



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL
WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN January 24, 2020



ST. MARK
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
WHERE FAITH AND
KNOWLEDGE MEET

BOOTS
and
Ballgowns

February 29, 2020

Southfork Ranch
Oil Barron's Ballroom
6pm-Midnight

BUY TICKETS NOW
<https://one.bidpal.net/stmarkauction2020>

*Let's dine and
like the Exin
LIVE MUSIC
Plated Dinner
Large Casino, 1
Booth and m
more!*



Make plans to attend the only school fundraiser of the year!

Mix and mingle with the St. Mark community while raising funds for the new rosary garden (example pictured) and the school technology fund.

**Tickets are on sale now
at <https://one.bidpal.net/stmarkauction2020>.**

**Want to become a sponsor?
Contact Auction Chair Casey Hendrix
at caseyhendrix@gmail.com.**

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, January 24:



A National School of

-5th grade received the Vocations Chalice at All School Mass and will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

-Re-enrollment Begins for Current Families (details at right)

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK:
[\(click here for complete details\)](#)

Saturday, January 25-Sunday, January 26 - We Love our Parish Families:

-Students attend St. Mark and other parish masses in uniform.

-[Volunteers](#) distribute school literature at neighboring parish masses.

Sunday, January 26:

-10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Lion's Lair Gym: Used Uniform Sale

-10:15 AM, School Main Hallway: Class of 2019 Portrait Unveiling

Monday, January 27 - Kick-off to Catholic Schools Week

-Students wear any boots to school with their uniform.

-2:30 PM, Bacot Gym: CSW Assembly; all are welcome

Tuesday, January 28 - We Love our School Families

-9:00 AM - Open House for Prospective Families

-10:00 AM - 11:00 PM, Raising Cane's Day: Didn't pre-order In-N-Out Burger for Family Day, or need a quick dinner idea? Visit the Cane's location across the street from the school, mention St. Mark as you place your order, and a percentage will be donated to the Athletics Department!

-11:00 AM-12:30 PM - Family Day

-Religion Scholars Bowl

Wednesday, January 29 - We Love our Teachers

-Student-Teacher Switch Day; Teacher Appreciation

-2:30 PM: Junior Achievement Training Session

Excellence



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

**RE-ENROLLMENT
FOR CURRENT
FAMILIES**

Re-enrollment for the 2020-21 school year begins today. You will receive a separate email from Annette Vela with re-enrollment and 2020-21 tuition information. Please contact the school office if you cannot access your FACTS Family Portal registration account.

**2020-21 ACADEMIC
CALENDAR &
PARENT STUDENT
HANDBOOK**

The 2020-21 [Academic Calendar](#) and [Parent Student Handbook](#) are now posted on the [school website](#) (dates and content subject to change).

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
WEEK STARTS THIS
WEEKEND**

Thursday, January 30 - We Love our Students

-Dress Down Day (no charge; see guidelines on page 27 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#)); "Become a Link the Mission Chain"

-2:15 PM, Bacot Gym: Pep Rally; all are welcome

Friday, January 31 - We Love our Community

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass; all are welcome

-International Tasting Faire

-12:00 PM: Early Dismissal. The After School Program is available until 6:00 PM. Students will have eaten at the Tasting Faire, but you may send a lunch with your ASP student if you feel it's needed.

-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 will be donated to the Athletics Department.

-6:30 PM, Metroplex Gymnastics Spirit Night (details below)

WELCOME NEW STUDENT



A warm St. Mark welcome to the new student who joined us this week, **Elizabeth A.**, PK3, Mrs. Oliver's Class.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Families:
Accreditation of Catholic schools takes place every seven years. This extensive process serves to shine a light on all school practices, programs and facilities. Last week, St. Mark Catholic School



Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in

the United States. In 2020, Catholic Schools Week is scheduled for January 27 – 31 (note that a couple preliminary activities begin this weekend). St. Mark observes Catholic Schools Week with special activities each day that celebrate the people who make up our Catholic community. Students, faculty and staff take part in the daily festivities, and we invite all of our school families to participate in the family events. Access full details anytime on the [school website](#). Please familiarize yourself with this information so that you and your child will be prepared each day.

ASP WORKER NEEDED



The After School Program is hiring for the 3rd/4th grade

class. The hours are Monday-Friday, 3:00-6:00 PM. The pay is \$15 per hour. Responsibilities include clocking students in via an iPad and supervision of students during snack, homework, and free play. Must be [Safe Environment trained](#). If interested, please contact Sarah Peralta at sarah.peralta@stmcs.net.

underwent our formal accreditation process by the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department. An accreditation team made up of eight people appointed by the TCCBED visited our campus over a period of three-and-a-half days.

The faculty and staff worked together over the past year to prepare the necessary reports and supporting data, which enabled the team to analyze and substantiate school procedures and programs against their prescribed criteria. I am pleased to share the results with you.

In total, the team made:

- *88 classroom visits
- *16 morning/afternoon carpool visits
- *16 lunch and recess visits

They interviewed:

- *1 Pastor
- *3 administrators
- *44 teachers
- *31 support staff
- *6 parents
- *80 students
- *3 School Advisory Council members
- *6 community members

According to the preliminary report, the team found that St. Mark meets, or more often exceeds, the accreditation criteria across all categories. While all feedback was positive, the team specifically commended us on numerous items including, but not limited to:

- *Strong sense of community
- *Robust use of technology
- *Strong curriculum with differentiated instruction
- *Strong Catholic identity
- *High level of employee satisfaction
- *Confidence in school leadership

Suggested areas for improvement were minimal, and the accreditation team specifically noted that the school already had plans in place to address these few issues prior to the accreditation process. They include a broader strategic plan that includes more long term goals; a more prominent display of staff name badges; adding additional fencing to the "Backyard" outdoor

THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF



Thank you to the TK, Kindergarten, and 6th grades for the wonderful Teacher Luncheon on Wednesday -- chili and all the fixins! It was the perfect way to warm our souls on a cold, wet day!

ST. MARK SUMMER PROGRAM



Back by
popular
demand,

St. Mark will be hosting the "Kidventure" summer program on our campus in 2020! For the last 25 years, Kidventure has created new and dynamic opportunities for kids to grow, play, and be themselves. It is more than just a camp. Their award-winning programs are designed to help children grow more independent, foster greater social skills, and create real-life positive relationships. They do all of this in one of the most thoughtful and fun environments - *Camp!* Dates are June 1- July 31 (you may pick and choose your weeks). Registration begins February 7 for ages 3 years – 5th grade. The cost is \$240 per week.

learning environment; and adding a covered walkway between the ECE and main school buildings.

We should all be so proud of these outstanding results! Additionally, the accreditation team went to great lengths to stress that the community we have built is truly exceptional. Outstanding programming, teachers and staff, combined with a community that feels loved, supported and involved is not easily attainable, but it is something we have achieved together.

I would like to thank our incredible faculty, staff, and community members who played a role in the process, for their tireless work on this accreditation. I would also like to recognize everyone in our community for contributing to such a successful school environment. It takes all of us working together to succeed, and this in depth process proved that we continue to be on the right track.

I, and the rest of the faculty/staff, look forward to receiving the final accreditation report from the TCCBED later this year, and to continuing on a path to excellence with each and every one of you.

With sincere gratitude,



Patricia Opon
Principal

FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE

Hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM. Pre & post camp options are available (7:00 AM-6:00 PM). For general information, please visit www.kidventure.com.

WORK OF HEART



Has a
faculty or
staff

member gone "above and beyond" for your student or family? Nominate him or her for a "Work of Heart Award" through The Catholic Foundation. Simply complete their [online nomination form](#). Winners receive a certificate of recognition, a check from The Catholic Foundation, and special recognition at All School Mass.

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

each other. There will be many 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.

***Prayer Walks:** We will conduct Prayer Walks on the first Friday of each month and hope you can join us. The next one will take place February 7.



USED UNIFORM & FIRST COMMUNION ATTIRE DONATIONS

HSA will host its semi-annual "Used Uniform Sale" during Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, January 26, from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM in the Lion's Lair Gym. **New this year:** We hope to include First Communion dresses and suits.

***Today is the last day to donate for this sale. Another window to make donations will take place towards the end of the school year.**

Guidelines for donating:

- School uniforms must be in new or gently worn condition, and must be laundered.
- First Communion dresses and suits must be in new or gently worn condition, dry cleaned, hung on a hangar, and covered with a plastic "dry cleaning" bag.
- First Communion accessories (veils, jewelry, belts, shoes, etc.) must be in new or gently used condition.
- We cannot accept socks or tights unless they are brand new.

Thank you for sharing these items with other school families.

***Prayer Requests:** Everyone is welcome to place prayer requests in the box on the prayer table located in the hallway between the Admin. offices and the Cafetorium. The 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:

January: Promotion of World Peace: We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.

AROUND THE PARISH



Service Opportunity For Grades 6-8:

*February 1 and 2, 2020

*After each mass, our youth will collect monetary donations outside in front of the church and in the breezeway.

*For more information and to sign-up, [please click here](#).

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ST. MARK!

The 2020-21 admission season is here! Do you know someone interested in a St. Mark education for their Preschool-8th grade child? Here are two ways you can help us spread the word about St. Mark:



1. REFERRALS: Encourage prospective families to register for an upcoming Open House, the ECE Come & Play Day, or 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!](#)

2020 Open Houses:

January 28 - 9:00 AM

February 4 - 6:00 PM

March 24 - 8:00 AM

April 21 - 5:30 PM (PK/Kindergarten)

2020 Come and Play Day:

Tuesday, April 9, 9:00-10:30 AM (PK/Kindergarten)

Families with preschool/kindergarten children are encouraged to play on our playground, enjoy a snack, and get a sneak peek inside our ECE classrooms. Open to individual families and playgroups.

2. NEIGHBORHOOD BLOG/WEBSITE: Do you participate in a neighborhood blog or website such as www.nextdoor.com, or a neighborhood [Facebook](#) page? If so, please take a moment to post our Open House and "Come and Play Day" dates (see above). If there is room for a detailed description, simply email [Debbie Reed](#) and she'll send the information to you for posting.

AROUND THE DIOCESE



HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

HTS invites you to public mass. Each mass is followed by a reception hosted by the local Serran clubs where you can get to know the HTS seminarians.

Upcoming Mass Date: 2/2/20

Time: 9:15 AM

Location: 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX



Mrs. Denvir invites all students and their families to attend the monthly French masses held at Our Lady of Cistercian Abbey. There is an opportunity to do the readings and to sample French snacks after each mass.

Upcoming Mass Date: 2/16/20

Time: 10:30 AM

Location: 3550 Cistercian Road, Irving, TX

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE STAFF



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS



Registration for Baseball and Softball is now open. Please [click here](#) for complete details and registration. The deadline is February 17.



Registration for Track & Field is now open. Please [click here](#) for complete details and registration. The deadline is February 7.

Track Coaches Needed: If you are interested in coaching JV Track in the spring, please contact Athletic Director [Marlene Ehring](#).

SERVICE HOUR



OPPORTUNITY: Middle school students can earn service hours by working at the concession stand during home basketball games. Please [click here](#) for the



Did you know? 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Ehnis, earned her B.S. degree in Elementary Education from Texas Tech University and

her M.S. degree in Education from Texas A&M University. She is certified in Elementary Education with a specialization in Reading, as well as Industrial Education with a specialization in Human Resource Training and Development. She loves to read, travel, cook, and spend time with her family and her pets.

PAW PRIDE

Congratulations to **Anthony N.** who won the St. Mark Geography Bee, and to **Nathan P.** who was the Runner-Up. Anthony now qualifies to take the state-level test.



Congratulations to all of our students who were chosen to enter the Diocesan Catholic Schools Week Poster Contest:

1st-2nd grade: **Emily P.**

schedule and contact marlene.ehring@stmcs.net to sign-up.

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



Mark Your Calendar for Spirit Night at Metroplex Gymnastics

Drop-off the kiddos for an evening of indoor entertainment while you enjoy a parent night out!

205 E. Bethany in Allen
Friday, January 31, 2020
Drop-off: 6:30 PM; Pick-Up: 9:30 OR 11:00 PM

More details coming soon!



The Spring Talent Show has been moved to Friday, April 3. Please stay tuned for more details!



WANT TO VOLUNTEER?
REMEMBER THAT

3rd-4th grade: Kristin H.
5th-6th grade: Sofia S.
7th-8th grade: Sofia Z.

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!

Diocesan Spelling Bee:



PK3 STEM - Penguins:



YOUR SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING MUST BE CURRENT.

Preschool-2nd Grade Classroom Helpers

Needed: Please sign-up to help our teachers in the classroom with reading, paper pulling, and craft prep. All teachers have Sign-Up Geniuses with specific classroom needs. [Click here](#) for the Sign-Up Geniuses for each teacher on the school website. Questions? Contact [Liz Delaney](#) or [Brandy Pazora](#).

ECE Front Desk Volunteers Needed: Early Childhood needs volunteers to man the front desk each day, answering the door, the phone, and doing occasional craft prep. Volunteers may bring a book/work, and the desktop computer is available if needed. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30AM-2:00 PM, and Friday, 9:30AM-2:00 PM. Any amount of time is appreciated. Please [click here](#) for the Sign-Up Genius, and be sure to include the hours you can volunteer in the "comments." Questions? Contact [Liz Delaney](#)

Library volunteers are needed for Kindergarten-8th Grade! Please visit the Library [Sign-Up Genius](#) to see the schedule of available times. There are plenty of opportunities!



[Committee.](#)

Helping Hands Committee

If you know any St. Mark families in need of help due to a birth, sickness, death, or any life event, please contact the [Helping Hands](#)



Keep cutting those Box Tops and submitting them online! 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 **January 31**. Each Box Top submitted earns

\$.10 for St. Mark. [Click here for details](#). For more information, 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 to the St. Mark Home & School

Association. [Click here](#) for instructions. Be sure to re-link every 12 months.

HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES



Bishop Lynch High School invites you to the Leyden Lecture Series which brings distinguished scholars, activists and artists to the BL campus. Lectures are open to everyone and are held in the McGonigle Theatre. For more

information, visit www.bishoplynch.org/leydenlectureseries.

*1/28: Anna Bottinelli/Monuments Men Foundation

*2/4: Professor Hidalgo/Texas Christian University Dept. of History

*4/14: Osagie Omorowa/Human Trafficking, in conjunction with the World Affairs Council of Dallas

QUICK LINKS

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

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