



August 29, 2020

Dear St. Mary's Families,

I hope your family has had a super week and that you all have a fun, safe, and relaxing weekend! September is right around the corner and I know it will be a fun and busy month for us at St. Mary's. Our first [Charity Dress Day](#) of the new school year is this Wednesday, September 2nd. For those families who are new to our school, once a month Home and School sponsors Charity Dress Day to support local and national charities. Students, faculty, and staff members may participate by donating a minimum of a dollar in return for having a free dress day and not wearing uniform clothes to school that day. Money raised in September will benefit the Joplin Humane Society to support all that they do for our furry friends looking for care and a new home. Charity Dress Days are usually the first Wednesday of each month and are always a fun source of competition between classes to see which class raises the most money and receives a special treat for their efforts.

Speaking of dress code, please be sure to be aware of changes to our [school dress code](#) this year. Students may wear a St. Mary's or JACS top with uniform bottoms on Spirit Mondays, but should be in dress code all other days except on monthly Charity Dress Days and Dress Down Days. If your family is new to St. Mary's and your child does not have a St. Mary's t-shirt, please stop by the office, we have a few t-shirts left from last year we are happy to share. The 2020-2021 [Family Handbook](#) is attached to this newsletter, please review it and go over the information with your child. A printed copy will be included in your family's

Communicator Envelope next Friday for some perfect light reading for the Labor Day holiday weekend (s).

Thank you for working together as a school community to make morning drop off and the afternoon car line work smoothly. [The afternoon car line is taking about 10 minutes each day to complete...not too shabby for our first complete week of school!](#) Here are a few friendly reminders:

- If you are dropping off an elementary student at the main entrance of the school, [please watch your speed](#) as you drive through the remaining part of the parking lot before exiting onto Central City Road. Several parents are driving out of the parking lot at a rapid speed, and this is dangerous...especially for our young early childhood students who are crossing this area of the parking lot in order to enter school. A few extra seconds and driving more carefully are easy to help ensure the safety of each St. Mary's student.
- When you are picking up your child in the afternoon car line, [please do not pull out of line](#) to exit the parking lot. Please stay in the car line, even if a family in front of you may be taking an extra minute or two to get young children securely seated in car seats. Once again, this is a safety concern. You may need to wait a moment or two, but again this helps ensure the safety of our school community.
- If your child is picked up at 3:10 p.m. some days and goes to After School Care other days, please let the office know what your family's plans are, especially if you have an early childhood or younger elementary (Kindergarten-2nd grade) student. Calling the office will let us know what the plan is, and we can in turn notify your child's teacher. This will help prevent your child from going to After School Care if you are in one of the car lines, or vice versa.

[Fourth grade did a great job with Mass on Friday!](#) Due to COVID precautions, School Mass each Friday is a little different this year. Students in 2nd – 5th grades will attend Mass each week, with Kindergarten and 1st grade attending on a rotating, every other week schedule. Pre-K and Preschool classes are not attending Mass right now to allow for social distancing, but we hope to welcome them back to Mass in the near future. Parents and grandparents are invited to join us for Mass, sitting in the east wing of the church. No

parents/grandparents may sit with their children during Mass at this time, thank you for your understanding. Classes that are not attending Mass stream the celebration into the classroom so they can take part as well.

Sister Joan will be holding a [VIRTUS training](#) at St. Mary's the afternoon of Tuesday, September 1st 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. Please call the office if you would like to attend the training on September 1st and register online. Free after school care for attending parents will be offered.

Congratulations to Margie Black and St. Mary's for our recent recognition and honor from the American Heart Association. The American Heart Association's "Missouri Hearties Award" was held virtually recently and recognized schools in Missouri who participated in the Kids Heart Challenge program. A total of 555 schools participated this year, raising \$1,413,587 million for research for the AHA. [St. Mary's was awarded the "Heart Healthy School of the Year"](#) award for Missouri! This award is designed to recognize our school's efforts in implementing all aspects of the program, from fundraising to the education of the American Heart Association's mission. "Mrs. Black does a phenomenal job talking about the importance of heart disease with her students, not just raising donations," said Amy Emery, Youth Market Director for the American Heart Association. "She's an advocate for the importance of CPR and teaches the kids the importance of nutrition and a healthy lifestyle. She engages her school and goes above and beyond to further our mission." St. Mary's students in Kindergarten – 5th grade raised more than \$7,800 this past school year. In the six years our school has participated in the program, we have raised \$47,701.26! As a thank you, St. Mary's will earn \$1,300 in PE equipment for our students to use throughout the school year. Congratulations Mrs. Black and congratulations St. Mary's!

[School Picture Day](#) is coming soon! St. Mary's uniform school picture day is [Monday, September 28th](#), with September 29th being a make-up day in case any students are absent on

Monday. We ask that students wear either a navy or red uniform shirt to school for photos, in addition to any normal uniform bottoms. School picture re-take day is scheduled in October just in case photos don't turn out as well as planned. School picture order forms will be sent home in Communicator Envelopes as the date approaches. Additional order forms will also be available in the school office.

Thank you for all that you do for your children, including sending them to St. Mary's. We are all blessed to have such an incredible school that can educate, nurture, and love the whole child.

God bless and take care,
Joanne Lown
jlown@jacss.org

Important Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, September 1 st JACS Scholarship Fund p.m.	First Tuesday at Club 609 (Proceeds benefit VIRTUS training at St. Mary's, 3:30 – 6:30
Wednesday, September 2 nd	Charity Dress Day! Home and School Meeting at St. Mary's, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, September 7 th	Labor Day, No School
Friday, September 11 th provided until 5:30 p.m.	Noon Dismissal, After School Care will be
Monday, September 14 th	Moe's Monday
Thursday, September 17 th	Free Dress Day