



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

SAVE THE DATE

**JOIN US ON
OCTOBER 8 AT 6:00 PM OR
OCTOBER 9 AT 8:15 AM**

Parent Education

Unveiling the Impact of Technology on Child Development



Have you ever wondered how technology use is affecting your child's development? Learn about one of the **most important topics for parents this century**. Hear from Dr. Crystal Collier about technology and the growing brain.

Learn how technology use impacts academic, emotional, and relational functioning.

Crystal Collier, PhD, is a therapist, prevention researcher, and educator named counselor of the year in 2019 by the Houston Association of Counselor. She specializes in empowering parents to protect childrens' developing brains.



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 22
3rd-8th Reconciliation Following Mass

August 27
Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Formal Uniform)

August 29
No School - Staff Development

September 1
No School, Labor Day

September 3
School Picture Day (Formal Uniform)



NOTE FROM BUSINESS OFFICE

Dear Parents

It's hard to believe we are already in the second week of school. It's a busy time as we get back into the school routines, but I wanted to take a minute to send a few business-related reminders related to tuition and Home & School Association membership.

Tuition

FACTS sends reminders approximately 1 week prior to a payment draft date. If you need to make a change to your account, please log into RenWeb and click on financial, then payment plan. You can also contact FACTS customer service at 866-441-4637 or email me.

Note, FACTS cuts off any changes 2 business days prior to the draft date.

Please ensure all family contact information in RenWeb is current. This ensures your FACTS emails are sent to the correct email address.

Home and School Association Membership Fee

HSA is an important part of the school community and is responsible for many of the wonderful activities and traditions our students experience including Halloween Family Fun Day, treats during Catholic Schools Week, First Communion and Graduation receptions, Field Day. This year's fee was restructured to also cover the monthly teacher and staff appreciation luncheons, eliminating the need for additional parent donations.

Each school family will be automatically billed via FACTS on Friday, September 5, 2025 for the annual dues of \$50. If you would like to opt-out of HSA membership, please reply to this message by Thursday, September 4 at 3:30 PM.

If you have any questions, be sure to let me know.

Annette Vela, Business Manager



Follow us @stmarkcatholic

HSA

Get Involved!

For those who were unable to sign up at to express interest in volunteer activities, we have included links below for opportunities where online sign-ups exist. Note that this is not an exhaustive list of all involvement opportunities, so please keep a look out for additional information on volunteer opportunities in the school newsletters. Every volunteer must be Safe Environment cleared.

HSA – <https://forms.gle/hQMeWBDxt8s1T3Kx5>

Bookfair – <https://forms.gle/gceUxzNra2YVLR3VA>

Chili Cookoff Participant – <https://forms.gle/nbKivDG9JaEZR5Yx7>

Chili Cookoff Volunteer – <https://forms.gle/NDcWsk7qshZtXvc99>

Family Fun Day Volunteer – <https://forms.gle/oKvHBauaDsUo4Eoy8>

PAWS – <https://forms.gle/Mur7fEE1Qn4YMt2d8>

Schola Cantorum – <https://forms.gle/nRq9nFebGaFSkBnSA>

Prayer Team - <https://forms.gle/A1RQwAoDGwPAQptm6>

Junior Achievement - <https://forms.gle/Tvbc6tiZDT1Z6yDc6>

P.A.W.S.

Please sign up to volunteer at school to help in any of the following ways: Prefect monitor, Library volunteer, Paper pulling, ECE Craft Preparation, and guest reader. All volunteers must be Safe Environment Cleared.

[PAWS schedule \(Fall 2025\)](#)

Service Event

Please join the St. Mark School community in our first community service event on August 29th from 9-10:45 AM at Feed My Starving Children in Richardson. Volunteers should sign up by Monday, August 25th as spaces will then be opened to the public. Please use the link to sign up. If you already have an account, the join code is 51E7WV.

<http://www.fmsc.org/join-group?joincode=51E7WV>

SAINT MARK FALL COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT

JOIN US!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29
9:00-10:45 A.M.

[Sign Up Here](#)

<http://www.fmsc.org/join-group?joincode=51E7WV>

Join Code: 51E7WV



Follow us @stmarkcatholic

NOTE FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

It has been such a joy getting to know you and your students. Whether we connected at Back-to-School Sunday, Parent Information Night, or even through email after your child's first class lesson with me, I truly appreciate the warm welcome to St. Mark.

As we settle into the school year, I wanted to briefly touch on the topic of anxiety. Whether your child is brand new to St. Mark or simply transitioning from the ECE building, the start of a new year often comes with uncertainty. Students are adjusting to new routines, expectations, teachers, and classmates—there's a lot to navigate! One way you can support your child during this transition is by maintaining consistent routines at home. Having a sense of predictability outside of school not only makes adapting to routines at school easier, but also provides children with a sense of stability as they learn and grow.

Throughout this year, I look forward to exploring many social-emotional learning topics with our students. If you'd like a deeper look into the "why" behind this work, this article from Child Mind Institute offers a great overview: [What Is Social and Emotional Learning?](#)

PARISH NEWS

Low Sensory Mass August 23, 10:30am

If you have a child or teen that has difficulty with sensory processing in Mass this is an invitation to celebrate a special low sensory Mass in the chapel. This Mass will be a little quieter, lights lowered in an attempt to sooth and be intentionally inviting to children with special needs. If you know of a family not attending Mass because of a child with these particular needs invite them to this Mass, and encourage them to attend!



SCHOOL GALA

The gala team is happily and gratefully accepting items for Live & Silent Auction! We are looking for gift cards, timeshares, rental homes, curated experiences, sporting event tickets, musical performance tickets, cosmetics, home goods, toys...no item is too big or too small! Thank you in advance for your generosity!
[Click Here to Donate!](#)



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

St. Mark Catholic School offers multiple clubs for different age groups. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

KIDS CAN COOK



4 WEEK SESSION

- Week 1- Breakfast
- Week 2- lunch
- Week 3- Dinner
- Week 4- Dessert

Thursdays- 3:30-4:45

SESSION 1:
• Aug. 28, Sept. 4, 11, 25

SESSION 2:
• Oct. 9, 16, 30 Nov. 6

SESSION 3:
• Nov. 13, 20 Dec. 4, 11

Students in grades 3-5 are invited to join the Kids Can Cook after school cooking club. Cost per session: \$120. Students will prep and cook a meal each week. At the end students will have a recipe card for each week.

RICH FREI AND AMY GARRISON INTRODUCE:

MATH PROBLEM SOLVING COMPETITION

By Tri Core Foundation
For Students In Grades 6-8

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL:
AMY.GARRISON@STMCS.NET

Club days (a total of 10 Thursdays throughout the school year) will be used for test practice, puzzle problem solving and competition test administration. Students participate in three (3) contests during the year, and each contest has 11-12 word problems. Contests are completed in school and have a 35 min. time limit. Students with the highest total scores on all 3 contests win cash prizes and trophies.

The top 30 finishers in each grade win cash. Last year St. Mark students won prizes totaling over --\$2,000!



1st grade - 3rd grade ART CLUB

Thursdays 3:30-4:30

Students will explore art media and techniques, such as sketching, pottery, sculptures, painting on canvases, holiday crafts, etc.
Contact Ms. Tammy, tammy.williams@stmcs.net
Fee: \$100 monthly

JEWELRY CLUB

with Ms. Bakich and Mrs. Jackson

metal stamping
monogram charms
beads
stringing
clay
shrinky dinks
rosary
and so much more!!

Open to 1st-5th grade
Register Now!

TUESDAYS 3:30 - 4:45
\$225 PER SEMESTER

Sep. 16th, 23rd, 30th Oct. 7th, 21st Nov. 4th, 11th Dec. 2nd, 16th




4th grade - 8th grade ART CLUB

Wednesdays 3:30-4:30

Students will explore art media and techniques, such as sketching, pottery, sculptures, painting on canvases, holiday crafts, etc.
Contact Ms. Tammy, tammy.williams@stmcs.net
Fee: \$100 monthly

MUSIC LEARNING BAND
ST. MARK SCHOOL
WWW.MUSICLEARNINGBAND.COM

ST. MARK BAND & STRINGS

BAND AT ST. MARK TWICE A WEEK
SCHOOL CONCERTS
PEP RALLIES
BAND PARTIES
MAIN EVENT PARTY
DALLAS STARS GAME & PERFORMANCE
SPRING CONCERT & TOUR - LOCATION TBA
BAND CAMP AT LAKE MURRAY

TUES & THURS
3:30-4:15 BEGINNER BAND
4:15-5:00 INTERMEDIATE BAND
2:45-3:30 ADVANCED BAND

BAND DIRECTOR
KATRINA CHIUMINATTO
KCHIUMINATTO@MUSICLEARNINGBAND.COM



CHESS CLUB

WITH MS. BAKICH 2025-2026

Any level player, 2nd grade and up!

Snacks and skills

Tournaments, awards, prizes, and more!

Register Now!

Registration deadline September 7th
\$250 per semester
Mondays 3:30-4:30

Sep. 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th Oct. 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th Nov. 3rd, 10th, 17th Dec. 1st, 8th

cbms.bakich@gmail.com



St Mark Children's Choir

September 2025 - May 2026

The St. Mark Music Department looks forward to an exciting year of music making with your child. It is a privilege to serve you and your family. The Children's Choir accommodates children in 2nd grade through 8th grade. Patty Corsi is the director/accompanist and Janice Giddeons and Julie Freeman are the assistants.

Registration / Commitment Form **MUST BE** turned in to participate in the choir.

First Day of Choir, Monday, September 8.

Rehearsal - Mondays, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. in school music room 141.

Children dismissed from St. Mark School at 3:30 p.m. needing supervision until choir rehearsal at 4:00 p.m. must inform the Music Director. The children will be supervised and escorted to the music room by one of the assistants.

1. Please supply your child with a nut-free after school snack.
2. Encourage your child to catch up on homework or reading while waiting for their rehearsal to begin at 4:00 p.m.

Pick-Up - 6:00 p.m. in the school parking lot between the gym and the Smart Lab. Pick-Up on Church Rehearsal Days is at the church parking lot.

Children that are not picked up ON TIME will be taken to After School Care located on the south east side of 15th and Alton. The Parent will be charged ASP rates.

***Parents: Please email the music director at patty.corsi@stmcs.net to inform us if your child will miss choir rehearsal so we are not looking for them. We look forward to seeing your child in choir. Truly yours,

Patty Corsi, Director
Janice Giddeons, Assistant Director
Julie Freeman, Assistant Director

Back to School



WEEK IN THE LIFE:

