

# ST. MARY CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEKLY UPDATE

DATE January 12, 2017



St. Mary Catholic Middle School  
Grades 6-8

## IMPORTANT DATES



SMCS EMAIL NEWSLETTER



SMCS CALENDAR PAGE

### January

- 12 Power Hour 3:15-4:15 p.m.
- 13 Early Dismissal @ 11:36 AM  
(end of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter)
- 13 6<sup>th</sup> grade working on class  
wide project at SMCMS
- 13 7<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to  
Menasha Public Library
- 13 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to nursing  
homes in our community
- 19 Power Hour 3:15-4:15 p.m.
- 20 Out of dress code day
- 20 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade social  
3:30-5:30 at SMCMS
- 20 Grade/Middle School night  
at SMCHS basketball games
- 26 Power Hour 3:15-4:15 p.m.
- 27 SMCMS Geography Bee
- 27 SMCMS Musical Auditions
- 27 SPIRITUS Drop In
- 31 SMCMS Musical Auditions
- 31 Priority Registration Ends
- 29-Feb 3 Catholic Schools Week

### February

- 1 SMCMS Musical Auditions
- 2 Power Hour 3:15-4:15 p.m.
- 6 SMCMS Musical callbacks
- 7 SMCMS Musical callbacks
- 8 Student Led Conferences  
3:30-6:30 p.m.
- 9 Student Led Conferences  
3:30-6:30 p.m.
- 9 Power Hour 3:15-4:15 p.m.
- 10 SPIRITUS Drop-In
- 16 Power Hour Canceled
- 16-20 Winter Break – No School
- 21 Classes resume

### Powerlifting

Congratulations to 8<sup>th</sup> graders, Clay Riehl and Sam Purcell who took first place in their respective weight class at the Xavier High School Powerlifting Meet this past Saturday!

### Vex Robotics

Congratulations to Aidan Anderson and Kenny Schaufelberger who won the Judges Award at the VEX robotics tournament at SMCHS this past Saturday. They were the only middle school team competing against high school teams.

### Student Led Conferences

Each year SMCMS has the students lead the conferences in the winter. Student led conferences will be February 8 and February 9 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Conferences will take place in your child's STAR room. Students have been preparing for this during their STAR time. **A sign up form will be emailed home early next week.** Please print and return it ASAP. If you would need us to print a copy and send it home with your child, please let us know. Everyone should register for a conference time and will be scheduled on a first-come, first served basis.

### Musical Auditions and Callbacks

We will be having SMCMS Musical Auditions during the school day on January 27, January 31, and February 1 with callbacks on February 6 and 7. SMCMS will be performing **Godspell** this year. For the auditions students are to prepare a short song selection and a short comedic monologue. Both should be under a minute in length. It is highly recommended that students sing something in the style of musical theater. Students are welcome to sing a song from *Godspell* or any other musical (No accompaniment needed). Comfort and confidence are the most important things to showcase. Therefore, if a student does not want to prepare a song from a musical, they are encouraged to sing Happy Birthday or Silent Night. Monologues can be taken from past forensic pieces, movies, books, plays or even created. The purpose is to show how comfortable and confident the student is on stage, so content is much less important than presentation. Many students have found Shel Silverstein poems to be fun place to start.

Here is a [link](#) to information about the musical and characters.

A callback list will be released after auditions. Students called back should be familiar with the following songs:

Alas For You – Boys

Save the People – Boys and Girls

Oh Bless the Lord my Soul – Girls

**More information about the musical was emailed home this past Sunday.**



### **Diocesan Family Life lessons**

Throughout the next several weeks, the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grader students will begin their Family Life lessons in Religion classes. Keep scrolling for more information about this Diocesan Approved Curriculum.

### **SMCS Links**

Click on the newsletter link above to read the system news for details about the following, or click on the links for related attachments or webpages only:

Changes and additions to the [SMCS calendar](#) \* [Calendar for 2017-18 School Year](#) \* Chinese New Year Celebration (1/28) \* [Basketball Grade/Middle School Night](#) (January 20) \* [Facebook Highlights](#) (Jan 31-Feb 5) \* [Early Registration](#) Discount Deadline (Jan 31) \* [Clash of the Choirs](#) \* Scrip \* Enrichment Update \* [Road Construction Updates](#) \* In the Community (Byzantine Catholic Church, Janssen Forum, Hockey Fights Cancer, YMCA Classes- [Teen Night](#), [Youth Night](#), [Youth Indoor Soccer](#)) \* [SMM Wines Around the World](#) \* [New SMCHS Golf Coach](#)

### **Softball Open Gym**

The time of the softball open gym that is scheduled for Sunday, January 15 is being CHANGED to 12:00-1:30 p.m. so everyone may enjoy the Packer game.

### **VIRTUS Training**

There will be VIRTUS training at St. Mary Catholic High School on **Saturday, January 21 from 8:30 a.m.-noon**. Please plan to attend if you have not completed the classroom portion of your certification.

### **Delinquent Food Service Balance Policy**

Please be sure to read the [message from SMCS Food Service Director Lynn Graves](#) regarding the policy for addressing unpaid balances in families' food services accounts.

### **Tuition Assistance Application Period Open**

[Applications for tuition assistance](#) for the 2017-18 school year are due to the SMCS Business Office by Friday, February 10, 2017.

### **Basketball Grade/Middle School Night**

Please note that the basketball grade/middle school night has been rescheduled for Friday, January 20! Team pictures for grade and middle school basketball teams have also been rescheduled for that day, so please plan to stick around after the photos for a great night of fun, food, friends and prizes.

### **School Closing/Delay Notification**

Please note that it is SMCS's policy that if EITHER the Neenah or Menasha public schools are delayed or closed due to weather, SMCS follows suit. As soon as it is determined, the information is posted on Facebook and the SMCS website, and local TV and radio stations are alerted. You may also subscribe, at no cost, to the SMCS emergency alert system.

If you would like to receive notifications of unexpected events such as school closings or early dismissal due to weather, etc., please do one of the following:

If you have a smartphone, get push notifications by [opening your web browser](#) to download the mobile app (click below).

You can get text-only notifications by texting the message @9fg97 to the number 81010. If that does not work, text it to 920-933-1015.



# St. Mary Catholic Middle School

Grades 6-8

Dear Parents and Guardians,

*It is appropriate that education in human sexuality find its primary focus within the family context. Each of us begins the long process of moving toward maturity from our first moments of life. Informal education in human sexuality begins right from birth. Particularly with regard to the sexuality education of young children, the family setting is the “preferential place,” for parents seem best suited to offer “clear and delicate sex education” appropriately adapted to the age, maturity, and “sense of decency” of each child. (Taken from Human Sexuality: A Catholic Perspective for Education and Lifelong Learning, p. 71).*

This letter comes to you as a reminder of your role in educating your child in human sexuality. As the statement above indicates, the primary education of this matter is best left to parents. However, in the past, Catholic Schools took an active role in helping to facilitate that learning. As the parent of a middle school child, you need to know that we are entering the second year of no instruction in this area, per diocesan recommendations.

What does that mean for you as parents? It simply means that you need to initiate and facilitate the discussions and the learning for your child at home. If you have not yet talked to your child about things such as puberty, chastity, intercourse, the gift of our sexuality (being male or female), procreation, respect for life, etc., you may want to begin to do so at this time. Middle school students will hear and learn all of these things through less desirable channels if you do not take an active role as a parent to help instill our Catholic values.

It is important that conversations about things begin early so that you can establish a rapport with your child, thereby helping him/her to feel comfortable talking to you again in the future. They are not too young to hear and learn about human sexuality. **We will now begin teaching the grade level lessons from the Diocesan Approved Curriculum. This will be done in religion classes. There will be several take home lessons for which you are asked to actively complete with your child. Be sure to sign those papers so your child can get full credit for completing the assignment.**

Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns, or if you are looking for conversation starters. We would be happy to help you in obtaining appropriate information, based on our Catholic teachings, so you can pass it on to your child. Thank you for your time.

Mrs. Bonertz  
Grade 6 Religion

Mrs. Pociask  
Grade 7 Religion

Mr. K  
Grade 8 Religion

Mrs. Kalas  
Counselor/Campus Minister

Mr. Zuleger  
Principal