples (4th); Mrs. Ostermann (5th); Mrs. Ferri (5th); and 8th grade. Please

You may recognize her from her days as a frequent substitute teacher at St. Mark. We're happy to have her as part of our wonderful Cafeteria team that lovingly prepares meals for our students each day!

STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS MOVED TO SOCIAL MEDIA

In our recent parent survey, many parents suggested shortening the Weekly School Bulletins. We hear you! As a result, we have moved the news from the "Seen and Heard Around St. Mark," "Alumni News" and "LION PRIDE" sections of the bulletin to our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. If you aren't already following St. Mark on our social media sites, please take a moment to do so now, so that you can keep up with what's happening with our current and former students. Same fun news and photos, different location! Note that for security purposes, only the student's first name and last initial are indicated on social media.

SUMMER THANK -YOUS

Special thanks to those who donated their time and talents to completing some special projects on our campus over the summer. Your hard work and dedication to our school are so very appreciated!

*Our fabulous Art Teacher, **Ms. Tammy Williams**, for painting and redecorating the kitchen in the Teacher Lounge -- it is simply beautiful!

email Jill Dourty (dourtyj@gmail.com) if you are interested.

The **Auction Committee** has many volunteer opportunities. Please contact Eric Librea (ericlibrea@alumni.duke.edu) if you are interested in helping out at this year's event.

REMINDERS:

Volunteer Pledge Forms: All volunteers must sign and return a "Volunteer Pledge Form" before the first day of volunteering. This form can be found in the [Volunteer Handbook](#). Also, volunteers must be [Safe Environment](#) trained. [Click here](#) for more details.

HSA Dues: Please pay your HSA dues (\$20) by September 9. You can [pay online](#) directly, or you can print a copy of the [HSA dues form](#) and return it to the school office with your payment. Please remember that it's your dues that help to fund all of the great events and activities that HSA sponsors each year for our students. Those who pay their dues will receive a copy of the school directory, and the option to volunteer at Field Day.

School Directories: Directories will be distributed at the end of September to ensure that all new families are included.

Link Your Shopper Cards & Earn Money for

St. Mark: Remember to link your Kroger, Tom Thumb and Target cards to St. Mark. Kroger cards need to be re-linked every year. [Click here](#) for more details.



Box Tops: Keep saving those Box Tops! They will be counted throughout the year and prizes/parties awarded. Be sure to write the grade level on the baggies when you turn them in to the school office.

***Student Council** for donating the lion statue that will soon be located in front of the gymnasium entrance.

*The **Home & School Association** for donating the Holy Family statue located in front of the ECE building.

*Our amazing maintenance staff (**Joe Walter, Jose Arteaga, Ruben Mendoza, Juan Sandoval, and Vicky Adams**) for always going above and beyond for our school. From painting to cleaning to hanging artwork, they do so much for which we are so appreciative.

*Our many **HSA volunteers** and **Board members** for helping to make all of our recent events and programs a huge success: Host Family program, Back To School Sunday, Used Uniform Sale, Back to School Coffee, and so much more!

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS KICK-OFF

American Heritage Girls Troop TX-1022 will hold their annual **Kick-Off** on August 25 in the Parish Center Great Hall at 1105 West 15th Street. There will be fun/games/activities for the girls and their siblings, fellowship/information/presentations for the adults, and food for all. If you know of a girl age 5-18, or an adult that may be interested in AHG, email TC-tx1022@trooptrack.com.

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