

September 2019



Wow, what an AWESOME start to the school year! Students were excited to see their friends, and the campus is full of laughter and learning once again! We started the year off with our first Mass celebrating our patron saint - the Mass of the Assumption of Mary.

There are lots of exciting things going on this year!

For starters, we have a few new teachers, Mrs. Miller (music and art), Mrs. Rivet (2nd grade) and Mrs. Mellado (3rd grade)!

We continue to upgrade our technology curriculum and hardware! We have 35 new tablets, updated internet and have transitioned to Microsoft 365 for teachers and student use!

There are many opportunities for students to join clubs for fun, fellowship and learning. This year SMCS will offer:

- Orchestra
- Theater
- Chess Club
- Soccer Shots
- Robotics
- Spirit Squad
- Crochet Crew
- Games Club
- Sports Club
- Volleyball
- Cross Country
- Basketball
- Track

There are always so many new things going on here at SMCS! It is a blessing to be a part of the SMCS Community! I can't wait to share more with you next month in the Bobcat Buzz! Go Bobcats!

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And much more!



Mrs. Halbardier





MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Date	Time	Activity
September 4		Star Base - 5 th Grade - Ellington Field - <i>Click here for general information on Star Base.</i>
September 6	Morning	School Pictures, Full Dress
September 6	5:30 PM	Junior High Social
September 9 - 13		Clubs Begin! - See Page 4 for more details
September 10	3:15 PM	Tutoring Begins
September 10	3:15 PM	Soccer Shots First Class - <i>Registered Students Only</i>
September 11		Star Base - 5 th Grade - Ellington Field
September 12	1:30 PM	Room Parent Meeting - Library
September 13	3:15 PM	Musical Theater Auditions
September 16	6:00 PM	School Board Meeting - Library
September 18		Star Base - 5 th Grade - Ellington Field
September 18	All Day	MOD Pizza Fundraiser - See Page 7 for more details.
September 20	3:15 PM	Musical Theater Auditions
September 24		Star Base - 5 th Grade - Ellington Field
September 27		No School - Conference Day
October 2	7:45 AM	Blessing of the Animals - See Page 5 for more details.
October 2	2:00 PM	Early Dismissal
October 6	Noon	First Sunday Mass & Bobcat Sundaes/Pizza Social - <i>Social immediately following mass. More details to come.</i>
October 13		Church Bazaar - <i>Volunteers and donations needed for the Cake Wheel and Spin A Toy booths. More details to come.</i>

Mass Leaders Schedule

Friday, Sept. 13	5 th Grade
Friday, Sept. 20	4 th Grade
Friday, Oct. 4	3 rd Grade
Friday, Oct. 11	2 nd Grade

Mass Leaders will serve as the choir this year!

Students serve at Friday Mass by welcoming attendees, lecturing, taking up the gifts, and as altar servers. If your child is a trained altar server, [contact Mrs. Croniser](#) to have him/her added to the schedule for the Friday Masses.

Morning Prayer Leaders

Sept. 9-13	5 th Grade
Sept. 16-20	4 th Grade
Sept. 23-26	3 rd Grade - Mrs. Mellado's Class
Sept. 30-Oct. 4	3 rd Grade - Ms. Matthews' Class
Oct. 7-11	2 nd Grade - Mrs. Rivet's Class

Students in the class leading morning prayer need to be in Cargill Hall by 7:40am. The teacher will contact you ahead of time if your child needs to practice a speaking part. Parents are always welcome to attend!



Junior High Students learning about Vocations from Fr. Howard

Uniform Reminders

- ◆ Belts must be worn by 1st-8th graders when their pants/shorts have belt loops.
- ◆ Extra large headbands with ears, unicorn horns, top hats or other accessories that are not part of the uniform are not allowed.



CMG
CONNECT

Safe Haven Online Training

VIRTUS training is being replaced with CMG Safe Haven online training. This program consists of 3 vignette-style online training videos and includes a criminal background check. **Live training will no longer be offered. All Safe Environment training will only be available online.**

- All school volunteers, chaperones of field trips, and others who have regular contact with students (eating lunch on campus, visiting the classroom) are required to have Safe Environment training.
- **All up-to-date VIRTUS trained individuals are covered with their training.** The 5-year anniversary date is still valid - when your anniversary date is met, you must go through CMG Safe Haven training.
 - ◆ As the VIRTUS 5-year anniversary date is met, you will need to log in to [CMGConnect](#) with your previous VIRTUS user ID and 1234 as the password.
- **All new (non-VIRTUS trained) volunteers or regular visitors will complete the Safe Haven online training program instead of VIRTUS PGC training.** You can access the training program at [CMGConnect](#).



Welcome back to School! We have a few friendly reminders as we are getting settled into the new school year:

- **Please return all technology, handbook, and emergency forms to the office as soon as possible.**
- The Friday letters, AR book finder, Mathletics, and other important links can be found on the school website or by clicking [here](#). Do not forget to check the Teacher Friday letters. They contain a lot of important information about what is going on in your child's classroom(s) each week.
- **Cell phone usage is prohibited while driving in the school parking lots.** Please be respectful and courteous to one another.
- **Car line and prayer start earlier this year.** Teachers will start helping students get out of their cars at 7:35. Prayer starts at 7:45. **If you arrive at 7:50 or later, please drop off your student(s) at the front door of the school.** To ensure everyone's safety, teachers must walk their students from Cargill Hall into school at 7:50.
- **Is it important for all students to attend Mass on Fridays.** If you are running late, bring your student to the office. They will meet with their class after Mass. **DO NOT** drop off the student in the church, it is disruptive to the Celebrant and it creates a safety issue for our students.

CLUBS

St. Mary is offering many after-school clubs this year! Most clubs start meeting the week of Sept. 9. A small fee applies to each, but it will not be due until Oct. 11, so students may try out any of them at no cost before then! Sign up forms and further details are [available on the web site](#).

Musical Theater

Grades: 3rd-8th
Auditions: September 13 and 20
Rehearsals: Mon/Wed 3:15-4:30
Sponsors: Mrs. White, Miss Richardson
Fee: \$100/student



Students are invited to try out for a part in the spring performance of The Little Mermaid, Jr.



Chess Club

Grades: 2nd-8th
Meets: Wednesdays 3:00-4:00pm
Sponsor: Mrs. Bartosh
Fee: \$50/student

Beginners can learn the game and advanced players can perfect their skills with coaching from a professional chess player.

Spirit Squad

Grades: 1st-3rd
Meets: Thursdays 3:15-4:00pm
Sponsor: Mrs. White, Mrs. Keaten
Fee: \$50/student



Share your school spirit through cheers performed at pep rallies and elsewhere.



Crochet Crew

Grades: 3rd-8th
Meets: Fridays 3:15-4:00pm
Sponsors: Mrs. Gilmore, Mrs. Keaten
Fee: \$50/student

Students (and parents!) crochet or loom knit hats to be donated to the church and to hospitals. Students can earn service hours.

Sports Club

Grades: 2nd-5th
Meets: Fridays 3:15-4:00pm
Sponsor: Coach De Leon
Fee: \$50/student



Students will develop fundamental skills for volleyball, soccer, basketball, and track & field.

Engineering Club

Grades: 2nd-8th
Meets: Thursdays 3:15-4:00pm
Sponsor: Mrs. Pate
Fee: \$100/student



Work in teams with LEGO Mindstorm or WeDo robots. Parent coaches welcome!

Board Games Club

Grades: 3rd-8th
Meets: Thursdays 3:15-3:45pm
Sponsor: Mrs. Pray
Fee: \$50/student

Students will play board games with each other.

Sign Language Club

Grades: 1st-8th
Meets: Mondays 3:10-4:00pm
Sponsor: Miss Matthews
Fee: \$50/student



Students will learn American Sign Language. Each week will have a different theme!



Orchestra

Grades: Kindergarten-8th
Meets: Mon/Wed/Thurs 3:15-4:00pm
Sponsor: Mrs. Miller
Fee: \$100/student

Beginner and experienced string players. Limited Space - send in your form today!

Extra-Curricular Activities Schedule

MONDAY

3:10-4:00pm
Sign Language Club (1st-8th)

3:15-4:00pm
Orchestra (Kinder-8th)

3:15-4:30pm
Musical Theater Rehearsal (on non-volleyball game days)

TUESDAY

3:15-3:45pm
Tutoring (Kinder-8th)

3:15-3:50pm (ages 3-5)
4:00-4:35pm (ages 3-5)
4:45-5:25pm (ages 5-8)
Soccer Shots

3:15-4:45pm
Volleyball Practice

WEDNESDAY

3:15-4:00pm
Chess Club (2nd-8th)

3:15-4:00pm
Orchestra (Kinder-8th)

3:15-4:30pm
Musical Theater Rehearsal

NOTE: Clubs generally do not meet on early dismissal Wednesdays.

THURSDAY

3:15-4:00pm
Engineering Club (2nd-8th)

3:15-4:00pm
Spirit Squad (starting Oct 3)

3:15-4:00pm
Board Games Club (3rd-8th)

3:15-4:00pm
Orchestra (Kinder-8th)

3:15-4:45pm
Volleyball Practice

FRIDAY

3:15-4:00pm
Crochet Crew (3rd-8th)

3:15-4:00
Sports Skills Club (2nd-5th)

Call the school office at 281-332-4014 to inquire about joining any of these activities!

NecessiTees

Need a new Spirit Shirt for your Bobcats?
SMCS Spirit Store is now online! Visit [NecessiTees](#) to browse all Bobcat related merchandise, including Spirit Shirts, for students and the whole family.



All families are invited to bring their pets and well-loved stuffed animals for a special blessing on October 2. **We will start promptly at 7:45am** at the front of the school. For students not accompanied by parents and pets, carline will begin at 7:30am and students will report directly to their classrooms. At 7:40am, teachers will take them to the front of the school. Parents, be sure to bring your child directly to their teacher after the blessing. Please try to get to school early that day so that your child(ren) do not miss out!

Advocacy Center for children of Galveston County

This year St. Mary Catholic School has partnered with Candy Hattingh at The Advocacy Center for Children of Galveston County to bring a new child abuse prevention program to SMCS. The curriculum used is "Happy Bear" for Pre K3 - Kindergarten students, and the "Play it Safe!" program for grades 1-8. The hour long session is scheduled for October.

Permission slips and more information will be sent out in the coming weeks.



For more information, visit:

<http://www.galvestoncac.org/training-and-prevention>.



September 29

Mrs. Gonzalez



St. Mary Catholic School is excited to host Soccer Shots at our campus this fall! Soccer shots is a program for kids 2 - 8 years old that focuses on character development as well as basic soccer skills and more.

Fall 2019 Season starts September 10

WHERE: St. Mary Catholic School
WHEN: Tuesdays September 10 - December 3
 Times vary by age group
GRADES: Prek-K 3 - 2nd
COST: \$168

Enroll in classes [here](#).



PACK 554



BOYS and GIRLS
Kindergarten thru 5th grade
 are invited to join Cub Scouts
Sign Up Night Coming Soon!

Contact [Ben Peterson](#) for information.



BOYS or GIRLS
6th thru 8th grade

interested in Scouts BSA Troops —
 contact [Ben Peterson](#) for information.

Bobcat Fall Sports



2019



VOLLEYBALL

All Varsity Volleyball games begin at 4:30pm, except where noted below.

***C-Team plays at 4:30pm, Varsity at 5:00pm.**

- Sept. 9 Home vs. OLF, Texas City
- Sept. 11 Away vs. True Cross
- *Sept. 16 Home vs. St. Clare
- Sept. 18 Away vs. St. Pius V
- *Sept. 20 Home vs. St. Augustine
- Sept. 23 Away vs. St. Joseph
- *Sept. 25 Away vs. Queen of Peace
- *Sept. 30 Home vs. Mt. Carmel
- Oct. 2 Away vs. OLF, Texas City
- *Oct. 4 Home vs. Mt. Carmel
- Oct. 7 Home vs. True Cross
- *Oct. 9 Away vs. St. Clare
- *Oct. 16 Away vs. St. Augustine
- Oct. 18 Home vs. St. Joseph



CROSS COUNTRY

- Sept. 7 Bellaire Invitational
- Sept. 13 Houston Christian Academy
- Sept. 21 Second Baptist - Soaring Eagles Meet
- Sept. 28 Westbury Cross Country Classic
- Oct. 5 St. Thomas Episcopal



****Schedules are subject to change.****

FUNDRAISING

Looking for easy fundraising opportunities? There are many options available for fundraising this year:

- **SMCS PE and Athletics**—Take a look at our Boon Supply page! 50% of every order goes directly to SMCS PE and Athletics [SMCS Athletics Boon Supply Page](#)
- **Kroger Community Rewards**—Earn money for SMCS while shopping for groceries! 3-5% of your purchase will go to SMCS. Go to [Kroger Community Rewards](#) to sign in/ create a new account, and select organization number UV373. Be sure to click “Enroll”!
- **Amazon Smile**—Do you order from Amazon? Select St. Mary Catholic School as your charitable organization and a portion of your orders will go to SMCS. Be sure to navigate to [smile.amazon.com](#) in order for your purchases to qualify.
- **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**—Box Tops® for Education is changing this year! You can now download the Box Tops® for Education App on the App Store or Google Play and scan your receipt!



The old pink box tops are still available to clip out and bring into the school, but they will be phased out. Visit [BTFE.com](#) for more details!



MOD BATTLE of the SCHOOLS FUNDRAISING COMPETITION



VS

True Cross Catholic School - 9/19

MOD Pizza Bay Colony
2945 Gulf Freeway S, Suite F
League City, TX 77573

Come out and raise money for SMCS!

Each school receives 20% of sales.

The school that raises the most money will receive an additional 10% of sales.



Follow St. Mary Catholic School on Facebook!

Click [here](#) to join the St. Mary School Facebook page and keep up-to-date with school news!



THANK YOU

- ...The Osterberger Family for power washing the front of the school
- ...Mrs. Neschich and her son Zach for taking drone pictures of the school and car line
- ...The Richards Family for donating tablets to SMCS
- ...Mrs. Battle and Mrs. Crum for serving as PSA Leaders this year