



October 12, 2019

Dear St. Mary's Parents,

Trunk or Treat is right around the corner! Please join us for St. Mary's fun and festive annual event this coming Thursday evening, October 24th. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 8:00 p.m., and there will be plenty of fun in between! In addition to trunk or treating, there will be lots of games and activities for everyone, a Halloween photo booth, face painting, and you don't even have to worry about dinner! Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, Mrs. Lown's ghost cookies, and drinks will be for sale in the courtyard area in front of the school and there will be tables set up for diners. You are welcome to decorate your car, truck, boat, motorcycle, or any other mode of transportation you would like to bring, and set up for the event starts at 6:00 p.m. **AMAZING PRIZES** will be awarded for Trunk or Treat entries that place 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. If you have any questions about the event, please stop by the office or call the school at 623-1465. The weather forecast looks wonderful and it will be a spooktacular evening you won't want to miss!

First quarter Parent-Teacher Conferences are right around the corner, too! Conferences will be held on Thursday, October 24th from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. and on Friday, October 25th from 7:30-11:30 a.m. Your child's teacher should be contacting you to confirm a conference time. If there is not a time that is convenient for you to meet on Thursday or Friday, please let your child's teacher know and she will be more than happy to find a time either earlier this week or next week for a conference. Please remember that conferences are student led, so please bring your child to conferences if you are able.

There are a few ongoing concerns with and in the school parking lot, and it is important that **EVERYONE** abides with the parking lot policies that Father Joe and I have made to ensure that our school and parish communities stay as safe as possible. Please pay attention and follow these policies:

1. Do not park in a school or parish handicapped parking lot space **ANY TIME** during the school day unless you have a permit to do so.
2. Do not park in the “Church Office Parking Only” parking spaces **ANY TIME** during the school day. These parking spaces are reserved for parish needs only. Father Joe, Stephanie, and I have parking spots in these spaces, but the other spots are reserved for parish visitors only.
3. Please remember that the parking lot works in a one-way direction with **ALL TRAFFIC** moving northbound. No driver should ever drive in a southbound direction during school hours or exit from the main parish entrance nearest to the South Central City traffic circle. Please communicate this information to anyone dropping off or picking up your child.
4. Please ensure that you are dropping off your children in the designated drop-off zone in front of the school entrance, not dropping them off randomly in the parking lot or farther back in the drop off line than near the main entrance of the school. Your children should be ready to exit your car with their backpack and lunchbox in hand when you pull up to the drop off area to help keep traffic moving in a timely manner.

Thank you to everyone who follows these policies on a daily basis. Some people may think “It’s just for 5 minutes” with parking in these areas, but following the parking lot policies ensures a safe area for our families AND ensures that everyone is abiding by the same rules. **EVERYONE’S** five minutes are important, but not more important than the safety of our students, school families, and parish members. Thank you for your attention and understanding.

ITBS testing will take place this week, October 14th -17th, for students in 3rd – 5th grades. The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) is a series of standardized achievement tests used

to assess a child's knowledge of what they have learned in school, and are not cognitive or IQ tests. St. Mary's students will take the test next week per diocesan standards, and again in the spring to be used as a measure of student learning and growth. Testing will take place each morning, and there will be no homework for students taking the tests. If your child will be taking the ITBS this week, please ensure they attend school each day, have a good night's rest each night, and have a nutritious breakfast each morning. Home and School will be providing nutritious snacks during test breaks this week, thank you!

St. Mary's Grandparents Day is quickly approaching! Grandparents Day for all elementary grades will be held on one day this year, Friday, November 8th. The special day will start with Mass at 8:30 a.m. More information will be provided as the date approaches, but please make plans now to attend this special day if you can!

The **Scholastic Book Fair** is coming, the Scholastic Book Fair is coming! In conjunction with Grandparents Day, the Scholastic Book Fair will be set up at St. Mary's starting on Monday, November 4th through Friday, November 8th. The book fair is always an exciting time at any school, and it's the perfect time for your child to pick out a few special books to enjoy reading at home or at school. **Home and School is looking for volunteers to help serve refreshments and work the book fair during the Grandparents Days. If you are able to lend a helping hand for a few hours to help our school, please contact Jennifer Longnecker or go to <https://www.volunteersignup.org/events/summary/195286> and sign up.** Reminder: Book Fair volunteers get a free book for each shift that they work.

JACS Booster Club is sponsoring the **Warriors Youth Basketball League** again this year. We will be participating in the Spring Valley League as previous years. Boys and girls in grades 3-6 are eligible to participate. Sign-ups will be November 15th at our JACS Winter Sports Kickoff. Practices typically start late November/early December and games are scheduled on every Saturday in January and February. This is a volunteer, parent coached league. Remember, all volunteers and coaches must be Virtus trained. We are anxious to kick off the season with a fun event and a few exciting new improvements this year! More details will be available soon. If you have any question don't hesitate to contact Ryan Taffner 417-439-9650, Sarah Nangle 417-437-5175 or Brett Reichardt 417-437-6806.

Important Dates to Remember:

October 14th – 17th

ITBS Testing for 3rd – 5th grades

Friday, October 18th

NO SCHOOL- Diocesan PD Day

Monday, October 21st

School picture retake day

Thursday, October 24th

Breast Cancer Awareness Month (more details to follow)

PINK OUT DAY at St. Mary's in honor of

Trunk or Treat, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Parent-Teacher Conferences, 3:30- 6:00 p.m.

Friday, October 25th

NO SCHOOL - Parent-Teacher Conferences, 7:30-11:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 31

Halloween Hayride and Parties

Friday, November 1

NO SCHOOL - All Saints Day