

Good afternoon St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School family,

This school year, you will be receiving an email from me on Thursdays containing information about school events for the following week. I have an alarm set on my phone to send the email out before 2 P.M., if that will help you find it in your inbox.

The format for the weekly newsletter will be pretty dry and informational, but don't worry! Twice a month, we will also send out the fun newsletters with the pictures of how our students are doing in their classrooms.

Here is all the news there is to know for the upcoming week:

- **August 17 is a 2 P.M. dismissal.** Students may wear blue jeans and our new spirit shirts on Friday. The blue jeans must be blue (not white, pink, black, etc.) and neat, free of any holes or tears or fraying. If you need to exchange your shirt, please contact Mrs. Valladares at [valladares@smmcs.org](mailto:valladares@smmcs.org). I have attached an order form to this newsletter if you would like to order additional shirts. Reminder: any student not picked up by 2:20 P.M. on Friday will be sent to the P.R.I.D.E. Academy.
- **August 17, by 2 P.M.** ~ all Immunization Records and physicals dated after June 1, 2018, must be turned into Nurse Myriam. If the records and/or physicals are not received, your student(s) will not be allowed into school on Monday until the forms are turned in.
- **August 18, 9 A.M. - Noon, St. Mary's Hall ~ PTO Used Uniform sale** If you have any used uniforms you would like to donate, you can drop them off in the Front Office tomorrow (Friday, August 17) and they will be included in the sale on Saturday.
- **August 18, Noon - 2 P.M., Max Bowl ([2390 Wilson Rd, Humble TX 77396](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2390+Wilson+Rd,+Humble,TX+77396/@29.998,-95.278,15z))** ~ Please make plans to join us for our annual **New Family/Ambassador Mixer** where we welcome all of our new families to the SMMCS family. We are still looking for a few more families to be Ambassadors to our newest members. Please contact Jenee Homer if you would be willing to help with this awesome program.
- **August 20, 6:30 P.M., Library** ~ Our PTO will be a committee-based system this year. The first meeting for **all committee chairs** will be on Monday evening. Please use the outside Library door to enter. This is the Walk Up dismissal door across from St. Mary's Hall.
- **August 23, 6 P.M., St. Mary's Hall** ~ The **Room Parent Meeting** will be held at least twice a year. The meeting on Thursday evening will cover a lot of information for the fall semester. We will try to keep it to about an hour, so please be on time.
- **August 24 ~ Fall Sports registration forms due.** Please submit the forms to Coach Walsh.
- **August 31 ~ Signed handbook acknowledgements** are due at the school. The acknowledgement is the last page of each handbook.

The first few days of school have been great, but we have a couple of reminders for everyone:

1. We only have one "Walk Up" door during arrivals in the morning. All Walk Up families park in the lot between the church and the school. *Please do not park in the Handicap Parking spots unless you have the appropriate license plate or hang tag.* Walk Up students must be walked to the courtyard entrance. Only K3 and K4 parents may walk their little ones into the building to the classroom.
2. The safety of our students is very important to us, so no one should be parking in the parking lot outside of the Front Office and crossing traffic to enter the building. We don't want anyone struck by a car that is pulling away from the curb.
3. If you have paperwork to drop off (for Nurse Myriam, Coach Walsh, P.R.I.D.E. Academy forms, handbook acknowledgements, etc.) please have your student bring it straight to the front office when they walk into the building. I will make sure it gets to the proper person.
4. Sometimes you have to pick up your student before dismissal. When you pick up a student before dismissal, the teacher has to stop instructions and send three students to the front

office. Of course, one of the students is yours, but the teacher also has to send two more students so they will have a buddy walking back to class. Our students are not allowed to go anywhere in the building without a buddy. If you need to pick a student up early, please pick them up 20 minutes before dismissal (before 3 P.M. on regular dismissal days, before 1:40 P.M. on 2 P.M. dismissal days and before 11:40 A.M. on Noon dismissal days). We understand that early dismissals can't always be avoided because doctors' hours are what they are. I think I can speak for the teachers when I say we *deeply* appreciate keeping those interruptions to a minimum.

5. If you do not have a car tag number with you at dismissal, you will need to come to the Front Office to pick up your student. The teachers will not be allowed to give students to anyone without a car tag. If you need additional car tags, please send me an email at [smckinney@smmcs.org](mailto:smckinney@smmcs.org) and I will order the additional tag(s) for you. The car tags are \$10 each. Once I receive them from our company, I will send them home with your youngest student. I will then make an Incidental Charge to your FACTS account for the tag(s).

Over the summer, I was able to update the calendar on our website ([www.smmcs.org](http://www.smmcs.org)) with all of the dates for early dismissals; Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring breaks; the Christmas program and the Talent Show; Cub Scout and Girl Scout meetings; . . . you get the idea. Once you are on the website, there is a small bar across the top of the screen. Click on "School Calendar." All of the entries on the calendar will be kept up-to-date. If you have a question about an upcoming event, you can check the calendar and obtain information about it by clicking on the event itself. All of the information will be available even if the office and school are closed!

One of my hats at school is that of VIRTUS Coordinator. I make sure any adult who is interacting with our students has successfully completed the VIRTUS training and back ground check. If you want to be more involved with your student's SMMCS experience, you must be VIRTUS certified. We have several classes being offered throughout the Archdiocese and I would strongly suggest you take the class as soon as possible. Once your attendance at the three hour Protecting God's Children has been verified, the Safe Environment Office will begin your background check. The process will take between 6-8 weeks and must be completed before you will be allowed to be around the students. (Do it now if you want to attend the Halloween parties!) If you need assistance in registering for a VIRTUS class, please contact me and I will be happy to assist you.

We are always looking for substitute teachers every year. The state of Texas does not require substitute teachers to have teaching certificates, so anyone can sub for us who is VIRTUS trained and has completed the paperwork with the Catholic Schools Office. You can start the process at <http://www.choosecatholicschools.org/employment-opportunities/>

We have a terrific group of young ladies who play a fierce game of volleyball, but they are in need of a coach this year. If you are interested, please contact Coach Walsh at [twalsh@smmcs.org](mailto:twalsh@smmcs.org). Not only do you get to work with these fantastic girls, the hours you coach will go towards reducing your Family Involvement Commitment balance!

Mrs. Hughes, our P.R.I.D.E. Academy director, is looking for additional employees to assist with our new after school program. This is a part-time position and the hours are flexible, but you must be VIRTUS trained.

Does your student want to help the school by being a Safety Patrol member? This group of dedicated students helps ensure the safety of their fellow students during arrivals and/or dismissals. Please see Coach Walsh for an information packet if you are interested.

If your student will be receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion this school year, you should be receiving information about classes and times from Mike Smith, the Pastoral Associate for Formation. Sacraments are administered by the church, not the school. Mr. Smith can be reached at [msmith@st-mm.com](mailto:msmith@st-mm.com).

I know this first email is a little long and chatty but we had a lot to cover. I promise to try and keep the ones after this much more succinct!

Thank you for trusting us with your child. We look forward to a productive year with you and your family.