

# St. Mary Catholic Middle School

News Update: September 23, 2020



St. Mary Catholic Schools  
*Grades P3-12*

A Community Inspiring Success

**"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes  
are truly endless" - Saint Teresa of Calcutta**

## Statewide Mask Mandate Extended

In accordance with the mandate issued by Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers this week, face coverings will be required on all SMCS campuses through November 21st. Please ensure your student brings their mask to school every day, and encourage them to practice physical distancing inside and outside of school buildings. Teachers and staff will continue to use outdoor teaching opportunities to allow students to have mask breaks during the day.

## COVID-19 Update

A new regional [COVID-19 testing site](#) has opened in Oshkosh. The community testing site is available to any Wisconsin resident, five years of age or older.

## SMCS COVID-19 Screener

SMCS's COVID-19 screener is the main contact for SMCS parents to report symptoms and acts as liaison with the City of Menasha and Winnebago County Health Departments to report and track

cases. She works closely with administrative assistants and principals to accurately record attendance, tracking of cases, and return to school for students.

- Please call your school office with any absences.
- Please call 920-716-7139 or email [studentsafety@smcatholicschools.org](mailto:studentsafety@smcatholicschools.org) to report symptoms, concerns, positive cases, exposures, etc.

## Technology Help for Parents

Wow – do we have an opportunity for you! Do you struggle with your kids telling you all their assignments are done, but when you look in PowerSchool there is no grade? Are you easily confused with how Google Classroom works? We can help to navigate these platforms all while holding your child accountable for work completion, good grades and honest conversations about homework. You're invited to attend a Zoom meeting aimed at setting parents up to succeed.



### For the meeting you will need:

1. Your child and their computer (if evening)
2. Another computer would be ideal to log into our Zoom meeting
3. Your PowerSchool parent login information which was sent home with your child the first week of school. Don't have it? Email [shomburg@smcatholicschools.org](mailto:shomburg@smcatholicschools.org) to request another copy.
4. Patience – as it can be a lot to learn in a short amount of time

### Meeting Times and Zoom Codes:

#### September 30 – 6:30 PM

Meeting Code 761 7794 7097

password: Zephyrs

#### October 1 – 8:05 AM

Meeting Code 760 9222 3796

password: Zephyrs



## Prepare for the Changing Weather

Fall weather can be unpredictable. Please encourage your student to bring a sweatshirt or jacket to school each day. We will be going outside as often as possible as long as it isn't raining, for after lunch recess and mask breaks.

Also, don't forget **dress code changes go into effect on October 1st**. Shorts will no longer be permitted until May 1st.

## Emergency Notification System

When SMCS needs to delay or cancel school due to weather or other circumstances, text messages are sent directly to the phones of people who have signed up for our emergency notification system.

You may subscribe, at no cost, to the SMCS emergency alert system. To enroll your phone number, please text SMCS to (844) 947-5948. You will receive a confirmation text and a text indicating that when you want to opt out of this service you simply need to reply STOP. You may enroll multiple cell phone numbers using that same process.

Updates on closings and activity cancellations will also be posted to the [SMCS Facebook page](#).

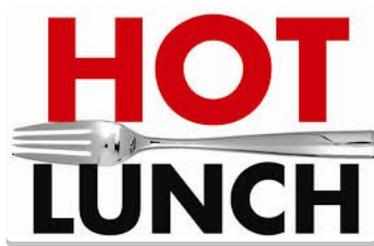
SMCMS also has a Facebook group for parents. You can join by [clicking here](#).



## SMCMS After School Care

After school care is available for the 2020-2021 school year. Due to COVID restrictions, we will need to limit the number of attendees to 24 students per day. All students must be preregistered 48 hours in advance to be able to participate.

The fee for after school care will be \$5.50 per hour per student. You can reserve a spot by [clicking here](#). Please only reserve a spot on days you know you will need after school care so that we may accommodate as many families as possible.



## Hot Lunch Volunteers Needed

Are you available to help with our hot lunch program? Volunteers are needed to help hand out trays, serve food, and sanitize tables between the hours of 10:30am and 12:30pm. Volunteers may record 2 hours for Parent Involvement time. Just a reminder, all volunteers must be Virtus trained.

[Click here](#) to sign up.

## Scrip Volunteers Needed

The Scrip program is in need of more volunteers. There is an immediate need for volunteers to pick up Scrip from local retailers on Wednesdays (flexible hours between 8:00 and 3:00). These volunteers are scheduled every 2-3 weeks.

Volunteers are also needed to help with Scrip order processing on Thursday mornings from 8:00–10:30 and order delivery to schools and parishes on Thursdays at 11:00. Please contact Shelley Wautlet if you can offer your time to the Scrip Program (920) 967-0021 or

## Mass Livestream

Due to physical distancing requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic, seating inside the FAEC for Mass on Wednesday mornings is limited. For that reason, a livestream of the Mass is being made available this year on Youtube.

[Click here](#) to watch the livestream each Wednesday at 9:30am.

## Guidance & Campus Ministry

### Mass

We continue to have meaningful Masses as a school community. Each grade has been to at least one Mass already with eighth grade attending a second time today! All Masses are celebrated at grade level with students from the other two grades spending time in prayer with liturgy of the Word, a virtual Mass, or other experiences, like praying a rosary together or walking the Stations of the Cross in Jane's Woods. What a blessing to be in a school with such a strong priority placed on our faith and so many opportunities to share that faith. Our system priests have been wonderful in their ministry to our staff and students, making our school Masses a true priority.

As you are likely aware, our diocese has lifted the dispensation for attending Sunday Mass. What this means for the faithful, is that Sunday Mass is once again an obligation. In other words, as Catholics, we are expected to once again attend weekly Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday unless there are extreme reasons for not doing so. You can view Bishop Ricken's press release with details [here](#).

### Guidance

Our advisory program partners a small group of students with an adult who becomes an advocate, mentor and a go-to person for each child. Mrs. Kalaus provides a monthly theme, based on developmental guidance and character education topics. Because building positive relationships with one another and the adults in our school is a primary goal of this program, September was focused on getting-to-know each other.

In October, groups will participate in a number of activities and discussions on mindfulness and positivity. According to the American Psychological Association, the benefits of mindfulness range from improved working memory to stress reduction. For SMCMS our focus on mindfulness will include prayer, sitting in our beautiful chapel in the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle, deep breathing practices, and other relaxation techniques. Additionally, part of thinking positively is to be mindful of all the things we have to be grateful for in our lives. Even during these challenging times, or maybe in spite of them, we can focus on gratitude and let that become contagious in how we speak, act and support one another.

## Fall Sports Zephyr Wear

Did you miss the order for team warm up shirts for volleyball, football or cross country? Good news, Mrs. Gagne ordered a few extras. Please email [tgagne@smcatholicschools.org](mailto:tgagne@smcatholicschools.org) with a request for your size. The cost is \$20. Remember this is the ONLY shirt student athletes can wear to school on game or race days.



Go Zephyrs!

## All Newsletters

Please know you can find all of our newsletters posted on our [website](#).

## Looking Ahead

For a complete calendar listing, view our [Calendar online](#)

### Monday 9-14-20 through Friday 10-02-20

MAP testing

### Friday 9-25-20

No school-Staff Development

### Tuesday 10-06-20

Zephyrs Spirit Wear Day

### Wednesday 10-07-20

Mass- 9:30am 7th grade ([watch online](#))

### Thursday 10-08-20

Picture retakes 10:30am-12:30pm



## St. Mary Catholic Middle School

 Facebook

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