



August 21, 2020

Dear St. Mary's Families,

**Happy Friday!** St. Mary's has had a great start to the school year and students are transitioning well with their daily routine, having lunch at school, and going to specials and recess. As I am walking through the hallways and visiting classrooms I am inspired by what I see...engaged students, talented faculty and staff members getting to know their students, and a very special school community that educates, nurtures, and faithfully enriches each child. Students are doing an incredible job with COVID-19 precautions, and I am proud of how everyone in our school community is meeting the challenge and working together. I hope your family has a wonderful weekend together and that you can find time to relax and enjoy each other's company.

**Thank you for the great job you are doing with morning drop off and the afternoon carline!** Please remember that if you have both elementary and early childhood children, they both need to be dropped off at their respective entrances to ensure they arrive to their classrooms safely and on time. Our afternoon car line was completed in 10 minutes today (Yippee!) and it is another great example of how our school community is working together to make the year a successful one. A few things to remember:

- Please ensure you have the laminated St. Mary's sign in your dashboard each afternoon. If you need additional signs for other family members for pick up, please let the office know and we will send them home with your child. Names written on notebook paper or other signs will not be accepted, cars must have the St. Mary's issued sign for any student to be released.

**This policy is in place to ensure the safety of each student.** If you do not have your St. Mary's issued sign you will be asked to park your car and enter the school for your child to be released to you.

- Please make sure you let the office know if your child is going to after school care, especially if he or she is an early childhood or younger (K-2) elementary student. Students may not know what the plans are for afternoon dismissal and this helps prevent confusion. Teachers are busy with their students throughout the day and may not have a chance to check their emails until after school. Calling the office (623-1465) ensures the office knows and then we can notify the teacher.
- If your child is going home with a friend or relatives in the afternoon, please let the office know and we will make sure the child is in the correct location for pick up.

Sister Joan will be holding a **VIRTUS training** at St. Mary's the afternoon of Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the St. Mary's Parish Hall. VIRTUS training is required for all faculty, staff, and volunteers in diocesan schools.

Parents who would like to drive on field trips, volunteer in the classroom, or be an active parent in our school community should also take the informative and helpful child safety training. Due to COVID-19 it is also possible to take the training and receive a certificate of completion on the VIRTUS website, [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org). Please call the office if you would like to attend the training on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, free after school care for attending parents will be offered.

If you haven't already turned in your child's **important health and information forms**, please do so as soon as possible. If you were not able to attend Open House on August 18<sup>th</sup> or need additional forms, please stop by the school office. The school needs these forms...

Current information is vital in ensuring we have record of important health, allergy, and contact information for each student. If you have already returned these forms, thank you!

Your oldest child will come home with a Communicator Envelope in their backpack next Friday. A Communicator Envelope is sent home each Friday with the oldest sibling in each family and should be signed and returned the following Monday. Next Friday each envelope will contain a copy of the 2020-2021 Family Handbook for your family to read through and use as a reference during the school year. The Family Handbook contains the guidelines of the school including rules and policies and will help answer many of the questions that may arise now and/or as the school year progresses. Please pay special attention to the

### **Illness Guidelines, Cell Phone Policy, Code of Conduct, and Dress Code**

details as these are either new additions to the handbook or revised from last year. A Communicator Newsletter from me is emailed each Friday to keep St. Mary's families updated and informed about school activities and upcoming events. Your child will also receive a weekly Classroom newsletter on Fridays (or the last day of the week we are in school) updating you with upcoming assignments, quizzes, tests, and other Classroom activities. We try very hard to keep communication clear and consistent, helping parents to stay informed is important to us.

If you have any questions about school uniforms, please ask your child's teacher and/or refer to pages 16-19 in the Family Handbook. Home and School included an order form information about **St. Mary's Spirit Wear** in your family envelope you received during Open House. Spirit Wear shirts and/or hoodies may be worn with uniform bottoms each Monday of the month and are a fun way to show our school spirit!

I am honored and excited to start my third year as principal of St. Mary's Elementary School. I know that we have a meaningful and purposeful school year ahead of us. Thank you for all that you do for your child, including sending them to our school to not only be academically nurtured and prepared, but also be spiritually nurtured and prepared. In our ever-changing world, our Catholic Christian educational mission is more relevant than ever. I hope your family has a wonderful weekend!

God bless and take care,

Joanne Lown

[jlown@jacss.org](mailto:jlown@jacss.org)

**Important Dates to Remember:**

Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>  
JACS Scholarship Fund)

First Tuesday at Club 609 (Proceeds benefit

Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>

Charity Dress Day!

VIRTUS training at St. Mary's, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Home and School Meeting at St. Mary's, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>

Labor Day, No School

Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>

Noon Dismissal

Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>

Free Dress Day