

St. Mary Catholic Middle School

News Update: October 7, 2020



St. Mary Catholic Schools
Grades P3-12

A Community Inspiring Success

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them your strength lies"- Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Virtual Learning Days Planned for SMCS

In order to provide greater support to our Zephyrs community, St. Mary Catholic Schools will be using Friday, October 16 and Friday, November 13 as virtual learning days. Students in all grades (preschool-grade 12) will have virtual learning on these Fridays. Learning activities will be provided those days and the teachers will communicate the expectations to the students ahead of time.

We believe that these days are important so we can continue to provide the excellent educational experiences for all of our students. The purpose for the days is to give time for staff to plan and prepare virtual and in-person lessons, give students opportunities to catch up on work and receive assistance, and give the school community work days without wearing masks. These days should not be interpreted as a precursor to going full-virtual. While that might be a consideration in the future depending on circumstances, our goal is to maintain the in-person learning model.

[Click here](#) for a video message from Superintendent Dr. Tim Schigur.

SMCS COVID-19 Screener

SMCS's COVID-19 screener, Maryann Slavinsky, 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 or email Stephanie Homburg (920-727-0279 shomburg@smcatholicschools.org) with any absences.
- Please call 920-716-7139 or email studentsafety@smcatholicschools.org to report symptoms, concerns, positive cases, exposures, etc.

New Face at SMCMS

This week, the middle school team welcomes Mr. Lance Ernsting as a long term substitute on the sixth grade team. Mr. Ernsting will be teaching Religion and Science. Here's a little bit about him:

Mr. Ernsting lives in Neenah with his wife, Stephanie, and two sons, Jacob and Andrew. Jacob is in the 6th grade at SMC and Andrew is in the 4th grade at St. Margaret Mary. He is a member of St. Margaret Mary Parish and is the co-chair of the Pastoral Council. He is also treasurer of the Zephyr Basketball Club and is assistant coach for the 4th grade team. Mr. Ernsting holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Business from Murray State University, and he has previously worked at Bemis and Plexus.

You can reach Mr. Ernsting via email :Lernsting@smcatholicschools.org. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Ernsting to the SMCMS family.

SMCS Needs Substitutes

SMCS is looking for Substitute Teachers and Aides and we would love to have you join us!

If you have a teaching license or a sub license you are eligible to be a Substitute Teacher with us and can apply directly on [WECAN](#). If you do not have either license, you can still be added to our Teacher Aide or After School Care subbing list, please apply through [WECAN](#).

Interested in obtaining your teacher or substitute teacher license? [Click here for information](#) from CESA 6 on sub teacher requirements and trainings. To obtain a sub license, [use this link](#) to apply through DPI.

If you have any questions or are interested in being added to SMCS' sub list, please contact Chelsey Kind in Human Resources, ckind@smcatholicschools.org or 920-722-7796 ext. 803



Dress for the Weather Reminder

Going outside allows our students and staff to enjoy some fresh air and a mask break, but 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. Physical Education classes will also be taking place outside, weather permitting.

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](#).



Retakes Rescheduled

School picture retakes that were initially scheduled for tomorrow, October 8th, have been rescheduled for Tuesday 10/13 during lunch. Picture orders should be returned to the school office by Tuesday. You can also place your order online, using the website listed on the proof sheet that went home with students.

Zephyrs Basketball Club

A note from Zephyrs Basketball Club Organizers:

Welcome to our 2020-2021 Zephyrs Basketball Club season! If you are new to the club, I encourage you to check out about us [here](#). We are excited to offer our club season again, however it will look different than the past seasons, due to COVID-19. Although it may look different, we are hopeful to still be able to provide development and fun this winter season! At this time, we will use [this signup genius](#) to gather all interested players.

Official registration will come later as our season details become more clear. We are also looking for additional coaches this year. If you have any desire to help us in a coaching aspect, please sign up by grade in the sign up!

Saturday STEM

The STEM Club is excited to share a unique opportunity with the St. Mary's Catholic Schools Family. This Saturday, October 10th at 11:00 am, the STEM Club will be hosting a virtual Meet and Greet with Tom Kovacs, Professor of Meteorology, Department of Geography and Geology, Eastern Michigan

University. Professor Kovacs will be sharing his career journey in the sciences including: opportunities, choices, connections, and passions that have been a part of this journey, He will also give us a little taste of what Eastern Michigan has to offer.

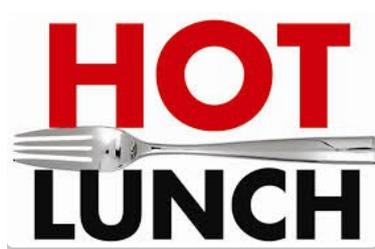
Our virtual Meet and Greet will also have time for questions and answers. Professor Kovacs teaches weather, climate, and severe weather courses for earth science, earth science education, and integrated science elementary education majors and mentor undergraduate and graduate students on research. He has published a dozen peer-reviewed journal articles on research specializing in applying satellite remote sensing data for air quality and severe weather applications. In 2020, he published the textbook entitled, "Weather and Climate Forecasting: the scientific method in action". Please join us this Saturday in The Commons at St. Mary's Catholic High School and meet Professor Kovacs. The STEM Club is hoping to offer more opportunities throughout the year for students to meet and experience other individuals who can share their stories and give our students food for thought as they begin their career journeys.

You may attend the event either in person in the high school commons or by ZOOM. Details on the zoom information will be provided later this week. If you are interested in attending, please let Mr. Kerwin know at pkw@smcatholicsschools.org. While last minute attendees will be welcome, it will help to know how many people we will have.

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 swautlet@smcatholicschools.org.

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

Rosary

The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7. The Holy Rosary is one of the most powerful Catholic prayers and joins us with our Blessed Mother. As Catholics, we are called to join Catholic Action for Faith and Family in storming heaven with prayer by joining thousands of other Catholics in praying the Rosary on the first of each month. You can become one of the million Catholics pledging to do this by [clicking here](#).

Our Mass today was prayed as a memorial to our Lady of the Rosary!

Saint to be Beatified

Carlo Acutis, a Catholic Italian teenager who died in 2006, will be beatified Oct. 10 in Assisi. Carlo Acutis was born May 3, 1991 and died on Oct. 12, 2006, and was buried in Assisi, at his request, because of his love for St. Francis of Assisi. Acutis, a gamer and computer programmer loved soccer and the Eucharist. His love of the Eucharist led him to create a list of all the Eucharistic Miracles in the world and make it available on the internet. Carlo has been the subject of interest around the world. In 2006 at the age of 15 he died of leukemia, offering his suffering for the pope and the Church. The beatification of Carlo Acutis will take place at the Basilica of St. Francis at 4:30 p.m. on October 10. To learn more about Carlo and his beatification, click [here](#).

Guidance

As schools, families, and communities continue to get better at navigating remote learning, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is rolling out its 4th annual Keeping Kids Safe Online month. In her October proclamation for "Keeping Kids Safe Online Month," State Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor stated, "Hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin students are learning in a virtual environment because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is imperative families and schools stay informed about online behaviors, take note of how children interact with their peers and others online and teach them which information is too private to share, and how to manage their digital footprint. Families and schools can use a variety of resources to help educate our children on important strategies to keep them safe while online." [Here](#) is a nice informational page from DPI for your use.

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 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](#)

Tuesday 10-13-20

Picture retakes 10:30am-12:30pm

Wednesday 10-14-20

Mass 7th grade 9:30am

Friday 10-16-20

Virtual Learning Day



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Catholic Schools
— Grades P3-12 —

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 Facebook

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 smcatholicschools.org