



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

NEW STUDENT NEWSLETTER- WINTER 2018

Dear Parents: As we get back into the swing after the holidays, we want to keep you abreast of the major dates and events that are coming up during the winter months. As usual, more details will be sent home each Friday in the Weekly School Bulletins, but we like to extend a special invitation to our new families and provide some useful tips as you participate for the first time. Following are some highlights. [Click here](#) for the full school calendar.

Important Dates:

January

- | | |
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| 12 | Second Quarter Ends |
| 15 | No School; Martin Luther King Day |
| 16 | Preschool-7th Grade 2017-18 Yearbook Orders Due |
| 16 | Third Quarter Begins |
| 19 | Community Prayer Walk |
| 20 | Pre-Auction Mixer (Kindergarten-2nd grade, but open to all) |
| 26 | Re-registration for Current School Families Begins (for 2018-19 school year) |
| 28 | Catholic Schools Week Begins |
| 30 | Open House for Prospective Families |

February

- | | |
|----|--|
| 2 | 12:00 NOON Early Dismissal; Raising Cane's Fundraiser |
| 4 | Used Uniform Sale sponsored by HSA |
| 5 | Community Prayer Team Meeting |
| 6 | Open House for Prospective Families |
| 9 | Pre-Auction Mixer (grades 6-8, but open to all) |
| 16 | Re-registration for Current School Families Ends (for 2018-19 school year) |
| 19 | No School; President's Day |
| 26 | Spring Enrichment Clubs Begin |

Event Highlights:

2017-18 Yearbook Orders

Don't forget to order your Yearbook by January 16. Pay at the school office by cash or check (made payable to St. Mark Catholic School with "Yearbook" and your child's name/homeroom teacher on the memo line), OR [click here](#) for electronic payment (select the "Memory/Yearbook" option and indicate your child's name/homeroom teacher in the "Comments" section).

Community Prayer Team - Prayer Walk and Meeting

Join other parents and the St. Mark Community Prayer Team for a Prayer Walk on Friday, January 19 at 7:50 AM by the Narthex. Walk the perimeter of the school praying for students, staff and clergy. The next Community Prayer Team meeting will be held on Monday, February 5 at 8:00 AM in Room 116. For more information about the St. Mark Prayer Team, [click here](#).

Pre-Auction Mixers

Get to know fellow parents by attending a Pre-Auction Mixer! These parties serve to generate excitement about the Annual Auction. **Parents attending the Pre-Auction Mixers will have an opportunity to vote on/rank a list of items helping determine how 2018 Auction dollars will be used. After all mixers are complete, the final decisions will be announced by Mrs. Opon. You must attend a mixer to receive a voting/ranking ballot.** Please note: You don't have to have a child in the grade levels outlined below to attend that mixer. All mixers are open to everyone, so if you miss your grade-level event, just pick another one!

Save the Dates:

***K-2 Mixer: January 20, 2018 @ the Herrera home in McKinney**

[RSVP Here](#)

***6-8 Mixer: February 9, 2018 @ the Velasquez home in
Plano**

[RSVP Here](#)

Tip: At the Pre-Auction mixers, coordinate with other parents to organize your Auction table, plan bidding strategies for "big ticket" items like group trips and large kids' parties, and just get to know each other.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week, the annual nationwide celebration of Catholic schools, will be held January 29- February 2. We have many fun activities and events planned throughout the entire week. [Click here](#) for complete information.

Tip: Be sure to make plans now to attend the Family Day lunch on Tuesday, January 30. Bring lunch for your child(ren), visit the classroom Open House, Student Art Show, and the Lion's Den Spirit Store. New this year, Kendra Scott jewelry will be for sale benefiting the 2018 Auction. It's a wonderful community event!

2018 Open Houses & "Come and Play Days"

Do you know anyone interested in a Catholic education for their Preschool-8th grade child? Please invite them to attend an upcoming Open House or "Come and Play Day." Pre-registration is now available at <http://www.stmcs.net/open-house-tours>.

OPEN HOUSES:

January 30, 2018
9:00-10:00 AM, School Cafeteria

February 6, 2018
6:00-7:30 PM, School Library

March 27, 2018
8:00-9:00 AM, School Library

April 24, 2018 - Early Childhood Education (PK-K)
5:30-7:00 PM, Early Childhood Education Building

COME AND PLAY DAYS:

Individual families and playgroups are invited to play on our playground, enjoy a snack, meet our teachers, learn about our Preschool and Kindergarten programs, and get a sneak peek inside our Early Childhood classrooms.

Tuesday, March 20, 2018
9:00-10:30 AM

Wednesday, April 11, 2018
9:00-10:30 AM

Tip: As a St. Mark family, you are eligible to receive a gift certificate to the Lion's Den Spirit Store for referring a tour or Open House visit. If the family you refer attends St. Mark, you could also be eligible for a [\\$500 tuition credit!](#)

Re-Registration for Current Families

This is your opportunity to reserve your child's spot for the 2018-19 school year. Watch the Weekly School Bulletins for complete instructions.

Used Uniform Sale

Kids growing out of their uniforms? The Home and School Association is hosting a Used Uniform Sale on Sunday, February 4 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the Lion's Lair Gym. Stop by after Mass and pick up a few items to carry them through the rest of the year. Gently used uniform donations are being accepted in the school office between now and February 2.

Tip: Bring your child along to try on uniforms.

Half Days are Cane's Days at St. Mark!

Every Friday that St. Mark has early dismissal throughout the year, Raising Cane's, located across the street from the school, will donate a percentage of each purchase back to St. Mark's Athletics

Department. Simply mention St. Mark as you place your order. The next Cane's Day is Friday, February 2. Treat your children and raise money for the school!

Extra-Curricular Activities & After School Enrichment Clubs

Haven't registered your student for an extra-curricular activity yet? There is still time! Some activities take registrations year-round. [Click here](#) to learn more about the activities offered at St. Mark. Feel free to contact the coordinator of each activity directly (indicated on their dedicated web pages), or call the school office for more information.

Also, please keep an eye out for more information about our [Spring Enrichment Clubs](#). These clubs offer a variety of after-school activities for students of all ages. They are facilitated by St. Mark staff, and the majority are provided to St. Mark families at no charge. More details and sign-up information will be made available soon via email and the Weekly School Bulletin.

Tip: These activities provide the perfect opportunity for your child to continue learning while building friendships after school.

Home & School Association

Contact HSA President Jill Dourty at dourtyj@gmail.com to learn more about the many volunteer opportunities available to parents.

Before You Volunteer - Anyone wishing to volunteer at St. Mark must first complete Safe Environment Training and sign a Volunteer Pledge Form ...

[Safe Environment Training](#) - Prior to volunteering at St. Mark, all volunteers must complete Safe Environment Training, which is required by the Diocese of Dallas. [Click here](#) for details.

[Volunteer Handbook](#) - Please read the [St. Mark Volunteer Handbook](#) and sign the Volunteer Pledge Form on the last page. The form must be submitted to the school office prior to the first day of volunteering.

Tip: Volunteering through HSA is another great way to get to know other parents and serve the school, plus our children reap the benefits!

For more information about anything going on at St. Mark, visit our website at www.stmcs.net. As always, please feel free to contact your Host Family or the school office if you have additional questions. We are always here to help!

The St. Mark Staff

St. Mark Catholic School is a two-time recipient of the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Award. This means that our students consistently score in the top 15% in the nation on standardized tests.



Follow us and stay connected!



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