

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5 OCTOBER 9, 2019



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

Next Friday night, 10/18, is our My Little Sweetheart Dance. If you have not gotten your tickets yet, please send in your RSVP. We hope to see you at the dance!

We have been practicing our fire drills and will soon be practicing our lockdown drills as well. We have tried to stress the importance of these drills to the students. Parents, please take a moment to reiterate this with your child. We have safety drills to ensure students and staff are prepared to quickly make their way to safety in the event of an emergency situation.

Please remember that there is no school this Friday, 10/11 or Monday, 10/14. Enjoy the long weekend!!

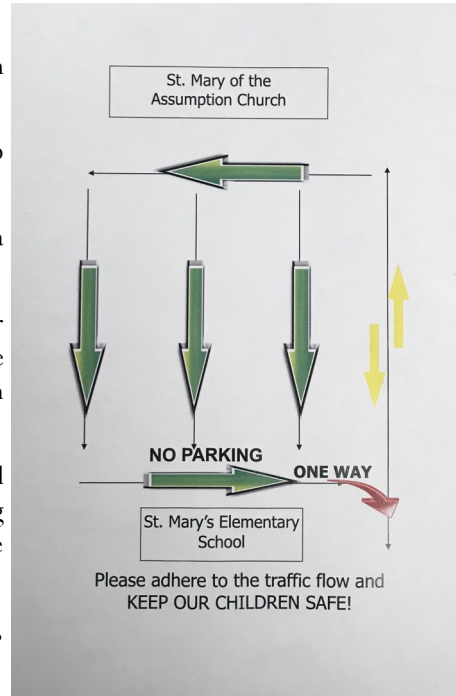
God's Peace and Love,
Mrs. Kwitowski

SAFETY FIRST

We cannot stress enough that the safety of our students (and parents alike) is our top priority!

We ask that you **please** keep in mind the following safety protocols:

- ◆ Use caution and low speeds when traveling through our parking lot.
- ◆ Keep in mind the traffic pattern map included here.
- ◆ At no time should you be passing a school bus with it's lights flashing.
- ◆ When at all possible please have your child exit through the passenger side of the car if you are dropping off in front of the school.
- ◆ If you need extra time for your child to exit the car, please park in a parking spot to avoid the need for any vehicle to move around you to leave.
- ◆ If at any time you have any concerns, please let us know.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 10/11 - No School, Professional Development Day
- 10/14 - No School, Columbus Day
- 10/18 - My Little Sweetheart Dance, 7-9pm
- 10/23 - Progress Report Upload
- 10/24 - School Picture Re-Take Day
- 10/25 - Marathon Pledge Money Due
- 10/26 - Family Fun Night 6-8 pm
- 11/1 - All Saints Day Mass, 8:30
- 11/4 - 1:00 Dismissal, Dress Down Day
- 11/7 - RW&B Dress Down, \$1
- 11/8 - 10:45 Dismissal, Parent/Teacher Conferences 12-6pm

BY THE NUMBERS

SCRIP:

From *October 1, 2019* to *October 7, 2019*, the Scrip rebate profit earned for the school was **\$275.31**. We are just **\$1,224.69** away from our goal this month!

Monthly Scrip Sales Goal	Monthly Scrip Profit Goal
\$30,000.00	\$1,500.00
October Profit-to-Date	Year Profit-to-Date
\$275.31	\$1,088.88

CANDY BAR SALE:

There was a slight delay in the shipment of Gertrude Hawk Chocolate but all backorders were filled and distributed last week.

The stock has been replenished so we have plenty to go out! Be the rock star in the neighborhood & help SME too by giving out big bars for Halloween!

Don't forget... You can earn a bonus dress down ticket for every two boxes of chocolate which are ordered & pre-paid through the end of the month! Tickets will be distributed in November.

MY LITTLE SWEETHEART DANCE

Our Annual My Little Sweetheart Dance will be held next Friday, October 18th!

Any special guy is welcome to attend with their lovely little lady! It is not too late to RSVP! If you are in need of another flyer please contact Amanda Kuhn (secretary@smeschool.com).

Moms, we need your help! Additional hands are needed with set-up, during the event and clean up. If you would like to help that evening please email Amanda.



Congratulations to our Christian Witness Recipients for the month of September.

May you continue to be "...visible examples of Gospel living".



ATHLETICS

Our swim team & the Newman Catholic Swim League fundraiser are teaming up with Andersons Frozen Custard to help raise money for the entire NCSL.

How it works:

1. Visit ANY Anderson's location between 4-8pm on Mon. 10/21.
2. Give the cashier your voucher which you can get at the door/show it on your phone by visiting ncsl-buffalo.org
3. The SME swim team & NCSL will earn 20% of ALL food, dessert & beverage sales.

Discount books are also available for \$4 (containing over \$70 worth of coupons), email sdemarzio1@roadrunner.com for information!

We love to show off our student athletes! If you were able to capture a great photo while cheering on our teams feel free to send them to us! We will post on Facebook &/or the NewsNote as much as possible! Please send your photo to: secretary@smeschool.com, kieriejewskis@smeschool.com & athletics@smeschool.com.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRINCIPALS DESK	1
BY THE NUMBERS	1
SAFETY FIRST	1
CHRISTIAN WITNESS	1
SWEETHEART DANCE	1
ATHLETICS	1
SCRIP	2
VOLUNTEER	2
HSA	2
CAFETERIA	2
PARISH PASSAGE	2
MARATHON	2
SHOPAROO	2
ATTENDANCE	2
EARLY RELEASE	2
	2
8TH GRADE INFO	2
STAY IN THE KNOW	2



ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2 St. Mary's Hill
Lancaster, NY 14086

Phone: 716-683-2112
Fax: 716-683-2134
www.smeschool.com



UPON THIS HILL,
WE DO GOD'S WILL



HELP WANTED

We are trying something new this year to request help with the events that occur at school throughout the year. Please go to the link below for a list of all events where help is needed. Remember, many hands make light work, and so the more people that can help out, the more efficiently the events will run! You are welcome to sign up for as many events as you like. You will receive an email confirmation of the events that you sign up for, as well as an email reminder a week before each event. If you have any questions about using this link, please contact the Events Coordinator at marykate@stmarysonthehill.org



The link will also be available ASAP on the school website, under the Quick Links tab.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4BA5A728ABFA7-stmarys>

SCRIP

When we work together on the \$1,500.00 monthly goal, it is less than a \$200 purchase in gift cards per family, per month, through the Scrip program. Since Scrip cards can be purchased for Tops Gasoline, Tops groceries, Amazon, Tim Hortons, paying your Kohl's bill, etc I am sure we can all find easy ways to help with this goal. Each week we will update what we have sold towards the monthly goal of \$30,000 in Scrip sales. There is a locked box outside the Athletics office so that you can drop off orders whenever it is convenient for you! There is also one in the back of the church.

We thank you for your support in making the Scrip program a success for our school, our Parish and for our children!

Please contact the Scrip office at scrip@smeschool.com to find out how you can support this fundamental program.

Due to popular demand, we will offering 2 Parish Gift Cards Sales again this year: Sunday, November 17th & Sunday, December 8th. Both events will be held in the Rectory from 8:00 - 2:00 each day. Coffee and Timbits will be available. A flyer will be going home as we get closer to the sales.

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HSA)

CRAFT / VENDOR FAIR:

On Saturday, November 9th, our HSA Team will be hosting a Vendor Craft Fair & Spaghetti Dinner from 1-6:00pm.

Vendor Fair admission is \$2

Spaghetti Dinner Tickets are \$8 Presale / \$10 at the Door and will be available until sold out.

If you or someone you know is a crafter/vendor and would like an application, please contact our team at hsa@smeschool.com or Amanda Kuhn at secretary@smeschool.com.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT:

Attn: 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders: We will be having our first planning meeting for the Halloween Carnival on October 10, 2019 from 6-8pm. It's not too late to help out. Email hsa@smeschool.com or call/text 998-6504 for more information. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served.

MERRY MOOSE:

Thank you to those that have reached out regarding helping with Merry Moose this year.

Mrs. Jennifer Carroll is our current chairperson but she needs another set of hands (or two) to join her in coordinating this event.

We will also need many hands during the event to help the children shop & even to help wrap their items.

If you (or even a grandparent) is interested in helping in any way, please contact Amanda (secretary@smeschool.com) and your information will be passed along.

We thank you in advance for your assistance!



Please see the RSVP flyer in your blue folder today for our annual Family Fun Night sponsored by HSA.

CAFETERIA



Our students will continue to go outside for lunch recess until the weather becomes too cool. Please be sure that your child is coming to school in weather appropriate attire to be able to participate.

EARLY DISMISSAL

A reminder to students residing in both Alden & Cheektowaga school districts:

Your district **does not** transport non-public school students on early release dates. Please be sure to make appropriate plans to have your child(ren) picked up at our early release times.

In the event you are unable to secure an early pick up (1:00 dismissal dates only), your child may stay in our after-school care program (free of charge) until regular dismissal time at which time the bus company will stop here. Please send in a note if you will need this option.

After school care does not run on 10:45 dismissal dates.

ATTENDANCE POLICY



Today you will find a copy of our comprehensive attendance policy in your blue folder.

If at any time you have any questions or concerns about this or any of our policies

please contact Mrs. Kwitowski.

SHOPAROO

We have begun a new fundraising option that needs no extra time commitment from you!

All you need to do is download the Shoparoo App and snap a pic of your cash register receipt from a variety of stores. The Shoparoo app is available in the apple store & google play.



For all the details visit shoparoo.com.

If at any time you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MARATHON

The weather didn't get us down, we turned up the tunes and rocked the halls of SME for our marathon this year!

Thank you to all who have already turned in their pledge money. As a reminder all pledges are due back by October 25th. All pledge money received will be utilized to continuously upgrade/update the technology here at SME.



8TH GRADE INFO

High School Shadowing:

All coordinating of shadow dates at any of the local high schools will occur directly with the school(s) of your choice. Please take into consideration any tests that may have been scheduled with any of your child's teachers. A note/email can be sent in ahead of time to advise of the absence.

Catholic High School Application:

As you register your child for a catholic high school, the final step is sending in a signed copy of the application confirmation email. Your signature allows us to forward a copy of your child's first semesters grades to their first & second choice schools.

STAY IN THE KNOW



Save the Date: NO SCHOOL 10/11

Save the Date: NO SCHOOL 10/14

Save the Date: Friday, 10/18, My Little Sweetheart Dance, 7-9pm

Save the Date: Friday, 11/1 All Saints Day Mass

Save the Date: Monday, 11/4 1:00 Dismissal, Dress Down Day

St. Mary's Elementary School

Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy

Statement of Overall Objectives:

School attendance is important to the academic success of each student. Since regular attendance is necessary and essential for student success, and since curriculum is taught sequentially, attendance must be a priority for all parties. St. Mary's, along with parents and students, realizes its importance and shares in the responsibility of maintaining consistent school attendance for all students. St. Mary's School is aligned with New York State Law regarding the matter of attendance. The objectives of this Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy are as follows:

1. To increase school completion for all students.
2. To validate students' compliance of education laws relating to compulsory attendance.
3. To be knowledgeable of the location of every student to ensure personal safety.
4. To identify patterns in student attendance to assist in the development of improvement plans.
5. To raise student achievement and close gaps in student performance.

Strategies to Accomplish Objectives:

St. Mary's School will:

1. Create and maintain a positive school environment among teachers, staff, parents and students thereby fostering a nurturing school community, establishing positive feelings between the school and students, thereby encouraging increased attendance.
2. Maintain accurate record keeping via eSchool attendance register, tracking individual student attendance and trends to identify possible attendance problems.
3. Develop and implement intervention strategies for individual students to increase school attendance.

Determination of Excused and Unexcused Absences, Tardiness and Early Departures:

1. Excused: An absence, tardiness or early dismissal may be excused if due to personal illness, illness or death in the family, impassable roads due to inclement weather, religious observance, doctor/dentist/orthodontist, required court appearances, attendance at health clinics, approved high school shadow days, "Take your Child to Work Day", unavailability of transportation due to school districts being closed, or other reasons approved by the Diocese.
2. Unexcused: An absence, tardiness or early dismissal is considered unexcused if the reason for the lack of attendance does not fall into the above categories (i.e. family vacations, oversleeping, death of pet). Please note that vacations are considered illegal absences from school. Parents should notify the school and teacher as soon as possible

regarding a planned vacation. The school calendar provides extended weekends throughout the school year. Parents are encouraged to schedule trips or family outings during these times so as to eliminate the need to interrupt a child's learning process.

3. Excused absences, tardiness or early dismissals must have proper written documentation from the parent or guardian or other designated officials (i.e. physician, court... etc.) and must be presented to school office personnel within three school days upon the child's return to school. Without the written excuse the absence will be recorded as unexcused (illegal). In addition, a physician's note is required for absences three days or longer. A notation should be made in the records as to the excused reason.
4. A student is considered tardy if not in the classroom at the time the session begins. Teachers must exercise discretion and should always inquire privately into the reason for the tardiness.

The Coding System for Identification of Reasons for Student Absence:

Attendance reports are recorded daily using eSchool Data. The Coding System for Identification of reasons for student absence is provided through the eSchool Data service. Recordable reasons are as follows: attending a funeral, band lesson, bus drill, car trouble, court, death in family, dentist, doctor appointment, family business, field trip, high school visit, home district closed, home tutoring, hospital, illness, illness - no note, impassable roads, in school suspension, injury, late bus, misc. illegal, missed bus, no bus, no note - no reason, no reason given, occupational therapy, orthodontist, out-of-school suspension, out of town, overslept, running late, shadow DP, shadowing, special services, speech, student testing, surgery, take to work day, tardy - no note, traffic, unknown, vacation, weather, weather related daily present, will be late, will not be in, and music lesson.

School Attendance Recordkeeping/Data Collection Policy:

According to the Administrative Handbook for Elementary Schools in the Diocese of Buffalo, under Section E: School Management, the following law is required:

The Education Law of New York State requires minors between the ages of six and sixteen years to be in attendance at an approved school for full day instruction. Home-tutoring for medical reasons is counted toward the days a child is actually in school. The law also requires that schools be in session not fewer than 180 days each year. It is the duty of the principal and of the teachers to insist on regular attendance (New York State Education Law, Sections 3205, 3602, Sub.3)

The law only applies to Public Schools so our school may be in session for less than 180 days.

Pupil attendance shall be recorded daily online via eSchool Data.

The record for each student's presence, absence, or tardiness shall be recorded into the eSchool attendance system each day. Each absence or tardiness will be marked as "excused" or "unexcused" according to the eSchool Data code for the reason.

Attendance is taken and recorded in accordance with the following:

1. For students in non-departmentalized kindergarten through three (i.e. supervised group movement to other scheduled school activities such as physical education, technology, art etc.) such students' presence or absence shall be recorded after the taking of attendance once per school day.
2. For students in departmentalized grades four through eight (i.e. students pass individually or in specific groupings to different classes throughout the day), each student's presence or absence shall be recorded after the taking of attendance in each period of scheduled instruction.
3. Any absence for any portion of a school day will be recorded as "excused" or "unexcused" in accordance with the standards written in this policy.
4. In the event that a student in grades Kindergarten through grade eight is tardy or leaves early from a school day, such tardiness or early dismissal will be recorded as "excused" or "unexcused" in accordance with the standards written in this policy.

A record shall be kept of each scheduled school day during which the school is closed for all or part of the day because of extraordinary circumstances including adverse weather conditions, impairment of heating facilities, insufficiency of water supply, shortage of fuel, destruction of or damage to a school building, or such other cause as may be found satisfactory to the Diocese of Buffalo Department of Schools.

Attendance records will also indicate when a student is dropped from the enrollment due to change of schools for any reason.

Student Attendance/Course Credit:

Students in grades Kindergarten through eighth who are absent 18 days or more (both "excused" and "unexcused" absences) and whose parents have not periodically met with the principal regarding the absences are in jeopardy of being denied promotion to the next grade level.

Students are considered in attendance if:

1. The student is physically present in the classroom or working under the direction of the classroom teacher during the class scheduled meeting time.
2. The student is receiving approved alternative instruction (i.e. at-home tutoring due to medical issue.)

Students who are absent from class due to their participation in a school sponsored activity (i.e. track team event) are to arrange, with their teachers, to make up any missed assignments in a manner and timeline determined by the student's teacher.

Missed assignments due to excused absences may be sent home with a sibling or picked up at a pre-designated time by the parent at the teacher's discretion. It is the responsibility of the student to consult with the teacher(s) regarding completing missed assignments and/or tests in accordance with specifications designated by the teacher.

According to St. Mary's School's Student Handbook, page 20: *"Teachers are not required to give make-up tests or assignments for absences due to vacations or other unexcused absences. No assignment will be given in anticipation of the vacation or unexcused absence. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Please do not ask the teacher to make an exception or offer payment for homework given in advance of an unexcused absence."*

Parent Notification of Minimum Attendance Standard:

Parents and/or legal guardians and students are informed of St. Mary's policy regarding minimum attendance and course credit on page 17 of the school student handbook. The following guidelines will be followed:

1. Overall main points of St. Mary's School's Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy will be stated in the Student handbook distributed to all families at the beginning of the school year.
2. A copy of the policy will be available on the school website: www.smeschool.com.
3. Reminders regarding the components of the comprehensive student attendance policy will be published in school newsletters corresponding with the end of the first and second trimesters. It will also be stated that the policy will be on file in the office for parents/guardians to review at an appointed time agreed upon by their parent/guardian and the administration of the school.
4. A designated staff member will notify the parent/guardian by phone regarding a student's unexcused absence(s) and explain the correlation between the student's attendance and the possibility of denial of promotion. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached by telephone, a letter or e-mail shall be sent to the parent detailing the information. (i.e. date of absence, reason and importance for an excuse and if necessary, the amount of times the particular student has had an unexcused absence, etc.)

Intervention:

1. If deemed necessary by school administration, or if requested by the parent/guardian, a conference will be scheduled between the parent/guardian and appropriate school staff members to address the student's attendance issue and possibly develop appropriate intervention strategies that best meet the needs of the individual student.
2. Regarding intervention of non-compliance with the Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy, a designated staff member will review St. Mary's School's Attendance Policy with the parents/guardians of students who have excessive and/or unexcused absences, tardiness or early departures. Referral to Lancaster Public School District student support services and/or community support services and agencies will be implemented prior to the denial of promotion of the student due to non-compliance with the attendance policy.

Incentives:

The following incentives will be implemented to encourage student attendance. The strategies will include, but are not limited to:

1. Classroom acknowledgement of the importance of good attendance (i.e. certificates, recognition ... etc.)
2. Perfect attendance certificates to be distributed at the end of each trimester or school year.

Disciplinary Consequences:

The following is stated in St. Mary's School's Student Handbook, pg. 16:

"All students must be in his/her homeroom by 8:10 am. Students arriving later will be marked as tardy. Any student who is tardy must be signed in by his/her parent. No student may participate in any extracurricular activity (including sports) on a day that he/she is absent."

Process to Develop Specific Intervention Strategies:

Once a case of excessive unexcused absences, tardiness or early departures has been identified, the following steps will take place:

1. Specific patterns in the non-compliance of the attendance policy will be identified (i.e. type of unexcused absences, tardiness or early departures, time frame, etc.)
2. The student's parent/guardian will be contacted by phone. If attempts to establish contact by phone prove futile, the second attempt will be by e-mail, followed by mailing a letter, if need be.
3. A conference will be called between the principal, any involved staff and the parent/guardian to develop individual intervention strategies to meet the needs of the specific student.
4. Once a set of strategies is agreed upon, implementation will take place.
5. Utilize appropriate Lancaster Central School District services and/or community resources to assist in the intervention process.
6. Monitor and report the short and long term effects of the implementation of the intervention.

Review Process:

1. Administration or staff member (teacher, school nurse, etc.) may ask for a review of a student's attendance record. If a significant number of unexcused absences, tardiness or early dismissals are found, parents can be notified and the intervention process can be implemented.
2. A parent/guardian may ask for a review of a student's attendance record.

Overall Review of Attendance Records:

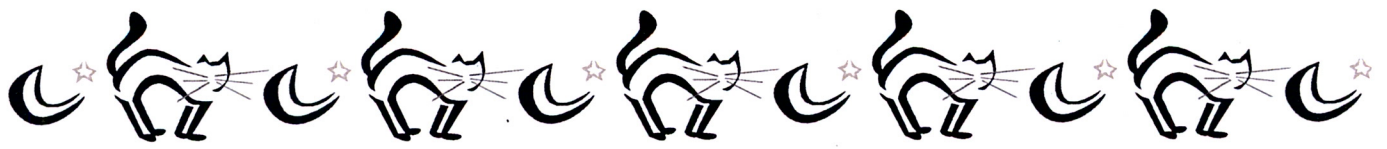
At the end of the school year, the principal, the school nurse, and other staff members deemed appropriate by the principal will review the overall attendance in the school building. If the

attendance record shows a decline from the previous year's attendance record, a plan will be devolved to revise the comprehensive student attendance policy and take steps to improved student attendance.

Community Awareness:

Community awareness of St. Mary's School's Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy will be promoted by:

1. Providing a plain language summary of the policy to parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year and promoting the understanding of such a policy to students and their parent guardian.
2. Providing each teacher, at the beginning of the school year or upon employment, with a copy of the policy.
3. Providing copies of the policy to any other member of the community upon request.



Calling all Ghouls & Goblins!

Family Fun Night!

Saturday October 26th, 6-8pm

Halloween Costume Dance & Pizza Party!!

Parents - Trunk or Treat - Come decorate your car trunks and pass out nut free candy to our ghosts, goblins and little angels in a safe environment.

Prizes for the best 3 decorated trunks!

New This Year - HAUNTED CARNIVAL - Provided by 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders

KK

_____ Yes - Our Family Will Attend - Please RSVP by October 16, 2019

_____ Family Last Name

_____ SME Student Names

_____ # Attending x \$5 / person [\$20 max family total]

_____ Our Family will decorate our car and provide a snack for trunk or treat

_____ Yes, I would be willing to help out at the event.



Sponsored by the St. Mary's Elementary Home School Association

10 21 19



Our **St. Mary Swim Team**

and the **NEUMANN CATHOLIC SWIM LEAGUE** are teaming up with Anderson's Frozen Custard to help raise money for our league

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS (3 EASY STEPS):

1. Visit ANY Anderson's location between 4–8pm on Monday 10/21/19

2. Give the cashier your voucher

(vouchers available at the door and online at ncsl-buffalo.org – you can show it on your phone)

3. The St. Mary Swim Team and the Neumann Catholic Swim League will earn 20% of ALL food, dessert, and beverage sales

BONUS
Gift Card
Giveaways
at each location

No minimum
EVERY ORDER
counts!

DISCOUNT
coupon books
also available for
\$4.00



SIX great locations accross WNY:

6075 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221

4855 Transit Rd, Lancaster, NY 14043

2634 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14216

2235 Sheridan Dr, Kenmore, NY 14223

2369 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst, NY 14228

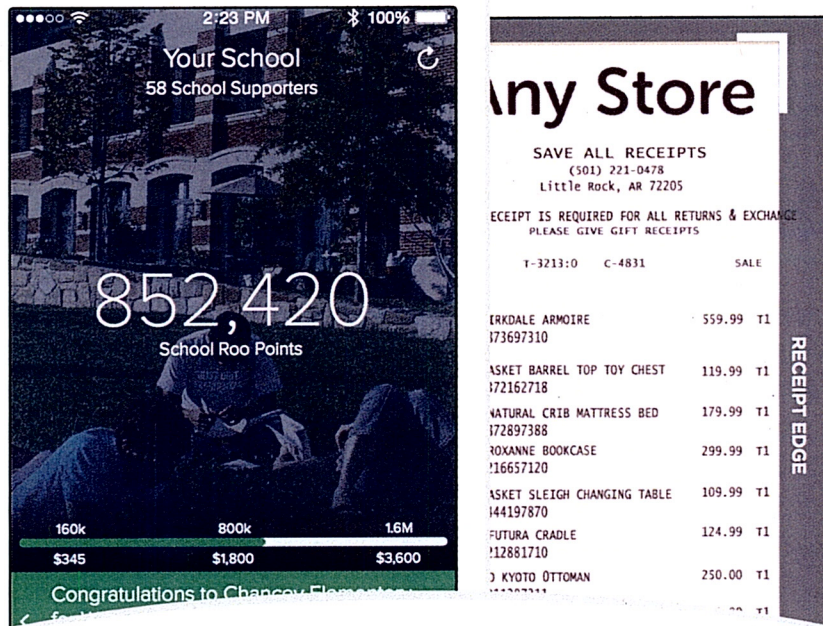
3724 Union Rd, Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Thank you for diving in to help our swimmers!

Have you donated your receipts today?

Shop Anywhere. Buy Anything.

Then just snap a picture of your receipt to earn money for our school!



What are you waiting for?

Download the free app & start fundraising in minutes.



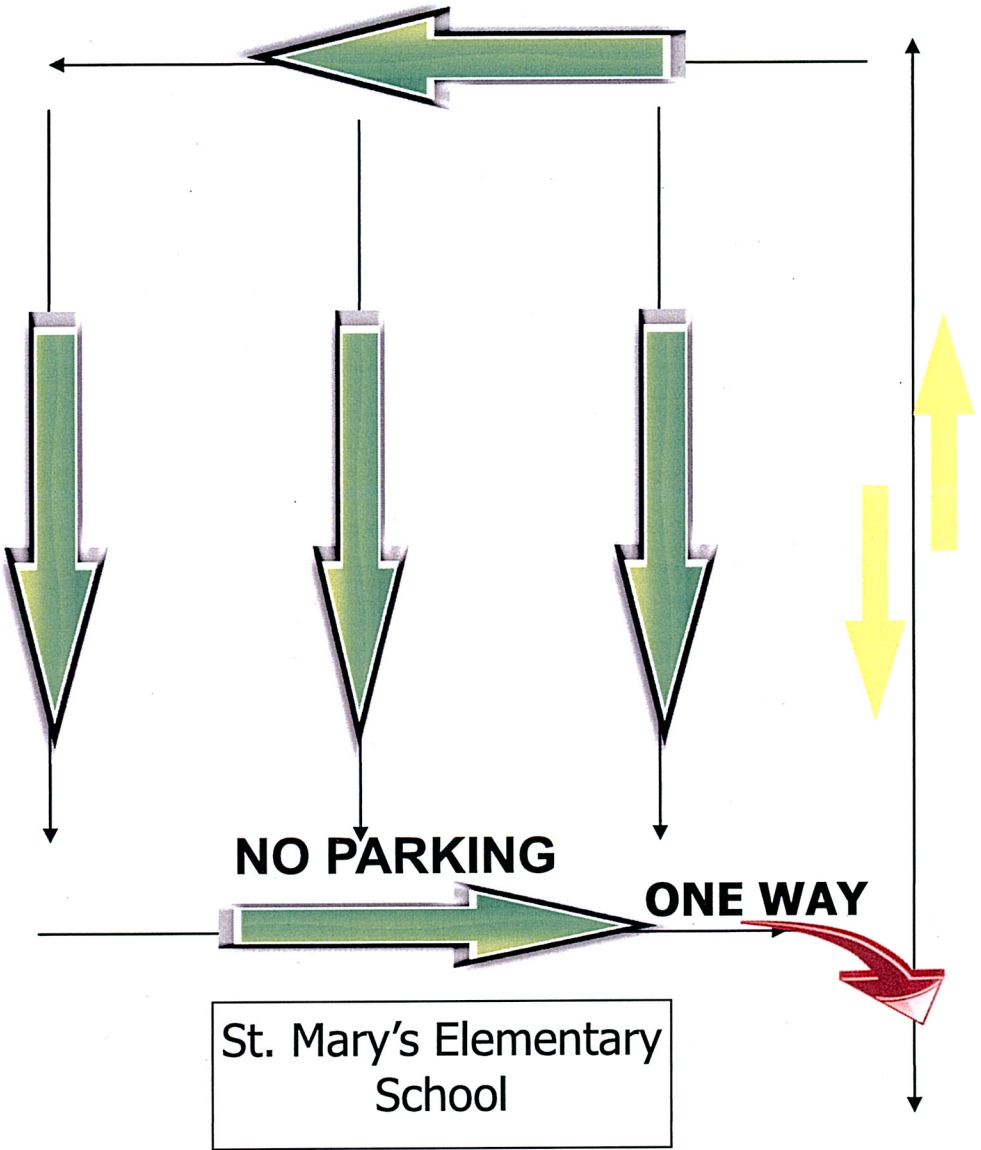
Available now on the
App Store



Get it on
Google play

 Shoparoo

St. Mary of the Assumption Church



Please adhere to the traffic flow and
KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE!