

St. Mary Catholic Middle School

News Update: December 16, 2020



St. Mary Catholic Schools
Grades P3-12

A Community Inspiring Success

"What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family." -Saint Teresa of Calcutta

THANK YOU!

COVID-19 kept us from gathering, but it didn't stop us from raising more than \$16,000 to support the students and staff of St. Mary Catholic Middle School. Our first ever DON'T Meet Me in the Middle fundraising event was a huge success thanks to the generosity of our middle school family.



One great illustration of that generous community is in the sale of out of dress code passes. In addition to purchasing passes for your own students, 60 passes were purchased to be given to students in the SMCMS family who wouldn't otherwise receive a pass. That's over 1,000 dollars given to support all of our students.

A few housekeeping items:

- If you purchased an out of dress code pass for your student, those will be sent home on Friday, unless you have made other arrangements with Mrs. Homburg.
- If you purchased an out of dress code pass for a staff member, those will be distributed on Friday as well.

- If you purchased any other experiences, we'll touch base after Christmas break to begin planning.

Thank you again for supporting SMCMS through this season.



CHRISTMAS
CONCERT SPECIAL

DECEMBER 17 @ 6:30 P.M.
STREAMING AT SMCSFINEARTS.ORG

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Calendar Update

December 21 and December 22 have been added to Christmas break!

All SMCS students' last day of school before the Christmas holiday is this Friday, December 18. All SMCS students return to school (in-person and virtual) on Monday, January 4.

Changes to the Morning Routine at SMCMS

Beginning when school starts in the new year, SMCS will discontinue daily temperature checks for students and staff at all campuses. With the outside temperature getting colder, staff is noticing that our non-contact temperature checks are reading much lower than normal. In addition, the CDC does not currently recommend schools conduct symptom screening for all students in grades K-12 on a routine (daily) basis.

Given this, the following is still recommended:

- Parents, caregivers, or guardians should be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for symptoms of infectious illness every day through home-based symptom screening. They should also take temperatures at home, if possible, before students are sent to school.
- Students who are sick should not attend school in-person.
- Please use [this guide](#) from the CDC for more information.

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.

Notice for 6th grade families

Since 2021, all public, charter and private schools have been required to provide information on meningococcal disease to parents and guardians of students enrolled in 6th grade. The DPI is required by state law to make information about the disease available to the schools. The information and suggested templates regarding meningococcal disease were recently updated and are under “immunization resources” on the [DPI website](#).

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](#).



Spirit Stop Sale

Spirit Stop Christmas Pick a Sticker Discount SALE

Tuesday, December 22

4:00-6:00 PM

St. Mary Catholic High School Commons

Choose a sticker to reveal your discount or free item!

We may need to limit shoppers, so please be patient.

And don't forget your masks!

Second Semester Hot Lunch Help Sign Up!

Sign ups are open for 2nd Semester Hot Lunch help. Our Hot Lunch Volunteers help by handing out trays, serving food, and sanitizing tables between the hours of 10:30am and 12:30pm. These shifts count for 2 hours of Parent Involvement time, and it's a great opportunity to meet other SMCMS parents!



Just a reminder, all volunteers must be Virtus trained.

To access the [second semester sign up click here](#).

Guidance and Campus Ministry

Living out Christmas in the New Year

How do we live out the message of Christmas in the New Year, rather than pack it away with the ornaments? Each year, the Octave Day of Christmas falls on the first day of the New Year, on which we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Her open heart and courageous “yes” to God show us how to live year-round—with hearts open to the Lord, following where He leads. We are called to place our trust in Him, to enter compassionately into the suffering of others, and to love one another as Christ loves us. Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance. One way to live out the message of Christmas and follow Our Lady’s example is to join 9 Days for Life, a novena for the protection of human life, taking place Thursday, January 21 – Friday, January 29. Each day’s intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Join today, [right here!](#)

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Grade 8 Career Exploration Unit

The grade 8 Academic and Career Planning (ACP) unit focuses on a student’s personal/social growth, academic/career development and looking ahead to their future as they transition to high school and eventually into a career. The unit has an emphasis on a review of the student’s talents, hopes and dreams, abilities, interests, academic performance, MAP test results, learning styles and career assessment results. To help students objectively look at themselves, they will participate in a number of on-line activities from NAVIANCE, including exploration of career clusters, completing a personality inventory and an interest inventory.

Mrs. Kalas was in all the 8th grade classes today, to help students create an account with NAVIANCE. Students may use this site as often as they wish over the next 9 months. Students are encouraged to visit and peruse this site on their own and with you as parents. This is the Career site used at many high schools including SMC and contains a lot of useful information about careers, colleges/universities, income potential, future job outlook and much more. Please take time with your child to at least talk about this unit of study. Your involvement is key for successful career planning for your child. Please look for monthly updates about this program throughout the upcoming months. Virtual students will be sent the log-in information after Christmas break

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.

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](#)

Friday 12-18-20

Out of Dress Code: Christmas Sweater Day

Monday 1-04-21

Classes Resume

Tuesday 1-05-21

Zephyr Spirit Wear Day

Wednesday 1-06-21

9:15am Mass (6th grade)



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 Facebook

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