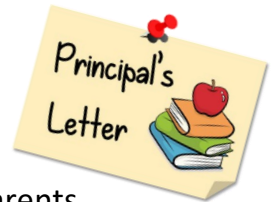


May 2020



Hello Bobcats!

Well, we made it! It's the last few weeks of the school year! I am so proud of all the work that you, your teachers, your parents and caregivers have put into supporting you with the SMCS Distance Learning Plan! This quarter started like no other in the history of our campus. We all worked together and had things up and running within a couple of days!



Our school community is so strong because we work, play and pray together as a community!

Although we haven't gotten to participate in events exactly the way we planned; I have seen students THRIVE!

I am especially proud of our 8th grade class! They were not able to go to D.C. or participate in things as they had hoped and planned, but they handle themselves with such grace! I know they will continue to be thoughtful students that will navigate high school with a strong sense of who they are, what is right and how to be the best person they can be! Norman, Brooke, Brenna, Jeanette, Carmichael, Luke, Abigail, Adriana, Robby, Trestyn, Kayla, Miguel, Denise, Alec, Courtney, Mackenna, Marianna, Victoria and Taylor, I am so proud of you and look forward to seeing what you accomplish in the future. God bless you, always!



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And much more!



Mrs. Halbardier



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Date	Time	Activity
May 15		Field Day: At Home Edition <i>See details page 4</i>
May 18	8:30am	Morning Prayer — Zoom
May 21	6:30pm	Orchestra Solo Performances — Zoom <i>See details page 5</i>
May 25		School Holiday/Memorial Day
May 26	8:30am	Morning Prayer — Zoom
May 28		Last Day of School <i>Classes will meet for all grades through this date</i>
May 29	9:00am	8 th Grade Graduation Mass
August 7	1:00-3:00pm	Supply Drop Off/Meet the Teacher
	4:00-6:30pm	Supply Drop Off/Meet the Teacher
August 13		First Day of School for 2020-21 School Year

Be sure to check the [online school calendar](#) for the most up-to-date information.

Updates and information can also be found on the [St. Mary Facebook Page](#).

The [calendar for academic year 2020-21](#) is available on the St. Mary web site.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How can I return library books or athletic uniforms or pick up items left at school?

A: There will be a day to pick up items from classrooms, drop off library books, etc. but that has not been scheduled yet.

Q: What about my child's birthday bear?

A: We plan for a book to be donated to the library in your child's name for the 2019-2020 school year, and you can sign up again at no cost for the 2020-2021 school year. If you prefer something else, please contact [Mrs. Pate](#) or [Mrs. Halbardier](#).

Q: How can I or an interested family contact the school over the summer?

A: Email [Mrs. Halbardier](#) or [Mrs. Ellison](#). We don't know yet when the building will reopen, but they will be available to current and prospective families via email and Zoom throughout the summer months.

Q: Can I donate used school uniforms?

A: At this time uniform donations are not being accepted, but we anticipate being able to take them again closer to the start of school in August.

St. Mary Catholic School Distance Learning

The faculty and staff at SMCS have worked hard to transition to a distance learning format, building from the existing resources and enhancing those where necessary. Mrs. Pate, Librarian and Curriculum Coordinator, has provided this summary of our distance learning resources and how they are being used by students and teachers. Please contact Mrs. Halbardier, Mrs. Pate, or your child's teacher for additional information.

Library Resources

- The [library homepage](#) serves as a portal to the learning software, sites, and tools used on campus (Accelerated Reader, Epic! Books for Kids, Mathletics, Starfall, and many more!)
- The online resources support reading growth and goals by providing an interactive catalog, a digital library, access to online research collections, and software that tracks student accomplishments in both reading and math.



Online Curriculum Resources

- [STEMscopes](#) is an online science learning platform designed by educators at Rice University and used at St. Mary for the past several years. This online tool focuses on engaging students in STEM learning. It is based on a 5E method of learning: Engage, Explore, Elaborate, Execute, and Evaluate. STEMscopes provides a curriculum, lessons, hands-on experiences for students, digital simulations, and assessments.
- [Mathletics](#) is a web site used from Kindergarten through 8th grade both at school and at home to supplement the math curriculum. It is highly individualized learning that the students love! Teachers can assign modules to students to reinforce lessons they are teaching, and the students can also use it for enrichment if they are ready for more challenging content. The subscription lasts year-round, so students are encouraged to use it during breaks and over the summer to keep up their math skills.
- [BrainPop](#) - Our BrainPop subscriptions include BrainPop, BrainPop Jr., BrainPop Español, and BrainPop Français. These all include topics that spread across most subjects, including Math, Science, Social Studies, Music, and more. Teachers have sent the log-in information for BrainPop to students who require it.
- [Code.org](#) lessons are available to students as young as first grade as they have started to learn coding concepts in technology classes. Distance learning has provided the opportunity for students to proceed at their own pace in this area.



Mathletics

Brain
POP

FACTS

- [FACTS SIS \(formerly RenWeb\)](#) is our family portal, which parents are familiar with using for ordering lunches and checking financial transactions with the school. Parents can also check their child's grades to find averages and any missing work.
- FACTS has become a central part of the distance learning plan with teachers of all grades and all subjects uploading lessons, activities, assignments, and homework for the classes they teach.

Zoom Video Conferencing

- Zoom Video Conferencing is an application that allows for small and large groups of people to connect via video and audio conferencing.
- SMCS has a paid account with Zoom that affords additional security measures, which are enhanced with SMCS's own policies regarding Zoom meetings between students and staff:
 - ◆ All meetings are password-protected
 - ◆ SMCS has two teachers at every meeting
 - ◆ All meetings are recorded - including video, audio, and chat messaging - and kept on file
 - ◆ SMCS utilizes the Zoom "Waiting Room" feature, which requires the Teacher/Meeting Leader to identify users in the Waiting Room and authorize their attendance prior to entering the meeting.



Virtual Field Trips

- Virtual field trips are Zoom-based interactive chats that introduce "field trip" activities and learning to students from their own homes. Our students have already had the opportunity to "visit" Indonesia to learn about Komodo Dragons, and to "visit" the Eric Carle Museum in Massachusetts and learn about his illustration and writing process. More virtual trips are planned!
- Some trips are shared with students from other schools, but others, such as our Wolves of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, are unique to SMCS.

Book Clubs

- "One Book" clubs, divided by age group, have been coordinated with our students. We currently have four clubs focusing on different books, which are available as multi-user licensed e-books so that each student may have and read a copy, then meet to discuss and expand their reading experiences.



You are invited to participate in Virtual Field Day on **Friday, May 15!**

How will this work?

- [Download event cards](#) and begin practicing and gathering supplies from around the house. No need to go out to the store to buy equipment.
- Families can compete in as many events as they would like.
- On Friday, May 15, St. Mary Bobcats will put on their Field Day shirts, participate in events at home, and complete the score card with the chosen events.
- Time spent doing Field Day activities may be counted on your learning log.
- Regular classwork or Zoom sessions may still take place that day, so please confirm the schedule with your individual teachers.
- Have fun and be sure to send your photos to [Coach De Leon!](#)



Did you take some great pictures during the 2019-20 school year and are willing to share them for the yearbook? Please submit any potential yearbook photos via email to your child's homeroom teacher. Thank you for your time and assistance in helping to create school memories for our students!



Registration


- ➔ **Last chance for Registration Discount!** Registration for the 2020-21 school year is ongoing. Register via the [Family Portal](#) by **May 15** to receive a \$50 discount per child!
- ➔ **School tours are happening!** Any families interested in learning more about the school can call 281-332-4014, [email Mrs. Halbardier](#), or [complete the online form](#). They will be contacted by the school to schedule a phone or Zoom meeting/tour.

Supply Kit Orders

Deadline: Friday, June 5

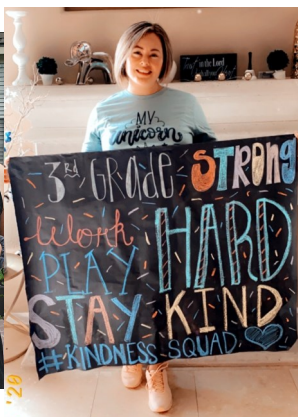
- ➔ **Teacher Tailored Supply Kit orders** are placed online at www.shopttkits.com using account number 67020. These kits will be delivered to the school. 
 - ➔ **You are welcome to purchase supplies on your own.** [Supply lists](#) are available online. August 7 will be the date to drop them off at the school.
- Contact [Mrs. Ellison](#) with any questions.




 You're invited to...
St. Mary Orchestra
Solo
Performances
Thursday, May 21 at 6:30pm
Zoom Meeting ID 960 6504 8732
 Watch and listen to students in 1st-7th grades who have worked hard all year under the tutelage of director Mrs. Miller!


St. Mary of the Expectation Parish Updates

- Details regarding resuming limited Mass in the church starting May 10 are on the [parish web site](#).
- Virtual Mass will continue to be offered. It is available for streaming as of Saturday evening via the [website](#), [Facebook page](#), and the [YouTube channel](#).
- The obligation to attend Mass remains suspended by Cardinal DiNardo.
- St. Mary day chapel is open Monday-Thursday from 9:00am-3:00pm and Friday 12:00-3:00pm for personal prayer.
- The [parish bulletin](#) has continued to be published weekly and is available online.
- Fr. Howard posts a daily reflection on the [St. Mary parish Facebook page](#).





School At Home

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Thanks to all who have supported the school's fundraising events! Here are the results:

Good Neighbor Program	\$54.27
Schlotzsky's Spirit Night (12/1/19)	22.83
Box Tops (summer/fall 2019)	56.00
Box Tops (winter 2019/spring 2020)	157.70
Kendra Scott Fundraiser (1/8/20)	529.92
Kroger Community Rewards	295.98
Steps for Students	26,055.00

St. Mary Annual Gala Update

SMCS extends our deepest appreciation to all of the donors who contributed early or donated their raffle ticket purchase price. SMCS is safe-keeping those donations and will use them for a future event.

For any questions related to donations or class baskets purchases/donations, please contact [Patricia Richards](#) and [Laura Halbardier](#).

THANK YOU

- ... **St. Mary Parents** for working so well with the teachers to continue schooling through May
- ... **St. Mary Faculty & Staff** for adapting to new ways of teaching and keeping our kids' learning going
- ... **Mrs. Berbarie** for making masks for the St. Mary faculty & staff
- ... **The Krebsbach family** for helping bring "Alycat" author Alysson Bourque for a virtual visit.
- ... **Mrs. Gardner** for managing the Box Tops for Education program this year
- ... **The team who coordinated First Sunday Mass** this year.



A special thank you to **Mrs. Fledderman**, who has spent countless hours over the past 5 years serving as an editor of Bobcat Buzz. She has been instrumental in making this newsletter what it is today. She will be greatly missed!



May 30	Ms. Richardson
June 8	Mrs. Field
	Mrs. Wright
June 21	Sra. Santiago
June 27	Mrs. Pate
June 29	Mrs. White
	Mrs. Carr
July 9	Mrs. Neschich
July 21	Mr. Bartosh
July 26	Ms. Matthews
August 2	Mrs. Gilmore
August 18	Mrs. Rios
August 27	Mrs. Whatley



EARN MONEY FOR SMCS DURING DISTANCE LEARNING AND SUMMER BREAK!

Download the Box Tops® for Education App on the App Store or Google Play and scan your receipt! All qualifying items will automatically be logged and the money donated directly to the school.



Visit BTFE.com for more details.



Ministry Building Construction Begins!

The groundbreaking ceremony for the St. Mary ministry building was held on March 8. Construction is ongoing at this time. The Walker Street entrance to the school's front parking lot may be closed at times, so vehicles will need to enter via Texas Ave. in that case. The entrance to the back lot by Cargill Hall will remain open.



Art Projects

CMG
CONNECT

Safe Environment Online Training

Complete the online Safe Environment training NOW to be ready for next year!

- All adults who have regular contact with students including those eating lunch on campus, visiting the classroom, volunteering at school, driving for field trips, etc. are required to have Safe Environment training every 5 years.
- Access the online training program at CMG Connect.



Bobcat Fall Sports

August ~ October 2020

The following sports will be offered this coming fall. All paperwork (sports physical, registration form, athletic handbook form, and sports fee) must be turned in before the first practice. All [forms](#) are available on the school website under athletics.

Cross Country: Grades 5-8

- Open to students in grades 5th - 8th
- Will participate in a minimum of three meets, typically on Saturdays at different locations around the Houston area

Soccer - Co-ed

- Open to students in grades 5th - 8th
- Games will be Tuesdays and Thursdays

Volleyball - Girls

- Open to girls in grades 4th - 8th
- Games will be Mondays and Wednesdays and a few Fridays for Varsity

For more information contact [Coach De Leon](#).

Congratulations, Class of 2020!

TAYLOR ALBERT



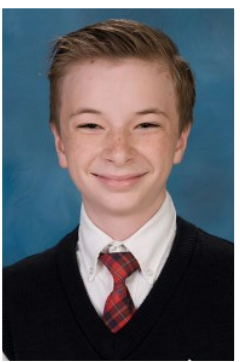
Years at St. Mary: Mother's Day Out-8th

High School: O'Connell College Prep

Taylor looks forward to meeting new people in high school, new learning opportunities, and social

activities. She says she will miss the amazing staff at SMCS and the students who made her experience fun and enjoyable. She will also miss her class who made every day special and exciting. Taylor's favorite memories at St. Mary include seeing her best friends everyday, joining clubs, and taking part in the school plays. Taylor plans to live the school motto "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve" as she moves on to high school by serving others and the Lord by and helping those in need and helping people grow in their faith.

LUKE BANFIELD



Years at St. Mary: K-8th

High School: Friendswood HS

After graduation from SMCS, Luke says he will miss the school's yearly traditions and the small environment, but he looks forward to new opportunities and classes to take in high school.

Luke's favorite memory from St. Mary is winning the Spirit Stick at Field Day in 2017. He says he will live out the school motto as he moves on to high school by continuing to be kind, serving others, and being eager to learn.

ABIGAIL ANDERSON

Years at St. Mary: 1st-8th

High School: Incarnate Word Academy

When she leaves SMCS, Abigail says she will miss the people, the teachers, and the memories she's made, but she looks forward to meeting new people

and making new friends in high school. Abigail's favorite memory from St. Mary is going on a 6th grade field trip to the downtown Aquarium and riding a Ferris wheel for the first time with her classmates and Mrs. Rios. Abigail plans to live out the school motto by putting others before herself and serving God. She says she will lead others and never forget her experience at St. Mary.



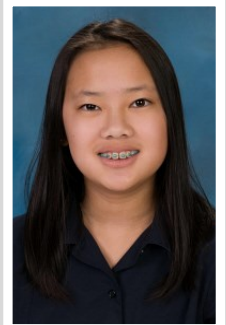
MARIANNA BELISLE

Years at St. Mary: 6th - 8th

High School: Incarnate Word Academy

After graduating from St Mary Catholic School, Marianna looks forward to going to high school and continuing her Catholic education.

She says she will miss all the teachers and friends she has at SMCS. Her favorite memory is when she first joined St. Mary in 6th grade and how welcoming all the students in her class were. Marianna says she will live the school motto "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve" by always being ready to help people, no matter the time or place.



MACKENNA BESSLER



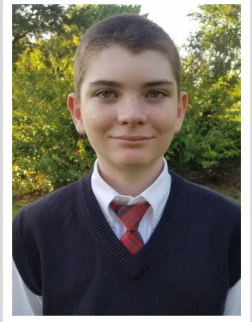
Years at St. Mary: 8th

High School: Friendswood HS

Mackenna says she will miss the intimacy of the small class sizes at St. Mary but she is looking forward to opportunities to play sports and meet new people at a bigger school.

Her favorite memory of SMCS is setting up and hosting the haunted house for the school Halloween Carnival. Mackenna intends to live the school motto, "Enter to learn, leave to serve" by continuing service to others and preparing for her sacrament of Confirmation.

NORMAN BOETTCHER



Years at St. Mary: K-6th, 8th

High School: Clear Creek HS

Norman says he will miss spending time with his SMCS friends and our annual Field Day.

In fact, his favorite memory is placing in the top 3 at Long Jump

on Field Day. Norman looks forward to his future after St Mary Catholic School and hopes to become a Texas Game Warden some day. He plans to carry the school motto with him even into his later career by serving the community and making sure people follow the fishing and hunting laws.

Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve

ADRIANA CERDA



Years at St. Mary: 5th-8th

High School: Incarnate Word Academy

Adriana says she will miss the kind people at St Mary Catholic School, but she looks forward to meeting new people in high school. Her

favorite memory from SMCS was when she came to the school in 5th grade and met everyone. When she moves on to high school, Adriana plans to continue living out our school motto, "Enter to learn, leave to serve" by doing service for others and applying what she has learned at St. Mary to all she does.

BRENNA FLEDDERMAN



Years at St. Mary: 3rd-8th

High School: Friendswood HS

After graduation, Brenna is looking forward to many new opportunities

in high school including taking German, playing sports, and joining clubs. She is happy to be joining her

sister and her cousin as they leave SMCS and move

on to high school together. Brenna says she will

miss all the friends she made at St. Mary, singing in

the choir, going on field trips, and playing for her

coaches and with her friends. Brenna's favorite

memories from SMCS include winning volleyball

championships, winning the Archdiocesan Science

Fair, playing a Roman soldier in The Way of the

Cross, being the Bobcat mascot at several pep

rallies, and playing with the younger students.

Brenna plans to live out the school motto by

serving others through coaching youth sports.

BROOKE FLEDDERMAN



Years at St. Mary: 3rd-8th

High School: Friendswood HS

After graduation, Brooke is looking forward to playing sports, meeting new people, and the variety of classes that high school has to offer. She says she will miss

playing sports with her friends and coaches at St. Mary, and she will miss all the students and especially those in her class. Brooke's favorite memories at SMCS include winning volleyball championships, going to Camp Kappe, making it to the basketball playoffs, and winning the Archdiocesan Science Fair. Brooke says she will live out our school motto by volunteering her time and living a life of faith.

COURTNEY HALE



Years at St. Mary: Pre-K 3-8th

High School: Lutheran South Academy

Courtney says she will miss the great teachers, great friends, and fun activities that St. Mary provided her while she was a student, but she looks forward to her future with colligate and career aspirations. Courtney's favorite memories at SMCS were all of the Field Days she got to participate in over the years. She plans to live out the SMCS motto "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve" by working to help others.



VICTORIA HERMOSA



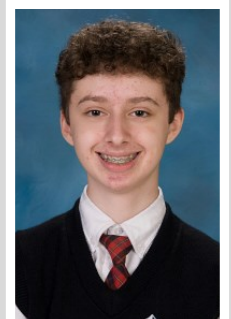
Years at St. Mary: 7^h-8th

High School: Incarnate Word Academy

Looking to life after SMCS and beyond high school, Victoria would like to go to a great college and eventually medical school. She says she will miss the friends

she made at St. Mary. Victoria's favorite memory of the school is the Steps for Students tailgate color run—she says she loved being a part of the joy the younger students had as she and her classmates threw the powder on them. Victoria hopes to live out the school motto by leading others and growing with God.

ALEC HRDINA

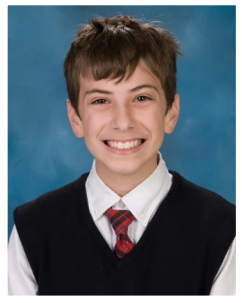


Years at St. Mary: K-8th

High School: Dickinson HS or homeschool

Beyond his future at SMCS, Alec is excited about the new clubs and activities available in high school and later in college. Alec says the things he will miss the most about St. Mary include the Catholic culture and teachings integrated into the school and going to Mass every week. His favorite memory of St. Mary is going to the Renaissance festival with his class. Alec says he will live the school motto by volunteering in the community and helping those in need.

ROBERT JONES



Years at St. Mary: 5th-8th

High School: undecided

Looking forward to life beyond St. Mary and later high school, Robert longs for days with less homework. However the thing he will miss the most about SMCS

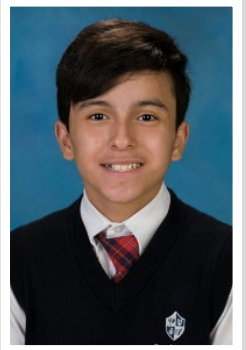
are the wonderful teachers and his fellow students. Robert says his favorite memory at the school was when he first arrived and got to know everyone. He plans to live the SMCS motto "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve" by studying hard in high school and being a valuable employee at his first job.

CARMICHAEL MAURICIO

Years at St. Mary: 8th

High School: CCISD

Anticipating the opportunities of high school, Carmichael says he will enjoy taking classes in things he is passionate about and making new friends. He will, however, miss seeing all the nice and friendly people at St. Mary. Carmichael's favorite memory at the school is helping out at the Halloween Carnival. He intends to carry the school motto with him and continue to do more community service and volunteer work in high school.



Enter to Learn



Leave to Serve

KAYLA ORSAK



Years at St. Mary: K-8th

High School: Clear Creek HS

After graduation, Kayla looks forward to new people and experiences as she moves on to high school. The thing she will miss the most about SMCS is her

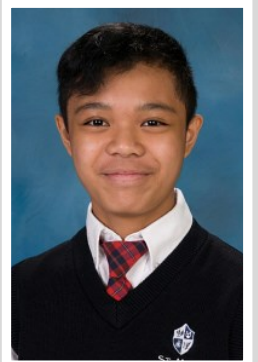
teachers, and going to Mass as a class on Friday mornings. Kayla says that one of her favorite memories at St. Mary is going to Camp Kappe in 5th grade. Kayla intends to live the motto "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve" by continuing to find ways to serve others.

TRESTYN PANES

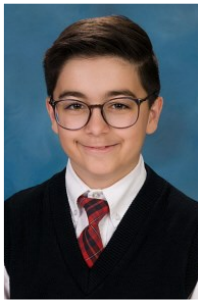
Years at St. Mary: 1st-5th, 7th-8th

High School: Clear Falls HS

Trestyn says he will miss the friends he has made and the people he met at St. Mary Catholic School, but he looks forward to the public high school and what that has to offer. One of Trestyn's favorite memories at SMCS was the last day of 7th grade when his class got to hang out playing cards and watching movies. The school motto will guide Trestyn in the future as he shows faith and kindness to the people he meets.



MIGUEL SEQUEIRA

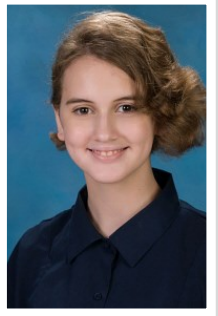


Years at St. Mary: K-8th

High School: St Thomas HS

After graduation, Miguel is looking forward to getting to know new people and do new things. He says he will miss his friends and his teachers. Miguel's favorite memory from his time at St. Mary Catholic School was winning the Spelling Bee in 5th grade and how he was excited to represent the school at the Archdiocesan level. Miguel plans to continue the spirit of service and love of learning beyond his days at SMCS.

JEANETTE SMITH



Years at St. Mary: Pre-K-8th

High School: Clear Springs HS

After graduation, Jeanette looks forward to focusing more on her artistic career. She says she will miss the small class sizes and the teachers at St. Mary Catholic School. Jeanette has many good memories from St. Mary but one of her favorites is performing in Seussical the Musical last year as the Cat in the Hat. She says that was a really fun role to play and helped her study more of musical theater. Jeanette says she will live out our school motto by furthering her education and continuing to make service part of her everyday life.

DENISE TWARDOWSKI



Years at St. Mary: 5th, 7th-8th

High School: O'Connell College Prep

Denise will miss the teachers and the memories she created at St. Mary Catholic School, but says she is looking forward to new adventures in the future. Her favorite memory is participating in the Halloween haunted house and putting together the event with her classmates. Denise loved seeing the expressions on the younger student's faces when they went through it. She says she will carry the SMCS spirit of service with her as she heads to high school.



ST. MARY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Congratulations, Class of 2020!