



IMPORTANT DATES



SMCS EMAIL NEWSLETTER



SMCS CALENDAR PAGE

September

- 6 Prayer Service at **10:45 AM** in SMCMS Commons
- 7 7th grade Retreat/Team Building at Camp Tekakwitha **8:10 AM-5:00 PM**
- 13 Liturgy at **10:45 AM** in FAEC
- 14 6th grade Team Building
- 20 Prayer Service at **10:45 AM** in SMCMS Commons
- 22 Connect 5
- 26 SMCMS Picture Retakes
- 27 Liturgy at **10:45 AM** in FAEC

October

- 1 No School-Staff Professional Development
- 2 Spirit Wear Day
- 4 Prayer Service at **10:45 AM** in SMCMS Commons
- 5 MMITM 6:00 PM
- 9 MS Conferences 3:30-6:30 PM
- 11 Liturgy at **10:45 AM** in FAEC
- 11 MS Conferences 3:30-6:30 PM

Advice from with In

- Treat everyone as your friend
- Try something new – it might be uncomfortable
- Do your best each and every day at school – whether it be homework, interactions with friends, interactions with teachers
- Stay organized
- Be yourself

Many flyers that used to be attached to our school newsletter are now available via the links below, or read the full [system newsletter](#) to find out more information on the following:

| [CONNECT 5](#) | [Scrip News](#) | [Order Apparel](#) | [Google Calendar](#) | [Drama Season Announced](#) | [Eucharistic Adoration](#) | [Blood Drive](#) | [Grade/Middle School Night](#) | [Badger Bash](#) | [Meet Me In The Middle](#) |

Meet Me In The Middle (MMITM)

Meet Me in the Middle takes place at the middle school on Friday, October 5, 2018 from 6:00-10:00 p.m.

This year Meet Me in the Middle will be hosted outside on the back terrace of the school!

We are excited to offer 3 different bands playing throughout the evening, fire pits and twinkling lights, and fabulous people to meet. Pagoni's food truck will be making us fabulous pizza, chicken Caesar salads, and cannolis. All of the auction items, event boards, and other ways to support the school will be on a mobile bidding app. You can track your bids and never leave the conversation with your friends.

Big Green Egg raffle tickets will be available in the school office for \$20 and will also be sent home with your student on Friday to sell.

Meet Me in the Middle tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Please go the following link to purchase tickets or to become a sponsor \$100-1000 (two tickets included with sponsorship).

<https://tcces.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/MeetMeInTheMiddle2018/tabid/986934/Default.aspx>

We look forward to a fantastic evening with everyone!

Connect 5

CONNECT 5 includes a spiritual walk through the stations of the cross in Jane's Woods as well as a 5K run/walk to benefit SMCS booster club, fine arts programs and technology funding. [Visit the website](#) to learn more about the event and register.

Volunteers are still needed to make this event successful.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4AACAC2AAA8-connect>

Vex Robotics

The SMCS STEM Education Club will begin the robotics competition and STEM activities season with a meeting on Wednesday, September 5th from 6 to 9 PM in the STEM Center. Any **eighth grader** who is interested joining a VEX Robotics Team or the aviation program is welcomed to attend. If you're unable to make it and would like to join the club, just plan to attend the next scheduled meeting Wednesday, September 12. On Wednesday, September 12 there will be a STEM Club information meeting for parents from 6 to 7:30 PM in the high school commons. Information regarding the VEX Robotics competition season and other STEM Club opportunities will be presented.



Dear Parent or Guardian:

St. Mary Catholic Schools values reading. This year the St. Mary Catholic Middle School is excited to challenge your child to increase their independent reading time not only at school, but home as well. Research tells us that increasing independent reading will lead to increased knowledge, vocabulary expansion, memory improvement, stronger analytical thinking, improved focus and concentration, better writing skills, and helps to reduce stress. This year we are requiring students to read independent texts that they choose from a variety of sources. We will monitor student reading progress, make recommendations, and give students an opportunity to interact and to develop reading skills through independent reading. With your support, together we will hold students accountable for this reading.

Accountable independent reading has five purposes:

- To engage and motivate students in learning things they care about
- To promote students' love of reading
- To build students' vocabulary: reading a lot exposes students to new words and ideas
- To build students' knowledge about the world (through both fiction and informational text)
- To build students' reading stamina: their ability to read more difficult text for longer periods of time

We encourage students to choose texts and topics that interest them. They also should choose books that are at comfortable or challenging reading levels. The book selections we have to offer have been recommended by national lists, libraries, and teachers across the country. Some books relate to content students are studying in class, while others have been chosen by the student. We leave you and your child with the decision of choosing what is appropriate reading material according to your family values. We encourage you to be aware of what your child chooses to read. Some parents may choose to read a text before they let their child read it. This can help you monitor what your child is reading, and it can be a great opportunity for discussion. Please communicate with your child's language arts teacher if you see an issue.

We have set up a system in which students set goals for their reading, keep a reading log (about the text and their own opinions about the book), and write reviews of the texts they are reading. Ask your child to share these documents with you. Be sure you know your child's reading goals so you can support him/her staying on track, celebrating successes, and problem-solve as needed. It will be our expectation that each child reads a minimum of 30 minutes - 3 times per week. Parents are encouraged to consider the following options:

- Provide a quiet, comfortable learning environment
- Set a homework routine that is consistent from night to night
- Read as a family - Parents are great role models - especially when it comes to reading
- Create a list of books to read together and hang on the fridge
- Support your child in a positive manner as this is new and challenging for them

We anticipate independent reading will be enjoyable for your child and lead to a lifetime of reading.

Happy Reading,

Jill Ahles