

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 17 JANUARY 25, 2023

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Dear SME Families,

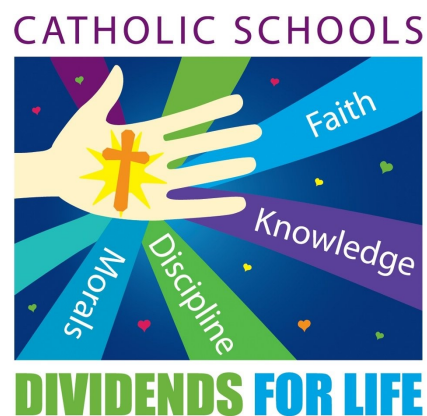
Our school will celebrate Catholic Schools Week from January 30 - February 3. Catholic Schools Week is a national celebration of Catholic education and an opportunity to recognize the importance, value, and contributions of Catholic education to the world. St. Mary's will be holding assemblies and many activities for our students, friends, family, and community members.

Ranging from pep rallies, dance parties and fun boot camp workouts in the school gym to service projects of crafting Valentines for our senior citizen neighbors and collecting cans of soup to help stock a local food pantry, next week is a terrific representation of some of the best parts of SME. Additionally, we have planned many 'buddy' events, activities that will allow our students to partner with their buddy class. By working with friends from other grades to complete the in-school scavenger hunt and coloring activities, our students are building the community of our school in truly enjoyable ways!

Finally, inviting guest speakers to present to our students is always a highlight of Catholic Schools Week. In advance, I thank the speakers who will be volunteering their time, expertise, and stories with our students. You will help bring education to life and allow students to learn in authentic ways.

Looking forward to a wonderful celebration of our school,

Mr. Olejniczak



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **1/30 - 2/3** - Catholic Schools Week
- **Mon. 1/30** - CSW - Community Day - Wear SME Gear
- **Tues. 1/31** - CSW - Class Color Day
- **Wed. 2/1** - CSW - Celebrate the Nation - Wear R/W/B or Camo Day
- **Wed. 2/1** - Progress Report Upload
- **Thurs. 2/2** - CSW - Future Self Day - K-8 Dress for future Job, Pk dress like you're 100!
- **Fri. 2/3** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am
- **Fri. 2/3** - CSW - Sports Day - Show your team spirit
- **Tues. 2/7** - Open House 6:00-8pm, **NO AFTERSCHOOL CARE AVAILABLE TODAY!**
- **2/20-2/24** - **NO SCHOOL:** Mid Winter Recess

PE ONLINE STORE

Our PE online store is now OPEN for all of those winter growth spurts!

The store will be open until 2/8/23. You once again have the option of direct shipping or having them come to SME. Please be mindful of your selections (child vs. adult) as items are not returnable/exchangeable.

<https://all-stars.printavo.com/merch/st-mary-sgymwebstorewinter-2023>



BY THE NUMBERS

RaiseRight:

Sales office open for walk-ins every:
 Tuesday 9:00-12:00
 Wednesday 12:30-2:30
 Friday 8:00am-12:00pm

The office is located within the Faith Formation office in the school building. Please come to our main door #1 to be buzzed in.

Mega Raffle:

Tickets Sold to date: 204
 Tickets Available: 1046

*We have sold out 6 of the previous 7 years.
 Don't delay... Get your ticket today!*

In Person Event: June 9th

New Venue: St. Mary's High School

Year round ways to help:

- ◇ Boxtops 4 Education - download the app & scan receipts - it's that easy!
- ◇ RaiseRight Program



REGISTRATION PACKETS

Re-registration packets went home with students on Friday in a blue folder.

As always, we work on a first come first serve basis. Your 22-23 registration does not hold your spot for next year. We encourage you to complete and return your packet right away.

Additional registration packets are available to share with friends and family upon request through the main office.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

We will have spirit days during Catholic Schools Week 1/30 - 2/3!

Monday: Community Day - Wear SME attire

Tuesday: Class Color Day: **Pre-K:** Navy, **K:**Red, **1:** Orange, **2:** Yellow, **3:** Green, **4:** Blue, **5:**Purple, **6:** Black, **7:** White, **8:** Class t-shirts

Wednesday: Celebrate the Nation - R/W/B or Camo clothes

Thursday: Future Self Day - Dress In clothes of your future self /job. Pre-K will dress like they're 100!

Friday: Sports Day - Wear your favorite sports team

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Looking ahead... Keep your eye on the NewsNote for more details as the events draw near!

February (dates TBD): Spring Chocolate Sale

3/24 - Mother/Son Event

4/29 - Meat Raffle

5/5 - Penny Fair

SME Parent T-Shirts are available for purchase anytime!

Shirts are \$10.00 and can be ordered here: <https://forms.gle/ozf8ihiapbUkd2Lw5>

Please send payments Attn: Mrs. Kuhn

Orders will be distributed upon receipt of payment.



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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



COVID TEST KITS

We have a surplus supply of Covid-19 test kits. While the packaging indicates that they have expired, the CDC has extended that date by at least 6 months.

If you would like test kits to be sent home with your child, please email Mrs. Kuhn.

RAISERIGHT

Walk-in office hours are **Tuesday** from 9-12, **Wednesday** from 12:30-2:30 & **Friday** from 8-12. The brown envelope that you received in September is what you can use to send your orders in to school with your child, and what your gift cards will be sent home to you in.

To expand our selling hours we could use a few more volunteers! If you are interested in learning more about that, please email raiseright@smeschool.com.

To use the RaiseRight app on your mobile device, please email raiseright@smeschool.com to receive the enrollment code.

If you have any questions, please email raiseright@smeschool.com.
We thank you for your support of the RaiseRight Program!

MEAT RAFFLE

Save the date for SME's Meat Raffle:

April 29th at 7pm.

We are hosting fundraising dress down days which will help purchase items for basket raffles and gift card raffles! \$1 minimum donation:

Tuesday, February 14th
Tuesday, March 14th
Tuesday, April 11th

MEGA RAFFLE

Mega Raffle ticket sales are going great! To date, **204** tickets have been sold!! There are still **1,046** tickets remaining – did you get yours? We have sold out 6 of the 7 previous years, so be sure to get your tickets soon! Orders will be filled once per week, so please be patient if you do not see your ticket come home the day that you send your check in.

The first Early Bird drawing for \$300 is on **Wednesday, March 1st** - don't miss out on a chance to win money before the event! *All orders must be submitted by 4:00PM on Tuesday, February 28th to be a part of the first Early Bird drawing.*

If you wish to donate an item for our basket raffle, we have set up an Amazon.com registry under the name [2023 Mega Raffle](#). All items purchased will be shipped directly to the school. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

As a reminder, the Mega Raffle fundraiser is critical to keeping the tuition costs down for our SME families. So far, **43** of the tickets have been sold or purchased by school families – thank you for your support!! Please feel free to get creative with Social Media (posting this great opportunity to Facebook, etc) as well as encouraging multiple people to chip in on one ticket. Every ticket sold gets us closer to our goal and makes sure we have a successful drive! Thank you again for all of your continued support on this important fundraiser.

The event prize winners will be announced at the live drawing on Friday, June 9th at St. Mary's High School. Fliers are available online if you would like to bring them to your place of business to sell - people love a raffle!

We need volunteers to work the night of the event.

If you are interested in helping out with that, please email me garaffle@smeschool.com.

Mega Raffle - LIVE & In Person!

Friday, June 9th

New Venue: St. Mary's High School



BISON FUND

Committed to its mission of making quality education accessible to all, the BISON Fund average scholarship award will be between \$1,500 and a maximum award of \$2,500 for the 2023-2024 school year.

As we welcome 2023, Bison Fund is currently accepting K-8 pre-applications for funding for the 2023-2024 school year. New families must complete a pre-application form electronically (online) on the Bison Fund website at <http://bisonfund.com/our-scholarships>. The new family deadline is March 15, 2023. Scholarships are awarded using a lottery system from all submitted pre-application forms. All applicants will be notified of lottery results via email on March 16, 2023.

Current families do not need to fill out a pre-application and will be emailed a link to complete the requalification process.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the BISON fund office at 716-854-0869.



BISON
CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

EXCUSES

Please remember to send in an excuse note upon the return of your child's absence.

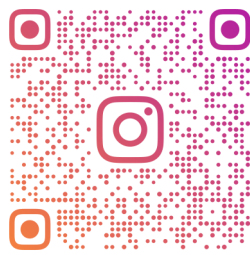


CALENDAR UPDATE

Due to our open house scheduled for Tuesday, February 7th, there will be **NO** Afterschool Care Available as we will be preparing for the evening.

Thank you once again for your understanding!

We're on Instagram!



ST.MARYSELEMENTARYSCHOOL

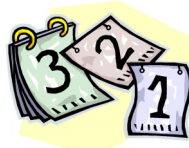
OPEN HOUSE

Spread the word!

Our next open house is set for Tuesday, February 7th!

Have your friends, families, neighbors & co-workers come see what SME has to offer! We will be welcoming new families to check us out from 6:00-8:00!

CALENDAR CLUB



Time is running out to get your calendar and chance to win throughout the year!

For a \$20 donation you have the chance to win every day of the year!

The order form can be found here:
<https://www.smeschool.com/documents/2022-2023/Calendars/10-19%20NN%20Add%20On%20-%20Calendar%20Club%20Flyer.pdf>

Questions: calendarclub@smeschool.com

A list of winning numbers is posted on our website's NewsNote tab by month.

You can reach
Nurse Dara Sirianni, RN at:
nurse@smeschool.com
716-683-2112 x128
Health Office Hours
9:30am-1:00pm

UNIFORM UPDATE

The following adjustment has been made to our uniform policy:

Leggings: Leggings are allowed to be worn on dress down days in conjunction with a long t-shirt that covers the bottom.

8TH GRADE INFO

Did you know that you can drop off your cans & bottles to any Cash for Cans location and they can be donated to our 8th grade class?!

No need to wait for them to be processed, just tape a big paper on it that they are for St. Mary's Elementary - Lancaster (2112) and drop them off by their donation bin!



STAY IN THE KNOW



Make Note: 2/1 K-8 Progress Report Upload

Save the Date: 2/7 K-8 Open House

Make Note: 3/7 Club & Sport Yearbook Photo day

Make Note: 3/8 Spring Photo day

Make Note: 3/17 10:45 Early Dismissal, Staff PD

Save the Date: 3/24 Mother/Son Event



BISON

CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Giving Parents a Choice • Giving Children a Chance

The BISON Children's Scholarship Fund is a private scholarship fund providing tuition assistance for low-income families throughout the 8 counties of Western New York who want to enroll their children in private K-12 schools.

BISON K-8 Scholarship Quick Facts:

- Average K-8 scholarship of \$1,560 and maximum award of \$2,500.
- Currently BISON has over 1,975 scholars in 80 different private schools across Western New York.
- Each family must contribute toward their child's private education.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY AMOUNTS:

Household Size	Total Income (Based on 2022 household income)
2	\$ 49,437
3	\$ 62,181
4	\$ 74,925
5	\$ 87,669
6	\$ 100,413
7	\$ 113,157
8	\$ 125,901

STEP 1

Complete a pre-application online at bisonfund.com between **January 15, 2023** and **March 15, 2023**. If you have any questions, you can call BISON at (716) 854-0869 ext. 1.

STEP 3

If selected, complete the full application online. Enroll your child(ren) in the school of their choice and ask the school to complete the school commitment form.

STEP 2

Watch for notification after the BISON Lottery is held on **March 16, 2023**. Lottery winners will receive an email with a link directing them to complete a full application to receive the scholarship. If you're not chosen, you will automatically be placed on the BISON waitlist.

STEP 4

Once all the steps are completed, BISON will notify you of your scholarship amount. Watch for email notices to annually renew your BISON Scholarship in February of each year and add siblings.



Cindy McDonald, Program Director

(716) 854-0869 ext. 1

cmcdonald@bisonfund.com



BISON

CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Giving Parents a Choice • Giving Children a Chance

FAQ for FAMILIES

More detailed information can be found on our website at www.bisonfund.com

WHO QUALIFIES FOR A BISON K-8 SCHOLARSHIP?

Residents of the 8 counties of Western New York (WNY) with children entering K-8th grade with a total family income within the income eligibility scale on the front page. You may only apply for your biological or legal guardian children.



HOW DO NEW FAMILIES APPLY?

New families must complete a pre-application form electronically (online) on our website at bisonfund.com. **The new family deadline is March 15, 2023.** Preference is NOT given to early applications; however you must apply by 3/15 to be considered for the lottery. Families applying after the March 15, 2023 deadline will be placed on our waitlist.

HOW ARE BISON SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS CHOSEN?

Scholarships are awarded using a lottery system from all submitted pre-application forms on **March 16, 2023.** Lottery winners will receive an email with a link directing them to complete a full application in order to receive the scholarship.



HOW DO I KNOW IF I WON THE LOTTERY?

All applicants will be notified of lottery results by email on **March 16, 2023.** If you're not chosen in the lottery you can always reapply for the next school year.

I RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP AWARD EMAIL ... NOW WHAT?

In your award email, there will be a link to complete your full application. Click on the link and follow the application steps. **The deadline to complete the application is April 30, 2023.** Please be sure to include all your income sources including your FEDERAL 1040 tax return, child support, business income, public assistance, food stamps, Social Security income, unemployment insurance, worker's compensation and financial assistance from family & friends. Select your school (a complete list can be found on our website) and contact the school to complete the school commitment form. After receipt of all the required documents, your scholarship will be calculated based on your household size and income, as well as tuition amount. You must renew annually to continue with BISON.



I RECEIVED NOTICE I'M ON A WAITLIST ... NOW WHAT?

Unfortunately, there are always more applicants than available funding. We keep waitlist names for the academic year hopeful that additional funding becomes available. If you are not taken off the waitlist, you will need to resubmit a pre-application next year to be considered.



WHY DO FAMILIES HAVE TO PAY PART OF THE TUITION?

One key component of educational success is parental involvement. Making a financial sacrifice is a strong incentive to becoming and remaining, involved. BISON families are required to pay a minimum of \$500 each year.

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LANCASTER, NY- "...visible examples of Gospel living."

Feb, 2023

Student lunches are **\$3.50**, and adult lunches are **\$5.50**. During this time, we ask that all lunches be prepaid with either cash or check made out to SME, in the exact amount. Any overage will be kept on account. All lunches are comprised of five components; protein, whole grain, vegetables, fruit & milk. In addition to the main entrée, there are four alternate choices offered daily; Julienne Salad, Yogurt Parfait, Sunbutter/Jelly, and Ham/Cheese Sandwiches. Milk is **\$0.50**, and may be prepaid if your student buys milk regularly. **Snack will now be served to all grades during lunchtime. No snack is ever purchased on account. Snack money must be presented at point of sale. Snacks are \$0.25-\$0.75.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at kitchenmanager@smeschool.com. We appreciate your support. Tracy Hadsall, Liz Heerd & Jenny Fulciniti

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Lunch = \$3.50 2 Lunches = \$7.00 3 Lunches = \$10.50 4 Lunches = \$14.00 5 Lunches = \$17.50	6 Lunches = \$21.00 7 Lunches = \$24.50 8 Lunches = \$28.00 9 Lunches = \$31.50 10 Lunches = \$35.00	11 Lunches = \$38.50 12 Lunches = \$42.00 13 Lunches = \$45.50 14 Lunches = \$49.00 15 Lunches = \$52.50	16 Lunches = \$56.00 17 Lunches = \$59.50 18 Lunches = \$63.00 19 Lunches = \$66.50 Cash or Check to SME Change Will Go On Acct	No 'On Account' Snack Purchases Allowed Birthday Snacks for the Class are Paid for Separately, Please!
		1 No Alt B Available Antipasto Salad Garlic Bread Veggies, Fruit & Milk	2 Chicken Incredi Bowl Veggies, Fruit & Milk	3 Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Romaine Salad Veggie, Fruit & Milk
6 Breakfast Pizza Potatoes, Veggie Juice Fruit & Milk	7 Tacos Baked Beans Veggies, Fruit & Milk	8 No Alt B Available Chicken Caesar Garlic Bread Veggie, Fruit & Milk	9 Sweet-n-Sour Chicken Veggies, Fruit & Milk	10 Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Romaine Salad Veggie, Fruit & Milk
13 Breakfast Pita Egg, Ham & Cheese Veggies, Fruit & Milk	14 Chicken Dinner Mashed Potatoes Veggie, Fruit & Milk	15 No Alt B Available Market Salad w/Muffin (apples, berries & bleu cheese) Veggie, Fruit & Milk	16 Mexi Incredi Bowl Veggies, Fruit & Milk	17 Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Romaine Salad Fruit & Milk
20 Winter Break Stay Safe – Have Fun!	21 Winter Break Stay Safe – Have Fun	22 Ash Wednesday	23 Winter Break Stay Safe – Have Fun	24 Winter Break Stay Safe – Have Fun
27 French Toast Egg Patty Veggies, Fruit & Milk	28 Mac-n-Cheese Veggies Fruit & Milk	1 No Alt B Available Buffalo Chicken Salad Celery & Carrot Sticks Fruit & Milk	2 Chicken Stir Fry With Rice Veggies, Fruit & Milk	3 Fridays In Lent No Alt B Julienne Salad No Alt E Ham Sandwich Cheese Pizza Romaine Salad, Fruit, Milk

Menu subject to change.

St Mary's Elementary Student Menu Favorites

Bflo Chicken Sandwich	Whole Grain Breaded Chicken Patty, Melted Provolone with a Side of Frank's Sauce and Blue Cheese Dressing
Breakfast Sandwich	Whole Grain English Muffin, Scrambled Egg Patty, Slice of American Cheese and Ham
Breakfast Pizza	Whole Grain Pizza Crust topped with Eggs, Cheddar & Mozzarella Cheeses and Real Bacon Crumbles
Baked Pasta & Meatballs	Whole Grain Pasta Baked with Marinara Sauce, Mozzarella Cheese and Mini Meatballs
Chicken Dinner	Chicken pieces lightly battered and baked to a Tasty Crunch served with Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Veggies and Fruit
Chicken Parm	Whole Grain Breaded Chicken Patty, baked with Low Fat Mozzarella Cheese and Marinara Sauce
Chicken Alfredo	Chicken tossed in a delicate Alfredo Sauce, served over Whole Grain Pasta
Chicken Souvlaki	Boneless, Skinless, marinated Chicken Breast grilled and served with fresh Vegetables (sweet peppers, onions, romaine), Feta Cheese and Greek Dressing; served as either an open salad, or stuffed into a Whole Grain Pita Pocket
Calzones	Whole Grain Pocket with Marinara Sauce and Ricotta & Mozzarella Cheeses
Cheese Pizza	Whole Grain Pizza Crust with Tomato Sauce and Low Fat Mozzarella
Chicken Fajitas	Marinated Chicken Breasts sliced and grilled with Sweet Peppers and Onions. Served on a Whole Grain Tortilla with toppings and Brown Rice
Chicken Stir Fry	Boneless, Skinless Chicken Breast marinated in a Teriyaki Sauce, sautéed with Fresh/Frozen Asian Vegetables, served with Brown Rice
Chicken Caesar Salad	Romaine Lettuce topped with lightly seasoned Grilled Chicken Breast, Real Crumbled Bacon, Whole Grain Croutons, Grated Parmesan Cheese and Caesar Dressing
Chicken Incredi Bowl	Chunks of Breaded Chicken and Corn on top of Mashed Potatoes, with Chicken Gravy and melted Cheddar Cheese
Cheeseburger	Hamburger Patty on Whole Grain Bun with Cheese, Condiments on Side
Fish Sandwich	Battered Cod served on a Whole Grain Bun with Cheese. Freshly made Coleslaw is served on the side
French Toast Sticks	Whole Grain French Toast Sticks baked and served with Warm Syrup, Sausage Links and Hash Brown Patty
Grilled Cheese	Whole Grain Bread and American Cheese grilled to a golden crisp, served with Tomato Soup
Goulash	Whole Grain Pasta Baked with Marinara Sauce, Sautéed Onions, Sweet Peppers and Ground Beef
Italiano Incredi Bowl	Risotto (Italian Arborio Rice), Mini Meatballs, Escarole & Northern Beans sprinkled with Parmesan Cheese
Loaded Baked Potato	Fresh, delivered weekly, Russet Potatoes, baked and topped with Steamed Broccoli, melted Cheese and Real Bacon Crumbles
Mozzarella Sticks	Whole Grain Breading over Mozzarella Cheese, baked and served with Marinara Sauce
Mexi Incredi Bowl	Brown Rice served in a Bowl covered with Taco Meat, Corn, Black Beans, Shredded Cheddar Cheese & Taco Sauce
Nachos Grande	Lean Ground Beef spiced with Taco Seasonings, served hot over Whole Grain Tortilla Chips, topped with melted Mild Cheddar Cheese Sauce, with Optional Salsa, Sour Cream and or Hot Sauce
Popcorn Chicken	Whole Grain Breaded Popcorn Chicken Bites baked to a tasty Crunch! Served with Optional BBQ Sauce
Ramen Incredi Bowl	Restaurant Grade Ramen Noodles and Broth, served with a variety of Fresh Veggies
Sweet-n-Sour Chicken	Crunchy Popcorn Chicken tossed in a Sweet Sour Sauce, served over a Bowl of Brown Rice
Turkey Dinner	Sliced Turkey, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Veggies & Cranberry Sauce, and even Fruit Pie! So Grateful are We!
Taco-in-a-Bag	Taco Meat scooped into a Bag of Whole Grain Tortilla Chips with Shredded Cheddar Cheese & Salsa



St. Mary's Elementary Health Office

January 2023

Dear Parents,

If have not received your child's completed physical exam form <The return date was October 1, 2022> I have scheduled your child for a physical with one of the Lancaster School physicians, in order to be in compliance with New York State Law: Education Law Article 19 and Regulations of the Commissioner of Education require physical examinations of public school students: • Entering the school district for the first time, and in grades Pre-K or K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 and at any grade level by school administration, in their discretion to promote the educational interests of the student (8 NYCRR § 136.3[b]); • to participate in strenuous physical activity, such as interscholastic athletics (8 NYCRR § 135.4(c)(7)(i)(e) and 136.3(a)(8))

Physicals are set for the beginning of February. Your Cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact me..

Sincerely, Mrs. Dara Sirianni RN, BSN
(716) 683-2112 ext 128
nurse@smeschool.com