



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

June 1, 2018

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, June 1:

-Last Day of School



10:00 AM-11:00 PM: 1/2 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; report cards go home with all students; the After School Program is available until 3:00 PM.

Monday, June 4:

-Staff Development

Monday, June 4 - Thursday, June 21:

-Summer office hours: M-Th, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Friday, June 22-Tuesday, July 31:

-School office closed for staff vacations



A National School of Excellence

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Follow us and stay connected!



Like what you see?

"Like" and "share" on your social media and help us spread the word about our wonderful school!

Wednesday, August 1-Friday, August 10:

-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 5:

-Back to School Sunday (details below)

Friday, August 10:

-9:00-10:30 AM, Main and ECE Buildings: Pop-in Meet and Greet (details below)

Monday, August 13:

-First day of school; hours are 7:55 AM-3:30 PM; students should be in complete school uniform; lunch will be available in the Cafeteria

Friday, August 17:

-12:00 NOON 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: 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 2018 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 (totaling \$356,700)! 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

QUICK LINKS

[Calendar](#)

[Lifetime Lions Alumni](#)

[Admissions](#)

[Lunch Menus](#)

[Safe Environment](#)

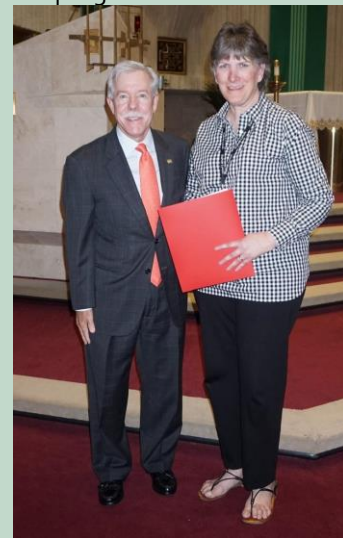
[Lion's Den Spirit Store](#)

[Work of Heart Nomination](#)



Today, two of our long-time, dedicated teachers were presented with the Work of Heart Award: Third Grade Teacher, Mrs. Barbara Ehnis, and 7th/8th Grade Social Studies Teacher, Mrs. Carole Mitchell. These teachers are beloved for many reasons, but a few traits stand out.

Mrs. Ehnis' caring nature shines through in the way she provides individualized attention to her students. She also places a great emphasis on helping them develop their unique gifts.



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 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 2018-19 school year. Thanks to our supportive and generous families, the building has already started its rejuvenation. Three "media stations" are up and running, four spirit rugs grace four of our doorways, and the parking lot security gate has been installed. Painting of the playground fence, student bathrooms, and building hallways are set to begin shortly. The new water fountains have arrived along with the new ceilings and lights. Demolition of the old ceilings and lights starts today in the Cafeteria just as soon as the students head out the door for summer break! It is going to be a crazy summer and we are praying that all projects are finished according to their schedules!

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 in August for a few additions to this format. We are also planning continued growth in the areas of virtue development and service projects. This year's April "Service of Choice" project as well as 8th Grade's "Make-A-Wish" project promoted a new level of excitement and ownership in our students and hopefully created a desire in our students to serve others.

Please remember to join us at "Back to School Sunday" on August 5 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

Mrs. Mitchell challenges her students to think critically about the world around them and to debate their opinions. This ultimately helps to develop their confidence and their ability to thoughtfully express themselves.



Congratulations to these deserving educators! Presented by The Catholic Foundation, Work of Heart Awards honor those in the Catholic school community who consistently go above and beyond for their students.

If you would like to nominate a faculty or staff member, simply [click here](#).

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 June 21 (during summer office hours).

God bless us all and keep us safe throughout the summer and may we remember we are always in His presence.

Sincerely,



Patricia Opon
Principal

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

We are pleased to announce that Sarah Peralta has been hired as our new Early Childhood Education and After School Program Coordinator. She comes to us from St. Monica Catholic School in Dallas where she currently serves as a PK4 teacher and Interim Preschool Director. Prior to that, she was a PK and Kindergarten teacher at Waxahachie Faith Family Academy. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and is currently working on her Master in Educational Leadership from Concordia University, and won the Catholic Foundation's Work of Heart Award in 2017. We look forward to welcoming her to the St. Mark staff!

IMPORTANT SUMMER INFO. 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 families today. This information is always available on the school website under the "Parents" tab at www.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.**



DID YOU DEPART EARLY FOR SUMMER BREAK?

IMPORTANT: If your child is not at school today (Friday, June 1), please make arrangements to pick up your child's report card at the school office during summer office hours (shown below). In addition, PK-3rd grade families will need to pick-up a hard copy of their student summer packet. Thank you for your cooperation.

NEW LOCKER SHELF POLICY

New this year -- rather than asking students to take their locker shelves home during the summer and return them to school in August, students will simply be asked to leave their locker shelves at school. Going forward, each locker will be furnished with a locker shelf. Locker shelves will no longer be on the school supply list.

2018-19 CALENDARS

A reminder that a printable version of the [2018-19 Academic Calendar](#) is currently available on the homepage of the school website under "Quick Links."

A more detailed calendar is also available online. These dates may be synced to your personal electronic device. Simply click on the "notepad" icon shown at the bottom of the electronic calendar listing on the homepage to begin the process.

The 2018-19 Events Calendar will be available August 1.

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**

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

June 4-21: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

June 22-July 31: OFFICE CLOSED

August 1-10: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENTS

Mark your calendar for the 2018-19 Back To School events: **Back To School Sunday, Pop-In Meet & Greet, and Parent Information Nights!** [Click here](#) for full details. Pick-up school supplies, purchase used uniforms, volunteer, learn more about school activities, meet the new teacher, drop-off school supplies in the classroom, hear grade-level presentations -- you won't want to miss out on these important activities!

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2018-19 AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Please [click here](#) for details. The link to register is located on the last page of the 2018-19 ASP Handbook.

COMPLETE YOUR SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING OVER THE SUMMER

Be ready to volunteer at school on Day 1 of the 2018-19 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 and instructions.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ST. MARK!

Do you know someone interested in a St. Mark education for their PK-8th grade child? Limited openings are available in select grade levels for the 2018-19 school year.



KEEP THOSE REFERRALS COMING: Encourage prospective families to register for 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

medication that is left at school over the summer will be disposed of, per school policy.

PRESS COVERAGE

The May 25, 2018 edition of *The Texas Catholic* ran a great article on our 8th Grade Make-A-Wish send-off event! [Click here](#) to read it.

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!

8th Grade Graduation:



6th Grade Egg Drop:



4th Grade Indian Dance:



DPL Team Registrations Available: Registration is now open for this year's 2017-18 Golf team and the 2018-19 Cross Country team. Click the links below for details:

[Cross Country](#) - Co Ed JV/Varsity - deadline TBD

[Golf](#) - 2017-18 Co Ed JV/Varsity - deadline is today, June 1

FC Dallas DPL Night: Join FC Dallas as they play Montreal on Saturday, June 9 at 7:00 PM. Discounted tickets are available. [Click here](#) for full details.

Can You Lend Your Talent to the 2018-19 Athletic Fundraising Events?

We are in need of volunteers to organize the next All Souls Run scheduled for October 2018, and the Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament scheduled for May 2019. Contact [Marlene Ehrling](#) if you can help!



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

2018-19 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 (2018-19). Below is a link to the 2018-19 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 6. 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/508084eacab28a3f85-201819>

COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM



PK3 Watermelon Party:



6th Grade Top AR:



PK3 Summer Countdown:



PK4 Shaving Cream Fun:

This summer's prayer intention for our school: For a safe and restful summer for all our St. Mark families.



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

HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

High School Summer Camps: Our area Catholic high schools offer academic, athletic, and fine arts summer camp opportunities for a variety of age groups. Click the links below to learn more.



[Bishop Lynch High School Summer Camps](#)



[Cistercian Preparatory School Summer Camps](#)



[Jesuit College Prep Summer Camps](#)



[John Paul II High School Summer Camps](#)



[Ursuline Academy of Dallas Summer Camps](#)



1st Grade Volcanoes:



Kinder Field Day Glasses:



2nd Grade Solar Ovens:

The Ultimate Basketball Training Experience:

Calling girls in grades 6-8 -- JP II is hosting a basketball camp focusing on skills, self-esteem and teamwork including NCAA and WNBA guest instructors. It will run from June 4-7 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM at JP II. Please [click here](#) for complete details.



The Running Cardinals Program is a series of pathways and workouts that will help any individual from any sport/background develop their athletic ability further. It provides resources for individuals to get plugged in to camps, clinics, clubs, and/or programs. If you have a goal in mind, we have a pathway/plan to help you reach that goal. Learn more [here](#).

LION PRIDE!

Congratulations to 7th grader, **Theresa T.**, who qualified to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC, and made it all the way to round 3! See her in action in this news clip from FOX News DFW. We're so proud of this "super speller!"



Theresa Tran National Spelling Bee 2018 Channel 4.mov

Congratulations to **Joseph B.** -- he placed 4th out of 400+ students from many parishes/schools that competed in the 2nd Grade "First Communion Religion Bowl!" Students were tested on questions regarding the Catholic faith with emphasis on the Eucharist. Congratulations to him!



7th Grade Shipwreck Survival:



TK & K Bubbles:



6th Grade Bridge to Terabithia:



Congratulations to the following students who earned the most AR points in their grade levels:

4th grade: Justin M., Diya C., Nicholas R.

5th grade: Jackson D., Adrienne F., Sophie K.

6th grade: Will I., Evan V., Rosie O.

7th grade: Alejandro D., Drew A., Theresa T.

8th grade: Alex M., Ynez C., Manuela B.

Congratulations to the 6th grade JV Softball team -- the new 2018 DPL JV Softball Champs! They were victorious over St. Monica in last night's game. Way to go, girls! GO LIONS!

[Join Our Mailing List](#)



Field Day:



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

Forward To A Friend

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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