

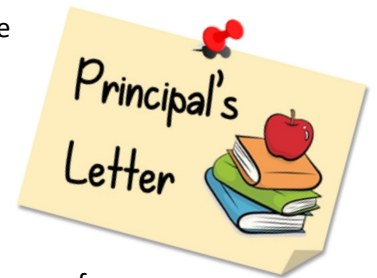
February 2020



Catholic Schools Week 2020
January 26 – February 1



Another month flew by here at SMCS! We just ended Catholic Schools Week and one of my favorite things we do for CSW are the family shields. Each one is so different but conveys some of the same messages, family, faith, service, and education! I am so proud of our St. Mary family. We are all working for the same thing: education in a nurturing environment focused on academics, faith and service.



Every day I am blessed to see students and families in car line, classroom, and in the community. What a blessing it is to be able to see SMCS work, play and pray!

This month we celebrate Valentine's Day and I think about one of my favorite quotes from one of my favorite saints, Saint Teresa of Calcutta,

"Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love."

A smile is a such small gesture that makes a huge difference!

Thank you for making SMCS your school family!

In This Issue

- Mark Your Calendar [Page 2](#)
- Special Feature: Spotlight on St. Mary Curriculum [Page 3-5](#)
- Steps for Students [Page 6](#)
- Registration Information [Page 7](#)
- Morning Prayer and Mass Leaders Schedule [Page 8](#)
- Track and Field [Page 9](#)
- Eucharistic Minister Training [Page 10](#)


Mrs. Halbardier





MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Date	Time	Activity
February 10-14	All Week	Free Dress Week - Steps for Students <i>Refer to pages 43-44 of the parent handbook for free dress guidelines</i>
February 14	11:00am 7:00-11:00pm	Show Your Love for SMCS Tailgate Party - See page 6 K of C Ladies Auxiliary Valentine's Dance Fundraiser - See page 10 for details
February 15	6:30am 4:30pm	Steps for Students - See page 6 for details 5 th Anniversary of Ordination Mass and Reception for Deacon Andy and Deacon Russ
February 17	All Day 6:00pm	Presidents' Day, No School, and Teacher In Service Day School Board Meeting - Library
February 19	3:30-4:30pm	First Junior High Track Practice - See page 9 for details
February 20	All Day	Go Texan Day and Chili Cook Off - <i>Dress in Western Wear</i>
February 21	9:00am 3:30-4:30pm	Class (Full Dress Uniform), Staff, and Sports Picture Day First Elementary Track Practice - See page 9 for details
February 22	9:30am	First Reconciliation Service for 2 nd Graders Who Have Completed the Preparation Classes
February 23	After 10:15am & Noon Masses	Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Lunch Benefitting the 8 th Grade Trip to Washington, D.C. - in Cargill Hall
February 25	All Day	Pajama Day for All Grades
February 26	8:30am	Ash Wednesday Mass (Full Dress Uniform)
February 26-28		Elementary Science Fair
March 1	After 8:30am & 10:15am Masses 10:15am	Gala Preview Day - See page 8 for details First Sunday Mass
March 5	All Day	Archdiocesan Elementary Science Fair
March 6	Lunchtime 2:00pm	Parent Pizza Luncheon - Order Form and Information Early Dismissal, No Club Meetings
March 7	9:00am - Noon	Eucharistic Minister Training - See page 10 for details
March 9-13		Spring Break

Check the online calendar at stmarylc.org for the most up-to-date information.

Spotlight on St. Mary Curriculum

The following pages include a brief summary of what is covered in different grade levels at St. Mary. For more details, please see the information sheet available outside each classroom.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Pre-K3: Taught by degreed and certified teachers, the St. Mary Pre-K3 program offers families flexibility to enroll children in a 3-day or 5-day program offering both half- and full-day options. The students develop a foundation for reading through the "Happily Ever After" curriculum along with engaging centers and plenty of structured and unstructured play. They work on handwriting skills with the "Writing Our Faith" series, which is used throughout the early childhood and lower elementary classes. Pre-K3 students attend music and art.

*"We had such a great experience with my son in Pre-K that we knew exactly where to go when it was time for my daughter to start preschool. The class size is great, and my children always felt special and welcome walking through the hallways. They don't feel like just a number, they are an important part of the St. Mary family."
- Monica Horn, parent of child in Pre-K4*

Pre-K4: As students move up to Pre-K4, a 5-full-days program, students focus more on adjusting to school routines and becoming more independent. The reading skills improve through phonics and sight words practiced as a group while also offering a highly individualized program through appropriate readers sent home daily when the student is ready. Math focuses on counting, patterns, and position words while the students dabble in a little science with a new "All About" unit each week focused on a wide variety of topics. Students visit several centers throughout the day to experience hands-on activities that reinforce the lessons. The children are also taught social skills, respecting others, and resolving disagreements. They learn to reverently make the sign of the cross.

*"I wanted my children to be a part of a school that is filled with not just education, but also building morals and faith as well. I also love that the teachers are so nurturing with their students. They treat each child as if they were their own and build them up on a daily basis."
- Jennifer Crum,
parent of children in Pre-K3 and 1st grade*

Kindergarten: Students are expected to follow rules and procedures and begin completing written work as a group. Their worksheets are sent home daily along with the skills list that the students are expected to master by the end of the year. Teachers update each student's progress regularly so parents can see the progress and know what to reinforce at home. Reading continues as an individualized program, and math progresses to include counting to 100 by 1s, 5s, and 10s as well as introduction to addition and subtraction. Spelling tests begin in the third quarter. Students spend time every day in centers such as Building Blocks, Math, Art, and Reading. They also memorize the Our Father, Hail Mary, a parent's phone number, and the Pledge of Allegiance. And much, much more both academically and socially!

ELEMENTARY

First Grade: In 1st grade students work on greater independence, sit in desks instead of tables, and keep track of many of their own supplies. They continue using the “Writing Our Faith” handwriting books and have daily religion lessons. Vocabulary is a regular subject in addition to the S.T.R.E.A.M. topics. Reading fluency continues through both guided and independent reading, and the students engage in a writing workshop to develop writing skills. Math includes mastering addition and subtraction as well as word problems. Students attend music, art, PE, and technology.

Second Grade: Reading development continues for 2nd graders with both fiction and non-fiction genres. They learn grammar, spelling, phonics, vocabulary, and the writing process. Math dives deeper into more topics including time, money, measurement, algebra and geometry concepts, and more. Science Fair participation is required in 2nd grade and thereafter. Religion class includes being part of the Saints Museum and writing in Gratitude Journals. They begin cursive handwriting.

Third Grade: Students become more independent thinkers, readers, and writers at this stage. In 3rd grade they start to “read to learn” and focus on applying comprehension skills in all subject areas. Multiplication and division facts and skills are used as the basis of the expanding math curriculum. Writing, grammar, and vocabulary are taught hand-in-hand. The students engage in service projects as a class.

“This year my kids are the happiest and most eager to learn that they’ve ever been in school. I’m so glad we switched to St. Mary. I truly appreciate how effortlessly the teachers and administration make everyone feel welcome and valued because I’d never experienced that before. The academics are exactly what I expected, and I’m especially impressed with the way faith has been incorporated in the music and art classes.”
- Susie Jacobs, parent of 1st & 3rd graders

Fourth Grade: This year students will work hard and play hard. Three novels are read and discussed as a class alongside grammar and vocabulary lessons. Math covers fractions, long division, decimals, and more. Science includes lots of hands-on lab work. 15 hours of service is required of students each semester. Homework is given on a nightly basis. Each student uses a binder to learn organizational skills, and they begin to learn to take notes and to study for tests.

“It’s evident that the teachers truly love and care about our children. They go the extra mile to make sure our children succeed. We also really like the student to teacher ratio. We know our kids are getting the attention they need. The academic material taught by the school is very challenging and seems to keep our children ahead of the game. Because of these things our children’s academic performance is outstanding. SMCS offers a family-like community.”

- Lauren Taylor, parent of children in Kinder and 3rd grade

Fifth Grade: In this final year of elementary school, students are prepared for the transition to junior high through increased expectations regarding independence, organization, and quality of work. The class will read four novels and continue to learn grammar and vocabulary. Work is expected to be completed in readable cursive handwriting. The students receive science enrichment through STARBASE and Camp Kappe. 5th graders will learn the geography and history of the United States and perform at least 30 hours of service during the year.

JUNIOR HIGH

St. Mary junior high is taught departmentally by an experienced staff that places high expectations on the students while teaching them to develop the skills they will need to succeed in high school and beyond. Students are responsible for using RenWeb to check their assignments and view their grades. They are also expected to read the teachers' Friday Letter online. Each student is provided with an email address and is encouraged to email their teachers directly when they have questions.

Notes are taken in all academic classes, and the strategies and structure for such is taught starting in 6th grade. Homework is assigned on weeknights and weekends. Nine-weeks exams are administered in core academic classes at the end of each quarter.

At least 20 hours of service per semester is required, and a presentation related to the services performed will be made at the end of each semester. The emphasis is primarily more on individual service at this level.

Language Arts encompasses reading, advanced grammar, and vocabulary. Each class reads and analyzes multiple novels each year. Students also learn to think critically and to write organized essays.

Junior high math builds upon elementary concepts with larger numbers and more complex critical thinking. It includes introduction to pre-algebra concepts, and in 8th grade two math tracks are offered so that students who are ready to tackle Algebra have that option.

In Science the scientific method is reinforced, and science fair projects are required in the fall semester. All grades complete hands-on labs and projects.

Social Studies covers Geography, World History, Texas History, and US History over the three years. It often incorporates creative student projects.

Junior high students also receive graded instruction in Spanish. They have a weekly Technology class that teaches them to be proficient in MS Office products as well as proper usage of the Internet as a resource. Music, art, and PE round out the junior high schedule.

"We have felt very fortunate to be able to watch our children grow and thrive at St. Mary. Our oldest son is in the 6th grade this year. It has been a huge advantage for him that he be in an environment where there are clear, enforced rules about being responsible for your work, where high expectations are set for staying organized and performing well. Even more critical is that this increase in responsibility and expectations is delivered in an environment where the students know that while there are consequences for not meeting expectations, they are loved and respected. The transition to Jr. High came with an increase in workload from 5th grade to 6th grade. To our minds as parents it was not unreasonable, but it was a change that came with frustration and self doubt about being able to succeed. Watching our son push through this change and challenge has been really wonderful. He knows now that he can do hard things, in fact he can do lots of hard things! We are proud to see our son's self-confidence grow, we love to watch him enjoy the lifelong friendships he has built and we are grateful for the incredible support of the teaches and administration who take the time to understand each student so they can help them achieve their very best.

- Amanda Acevedo, mother of students in 6th and 2nd grades

February 15, 2020

Fundraising Goal: \$15,000
ACHIEVED! It's not too late, go to www.steps4students.org to register today!

STEPS FOR STUDENTS 5K RUN/WALK

Current Fundraising Total: \$17,555

Top Fundraisers: Top Girl(s): Penelope and Victoria Hermosa, Top Boy: Michael Richards

Incentives:

Classes with **100% class participation** will choose either a Pizza Party, Ice cream Party or Donut Party
Top Fundraising Boy and Girls will get a \$25 gift card and 5 free dress passes

Individual Students who raise....

\$25- Will get an Ice Cream Pass

\$50- Will get a Taco Tuesday Lunch on February 24

\$100- Will get Movie and Pajama Pass

\$200- Will get to participate in a Pizza Party and Open Gym Pass afterschool for February 21

Last Day to fundraise to be considered for incentives is February 13 by 7:00pm!

School Wide Incentives:

For earning \$10,000 all students will get free dress for the week of **February 10-14!**

We will also have a tailgate party to prepare for the event on **February 14**. **All students will join us for the on-campus party** with a pep rally, live DJ, games, and a cookout for lunch!

Tailgate Party Schedule:

- **11:00am - Noon:** Cookout Lunch - hamburgers and hotdogs provided by the school
- **12:15 - 12:45pm:** Pep Rally including a dance from the spirit squad and the pig race (for classes with 100% participation)
- **1:00 - 1:30pm:** Dancing (DJ), games, popcorn, and snow cones
- **1:30 - 2:30pm:** Color Walk - Students that registered to "walk" or "snooze" for Steps for Students will get to participate in a color walk, where they will have colorful powder thrown at them as they walk around campus! Students can wear free dress bottoms and their white Steps for Students t-shirt.

The day of the race, please come find the SMCS tent where there will be games, snacks, and a photo booth!



SPAGHETTI LUNCH

February 23, 2020

After 10:15 and Noon Masses

Eat in or take it to go!

Tickets \$8.00 per plate.

This event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and benefits the 8th grade class trip to Washington, D.C.

Thank you for your support!



Congratulations to our students who placed at the Archdiocesan Junior High Science Fair!

Ewan Schwanbeck - 2nd Place, 7th Grade Physical Science

Julissa Lamboy - 3rd Place, 7th Grade Physical Science

Brooke Fledderman - 1st Place, 8th Grade Earth Science



FUNDRAISING



Here's a reminder about our EASY fundraising opportunities!

- **Kroger Community Rewards** - 3-5% of your purchase goes to SMCS. Go to [Kroger Community Rewards](#) to sign in/create a new account, and select organization number UV373.
- **Amazon Smile** - Navigate to smile.amazon.com, select St. Mary Catholic School as your charitable organization and a percentage of your purchase goes to SMCS.
- **Lunch Ice Cream Sales** - Ice cream is available for purchase every day during lunch for 75¢ each. Proceeds benefit the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.
- **Clipping for Cash** - Download the Box Tops® for Education App on the App Store or Google Play and scan your receipt! Visit BTFE.com for more details!



With the funds raised from our Boon Supply Fundraiser, we were able to purchase the following items for our school: archery equipment, volleyballs, foam frisbees, measuring tape (for track), beginner shotputs and discuses, stopwatches, mini parachutes, and playground balls!



2020-2021 School Year

Register Early and Save!

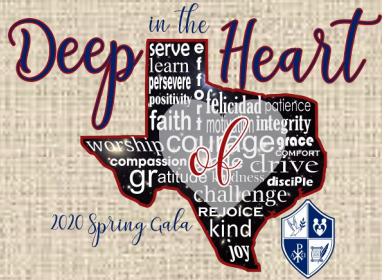
Click [HERE](#) for Returning Student Registration

Click [HERE](#) for New Student Applications

- Families who register by **February 18** will receive a \$75/student discount off registration fees. SMCS will pay the FACTS enrollment fee.
- Families who register by **March 24** will receive a \$50/student discount off registration fees. SMCS will pay the FACTS enrollment fee.
- **All Registration fees must be paid by May 1**
- **Registration is online again this year!**

Tuition and fee details, registration information, payment schedules, and more are available online [here](#). The online process will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Contact [Janet Ellison](#) in the school office (281-332-4014) with any questions.

St. Mary Spring Gala April 18, 2020



**March 1, after 8:30am and
10:15am Masses**

Come to Cargill Hall to preview several of the items that will be auctioned off at the Gala! Gala and raffle tickets, and sponsorships will also be available. Donuts and Coffee will be provided.

We need auction items! Please consider donating an item to our school auction. Here are a few ways that you can help:

- ◆ Consider approaching places that you frequent such as, dance schools, wineries, museums, restaurants, hair and nail salons, spas, gyms, movie theaters, the possibilities are endless! Many business owners are happy to make a monetary or service donation.
- ◆ Do you own a business? Consider donating an item or service that can be auctioned.
- ◆ Does your family have a beach/lake house or timeshare that you could offer for a weekend or week?
- ◆ Do you have any hobbies - are you an artist, chef, or have a craft? We appreciate all donations of your time and talents!

Please contact [Patricia Richards](#) (214-674-6827 text or call) with any ideas, questions, and comments or to sign up to join the Auction Team!

Spelling Bee Winners

Third through eighth grades hold classroom spelling bees, and the top students from those compete in the St. Mary elementary and junior high bees. The winner of each of those bees goes on to the Archdiocesan Spelling Bee.



Elementary Spelling Bee

- Winner:** Mia Alvarez
Runner-Up: Eric Sanchez
Participants: Austin Ellison
 Lorelei Jones
 Jacob Steinberg
 Amy Vadhera
 Tabitha Wright
 Kara Battle
 Meghan Dennis
 Juliet DeLaRosa
 Kaylee Lopez
 Alessandra Sanchez

Junior High Spelling Bee

- Winner:** Miguel Sequeira
Runner-Up: Rebecca Peterson
Participants: Michelle Cerda
 Pedro Sequeira
 Jessica Smith
 Anna Lucia Arguello
 Michael Richards
 Brenna Fledderman
 Carmichael Mauricio



<i>Week</i>	<i>Class Leading Morning Prayer</i>	<i>Class Serving at Friday Mass</i>	<i>Class Singing at Friday Mass</i>
February 3-7	Mrs. Mellado's 3 rd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th Grade
February 10-14	Ms. Matthew's 3 rd Grade	5 th Grade	4 th Grade
February 18-21	Mrs. Rivet's 2 nd Grade	2 nd Grade (all)	3 rd Grade (all)
February 24-28	Mrs. Carr's 2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade (all)	2 nd Grade (all)
March 2-6	Mrs. White's 1 st Grade	Kindergarten (all)	1 st Grade (all)



Register now for the upcoming track season!

Track and Field

- ◆ Open to Junior High and 5th Graders
- ◆ Practice Mon., Wed., and Thurs., 3:30-4:30pm
- ◆ Practices begin **February 19**
- ◆ \$125 fee to participate




Elementary Track

- ◆ Open to 3rd and 4th graders and any 5th graders who do not want to compete at the JH Level
- ◆ Practice Fridays, 3:30-4:30pm
- ◆ Practices begin **February 21**
- ◆ \$50 fee to participate



All athletes must have a current physical form on file to participate! Pick up after practice is at the back of the school. Please bring a water bottle, change of clothes, and athletic shoes to every practice. Meet dates and locations TBD.

[Registration forms](#) and [physical forms](#) can be found on the school website. Contact [Coach De Leon](#) with any questions. Go Bobcats!

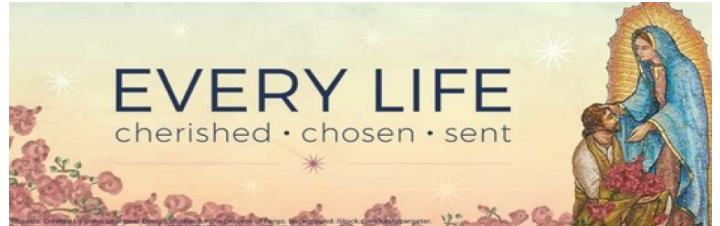



Happy Birthday

February 15 Mrs. Richards
February 24 Coach DeLeon

Respect Life Committee

St. Mary of the Expectation Catholic Church



St. Mary's new Respect Life Committee met for the first time on January 27th, and the new group got off to a great start. They aim to bring more awareness of pro-life issues to St. Mary parish, including highlighting ministries the pro life office of the Archdiocese supports, the Gabriel Project, local pregnancy centers, and starting new local activities. Upcoming events include:

- ◆ **March 31 from 7-8pm:** Adoration hour dedicated to life in the St. Mary Chapel
- ◆ **April 4 from 8am-1pm:** 5 hour block of time at Planned Parenthood to pray for an end to abortion

October is Respect Life month and the group is planning activities to be announced soon. Watch the St. Mary's Church bulletin for upcoming Life events. For up-to-date information, they also maintain a [page on the church website](#).

Resources

ParentsWeb (FACTS, grades, lunch ordering)
stmy-tx.client.renweb.com/pwr

Teacher's Friday Letters
<http://stmarylc.org/createnews/important-links-for-fast-access/>

Safe Haven Training
<https://galvestonhouston.cmqconnect.org/>

St. Mary Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/stmarylc

Bobcat Buzz Archives
stmarylc.org/the-bobcat-buzz

THANK YOU

- ... Howes, Smith, Acevedo, and Richards families for speaking at weekend Masses during CSW
- ... Mrs. Acevedo, Mrs. Cheney, Mrs. Panes, Mrs. Hermosa, Mrs. McClure, and Mrs. Smith for helping with the Junior High Showcase night
- ... Mr. Fledderman and Mrs. Ellison for coaching the basketball teams
- ... The Spirit Squad for showing their school spirit during our boys' and girls' basketball games
- ... Laura Battle for serving as the administrator for the SMCS Facebook page



Save the Dates!

Already thinking about and planning your summer vacation? Please add the week of **June 22-26** to your calendar for Vacation Bible School. Join us for our initial planning meeting which will be held **February 12, at 7:30pm** in the school library.



March 7, 9:00am - Noon
Meeting Room #1

Have you thought about becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC)? Please join us at the next training session on March 7.

Qualifications include: must be a confirmed Catholic, over 18 years of age, and either unmarried or in a valid Catholic marriage. For more information, please contact **Fritz Claydon (fclaydonuh@gmail.com)**.

Once trained, you are able to serve as a EMHC for Friday school Masses! Contact [Mrs. Halbardier](#) for more information.





\$35 Couple
\$20 Single



Valentine's Day
Dance

FEBRUARY 14, 7:00PM – 11:00PM
CARGILL HALL
St. Mary Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus #9310
Scholarship Fundraiser

Join us for a fun night of dancing and fellowship with friends. Bring your own beverages. Light snacks will be provided. For tickets please contact **Linda Lozano (281) 910-5142**.



Join in some school spirit and Spring Break fun!

Whether you are traveling far and wide or staying home to relax, take a picture in your Bobcat Spirit shirts and send to Laura Battle (laura.battle@me.com) to upload on our Facebook page!