



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

August 23, 2019

Prayer for the 2019-20 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 23:

-7th grade received the Vocations Chalice at today's All School Mass and will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

Friday, August 30:

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

Monday, September 2:

-NO SCHOOL: Labor Day

ANNUAL CAPACITY SURVEY RESULTS



Dear Parents: Each spring, the Diocese of Dallas conducts the Diocesan Capacity Survey in conjunction with the Oklahoma Center for Education Policy. Twelve categories are measured, from school safety to students' excitement about their school.

Parents at all schools in the Diocese of Dallas were sent this survey in the spring, and students in grades 5-8 also completed it during class time.



A National School of
Excellence



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

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

St. Mark's scores continue to impress, both internally, and compared to Diocesan averages. Parent and student satisfaction have increased in every category year over year, and we are incredibly proud of this trend.

In summary, parents feel St. Mark possesses a strong *Catholic Identity*, they *Trust* the school, and believe *School Outreach* efforts are effective.

Students feel that St. Mark is a *Safe* campus (physically and emotionally), that they experience *Autonomous Regulation* (the degree to which the regulation of learning processes and outcomes derives from the internal control of students due to their motivation), and that St. Mark possesses strong *Catholic Identity*. *Student Trust in Teachers* and *Student Trust in Students*, as well as *Autonomy Support* (student perception that teachers encourage independent thinking and provide choices in the classroom) are additional areas where scores have historically been good, but increased this year.

There are two student-focused areas where St. Mark has scored well over the last few years, but we want to see even more results, so we have chosen to place particular focus on them this year. They are *Competence Support* (students' views of their teachers' effort to push them to higher levels of academic performance, participation and effort), and *Engagement* (measures students' excitement about school, their sense of belonging to the school, and the value they see in pursuing their education). We feel these topics go hand-in-hand and will implement plans to foster even more lesson engagement. This should lead to ever increasing competence support.

These results are just a sampling of the survey outcomes, but hopefully they provide you with a snapshot of how our students and parents feel about St. Mark Catholic School. Our goal continues to be 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.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the 2019 survey. We look forward to your continued participation, as it greatly impacts our campus improvement plans each year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at patricia.opon@stmcs.net, or Assistant Principal, Pam Steinkirchner, at pam.steinkirchner@stmcs.net.

Sincerely,

Follow us and stay connected!



Like what you see?

**"Like" and "share"
on your social media!**

QUICK LINKS

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

SAFETY UPDATE

School safety is our #1 priority and we'd like to take a



moment to update you on the practices and protocols we have in place as the school year gets underway:

*Faculty and staff participate in training sessions each summer including potential medical emergencies and campus safety drills.

*During the first three weeks of school, teachers will be conducting practice drills with their students

Patricia Opon

Patricia Opon
Principal

CHOIR REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE



Do you have a child in 2nd grade through high school who is interested in joining the St. Mark Children's Choir? [Click here](#) for the 2019-20 calendar, a general overview, and the registration form.

INTERESTED IN GIRL SCOUTS?



Girl Scout troops are forming at St. Mark Catholic Church and School. If your daughter is interested, please email [Elena Mappus](#). Girl Scouts at St. Mark is a leadership development program for girls rooted in the Catholic faith that offers experiences in service, camping, entrepreneurship, STEM, and much more. Financial assistance is available to those who qualify.

ECE CHAPEL UPDATE



Last week, we announced a coin collection to fund a \$200 mass kit for the new Early Childhood chapel. Within an hour, the Vargas family contacted the school and donated the entire amount! The mass kit has already arrived and is being utilized by our students. We can't thank the Vargas family enough for their incredible generosity which will positively impact our youngest students.

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.



covering fire, tornado, and intruder scenarios. School-wide drills will continue throughout the year.

*The main school entrance incorporates a secure double-door system. All campus doors remain locked during the school day.

*All campus visitors must enter through the main entrance. Visitors are required to check-in at the front desk and obtain a visitor or volunteer sticker which must be worn throughout their time on campus.

*A Crisis Management Team that includes representatives from various areas on campus assists in all safety drills and periodically reviews safety protocols.

*The school works with the Plano Police Department and SWAT to review the overall security plan.

*Security cameras are stationed throughout the campus and are monitored by school personnel.

*In the event of an emergency, St. Mark will utilize our communication system to keep parents informed.

Our most important job is to keep your children safe. If you have any questions

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
LIONS
NEWS FROM ATHLETICS



Registration and sponsorships are available by [clicking here](#).
If you are interested in volunteering,
please contact [Marlene Ehring](#).

You're invited to the 2019 "Play Like A Champion" fundraiser in support of their mission: "A Team for Every Child."

Wednesday, September 25, 2019
6:30 PM
ESRP's Tailgate Room at The Star
Dallas Cowboys World Headquarters
One Cowboys Way, Frisco, TX

Drinks, appetizers and desserts will be plentiful!
Meet 1987 Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown.

or comments about campus security, please reach out to [Mrs. Opon](#).

OUTDOOR RECESS POLICY



A quick reminder about recess: It is always our preference to provide students with outdoor recess each day, however, because of extreme temperatures, outdoor time has been very limited over the past two weeks. Instead, students have participated in indoor recess in our two gymnasiums so as to protect them from the dangerously hot weather. The good news is that according to the weather forecast, the heat will begin to relent next week. For your reference, following is the school policy on outdoor recess that appears on page 45 of the Parent Student Handbook:

When the Temperature-Heat Index (THI) reaches 95° F, outdoor activity must be limited to 15 minutes, or moved indoors, with proper hydration of the children. When the temperature and/or wind chill is below 32° F, the children will be kept indoors for recess.

Visit www.playlikeachampion.org/dallas to learn more
and to RSVP by September 18.

Shop the Lion's Den Spirit Store for all of your spirit wear needs! It is open every Friday morning that school is in session from 7:30- 8:15 AM in the Cafetorium. Can't make it in person? Shop online at 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.



**HOME & SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION**

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 are the links to the 2019-20 HSA Committee and Room Parent Sign-Up Geniuses. All positions are available on a first come, first serve basis. Please consider lending your time and talents to these positions:



[Committee Sign-Up](#)
[Room Parent Sign-Up](#)

Attention Parents with Preschool-2nd Grade Children: Please sign-up to help our teachers in the classroom with reading, paper pulling, and craft prep. All of the teachers have Sign-Up Geniuses with specific classroom needs. [Click here](#) to access the Sign-Up Geniuses for each teacher on the school website. **PLEASE REMEMBER, YOUR SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING MUST BE UP-TO-DATE IN ORDER TO VOLUNTEER.** Questions? Contact [Liz Delaney](#) or [Brandy Pazora](#).

IMPORTANT HSA DATES:

Room Parent Meeting:
Friday, September 6, 2:00 PM, Cafetorium

1st General HSA Meeting:
Tuesday, September 10, 6:30 PM, Cafetorium
(Note: We will have a guest speaker from the Diocese that will count for Safe Environment Training Renewal.)



We look forward to getting everyone back outside on a regular basis very soon!



Calling all "Dads of Great Students!" Watch D.O.G.S. will be hosting their annual "Pizza Night" on Wednesday, September 11 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, and enjoy a free meal. Please RSVP to Aaron Baldwin at ab3163@att.net by September 6. For more information about the Watch D.O.G.S. program just for dads, [click here](#).

COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM

Welcome to the St. Mark Community Prayer Team! It is our goal to bring the St. Mark community closer to Christ and to each other. There will be numerous opportunities for you to get involved this school year. Even if you are unable to participate in person, please pray for St. Mark from wherever you are.





Let the counting begin! August will be our first month of collecting and counting Box Tops, so please turn in any physical Box Tops you have collected and scan as much as you can by August 30. Download the Box Tops app and scan your receipt with eligible products within 14 days of purchase. For physical Box Tops, please carefully cut out unexpired Box Tops from participating brands; place in a Ziploc (which conveniently has Box Tops!) or envelope; clearly write your child's grade/teacher on it; and turn them in to your child's teacher by August 30. Each Box Top submitted earns \$.10 for St. Mark. [Click here for details](#). For more information, please contact [Melissa King](#) or [Sharon Mattis](#).



Shop at Kroger and Earn Money for St.

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

PAW PRIDE!

Congratulations to the middle school students who were elected as Home Base Representatives:

Mr. Michniak: Aleia L., Anabel M.; Mrs. Johnson: Christopher S., Lizzie O.; Mrs. Pantuso: Nathan S., Eliana G.; Ms. Maw.: Corina H., Taylor R.; Mrs. Salvia.: Amelia M., Bridget M.; Ms. Wortham: Josh M., Braden G.; Mrs. Oliver: Heather M., John B.; Mrs. Noel: Cole C., Maya M.; Mrs. Rivera: Max Z., Donte T.



FUN FACTS ABOUT THE STAFF

We are thrilled to announce that 6th grade math/science teacher, Mrs. Becky Johnson, her husband Grant, and son Will, are expecting baby #2! Their new bundle of joy is due March 2. We will announce Mrs. Johnson's substitute teacher soon.



*First Prayer Walk of the

School Year: Please join us on Friday, September 6 at 7:55 AM at the cross outside the St. Mark Narthex for a Community Prayer Walk around our school and church buildings.

Save the Dates! We will conduct Prayer Walks on the first Friday of each month and hope you can join us!

***Prayer Requests:** The school has a Prayer Table available to anyone visiting campus. It is located in the hallway between the Administration offices and the Cafetorium. Everyone is welcome to place prayer requests in the box on the table. These intentions will be taken to Mass on Fridays as part of the offering.

*Pope Francis' Monthly Prayer Intention:

In addition to your prayers for our St. Mark community, we hope you will also remember Pope Francis' monthly intentions which we will publish here each week. Pope Francis' intentions for August:

Families, Schools of Human Growth - That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly

Did you know? School Nurse, Mrs. Amy Anders, was born and raised in Amarillo, TX and attended Texas Tech University, graduating with a B.S. in Nursing. She has been a nurse for eight years. The last six years have been in the Neonatal ICU. She met her husband, Anthony, while in school at Texas Tech and they have two children, A.J. and Emma. When not spending time with family and friends, she enjoys traveling, baking, cooking, and gardening. Favorite foods are BBQ, Tex-Mex and ice cream.

AROUND THE PARISH

Help moms and save babies by joining the annual Hike for Life!

Mrs. Opon has her own sponsor page again this year in support of Father Roshan's St. Mark team -- let's help her reach her \$625 fundraising goal! You can register as a hiker, sponsor her team, or both, by [clicking here](#).



Service Opportunity: The parish needs volunteers in grades 7-12 on Friday, August 23 for a "Welcome Potluck" for Fr. Marco & Fr. Roshan. Please [click here](#) for details and the sign-up for parents/children.

HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

"schools of true human growth."

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!

Kindergarten Light Tables:



August Service:



Kindergarten OSMO:



St. Mark Backyard:



You're invited to the John Paul II High School
"Cardinal Athletics Kickoff" in partnership with the
Baylor Scott & White Sports Performance Center:

Saturday, August 24, 2019
2:00-4:00 PM
The Star in Frisco

Celebrate the kick-off of the Cardinal Athletics year with a pep rally, meet the JP II players, coaches and Baylor Scott & White team, and tour the state-of-the-art facilities at the Sports Performance Center. DPL parents who attend can also enter a drawing for a Cardinal Booster Club All Sports Pass which allows immediate family members, including grandparents, to attend all home JP II athletic events at no charge. [Click here](#) for complete details.



Forward To A Friend

Join Our Mailing List

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