

we ♥ SCHOOL !



September 6, 2019

Dear St. Mary's Families,

I hope your week has gone well and that the month of September is off to a good start for your family. The **first Charity Dress Day** for the school year raised \$472 for the Joplin Humane Society and Ms. Lawson's class won the class competition by raising \$89 in their homeroom. Thank you to all the students and families who donated yesterday. Not only will the Joplin Humane Society benefit from your generosity and thoughtfulness, but our students are also learning and practicing important Christian principles of compassion, empathy, and selflessness. I believe our Charity Dress Days are one of many wonderful aspects that make St. Mary's such a special school community.

Please find enclosed in your family's Communicator Envelope order forms for the upcoming **uniform picture day** on Monday, September 16th. Additional order forms and information sheets are available in the school office. For those who may be new to our school community, we have uniform school pictures taken in the fall and free dress school pictures taken in the spring of each school year. On uniform picture day we ask students to wear a navy or red solid colored uniform shirt with any uniform bottoms. Make-up pictures will be taken the next day on Tuesday, September 17th for anyone absent on Monday and for Early Childhood students who attend on a Tuesday-Thursday schedule. Retake photos will be available in October just in case these photos don't turn out as expected. More information will be provided closer to the date.

Do you have Saturday, September 21st saved for a great evening? Come join the fun at the **Fall Festival sponsored by St. Mary's Home and School** from 5:30-8:00 p.m. There will be all kinds of games and activities for children and adults, great food options, and even a beer and margarita garden for a refreshing adult beverage. All the proceeds will benefit our school directly...this year's festival will benefit playground upgrades for the Kindergarten-5th grade playground. The games, food, and fun will be set up on and near the back playground, with bingo and a few other activities taking place in the Cafeteria and youth room.

Our 3rd – 5th grade students went on a special field trip today to McAuley to help celebrate Sister **Joan's Golden 50th Anniversary** as a Sister of Mercy. After their arrival, each student had their photo taken in the "I am a Warrior" signage that is new to the multi-purpose room. They attended the special ceremony in Sister Joan's honor and then enjoyed refreshments with the "big kids", faculty and staff, and special guests of JACS. Sister Joan has served the Joplin area and our schools for years and we are blessed by her presence in our schools and in our lives. It was a fun and special day for everyone!

Have you looked through and/or picked up any items from the **free uniform shop** that has been set up in the youth room just off of the Commons area yet? Next week will be your last chance to grab free uniform pieces for your child to wear now, after the next growth spurt, or as the weather begins to cool down. There are all kinds of clothing items to choose from including coats and jackets, and the best part is the cost: **FREE!!!!** The shop will close after school on Friday, September 13th so please stop in and shop a little before then.

As we finish our third complete week of school, I thought it might be helpful to provide a few reminders of a few St. Mary's guidelines:

- Please wait until the doors release at 3:05 p.m. to enter the school for afternoon pick-up unless your child needs to leave early for an appointment or other activity.
- Parents may walk down to their child's classroom door before 3:10 p.m. dismissal, but please wait for your child to be dismissed to you in the hallways and do not enter the classroom during dismissal. If you need to visit with a teacher about a specific classroom question, please wait until the teacher has returned from walking their students to after school care before starting

a conversation with them. Dismissal time is always hectic and not the best time for a detailed conversation.

- If your child has a birthday coming up and would like to distribute invitations at school, please remember that the entire class or all girls/all boys in the class should be invited in order to prevent hurt feelings. If only a few school friends are going to be invited to a celebration, please mail the invitation, give the invitation to parents, or call the family. Teachers will distribute invitations to entire classes at the end of the day. [Details about this guideline can also be found in the Family Handbook on page 14.](#)
- Please remember that cell phones are not encouraged to be brought to school. If your child does bring a phone to school, the cell phone/smart watch **MUST** be checked into the school office upon arrival in the morning and be picked up from the office when the student is leaving campus in the afternoon. No student should have a phone in their backpack or jacket at any time. [Details about this guideline may be found on pages 14 and 29 in the Family Handbook.](#)

I hope your family has a wonderful weekend together! It has been good to be back at school this week and see the smiling faces of our students. Thank you for the many cards, texts, well wishes, and prayers during and after my knee surgery. I am feeling better every day!

God bless and take care,

Joanne Lown

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[Important Upcoming Events:](#)

Monday, September
9th Monday Moe's

Monday, September
16th School
Picture Day! Red or navy uniform shirt,
please

Tuesday, September
17th School
Picture Make-Up Day

Thursday, September
19th Free Dress
Day

Saturday, September
21st Home and
School's Fall Festival, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September
24th Mercy Day
Mass with Bishop Rice at St. Mary's