



February 19, 2021

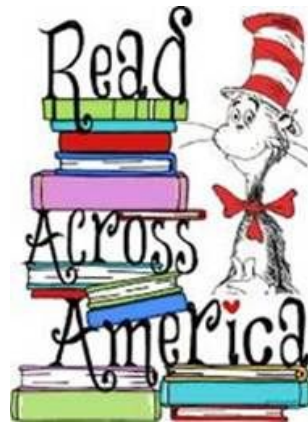
Dear St. Mary's Families,

What a few weeks it has been! I hope everyone has stayed safe, warm, and cozy throughout our winter weather extravaganza. It is nice to see the sun out today and the feel warmer temperatures outside. We will be back in school on Monday, hooray! It will be nice to be back in school, hear the excitement of our students learning, and be with our beloved school community again. Don't forget that [Monday will be a busy day... Valentine's Day parties, the last day of our Penny War benefiting Children's Haven, AND a Charity Dress Day to benefit Children's Haven](#) as well. It will be a busy and fun day! Our Free Dress Day originally scheduled for Thursday, February 18th has been rescheduled to this coming Thursday, February 25th.

Speaking of exciting days, St. Mary's Self-Study is right around the corner! The visiting team will arrive in Joplin on the afternoon of Sunday, February 28th and will be leaving on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 2nd. It will be a busy and important time for our school, a time to shine with all the great things that happen each day, and a time to learn of how we can do things even better to serve our students and school community. [St. Mary's will have a noon dismissal on Tuesday, March 2nd to allow the visiting team to present their findings to our school.](#) After School Care will be provided starting at noon. St. Peter's Middle School and McAuley High School will not dismiss at noon this day. If you have an elementary-aged child and a child in our Early Learners, Preschool, or Pre-K class, you may have your younger child stay in their classroom until noon in order for you to have one pickup time. Starting with our March 2nd noon dismissal, this is an option for parents. If you still would like your child to be picked up at the normal 11:00 a.m. Early Childhood dismissal time, please let your child's teacher AND the school office know. If your Early Childhood child will be staying until noon, he or she will need to bring/order a lunch and will be dismissed from the normal school care line (last names starting with A-M out front,

names starting with N-Z from the 32nd Street side parking lot), so ensure that you have your laminated car line sign with you in the car to pick up your child.

Thank you for doing a great job with your child during our virtual learning days. [I appreciate the positive and kind emails I have received about the tremendous job St. Mary's faculty members are doing with virtual instruction and sharing your thankfulness for the Google Classroom platform.](#) It is a great resource for our school to have and the features within the program are an asset to so many schools and families right now. Teachers will continue to accept student work for the next few days, so please make every effort to engage your child in their Google Classroom so they may receive instruction and complete any required class assignments. There is no substitute for the joy and purpose of classroom learning, and I am thankful our school has a strong option to offer virtual at-home learning when the circumstances dictate. Thank you for all that you have done to support your child and his or her teacher during this time!



March is just around the corner, and you know what that means...Read Across America Week! March 2nd is Dr. Suess's birthday and Read Across America Week is celebrated throughout the country to celebrate the work of Theodor Geisel and the silliness in his books and love of reading with his books. [St. Mary's will celebrate our love of reading during Read Across America Week, March 1st – March 5th.](#) Each class at St. Mary's, from our youngest students in Early Learners to our oldest students in 5th grade, will be celebrating the fun with lots of reading and activities in their classrooms. To help celebrate the week, we are having themed days, each inspired by a Dr. Seuss book. Here is the schedule for the week:

Monday: ["Fox in Socks Day"](#) – Wear silly or mismatched socks and shoes

Tuesday: ["Green Eggs and Ham Day"](#) – Wear green clothing

Wednesday: ["Dr. Seuss's Sleep Book"](#) – Wear your pajamas and slippers (pajamas should be modest in design)

Thursday: ["The Lorax"](#) – Wear a mustache and orange and yellow clothing

Friday: “**The Cat in the Hat Day**” – Wear your favorite hat and lots of red and white (uniform bottoms for K-5th grade students attending Mass)

Students may be out of dress code Monday - Thursday during the week if they participate in the day’s theme. If a student does not choose to participate in a day’s theme, he or she must be in school uniform. On Friday students need to come dressed in school uniform bottoms for Mass, but they can wear any red or white shirt, it does not have to be a uniform shirt. Students will leave their hats and/or any other accessories in the classroom before heading to Mass.

Thank you for all that you do for your child, including sending him or her to St. Mary’s. A special thanks to all of the parents who completed and returned the St. Mary’s School Climate Survey in early February. The survey provided important information included in our self-study documents and I appreciate the additional comments many parents provided. Thank you for the time and care you took in completing the survey.

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

Important Dates to Remember:

Monday, February 22 nd	Valentine’s Day Parties Last day of Penny Wars to benefit the Children’s Haven Playground Project
Thursday, February 25 th	Charity Dress Day benefiting Children’s Haven Free Dress Day (postponed from February 18 th)
February 28 th – March 2 nd	St. Mary’s Self-Study
Monday, March 1 st – Friday, March 5 th	Read Across America Week!
Tuesday, March 2 nd	Noon Dismissal for St. Mary’s students
Wednesday, March 10 th 10:30 a.m.	Reconciliation for 3 rd – 5 th Grade starting at
Wednesday, March 17 th school!	St. Patrick’s Day! Wear your green clothes to
Thursday, March 18 th	Noon Dismissal Parent-Teacher Conferences, 12:30 – 6:00 p.m.
March 19 th – March 28 th	Spring Break!

Monday, March 29th

Classes Resume