

August 23, 2019

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. I hope your family has a wonderful weekend together and that you are able to find time to relax and enjoy each other's company.

With the new school year beginning, please pay special attention in the parking lot in order to keep our families as safe as possible. Please remember that the **school doors release at 7:30 a.m.** for students to enter, and they release at 3:05 p.m. for parents to enter for afternoon pick-up. No students should be entering the school earlier than 7:30 a.m. rather, students should wait in family cars until the entrance doors release. No child may be dropped off at school before 7:30 a.m. to wait outside by themselves. Kindergarten-5th grade students should enter through the main entrance, and faculty and Early Childhood students and their families should be the only people entering the northwest entrance. Please also remember that no families should be parking in the circle lot near the parish entrance or parking in the parking spaces reserved in front of the office area. Thank you.

Speaking of pick-up, there will be a **change in Early Childhood 11:00 a.m. pick-up** on Monday, August 26th. Starting on Monday, parents are asked to come into the school to pick up their child at the Early Learners, Preschool, or Pre-Kindergarten classroom doors, much like afternoon pick-up for the "big kids" at 3:10 p.m. Early Childhood doors will release from 10:55 to 11:10 a.m. to allow for parents to enter the EC entrance, proceed to your child's classroom doorway, and then continue to cubbies to pick up their tote/backpack before heading home. I believe this change will help ensure each child's safety and allow time for parents and teachers to visit with each other at the end of the school day.

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 11th 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!

In addition to this paper copy of the Communicator Newsletter, **an electronic copy** has been sent to the email address the school office has on file for your family. If you do not receive the email version, please contact the school office and make sure we have your **current email address** to ensure accurate communication throughout the school year. Communicator Newsletters are sent each Friday keeping 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. A Communicator Envelope is sent home each Friday with the oldest sibling in each family and should be signed and returned the following Monday. This Friday each envelope will contain the 2019-2020 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 regulations, 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 **Cell Phone Policy, Code of Conduct, and Dress Code** details as these are either new additions to the handbook or revised from last year. Please contact me with any questions you may have about the handbook.

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. Don't forget that the **FREE Uniform Shop** is still set up in the Youth Room located off of the Commons. There are many uniform pieces for each size to choose from, and this is a great time to stock up on current or future sizes of uniforms for FREE. Did I mention that everything in the Uniform Shop is FREE?

I am honored and excited to start my second 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

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Important Dates to Remember:

Monday, September 4th

Tuesday, September 5th

Wednesday, September 6th

Humane Society

Labor Day, No School

First Tuesday @ Club 609

Charity Dress benefitting the Joplin