



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

May 31, 2019

Prayer for the 2018-19 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, May 31 - Last Day of School:



10:00 AM-11:00 PM: Half days are Cane's Days at St. Mark! Visit the location across the street from the school, mention St. Mark as you place your order, and a percentage of the proceeds benefits the Athletics Dept.!

-12:00 PM: Early Dismissal. The After School Program is available until 3:00 PM.

-Report Cards Sent Home With All Students

Monday, June 3:

-Staff Development

Monday, June 3-Thursday, June 20:

-Summer Office Hours: M-Th, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Friday, June 21-Wednesday, July 31:



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Excellence



Named 1 of the top 3
Catholic schools in the nation
for technology integration.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

-School office closed for staff vacations

Thursday, August 1-Friday, August 9:

-School office reopens. Hours: M-F, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM; please call ahead as the office will close periodically for staff development sessions

Sunday, August 4:

-Back To School Sunday (details below)

Friday, August 9:

-Pop In Meet & Greet (details below)

Monday, August 12:

-First Day of School; First Quarter Begins. Today only, doors open at 7:30 AM for parent drop-off in classrooms; school hours are 7:55 AM - 3:30 PM; lunch will be served; the After School Program is available until 6:00 PM

Friday, August 16:

-12:00 PM Early Dismissal. The After School Program will be available until 6:00 PM. Please send a lunch with all ASP students.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents: They say that when you have children, the days and weeks pass slowly but the years pass quickly. We can certainly relate -- where did the 2018-19 school year go? It seems like yesterday that our 8th graders were ushering in their final year at St. Mark, and in the blink of an eye, they are now high school freshmen. We are so proud of the Class of 2019 -- who they have become, and all that they have accomplished. [Click here](#) to see where they will attend high school, and [here](#) to see the scholarships they received -- \$343,200 in total. Impressive! We hope they will continue to stay in touch, and come back and visit as often as they'd like. Once A Lion, Always A Lion!

It wasn't just 8th grade that excelled this year. All of our students strove to meet the challenges they were given. We like to say that we not only work hard, but we play hard. The students are to be commended for their efforts and achievements, and the fact that they had a lot of fun along the way.

Our teachers continue to be the best in the business and make the learning environment at St. Mark the very

Follow us and stay connected!



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QUICK LINKS

[Calendar](#)

[Lifetime Lions Alumni](#)

[Admissions](#)

[Lunch Menus](#)

[Safe Environment](#)

[Lion's Den Spirit Store](#)

[Work of Heart Nomination](#)

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS



June 3-20: M-TH, 9-12
June 21-July 31 - Office Closed
August 1-9: M-F, 8-3

REPORT CARD PICK-UP

Did your summer vacation start before school was out? If so, please make arrangements to pick-up your child's report card in the school office. All others were sent home with students on the last day of school.

TV THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to the Blair family who donated a large flat screen TV to the After School Program. We (and the ASP students) are so grateful for your generosity!

best as well. What truly makes a high-quality school is its teachers, and we couldn't ask for a better faculty.

You, as parents, once again rounded out the home and school partnership with your endless support in so many ways. From volunteering on campus, to serving on the School Advisory Council and Home & School Association, to coaching our sports teams, you helped make the 2018-19 school year a great success.

In the spirit of always trying to make tomorrow better than today, there are MANY things to get excited about in 2019-20. We continue to be at the forefront of new and innovative curriculum tools. Virtual reality/augmented reality are coming to St. Mark! Special goggles with computers inside will provide our students with new ways to experience and learn about our world. Coding, which research shows encourages logical thinking, will be added to the PK3-2nd grade curriculum in fun new ways at an age-appropriate level (for the younger children, it doesn't even involve screen time!).

Differentiation in the classroom, which serves to address learning differences, continues to be a focus. Teachers meet each child "where they are" within each lesson to ensure everyone is meeting classroom goals and getting the challenge or support they need to do so. As we continue to expand this program next year, we are bringing on more adaptive devices and flexible seating (like standing desks) for those who need them.

New paint, carpet, an upstairs staff restroom, some new playground equipment, library renovations, and an outdoor classroom environment will all be on display by the time you return in August, with additional exterior enhancements in the works such as a covered walkway between the ECE and main school buildings.

"Back To School Sunday" takes place on August 4 beginning with the 9:00 AM Mass. It's always a wonderful time to reconnect with the community and to take care of our back to school business, so please mark your calendar. We look forward to seeing you there.

Enjoy a relaxing and rejuvenating summer with your family, making memories that will last a lifetime. Take it from our 8th grade families -- the school years truly do pass in the blink of an eye, so we hope you'll take time

THANK YOU, UTD!

Special thanks to The University of Texas at Dallas African Student Union that donated \$800 to the St. Mark Tuition Assistance Fund. They designated St. Mark as the beneficiary of the proceeds from their annual Fall Ball, A Night in Egypt. This money will help provide support to qualifying school families in need of tuition assistance.



COMPLETE YOUR SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING THIS SUMMER

Be ready to volunteer at school on Day 1 of the 2019-20 school year! First time volunteers must complete a training session, background check, and interview. Those who have completed this process must renew their training online each year. [Click here for complete details.](#)

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 it up by the last day of school. Any medication that is left at school over the summer will be disposed of, per school policy.

2019-20 ACADEMIC CALENDAR & BACK TO SCHOOL EVENTS

A printable copy of the 2019-20 Academic Calendar is available [here](#), and is also posted on the [homepage](#) of the school website. The 2019-20

to make the most of them.

May God bless us all with a safe and happy summer,



Patricia Opon
Principal

IMPORTANT SUMMER INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

Summer information was sent electronically to all families on Wednesday. Hard copies will also be sent home with all PK-3rd grade students today. This information is always available on the school website under the "Parents" tab at <https://stmcs.net/summer-information-and-forms>. Please take a moment to read through this information carefully. There are items for both parents and students including important school year details, and skills/prayers for students to practice over the summer. **Many items require action, so please allow yourself and your student ample time to complete them during the summer months.**



DONATE YOUR USED UNIFORMS

We are now accepting gently used uniform donations. Please drop them off in the school office. Donations will be accepted between now and June 20. From June 3-20, summer office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

PLEASE CHECK LOST & FOUND

Missing something? Please check "Lost and Found" in the school office. It is overflowing with sweaters and other items, most without names. Unclaimed items will be donated to the Used Uniform Sale.

REGISTER NOW: 2019-20 AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Registration for the 2019-20 After School Program is now available. If you plan to take advantage of ASP next year, we encourage you to register early, as classes fill up quickly. [Please click here for details](#). The link to register is located on the last page of the 2019-20 ASP Handbook.

Events Calendar will be available August 1.

Remember, you can add school calendar dates to your personal electronic calendar. Simply visit the homepage of the [school website](#). The electronic calendar is located in the center of the page. Click on the "calendar" icon at the end of the listing to sync it to your device.

St. Mark will host several "Back To School" events in August. Please [click here](#) for a printable copy.

ST. MARK SUMMER PROGRAM

REGISTRATION IS NOW

OPEN: www.kidventure.com/dallas-summer-camp!

Kidventure Summer Camp will be at St. Mark Catholic School for the summer of 2019. Called "Camp St.



Mark," Kidventure will offer 9 weeks of active and rewarding summer camp for all children (ages 3-12). The theme is "Summer Bash." Families have the opportunity to register for any of the camp weeks, but each is designed to be a unique adventure, providing your child with outstanding opportunities for athletic, educational and personal growth.

Kidventure's "Camp St. Mark"

*Discovers: Ages 3-5
*Explorers: Entering 1st Grade-Age 12

*Dates: June 3-August 2, 2019
*Each week is Monday-Friday
*9:00 AM-3:30 PM (options for 7:00 AM-6:00 PM)
*All Adult Camp Team; Low Ratios

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ST. MARK!

Do you know someone interested in a St. Mark education for their PK-8th grade child? We have limited 2019-20 openings in select grade levels.



Encourage prospective families to schedule a **private tour** at www.stmcs.net/open-house-tours. If they attend, you'll receive a \$10 gift certificate for the Lion's Den Spirit Store, and if they enroll, you could receive a [\\$500 tuition credit!](#)

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS



Registration for 2019-20 Cross Country is available:

Open to **rising** 5th-8th grade students
Coed JV & Varsity
Deadline = June 24, 2019
[Click here](#) for details.

RESCHEDULED -- 24TH ANNUAL MONSIGNOR SMYTH GOLF CLASSIC

THE 24th ANNUAL MONSIGNOR SMYTH GOLF CLASSIC HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR ...

Friday, September 13, 2019
The Courses at Watters Creek
7201 Chase Oaks, Plano, Texas

Shotgun Start at 1:00 PM; Reception Follows

Format and Cost:

*4 Person Scramble



*Flexible Registration and Payment Plans

Learn more by visiting Kidventure's [website](#), watching their [video](#), or checking out their [flyer](#).

AROUND THE PARISH



YOU ARE INVITED TO
ST. MARK'S
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 22-26, 2019

Dear VBS Friends: This summer we'll be having an EarthKeepers adventure at St. Mark, and we'd love to have you join us. Here's how:

The registration forms for Adults, Teen Volunteers and Children entering PK through 5th grade next school year are located on the [homepage of the St. Mark Catholic Church website](#). Please return your completed forms and payment to the St. Mark Parish Office or mail to: St. Mark, 1105 W. 15th Street, Plano TX 75075, Attn: VBS. We're looking forward to seeing you. Don't forget to invite a friend to come along, too!

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

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

Farewell to Father Cliff:

*\$125 Per Person (includes dinner, beverage tickets, gift bags, door prizes and a raffle)

Registration and sponsorships are available now. Please [click here](#).

Questions? Contact marlene.ehring@stmcs.net.



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to our latest "Golden Volunteers," Mrs. Chris Spencer and Mrs. Maria Bargellini! These ladies have contributed to St. Mark in so many ways, and we're pleased to honor them this month.

Mrs. Spencer designed and made costumes for the *Spunky Pumpkin* and *The Giving Tree*

plays, took it upon herself to reframe a damaged 8th grade composite (and her child isn't even in it), devoted numerous volunteer hours in various classrooms (not necessarily her own child's), cut fleece for the blanket service project, made chair packs, and contributed her time and talents to the 2019 Auction.



Mrs. Bargellini served the school in numerous ways including 2nd Grade Room Parent Lead, HSA Social Media Relations, Lion's Den Spirit Store, classroom volunteer, Junior Achievement volunteer

for Mrs. McCormick's kindergarten class (her child is not even in this class), and Library Book Fair volunteer.

Our heartfelt thanks for their GOLDEN service to our school community!



Graduation Mass & Ceremony:



PK4 Phonics Fashion Show:



Field Day:



1st Grade Volcanoes:



2019-20 Volunteer

Opportunities: The Home & School Association cannot be successful without amazing



volunteers to help in our school. There are many ways you can share your time and talents in the new school year. Below is a link to the 2019-20 Sign-Up Genius. All positions are available on a first come, first served basis. While Room Parent Team Leaders are available on this sign up, Room Parent sign-ups will be available on August 5. Electronic communications with that sign-up link will be sent to families registered in Renweb in August. There will be three (3) Room Parents per class PLUS one (1) Team Lead for each grade level (PK3-5th). Extra Room Parent positions will be added to the Middle School Room Parent team allowing for up to 15 Room Parents.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eacab28a3f85-20192020>

Earn Money for St. Mark by Simply Shopping at

Kroger: Enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards program and a percentage of your purchases will go directly to the St. Mark Catholic School Home & School Association. [Click here](#) for complete instructions. Kroger cards must be relinked to St. Mark every 12 months.

PAW PRIDE!



Congratulations to the following 3rd-5th graders who qualified and have chosen to attend the Diocese of Dallas Junior DECATS program this summer: Bebe C., Charlie D., Isabelle M., Maria Q., Keelan S., Guru A.,

Hudson W., and Priscilla Y. Junior DECATS scholars qualify to attend based on standardized test scores, and participate in an intensive study of four courses during a three-week summer session emphasizing hands-on, exploratory learning.

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE STAFF

Girl Scout Silver Award:



Soccer Stars:



Watch D.O.G.S.:



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Did you know? 7th/8th grade Science Teacher, Mrs. Cathy Pantuso, was born in Youngstown OH, spent 28 years in Maryland and moved to Texas in 1994. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from The University of Maryland - College Park, has been married for 42 years,

has four grown children, six grandchildren, and another due in April. She has taught Science at St. Mark for 24 years, and enjoys traveling and vacationing with her family, as well as reading, walking, and spending time on the beach.

HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMPS:



[Bishop Lynch High School](#)



[Cistercian Preparatory School](#)



[Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas](#)



[John Paul II High School](#)



[Ursuline Academy of Dallas](#)

ENJOY YOUR 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.



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