



January 18, 2020

Dear St. Mary's Families,

I hope your family has a wonderful weekend together and you are enjoying the sunshine this morning. Please remember that there is **no school for students on Monday, January 20th** in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Our students have been busy learning about this great American and his peaceful dream for equality in our country. St. Mary's faculty will be using the Professional Development day to be trained/retrained in American Red Cross CPR and First Aid, and also work on our Catechetical Studies program through Franciscan University.

Catholic Schools Week is quickly approaching and I wanted to share all the fun and excitement that will be taking place at St. Mary's January 26th – February 1st. Catholic Schools Week is a national celebration of Catholic education and an opportunity to recognize the importance, the value, and the contributions of Catholic education to the Church and the world. Here is the St. Mary's schedule for the week:



Catholic Schools Week 2020

Sunday, January 26th: Celebrating our Parishes

- Parents, students, and alumni speak at Masses at all parishes.

- St. Mary's School choir will be singing at 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday.
- St. Mary's Youth Group will be serving breakfast from 8:30-10:15 a.m. to help kick off Catholic Schools Week.

Monday, January 27th: Celebrating our Students

- **Dress Theme:** Comfy Clothing Day (pjs, sweats, etc.)
- Students asked to **donate a new set of pajamas** or monetary donation to support **Operation Jammies**, Easton Murdock's charity to help hospitalized children receive cozy clothing during their stay.
- Afternoon movies in each classroom with snacks.

Tuesday, January 28th: Celebrating Vocations

- **Dress Theme:** Uniform Dress
- **All Schools Mass** at St. Mary's with Bishop Rice, 1:00 p.m. **Early dismissal** following Mass from Classrooms, probably around 2:30 p.m.
- Students will write thank you notes to clergy with their classroom teachers

Wednesday, January 29th: Celebrating our Faculty and Staff

- **Dress theme:** Wacky Wednesday! Crazy socks, mismatched or backwards clothing, etc.
- **Home and School Faculty/Staff Appreciation Lunch** with one-hour lunchtime so teachers may all eat together (parent volunteers cover lunch, recess, or class time)

Thursday, January 30th: Celebrating our Nation and Volunteers

- **Dress theme:** Patriotic dress in red, white and blue (students may wear jeans)
- Volunteer luncheon in the faculty lounge- faculty will host a chili bar with ass't sides and desserts
- Students will make valentines with Mrs. Turk and in their classrooms to send to veterans in the VA Hospital and to the Joplin-area VA Center
- End the day with **All-School and Parent Prayers and Songs at the Flagpole** starting at 2:50 p.m.

Friday, January 31st: Celebrating our Community

- **Dress Theme:** Homecoming and Spirit Day! Students wear JACS spirit clothing with jeans
- **Pastries with Parents** in the Cafeteria from 7:30-8:00 a.m. Home and School organizes, but faculty will serve so H/S members may spend time with their children.

The McAuley Cheerleaders are sponsoring a **Junior Cheerleading Camp** from January 27th – 29th with a special performance during the McAuley Homecoming halftime on Friday, January 31st. The Cheer Camp will be held in the Cafeteria at St. Mary's after school from 3:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. The campers will learn a cheer and short dance to perform during the **Varsity boys' basketball homecoming game** on January 31st. Students in grades Preschool – 8th grade are invited to join the fun! The \$25 fee covers a t-shirt and snacks each day, and helps to support our McAuley Cheerleaders. **If your child would like to attend, please print out the attached permission slip/registration form and return it to our school office with payment no later than Friday, January 24th.** Please contact Coach Madison Parrigon at Msohosky@jacss.org for more information or with any questions you might have.

The **"Kids Paint the Darndest Things"** art exhibit is on display on the famous brick wall at **Club 609**. Student artists from 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades are displaying their artwork at the restaurant for the next several weeks. All of the art is for sale and the proceeds will go towards the fund to build a St. Mary's marquee in front of our school. The digital marquee will help to keep students, parents, parish members, and the general public updated on all the amazing activities and events that take place at St. Mary's. Opportunities to purchase bricks for the marquee are still available and information sheets are available in the school office. This is a colorful and creative to support our students and our school!

If you have change laying around your house, start saving it now for **St. Mary's Penny War** the week of February 24th – 28th to benefit the Joplin Area Catholic Schools Annual Appeal. A penny war is a fun Class Competition to see which Class can raise the most money with pocket change. Pennies are positive points and silver coins (nickels, dimes, quarters, etc.) can be placed in other classroom change bins to cancel out pennies. More information will be included as the date approaches, but start saving your coins now to support the Annual Appeal that benefits our school system. Thank you for your support!

Colder temperatures will be back this week so please ensure your child comes to school with a warm **coat, mittens/gloves, and a hat**. Outdoor recess is an important part of your child's day at school and it is hard to enjoy the fresh air and time to play if they are chilly. Keeping a Ziploc bag with an extra set of mittens/gloves and a hat at the bottom of your child's backpack helps to prevent chilly hands and heads if the items are forgotten at home. Thank you for your careful and thoughtful planning for your child.

Important Dates to Remember:

Monday, January 20th

NO SCHOOL- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Faculty PD Day

Wednesday, January 22nd

Father Justin's Birthday!

Thursday, January 23rd

Free Dress Day!

January 26th – February 1st

Catholic Schools Week

Thursday, January 30th
House

Fifth grade morning of service at the Ronald McDonald

Friday, January 31st

St. Mary's Final Spelling Bee, 9:00 a.m. in the Commons