



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN: May 15, 2020

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.

Weekly Prayer & Saintly Quote

**POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY:
WE PRAY THAT DEACONS, FAITHFUL IN THEIR SERVICE
TO THE WORLD AND THE POOR, MAY BE AN
INVIGORATING SYMBOL FOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH.**



"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle." -St. Francis of Assisi

FRIDAY MESSAGES FROM ADMINISTRATION



THIS WEEK'S MUSIC VIDEO:

Mrs. Opon chose this selection because the young singer's voice reminded her of how beautiful our students sound when singing at our All School Mass. Oh, how we miss their sweet voices!



IMPORTANT: SUPPLY DROP-OFF/PICK-UP DAYS

On Monday, you should have received a detailed email from Mrs. Opon regarding your assigned day and time to drop-off/pick-up supplies at school. If you did not receive it, please click on the link below that corresponds to your child's grade level:

[May 22: 8th grade](#)

[May 27/28: Preschool-7th grade](#)



CONGRATULATIONS, MS. YOUNG!

Transitional Kindergarten teacher, **Kristen Young**, was named a 2020 Diocese of Dallas "Halo Educator of the Year!" Ms. Young was one of 29 nominees across the diocese. She received a \$1,000 check, a special rosary, a St. Elizabeth Ann Seton keepsake, a beautiful award, and other special tokens of appreciation. This honor could not have gone to a more deserving educator. We are so proud!

The 2020 awards ceremony could not be held in person, so it was done via live stream. Ms. Steinkirchner and Mrs. Thompson had the honor of announcing and congratulating Ms. Young:



DISTANCE LEARNING

The St. Mark Catholic School building is closed through the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. Distance learning is in effect. Please continue to check the "Lesson Plans" tab in [FACTS Family Portal](#) for student assignments. The grades from these lessons are entered into the grade book



Parents: If you are having any issues accessing the distance learning lessons or any technical difficulties, please notify the teacher immediately. We do not want students receiving "zeros" because teachers are unaware of these issues. Thank you for your continued feedback and support.

In addition, we are required by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to take attendance during distance learning. As long as your child is turning in his/her assignments by the posted due dates, he/she will be counted present for each school day that week. Should your child become ill and/or unable to meet assignment due dates, please contact your child's teacher, and include the school nurse if ill (caroline.townsend@stmcs.net).

REMINDERS

Thursday, May 14-Monday, May 18:

-8th grade final exams have been canceled

Wednesday, May 20-Thursday, May 21:

-6th & 7th grade final exams have been canceled

Thursday, May 21:

-8:30 AM: Facebook & YouTube Live Streams - St. Mark Catholic Church Graduation Mass Celebrating the Class of 2020

Friday, May 22:

-Last day of school for 8th grade

-8th grade supply drop-off/pick-up (details above)

Monday, May 25:

-NO SCHOOL: Memorial Day

Wednesday, May 27:

-PK-7th supply drop-off/pick-up (details above)



**A National School of
Excellence**



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

**2020-21 BACK TO
SCHOOL EVENTS**



Thursday, May 28:

-7:30 AM, School Advisory Council Meeting

-4th quarter ends

-PK-7th grade supply drop-off/pick-up (details above)

-Virtual Field Day (details below)

Friday, May 29:

-Last Day of School

-10:00 AM - 11:00 PM: Raising Cane's Fundraiser (details below)

FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE**Be Sure You are Current on School**

Fees: Please check your FACTS account and be aware that all student debts (such as library, cafeteria, late pickup fees, ASP fees, etc.) need to be **paid in full by May 18**. Contact [Annette Vela](#) for more information.

Financial Aid: We continue to accept and review financial aid applications. Please visit the [school website](#) for complete information. Please note that the school will cover the \$35 financial aid application fee for the next few months.

Required documents:

-2018 tax return & 2019 W2

-OR 2019 tax return

If you think you may have a need for financial aid next year, we strongly encourage you to apply for it now.

FACTS Tuition Payments: We need all families to read their emails from FACTS about upcoming transactions and to email [Annette Vela](#) if adjustments are needed. Please pay special attention to payment dates, and remember that there is a cut-off period of 2 business days.

If you have any questions, please contact [Annette Vela](#).

St. Mark will host several special events at the start of the 2020-21 school year:

*Sunday, August 2: Back To School Sunday

*Monday, August 10: Pop-In Meet & Greet

*Wednesday, August 19: Parent Information Night (6-8)

*Thursday, August 20: Parent Information Night (PK-5)

[Please click here](#) for complete details and a printable copy. It is also available on the homepage of the [school website](#).

**ANNOUNCING THE
ST. MARK CHESS
CLUB**

St. Mark Catholic School is pleased

to announce that we will offer a **Chess Club for 1st-5th graders** beginning in the fall in partnership with Enrichment Chess, an organization dedicated to helping kids learn chess from the inside out, and apply their strategies in a manner that promotes critical thinking and analysis.

Enrichment Chess will be on campus during the "Back to

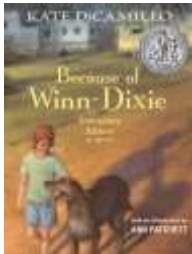
VIRTUAL FIELD DAY



The P.E. coaches are excited to announce that our school community will be participating in a "Virtual Field Day" on Thursday, May 28! Field Day is an important tradition at our school. It is a significant day for our students and our staff, and we feel that, in these challenging times, this unique event is a fun and meaningful way to stay connected as a

community and to support one another. All of our Virtual Field Day events are designed to be done indoors or outdoors using common household items. You won't be asked to purchase any specialized equipment or supplies. Look for complete details in your child's Lesson Plans during the week of May 25!

DO YOU HAVE AN EXTRA COPY OF "BECAUSE OF WINN DIXIE?"



Do you have a copy of *Because of Winn-Dixie* that you no longer need? If so, the 4th grade teachers can use it. If you're willing to donate it, please plan to bring it on your assigned day and time to return textbooks, etc. to the school (more info. to come). We appreciate your help!

RAISING CANE'S FUNDRAISER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FRIDAY, MAY 29!

Take a break from the kitchen and let Raising Cane's do the cooking! On Friday, May 29, visit the drive-thru at the location across the street from the school. Mention St. Mark during the order process and a percentage of the proceeds will help purchase supplies for the 2020 All School Service Projects!

School Sunday" event on August 2, and registration will open August 3. Chess Club will begin on campus on September 14 and will include 12 sessions.

We look forward to offering this exciting opportunity to our students!

St. Mark Catholic School

After School Chess Program

Fall 2020

Mondays 3:45 – 5 PM
9/14 – 12/7 (12 classes)
 No class: 11/22
 Open to 1st – 5th graders
 All skill levels
 Registration opens 8/7
 Registration Deadline 8/4 (\$248)
 \$15 off Sibling Discount
 \$15 Late fee applies on or after 8/5

Learning chess will help your child:

- 1) Develop abstract thinking
- 2) Build self confidence
- 3) Think before acting
- 4) Strengthen critical and analytical thinking
- 5) Learn sportsmanship & have fun!

Our program has been in the area for over 30 years. Instructors are carefully selected and trained in our field programs. Safety is our priority. We also offer summer camps and tournaments. We'll call you to learn more about what sets our program apart.

Tuition includes:

- Chess T-shirt (new students only)
- Chess Coloring Book
- Headbands
- Pajamas (during only)

Register and pay online at www.EnrichmentChess.com
 Questions? call 972-591-3001 or email contactus@enrichmentchess.com

HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES



[Bishop Lynch Summer Camps](#)



[Jesuit Dallas Summer Camps](#)

JOIN OUR FUNDRAISER AT RAISING CANE'S!

Mention the fundraiser at the register
and Cane's will donate 15% of sales to:

St. Mark

DATE & TIME:

May 29th from 10 am - 11 pm

LOCATION:

1000 W. 15th Street Plano, TX 75075
DRIVE THRU ONLY AVAILABLE



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS



The following Fall 2020 Dallas Parochial League sports are now open for registration. Please click the individual links for more information about each sport:



[John Paul II
Summer Camps](#)



[Ursuline Dallas
Summer Camps](#)

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



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 Committee](#).

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

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

Chicken Coop Fun:

[JV Flag Football](#)
[Varsity Flag Football](#)
[Varsity Tackle Football](#)
[JV and Varsity Cheerleading](#)
[JV and Varsity Cross Country](#)
[JV and Varsity Volleyball](#)

[Please click here for online registration](#). The deadline to register is July 15, 2020.

NO FEES ARE DUE NOW. FEES WILL BE CHARGED TO YOUR FACTS ACCOUNT ONCE SPORTS SEASON DATES ARE CONFIRMED.

Dates for Volleyball skills evaluation (if needed), as well as all team practice dates, are still unknown and will be communicated once confirmed. The start date would be in August at the earliest, depending upon whether the social distancing policy is still in effect.

[The latest "PLC Friday Morning Rally" newsletter is available here.](#)

For more, [visit their website](#).



CANCELED/POSTPONED EVENTS & COVID 19 UPDATES

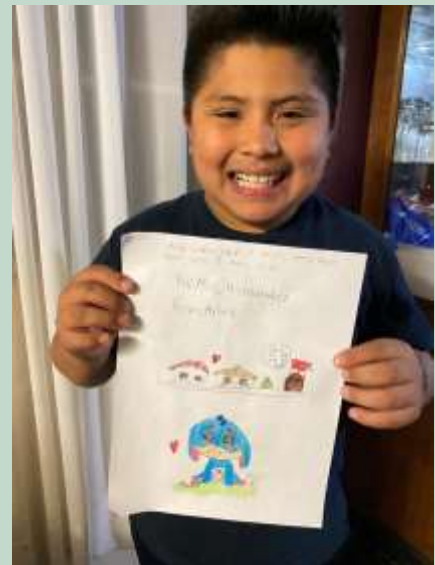


All school-related activities and events for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year have been canceled or postponed. Please continue to check the school's [COVID 19 web page](#). It is updated regularly with cancelations and postponements, as well as pertinent communications and useful resources.

REFERRAL REWARDS



Missing Teachers:



Do you know someone interested in a St. Mark education for their Preschool-8th grade child?

Invite them to schedule a school tour by completing an [Inquiry Form](#). If they attend, you'll receive a \$10 gift certificate to the Lion's Den Spirit Store, and if they enroll, you could receive a [\\$500 tuition credit!](#)



DRAMA KIDS ONLINE




Drama Kids Online is the perfect way for students grades K-12 to develop public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and think creatively from the comfort of their own home. Drama Kids Online classes focus on individual achievement while fostering a collaborative, social team atmosphere. Drama Kids are encouraged to think fast, get creative, and use their imaginations to their fullest potential.



DRAMA KIDS ONLINE PARENT TESTIMONIALS

"I have always been impressed by the quality of your classes, but seeing the teachers in action online, pouring such **love and attention** into the kids, has blown me away."

"...The teacher was so **amazing** walking the kids through how to use the different features of Zoom and making sure to engage all of the kids during the class."

In **Drama Kids Online** classes, students will

- Learn dynamic **public speaking** techniques
- Utilize body language and non-verbal communication through **creative movement**
- Develop **teamwork** skills while crafting original scenes
- Express themselves during in-class **performances**
- Develop **literary analysis** skills when working with scripts
- **Have fun** jumping into our expert-developed curriculum

REGISTER FOR DRAMA KIDS ONLINE TODAY

Visit dramakids.com/TX3 or call (972) 363-2369

We are only accepting students who reside in NE Dallas, Rockwall, South Collin and Denton Counties. Please visit www.dramakids.com for other office locations.



Masked Reader:



Art Class:



Photo credit

ST. MARK SUMMER PROGRAM



Join Kidventure for Summer Camp! *

- *Ages 3-rising 5th grade, and rising 6th-9th grades
- *Registration is now available for Summer 2020.
- *Families may pick and choose camp weeks.
- *Hours are Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM.
- *Pre & post camp options are available (7:00AM - 6:00PM).

Please visit our website to learn more, and read the letter below for an update on the health and safety precautions Kidventure will implement this summer.



PK4 Hug:



Mother Mary Drawing:



Dear St. Mark Family,

For the past 26 years, Kidventure has served families in Houston, Austin, and Dallas through the magic of summer camp and after school. It has been a pleasure to be a part of the St. Mark Family for 4 of those 26 years. As we embark on another summer of partnership with your school and community, Kidventure would like to update you on the ways we are preparing to give summer camp families the safest and best experience possible this year.

As we move into the month of May and closer to summer, we want to strive to maintain clear communication and update our communities on Kidventure's progress towards our 26th summer of camp. We understand how trying and uncertain things are right now in just about every aspect of our lives. We also understand the part we as Kidventure play in the lives of our families in supporting working parents and supporting the emotional, social, and physical health of our kids. Kids need camp, but camp needs to be a safe place first. That is our number one goal.

Preparing for Safety and Wellbeing at Camp

May has *always* been a busy month for Kidventure as we spend much of this month organizing supplies, training staff, preparing curriculum, and getting ready for our kids. While all those things are being done, we've made many changes in preparation for camp in the era of COVID-19. Protocols will be updated as necessity dictates. Some of the changes we are planning for are as follows:

- The increased disinfection of our camp facilities and regular sanitation of surfaces and high use areas.
- Additional staff hired to support in cleaning, sanitizing, and caring for the overall health of camp.
- A strict health and safety policy pertaining to our staff to ensure their health and wellbeing for themselves and our campers.
- Curbside drop off and pick up limiting the entering of camp to just camp staff, campers, and authorized personnel.
- Daily rapid temperature checks upon entering camp for all staff and campers.
- Campers will operate in small groups at camp.
- Regular hand washing breaks (probably with singing and dancing).
- Camp will be limited to onsite activities only. There will be no field trips or transportation on buses. This will limit our camp's exposure to other large group gatherings and the general public.

The Next Couple of Weeks We Will Know More

While we do have Interim Guidelines from the CDC for operating camp, Governor Abbott has not yet released guidelines specific to Texas summer camp operation. We know that the next update by Governor Abbott is scheduled for May 18th. The new guidelines will likely require some additional procedures for conducting camp. Once we understand those guidelines, we will adjust our procedures and notify our communities.



* This activity is organized and operated by a third party and is not sponsored by, endorsed by, or affiliated with St. Mark Catholic School or Church in any way. Participation in the activity is completely voluntary, and information regarding the activity is provided only as a convenience to parents. Parents should conduct their own research regarding any activity before allowing students to participate. Neither St. Mark Catholic School or Church receive any consideration or compensation as a result of student or parent participation in this activity.

QUICK LINKS

[Calendar](#)
[Lifetime Lions Alumni](#)

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Follow us and stay connected!

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



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on your social media!

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