

NEWSNOTE

DECEMBER 4, 2024

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Dear SME Family,

One of the goals we have at St. Mary’s is to offer a Catholic education in our safe, secure, private setting to any family that is interested. Partnering with donors, fundraising chair people, and others in our community at large, St. Mary’s works tirelessly to keep our tuition rates as affordable as possible. A **very important** piece of our financial puzzle is hosting successful fundraisers..

So that we will be able to finalize tuition rates that show just a minimal or no increase for the 2025-2026 academic year, we are asking all SME families to purchase or sell a calendar for our **2025 Calendar Club** fundraiser and purchase or sell tickets for the **12 Days of Christmas** raffle. Information for both fundraisers was sent home last week, and we thank those who have already returned purchased ticket stubs and/or have requested numbers for their calendars.

Because we have limited annual fundraisers and no longer host events such as a candy sale or golf tournament, it is of the utmost importance that the fundraisers we still do have do well. Also, it is worth noting that **100% of the profits made from these fundraisers are added directly to our school’s** budget, meaning that our students benefit from the success of these events. We cannot mandate participation in fundraisers, but we do ask all families to participate so that both fundraisers successfully help defer the cost of our children’s education.

Thank you so much for your consideration and participation.

Mr. Olejniczak.



Thank you to all the families that so kindly supported our Thanksgiving food drive! We were able to donate about **854 items** to the St. Mary’s Food Basket ministry & the pantry at St. Martha’s. An extra special thanks to our 8th graders for organizing and delivering all the items! Your generosity made the holiday season a little easier for our neighbors in need.

UNIFORM DRIVE

Starting 12/5/24 we will be launching our **School Uniform Drive!**

We invite everyone to come in and browse through our uniform bins. Feel free to take as much or as little as you’d like! We have all different sizes/styles available to choose from!

Our goal is to *narrow down* our inventory to only a few bins!

The uniform bins will be available everyday **M-F** during school hours. The bins will be set up on tables outside the main office and remain available until our goal has been reached!

We welcome you to stop by at your convenience. Thank you for your continued support!



FINANCES

We are excited to share that our new email contact will be available to assist you with any inquiries.

Please direct all further questions/concerns regarding financial services to the email below:

**finances@smeschool.com**

Thank you!



JESSE TREE

**Advent is quickly approaching and begins the weekend of November 30 - December 1.**

Your children/teens are invited to sign-up to hang Jesse Tree Ornaments on the Jesse Tree in the church during Masses throughout Advent.

Click the link below to sign your children/teens up to participate in this beautiful St. Mary’s tradition. We need 7 children/teens to help with this at EACH of our 4 weekend Masses.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DA8A72EA4F9C52-53470474-advent>

**If you sign-up, please plan to arrive at Mass at least 10 min early. When you arrive, find an usher in the back of the church (near the main doors) to tell them you are there to carry up an ornament. If you arrive later than 10 min early, your child may lose their spot due to us finding a replacement. Thank you for your attention to this.**

**There is no better place to prepare your children for the celebration of Jesus’ birth than by praying & worshipping together at Mass. O, Come Emmanuel! We hope to see you at Mass!**

We are in need of many volunteers. Thank you for your consideration.



- **Thurs. 12/5** - HSA Merry Moose Shop
- **Fri. 12/6** - Christian Witness Mass 8:30am
- **Fri. 12/6** - **NO AFTER-SCHOOL CARE**
- **Fri. 12/13** - Living Nativity 6pm
- **Sat. 12/14** - HSA Breakfast with Santa
- **Mon. 12/23** - 1/3 Christmas Recess
- **Mon. 1/6** - School Resumes
- **Fri. 1/10** - Christian Witness Mass @ 8:30am
- **Thurs. 1/16** - Pre-K & Kindergarten Open House 6-7:30am
- **Mon. 1/20** - NO School: M.L.K Day
- **Fri. 1/24** - NJHS In-duction Mass 8:30am



HSA

Merry Moose

We are kicking off the Christmas season at SME with our annual Merry Moose market! Students in grades K-8 will have an opportunity to shop during the school day with their class. Envelopes were sent home earlier this week. Please fill out the envelope so shopping helpers know who the kids are buying for and how much is budgeted for each gift. Pre-K students can come shop any time, but our little ones require a parent or other adult to shop with them.

The shop will be open on Thursday 12/5 during the school day and in the evening from 5-7pm, as well as on Friday 12/6 from 9am-1pm.

**Any donations of gift tags, tissue paper, gift bags, or wrapping paper can be dropped off in the main office or brought to the event. Thank you!**

If you are interested in volunteering to help out during the event, please sign up here:

<https://2024-sme-hsa-merry-moose-volunteers.cheddarup.com>

12 Days of Christmas

HSA likes to make the holidays extra special for our teachers by celebrating the 12 Days of Christmas! If anyone would like to donate salty snacks, sweet treats, cookies, or cocoa, please sign up using the following link. Your support is greatly appreciated!

<https://2024-twelve-days-of-christmas-faculty-and-staff-appreciation.cheddarup.com>

SME Parent Wear

Show your SME pride with SME Parent t-shirts. Each T-shirt is \$10. Adult sizes small through 2XL available. Sizes are limited to available inventory. Order using the following link: <https://sme-parent-wear.cheddarup.com>

SME Spirit Wear

Need SME Spirit Wear? We’ve got you covered! Each t-shirt is \$15, youth and adult sizes are available. Scan the QR code to order.



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UPON THIS HILL,  
WE DO GOD'S WILL



SPIRIT WEAR

Thank you for your patience as we awaited the fulfillment order of the youth size small Spirit Wear t-shirts. The order has arrived at the school and the inventory quantities have been updated. Please use the link below to complete your purchase:

<https://sme-spirit-wear.cheddarup.com>

Once the payment is received, I will send the shirts home with your student or contact you to arrange pick up later this week/early next week.

RAISERIGHT



OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday 9-12

Wednesday 12-3

Friday 9:30-12

Have you begun making your list and checking it twice?

There are just over **2 weeks left** to place your RaiseRight orders to ensure delivery for Christmas!

You are going to buy that gift anyway, why not give yourself the gift of a rebate on your tuition while you're at it?! Using RaiseRight cards to do your shopping is like the gift that keeps on giving!

With RaiseRights extensive list of vendors the possibilities are endless!



The last day to order to guarantee

Christmas delivery is December 18th!

Last day for order pick up is December 20th!

UNIFORM ORDERS

Uniforms will be available for ordering on a monthly basis! All orders placed within the month-long period will be processed by All-Stars.

Please click the link below to place your order :)

<https://all-stars.printavo.com/merch/stmary-smonthly>



FROM THE ART ROOM

**Square1Art orders placed by 12/4/24 will receive FREE Shipping to your home!**

Hello SME Families!

**Reminder:** Square1Art Sale is still on going, with FREE shipping ending tonight, December 4th.

Ordering is easy, simply search for your child's art using [ArtSearch](#), and enter state, school name, and your student's name, your student's art and code will appear, and you may order!

-or-

use this direct link:

<https://shop.square1art.com/shop>

and the Art Access Code found on the front of your child's custom catalog.

**All orders ship directly to your home.**

Thank you for supporting the Visual Arts at St. Mary's Elementary!



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Mark your calendars, because Santa Claus is coming to ... SME!!!

Our annual Breakfast with Santa event will take place on December 14th in the Parish Center. Doors will open at 8:00 am, and we'll be serving breakfast until 11:00 am. Our pancake breakfast will also come with breakfast sausages and your choice of beverage - coffee, juice, milk. Our guests will also have the opportunity to decorate cookies. Of course, Santa will be joining us from 8:30-10:30 for all picture opportunities and to visit with kiddos, as they share their wish lists with him.

To purchase tickets, please utilize the link below:

<https://sme-breakfast-with-santa-2024.cheddarup.com>

If you're interested in volunteering, please utilize the link below to sign up!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CABAA28A3F4C25-53262042-breakfast#/>

If you cannot volunteer, please consider donating unfrosted cookies, frosting, or sprinkles to help our HSA keep costs down.

Looking forward to seeing you and celebrating the holiday season with our SME School Family.

Merry Christmas,  
Mrs. Claus  
Cindy - 716-602-8932



CALENDAR CLUB



We will once again run the Calendar Club fundraiser for the 2025 calendar year.

With 365 days of prizes there is over \$10,000 to be won!

Upon the receipt of your \$25 donation, your name and number will be registered for all drawings for the year 2025. Winning numbers will be physically drawn monthly at St. Mary's and will be published monthly on the parish & school websites.

8TH GRADE INFO

Don't forget to submit your order forms for sweatshirts and t-shirts by **Friday 12/6/2024!**

Check your email for a message from Mrs. Sullivan detailing specifics!

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Tickets are \$30 each or 3/\$75, available through December 19<sup>th</sup>. Daily cash prizes will be awarded Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Tickets are being sent home with students and will also be available at SME. What a great idea for a Christmas gift!

Winners will be contacted after January 5<sup>th</sup>.

For more information, email [12Days@smeschool.com](mailto:12Days@smeschool.com) or call 716-861-7210.

QR Cheddar-up to purchase:

