

# ST. MARY CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEKLY UPDATE

DATE December 19, 2018



St. Mary Catholic Middle School  
Grades 6-8

## IMPORTANT DATES



SMCS EMAIL NEWSLETTER



SMCS CALENDAR PAGE

### December

- 19 Show Choir field trip
- 19 Holiday Game Social
- 19 Out of dress code
- 20 Liturgy at 10:45 AM in FAEC
- 21-Jan. 1 Christmas & New Year Break

### January

- 2 School Resumes
- 3 Liturgy at 10:45 AM in FAEC
- 5 MMITM Lumberjack Party
- 8 SMCMS Musical Tryouts 3:30 pm to 5 in FAEC
- 9 Builders Club 3:30-5PM
- 10 Prayer Service at 10:45 AM in Commons
- 10 SMCMS Musical Callbacks 3:30 pm to 5:30 in FAEC
- 11 Forensic sign up slips due



### **2019 Middle School Musical: James and the Giant Peach Jr.**

**Auditions:** [January 8](#) Students who wish to audition for this year's musical should sign up for a time outside of the main office.

**Callbacks:** [January 10 from 3:30 to 5:30](#) (students may be released early)

- Please [click here](#) to review the student participation agreement
- The script can be reviewed at [this link](#)
- Listen to samples of music from the show [here](#)

*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 James 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.*

### **MMITM**

The Lumberjack Party is coming up Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 11pm. There is still time to sign up. This event is being held at the Chris and Kristen Bergstrom's House. Please follow the Sign up Genius link to sign up.

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/20F0C44AAAE22A0FF2-lumberjack>

AXE YOURSELF WHAT WOOD YOU RATHER DO DEN CUT INTO SOME TIMBER GAMES AND NOTCH SOME BACK WITH YER FELLERS!

HARVEST ON SOME LIPSMACKIN' CHILI MADE FROM CB'S LATEST KILL AND WET YER WHISKERS IN SOME TASTY BEVIES & WHATNOT!

BRING YER BOOTS, BEARD, FLANNEL, MOOSE, ER WHATEVEVR ELSE SUITS YOU CUZ DER'S GONNA BE SPECIAL PRIZES FER DA BEST DRESSED LUMBERJACKS AND JYLLS!

## **Dress Code Passes**

**Dress Code passes are all done and ready for pick up.** We ask that all passes be picked up by a parent on Wednesday December 19<sup>th</sup> or Thursday December 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Family Life**

Please be sure to read through the attachment regarding the Family Life instruction that will begin after break. These are the Diocesan approved lessons about human sexuality. The letter explains the rationale for this instruction and your role as parents in this sensitive instruction.

## **Grade 8 Career Exploration Unit**

Eighth grade students now have active accounts for a search engine called NAVIANCE, and have taken their first personality assessment which resulted in a match to possible careers which may fit them in the future. Parents are encouraged to have their child log into Naviance and show what they have done. This site also has many tools/information about planning for high school and college, over 8,300 videos showing interviews with people in various jobs, and access to college information. This account will follow them to SMCHS and will be part of the Academic and Career Planning Conference with Mrs. Kalaus in the spring.





# 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. In the past, Catholic School’s took an active role in helping to facilitate that learning. As the parent of a middle school child, you need to know that we will again use a program called Family Life, published by RCL Benziger, and will begin those lessons after Christmas break.

What does that mean for you as parents? It simply means that you are encouraged to look for opportunities to initiate and facilitate discussions at home that support this curriculum. 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. **After Christmas break we will 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 assignments which are part of their religion grade.**

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

Mrs. Ahles  
Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

The forensics season at SMCMS is ready to begin. Forensics is public speaking and is open to all students in all grades. Students are able to participate in one of seven different categories. Poetry reading, prose reading, storytelling, and solo acting are individual categories. Play-acting and group interpretation are done in groups of 3–7 students. Infomercial may be done as an individual or as a group of 2 people. Some, but not all, categories require memorization. Participation in forensics will not interfere with participation in the spring play.

**December:** Students will register and choose pieces. Students may supply their own piece (it must be approved by Mrs. Bonertz) or may choose from pieces available in Mrs. Bonertz’s room. Students may begin selection of pieces as soon as they have filled out and returned the bottom of this form.

**January & February:** All pieces must be selected by **January 19**. Coaches will be assigned to students during January. Once a coach is assigned, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the coach for a practice time. Students need to practice independently plus meet with their coaches a minimum of three times.

**March:** Tournaments

Practice tournament – February 27 (3:30 – 5:00) – This is mandatory for all forensics students.

Combined Elementary/Middle School Tournament – March 7 (after school)

SMCHS – March 14 (after school)

Presentation to middle school students during X period – March 20 (optional)

We need to stay to the number of entries for each category. If you have any questions, please contact me.

*Mrs. Bonertz*

Please detach the following and return by **January 11** if you are interested in being a part of the forensics team. Registration for forensics will be accepted after that date only for any available slot in a particular category. The fee for the forensics programs is **\$10.00** per student for the entire season regardless of the number of tournaments the student attends. This fee helps covers entrance fees and bus fees to the meets.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark the category you wish to compete in. (\*Category must be memorized.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Poetry reading (10 students)

\_\_\_\_\_ \*Solo acting (10 students) - **memorized**

\_\_\_\_\_ Prose reading (10 students)

\_\_\_\_\_ \*Play acting (5 groups) - **memorized**

\_\_\_\_\_ \*Story telling (10students) – **memorized**

**Students must find their own groups.**  
(3-7 students) sheets must come stapled together

\_\_\_\_\_ Infomercial (10 entries)

\_\_\_\_\_ Group interpretation (5 groups)

**Students must find their own groups.**

(3-7 students) sheets must come stapled together

I am aware that my child will be participating in the SMCMS forensics program. I understand that some after or before school time will be necessary to meet with coaches.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_ am interested in:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and phone number

\_\_\_\_\_ Coaching - counts towards Parent Involvement hours

(please circle) prose, poetry, solo acting, infomercial, demonstration, play acting

\_\_\_\_\_ I will only coach my student

\_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to coach anyone.

If you are willing to work with someone other than your own student, you must have Virtus training.

See [www.gbdioc.org/pdf/virtusWorkshopDates.pdf](http://www.gbdioc.org/pdf/virtusWorkshopDates.pdf) for dates and locations for training.

\_\_\_\_\_ Judging – counts toward Parent Involvement hours (please circle) February 27 March 7 March 14



## St. Mary Catholic High School Boys & Girls Basketball Family Nights

### Boys Basketball

Thursday, December 20

JV2/JV 5:50 p.m.

Varsity 7:15 p.m.

### Girls Basketball

Friday, January 11

JV 5:50 p.m.

Varsity 7:15 p.m.



- FREE admission for parents and students
- FREE Gatorade & popcorn for grade school/middle school students

