



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

## WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

August 25, 2017

### Prayer for the 2017-18 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.

## REMINDERS

### Today, Friday, August 25:

-7th grade received the Vocations Chalice and will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

-3:30 PM: HSA opt out emails and extra directory orders due to [Annette.vela@stmcs.net](mailto:Annette.vela@stmcs.net)

-3:30 PM: Deadline to order Memory Book at Early Bird Discount with cash or check (details below)

### Sunday, August 27:

-Deadline to order Memory Book online at Early Bird Discount (details below)

### Friday, September 1:

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass planned by the 7th grade. All are welcome.

### Monday, September 4:

-No School: Labor Day

Wednesday, September 6-Friday, September 8:



A National School of  
Excellence

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connected!



## QUICK LINKS

[Calendar](#)  
[Lifetime Lions Alumni](#)  
[Admissions](#)  
[Lunch Menus](#)  
[Safe Environment](#)

-8th Grade to the Pines Leadership Retreat

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents: A warm welcome once again to the 2017-18 school year. We were thrilled to welcome our LIONS back to campus last week and can report a seamless transition from summer vacation to the school year. Now we look forward to a year full of learning and fun!

Today, I want to talk to you about the recent Diocesan Capacity Survey that was distributed last spring. Parents at all schools in the Diocese of Dallas were sent this survey, and students in grades 5-8 also completed it during class time. I am pleased to share the results with you.

One of the highlights is that **St. Mark has the highest student retention rate in the entire Diocese of Dallas at 92%**. We feel this is a direct result of a strong home and school partnership at all levels. Please know that this continues to be a focus, so keep those comments, questions, and suggestions coming. Mutual communication and cooperation = a happy campus that no one wants to leave ... and that's the way we like it!

**Parent satisfaction is very high.** Survey categories included "Parent Trust in School," "School Outreach," "Catholic Identity Development," and "Parent Satisfaction." In all cases, satisfaction at St. Mark meets (and more often than not, exceeds) the average Diocese scores. We are very gratified by these results and it is our goal to continue to exceed your expectations.

**Student satisfaction is also high.** Students feel safe at school, trust in their teachers, feel engaged, motivated, supported, and sense strong Catholic identity development. We are also extremely proud of these results.

Our goal is complete satisfaction among our entire community, and we hope you agree that mutual cooperation between home and school goes a long way towards making this a reality.

### A Note About Future Surveys:

As you may recall, St. Mark has historically conducted an annual school survey. In 2016-17, the Diocese also added their Capacity Survey to the mix. Because the questions asked on both are similar, we will be doing away with the St. Mark survey beginning this school year, and will only utilize the Diocesan Capacity Survey (keep an eye out for it later in

## [Lion's Den Spirit Store](#)

### 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 ABOUT OUR WONDERFUL SCHOOL COMMUNITY!**

### CARPOOL DISMISSAL LINES

**We've had one issue during afternoon pick-up that we need to bring to your attention:** Cars coming to the Early Childhood building and/ or the back of the elementary school to pick-up children at dismissal time need to stay in a single file line, staying to the right of the red fire line until their car gets to where the teachers' cars are parked in the middle of the parking lot. At that point, cars may split into two lines: The far right line for those picking up at the Early

the school year). We look forward to your continued participation as it greatly impacts our planning process.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [patricia.opon@stmcs.net](mailto:patricia.opon@stmcs.net), or Assistant Principal Pam Steinkirchner at [pam.steinkirchner@stmcs.net](mailto:pam.steinkirchner@stmcs.net). Our doors (and emails) are always open.

*Patricia Opon*

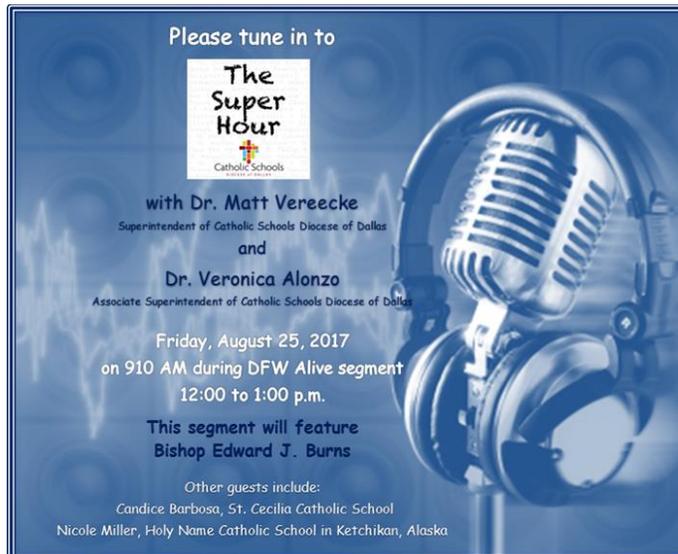
Patricia Opon  
Principal

## WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

A warm St. Mark welcome to the new students who joined our community this week:

Michael G.	5	Mrs. Ostermann
Ashton O.	4K	Mrs. Coursey

## TUNE IN TO THE SUPER HOUR TODAY



Please tune in to

**The Super Hour**  
Catholic Schools

with **Dr. Matt Verecke**  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools Diocese of Dallas  
and  
**Dr. Veronica Alonzo**  
Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools Diocese of Dallas

Friday, August 25, 2017  
on 910 AM during DFW Alive segment  
12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

This segment will feature  
**Bishop Edward J. Burns**

Other guests include:  
Candice Barbosa, St. Cecilia Catholic School  
Nicole Miller, Holy Name Catholic School in Ketchikan, Alaska

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: LION'S DEN SPIRIT STORE

The Lion's Den Spirit Store is looking for four parents to volunteer during the Friday morning sales on a rotating schedule. Volunteer hours are 7:25 until 8:15 AM each Friday. During that time, volunteers are asked to help with spirit

Childhood building, and the far left line for those picking up in the elementary school line.

Other than this issue, dismissal all around the building has been great. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we get back into our pick-up routines.



Calling all "Dads of Great Students!" Watch D.O.G.S. will be hosting its annual "Pizza Night" on Wednesday, September 6 from 7:00-9:00 PM in the school 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](mailto:ab3163@att.net) by September 1. For more information about St. Mark's Watch D.O.G.S. program just for dads, [click here](#).



**SAVE THE DATE:** The St. Mark Catholic School Auction, "A Night At The Oscars," will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at the Renaissance @ Shops Of Legacy West in Plano! Tickets will go on sale in just a few short weeks. Stay tuned for more details on the "red carpet" event you WON'T want to miss! For more information contact Rebecca Battles at

merchandise sales, organize merchandise, and tag inventory. It's a great way to get involved, raise money for the Athletics Department, and meet lots of other parents. If you can help, please contact [marlene.ehring@stmcs.net](mailto:marlene.ehring@stmcs.net).

### HELP WANTED: AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

We are in need of After School Program workers. The pay is \$15 per hour. Workers must be Safe Environment trained and must be available to work at the following times: Regular School Days-3:00 PM until 5:15-6:00 PM; Early Dismissal Days-11:30 AM until 5:15-6:00 PM (or until 3:00 PM on some major holidays). Please contact Toni Jobses at [toni.jobses@stmcs.net](mailto:toni.jobses@stmcs.net) if you are interested.

### ORDER YOUR 2017-18 MEMORY BOOK NOW

This year, we have joined the two memory books into one. 2017-18 will be the first all school yearbook! Don't delay...order yours today! **Early Bird Special: \$20.** (Price will increase to \$25 after August 27.) Payment may be submitted in one of two ways:

1. To pay online, [click here](#). Select the "Yearbook/Memory Book" option, and indicate your child's name and homeroom in the "Comments" section. **Deadline is August 27.**
2. Submit cash or check to the school office (make checks out to St. Mark Catholic School and indicate "Memory Book" on the memo line). **Deadline is today, August 25.**

**Note: Each 8th grader will be given a memory book free of charge. Please note that this only includes 8th graders, and is a change from last year.**

### MIDDLE SCHOOL "MATH COUNTS" REGISTRATION

Dear Middle School Parents: Math Counts is about to begin! Does your child love math? Is your child interested in furthering his/her math skills and competing in local math competitions? St. Mark middle school students have the opportunity, as in years past, to participate in Math Counts. Topics ranging from introductory high school geometry to the characteristics of mathematical proof will be covered. A heavy emphasis is placed upon the application of simple concepts to challenging problems. Students apply their skills in four nationally-ranked competitions that take place throughout the school year. Meetings will be conducted by Ursuline Academy Senior, Ivanka Perez, a 2014 St. Mark graduate. She will need a Safe Environment cleared parent

[rbattles@patronspirits.com](mailto:rbattles@patronspirits.com) or Cat Williamson at [catmwilliamson@yahoo.com](mailto:catmwilliamson@yahoo.com).

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

### LIONS DEN

The Lion's Den Spirit Store is open every Friday morning from 7:30-8:15 AM in the Cafeteria hallway. Can't make it in person? Shop online at [www.stmcs.net/spirit-gear](http://www.stmcs.net/spirit-gear). Once an order has been submitted it will be bundled and ready for pick up on Friday. Note: Not all items available are offered online.

#### Mark your calendar:



**4th Annual All Souls Run:** Saturday, October 28, 2017. For details and run registration, please [click here](#).



**Monsignor Smyth Golf Classic:** Friday, May 4, 2018

**First Football Game:** September 10; location TBA. JV plays at 12:00 Noon; Varsity plays at 2:00 PM

**First Volleyball Match:** September 9; schedule TBA

**Fall Pep Rally:** October (date TBD)

to attend as well. Math Counts will start on a Sunday in September from 3:00-4:00 PM on the school campus. If interested, please contact [Erica.rivera@stmcs.net](mailto:Erica.rivera@stmcs.net).

## GIRL SCOUTS

Make friends, learn new skills, enjoy STEM projects and have fun in Girl Scouts. Contact Elena Mappus at [elenamappus@gmail.com](mailto:elenamappus@gmail.com) or 404-213-4122 to register your daughter. All ages are welcome with a specific focus on kindergarten girls to join our Daisy Girl Scout troop led by Stacie Cuvi at [mrs.cuvi@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.cuvi@gmail.com) or 214-874-8233.



## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Registration is now available for the St. Mark Children's Choir for grades 2-8 (and is also open to high school students). Rehearsals take place on Wednesdays after school. Please [click here](#) for complete details and the registration form. The first day of Choir is Wednesday, September 6.

## STEM SCOUTS

STEM Scouts is for girls and boys in 3rd through 8th grades. Lower school activities include *Archaeology, Astronomy, Robotics, Physics of Light & Colors, Magnetism, All About Sound, and All About Matter*. Middle school activities include *Crazy Robot Machines, Mobile Apps, How Does Light Work, Mission to the International Space Station, and War of the Drones*.



Meetings will be held weekly after school at St. Mark. An information and registration meeting will occur on **Tuesday, September 12 at 6:00 PM in the Cafetorium**. The cost is \$200 per student which includes activity supplies. Payment options are available. To register for 3rd-5th grade: <https://stemscouts.org/signup-night/6915/>. To register for 6th-8th grade: <https://stemscouts.org/signup-night/5420/>. Questions? Contact [Maribeth.hughes@scouting.org](mailto:Maribeth.hughes@scouting.org) or 214-918-4010.

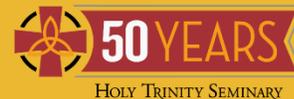
## AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

Spring Pep Rally: January 31, 2018

## ST. MARK NET TEAM NEEDS HOST FAMILIES



The NET Team is coming! We are so fortunate to have these young adults at St. Mark once again this year working with our parish youth and our students. The NET missionaries arrive on September 16. How can you help NET Ministries succeed at St. Mark? We are looking for host families for these missionaries. Please contact Matthew Cantrell, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries, at [mcantrell@stmarkplano.org](mailto:mcantrell@stmarkplano.org) if you can serve as a host.



Join us for an upcoming Public Mass on August 27 at 9:15 AM at Holy Trinity Seminary, 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving. A brief reception with the seminarians follows.

## LION PRIDE!

Congratulations to the following students who qualified for the 7th Grade Duke University Talent Identification Program based on last year's standardized test scores: Drew A., Jonas A., Caroline B., Jeremiah B., Genevieve B., Catherine B., Jessica C., Biya C., Bernadette C., Luke G., Austin



Any girl age 5-18 can be an American Heritage Girl. Girls of all different backgrounds are welcome. Contact Brandy Pazora at [brandy76610@yahoo.com](mailto:brandy76610@yahoo.com) or (214) 316-4769 to register, or drop by the AHG table in the Narthex after all English Masses on Saturday, August 26 or Sunday, August 27. Members of our parish American Heritage Girls Troop TX 1022 will be there to share with you about this exciting scouting organization for girls and adults and to answer questions/help you register.



## ENDOW

ENDOW (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women) is a Catholic study program that engages the intellect of women to help them understand their God-given dignity and respond to our culture's desperate need for an authentic feminine presence to transform every aspect of life and society. More information can be found [here](#). St. Mark's new fall ENDOW study begins September 13. *St. Thomas Aquinas Part 1* is what we will be studying and we will explore what Aquinas has to teach us about the virtues and theory and the essential purpose of living the moral life as Catholic women. Meetings take place on Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Upper Room of the Smyth Pastoral Center and child care is available upon request. [Click here](#) to register. Questions? Contact [Chris Keith](#) or [Liz Quarles](#).



## TROOPS OF SAINT GEORGE

Fathers: Would you like to go camping with your son and have some great outdoor adventures? Are you looking for a group where you can both grow in your Catholic faith with other dads and boys in grades 1-12? If so, please join us. We have monthly meetings at the St. Mark Youth House. No previous camping experience necessary. A kick-off picnic will be held September 9. For specific details, check out [www.tsg77.org](http://www.tsg77.org) or contact Peter Reisinger at 972-662-8747.



## HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

**HSA Membership & Additional School Directories:** A reminder that the annual \$25 HSA dues will automatically be charged with your September tuition payment unless a specific request is made in writing not to join. The deadline to opt out is today, August 25 at 3:30 PM. Emails must be

G., Lauren G., Nicholas G., Renil G., Hope H., Jason L., George L., Kyle M., Kaitlyn M., Hope M., Jeremy M., Aoife P., Zachary P., Riannah M., Alex R., Sebastian R., Morgan S., Daniella S., Camille S., Louis T., and Theresa T.

These students represent 45% of the 7th grade class. Duke TIP is a nonprofit organization dedicated to identifying and serving academically gifted and talented youth. Letters were sent home with students this week and contain more information, as well as instructions for registering with Duke TIP.

4th-6th grade qualifiers will be announced soon.

## SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

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

### August Service:



### Solar Eclipse 2017:



### St. Mark on Channel 8 News:

sent to Annette Vela at [Annette.vela@stmcs.net](mailto:Annette.vela@stmcs.net). Additional school directories must also be ordered via email to Annette Vela by this deadline. They are \$6 each.

**2017-18 HSA General Meeting Dates (meets in Cafetorium):**

- \*September 20: HSA 1st General Meeting, 6:30 PM (speaker presentation will count as Safe Environment Training renewal)
- \*December 6: HSA 2nd General Meeting, 8:15 AM
- \*March 28: HSA 3rd General Meeting, 6:30 PM
- \*May 2: HSA 4th General Meeting, 8:15 AM

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Looking to volunteer? Check out the [Sign-Up Genius](#) link and all the ways you can help out.

**Box Tops:** Earn additional funds for St. Mark Catholic School by clipping Box Tops For Education from a variety of products, AND earning bonus Box Tops via the Box Tops app. Each Box Top submitted earns \$.10 for St. Mark. [Click here](#) for details. **Right now, Sam's Club is running a "buy 3 get 100" (\$10) promotion through the end of September. Purchase any 3 Box Top products and scan your receipt by 9/30/17 (limit 4). Also, earn 100 on Lysol when you purchase any 5 products. Limit 4.**

**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](#).



**Prayer Intention for August:** For our new students and families.

**30 Days of Praying for Your Child's New School Year:** We would like to invite all of our families to pray for your child(ren)'s school year. [Click here](#) for a great resource with specific daily intentions.

**Meetings:** The Community Prayer Team meets monthly at 8:00 AM on St. Mark Spirit Days. Our first meeting of the year will be September 11 at 8:00 AM, location TBD. If you are unable to make the meeting because of work or other obligations, it's ok! There will be plenty of ways for everyone to participate this year, no matter what your schedule. For more information, contact [KathleenFrye@yahoo.com](mailto:KathleenFrye@yahoo.com) or [lizquarles97@hotmail.com](mailto:lizquarles97@hotmail.com).



P

**K4 Apple Tasting/Graphing:**



**3rd Grade Eclipse Portraits:**



PK3 Fun:



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