

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2 SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Dear Parents,

Allow me to again welcome you back to St. Mary’s Elementary School!

Because of our phenomenal staff and the close partnership we have with our dedicated group of parents, our school continues to flourish, as we expand and evolve our curricula and extracurricular offerings. Thank you all for helping to make St. Mary’s such a special place - and so much more than just a school.

Our school has grown with our enrollment, which has resulted in some minor changes to some procedures. Specifically, our pre-K dropoff is slightly different than it has been in the past. The newly renovated **lot on Aurora St.** has arrows alerting parents where to enter and exit. Parents and guardians of our PK3 students - thank you so much for your continued patience and cooperation, as we work together to ensure the safety of all of our students. Pre-K4 parents dropping off and pickup up along the side of the building on **St. Joseph St.:** please do not block the drive-way. This lane must be clear, as it is used by our buses, which need to stay on a very regimented schedule. And finally, for our **afternoon private pick-up drivers:** we have been able to begin dismissal around 2:22-2:25, about the same time we did last year.

Finally, in order to meet enrollment demands and so that we may position each and every one of our students in an optimal position for success, we have made some renovations and alterations to our building. I am so excited to share these and so much more about our new Pillars of Saint Mary’s program with you at our Meet the Teacher Night, which is tomorrow, September 19, from 5:30 - 7:30. As a reminder, this is an opportunity for you and your child(ren) to come into the school, introduce yourselves to the teachers, and take a look around. This is not a conference night; Parent-Teacher Conference night is November 8.

Have a terrific evening,
Mr. Olejniczak

BY THE NUMBERS

In this section we will talk about the numbers of our fundraisers; the good, the bad and the most up to date as possible!

We offer a wide variety of opportunities to support SME and will be changing things up this year with our offerings.

We understand that every fundraiser will not be for everyone, but we do appreciate any & all support you can give!

- Year round ways to help:
- ◇ Boxtops 4 Education
June Donation \$10.30
July Donation \$6.80
Aug. Donation \$47.10

◇ RaiseRight




FALL PICTURE DAY

Mark your calendars and make those hair cut appointments! Picture days are scheduled for:

Thursday 10/17 & Friday 10/18.

We will share the schedule of classes per day and have paper order forms available soon, so be on the lookout for that information. Online ordering: Our online Order Code is 88250CF

[Order Here](#)



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held this Thursday 9/19 and Friday 9/20! You can set up an e-wallet for your child by [clicking here](#), or send in cash for them to shop. A schedule of when each class is attending is attached. If any parents or grandparents would like to volunteer to help out during the event, or assist with set-up on Wednesday 9/18 (5-7pm), please sign up using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CAFA72CABF4C43-51255251-fall>

PILLARS OF ST. MARY’S

We are excited to showcase our Pillars of St. Mary’s in fun ways through the school year. One of those ways is with our newly created Pillar team shirts! You will notice that our blue team version will have champion information on the back! Bigger versions of the images will be posted during our Meet the Teacher Night with a QR right to the web store. If you know your child’s pillar color and want to order now, feel free! We will have full rosters available to ensure proper ordering on Thursday.

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

We will have more details on scheduled SME Pillar/Spirit Shirt dress down days so be on the look out for that!



Discover the Pillars of SME
so much more than just a school



Social Responsibility



Spiritual Growth



Academic Excellence



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Thurs. 9/19** - Meet the Teacher Night & Book Fair, 5:30-7:30
- **Fri. 9/20** - Book Fair
- **Fri. 10/4** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am
- **Mon 10/7** - STREAM/Excel Walk-a-Thon
- **Fri. 10/11** - **NO SCHOOL**, Staff PD
- **Mon 10/14** - **NO SCHOOL**, Indigenous People Day
- **Thurs. 10/17** - School Picture Day
- **Fri. 10/18** - School Picture Day
- **Fri. 10/18** - HSA: My Little Sweetheart Dance 6-8
- **Fri. 10/25** - HSA: Trunk-or Treat 6-8pm
- **Fri. 11/1** - All Saints Day Mass, 8:30
- **Wed. 11/6** - Pre-K Town Hall Meeting 5:30pm
- **Fri. 11/8** - Veterans Day Prayer Service 8:30am
- **Fri. 11/8 - 10:45am** **Early Dismissal:** P/T Conference Day

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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



FROM THE ART ROOM

Hello SME Families,

First let me introduce myself... I teach ART to all the students at St. Mary's Elementary, grades PreK3-8th. It's great to be back for my fifth year at SME. ART is taught in Room 220 for Kindergarten through 8th grade. PreK students are taught ART in their PreK classroom, with all materials being brought in on the "ART Cart".

New students and returning students (K-8th grade) are familiarizing themselves with the ART room routines and expectations. Students have been prepared for ART making. Thank you for sending in an Old T-shirt/ART smock for your child (prek-5th grade) to wear in ART class. ART smocks are optional (but highly encouraged) for Middle Schoolers. Smocks can be stored in MS lockers and worn as needed. All Middle school students will be receiving a school-issued Sketchbook for homework and in-class assignments very soon. All Middle School students have been invited and joined their grade level ART Google Classroom. Middle School students (along with their parents) are in the process of reviewing and submitting the *Middle School - Grading and Expectations in the Art Room*, Form in Google Classroom.

Any questions or concerns please contact me at pesanyau@smeschool.com

I am looking forward to a creative year with your child!

Mrs. Kim Pesany-Au, M.S. Art Ed.
ART Teacher, NY State certified, K-12



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you a parent / grandparent with a few hours to spare during the lunch hour?

We are looking to add volunteers to our lunch monitor crew. If you are interested please contact Mrs. Kuhn (secretary@smeschool.com) for more information!



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NURSE NOTES

As a reminder:

Due to the increasing number of allergies, and for the health and safety of all students please use the approved snack list when sending in snacks to share with the class as well as when sending in treats for holiday celebrations.

[Snack Safely List](#)

~ Nurse Dara Sirianni RN, BSN
nurse@smeschool.com
716-683-2112 x128

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Welcome back to school!

The Home School Association is ready for another amazing year of fun! The HSA has many events planned for the year with a few fundraisers, too. We always welcome new members and appreciate the help from all of our volunteers. If you are interested in a role on the HSA board, please reach out to ogradyj@smeschool.com.

Are you interested in being a room parent for your child's class? A room parent will work with the teacher to plan class parties throughout the year, as well as a class service project. Please reach out to your child's homeroom teacher by 9/25 if you would like to be a room parent.

Our first event for the school year is the Scholastic Book Fair! You can set up an e-wallet for your child by [clicking here](#), or send in cash for them to shop. A schedule will be coming out before the Book Fair of when classes will be attending. If any parents (or even grandparents!) would like to volunteer to help out on 9/19 or 9/20, or assist with set-up on Wednesday 9/18 (5-7pm), please sign up using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CAFA72CABF4C43-51255251-fall>



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. Use the link or scan the QR code to order. Payment may be made via credit, cash or check payable to St. Mary's HSA. <https://sme-parent-wear.cheddarup.com>



SME Spirit Wear: HSA will host a monthly spirit wear dress down day. Each t-shirt is \$15. Sizes youth small through adult 2XL available. If the size you're looking for is sold out, please join the waitlist. You will be notified when waitlist sizes will be available by the end of September. Use the link or scan the QR code to order. Payment may be made via credit, cash or check payable to St. Mary's HSA. <https://sme-spirit-wear.cheddarup.com>



September Events:

9/18: Book Fair Set-up 5-7pm 9/19 & 9/20: Scholastic Book Fair
9/19: Meet the Teacher Night 9/25: Deadline to express room parent interest

7TH & 8TH GRADE INFO

8th Graders: If your child plans on attending a catholic high school next year you will need to complete the online application:

https://catholichswny.smapply.io/prog/application_for_admission_grade_9/

Please be sure to print and sign the confirmation email you receive upon completion and submit to the main office. Without this signed document, we are unable to submit a copy of your child's 1st report card to their 1st & 2nd choice catholic high schools.

7th & 8th Graders: We will share information & flyers from area high schools as we receive them so be sure to scroll through our electronic version each week. There are more included this week!

SJCI: <https://www.sjci.com/apps/pages/admissionsevents>



RAISERIGHT

Tuesday 9-12
Wednesday 12-3
Friday 9:30-12

We have updated our order form to include cards we carry in stock and removed others. If there is something you want, but don't see it, please contact me! If available, I can order them for you! Or you can go online to find a master order form there. I will also be in office on Monday completing paperwork and ordering so you can also reach me on that day as well. I am sorry to say **Tim Horton** cards are **still unavailable** for ordering.

If there is anything I can do for you, please email me at raiseright@smeschool.com or call me at (716) 683-2112 ext. 132. I will answer emails within 24 hours and voice messages on my next day in.

Cindy Olejniczak
RaiseRight Coordinator



STAY IN THE KNOW

Save the Date: 11/9 HSA Craft & Vendor Fair

Make Note: 11/11 No School - Veterans Day

Save the Date: 11/15 Christian Witness & Grandparents Mass, 8:30am

Save the Date: 11/27-29 Thanksgiving Recess

Make Note: Fall Picture Retake Day

Save the Date: 12/5 HSA Merry Moose Shop

Book Fair Class Schedule

Thursday	Period	Start Time	End Time	K-8 Class Visits
	1HR	7:40	8:16	-----
	2	8:18	8:57	Marrano
	3	8:59	9:36	Cooper - Gr 4
	4	9:38	10:15	Kieffer - Gr 1
	5	10:17	10:54	Cooper (Michalek) - Gr 4
<i>K,1,2 LUNCH</i>	6	10:56	11:33	
<i>3,4,5 LUNCH</i>	7	11:35	12:12	Gr. 7
<i>6,7,8 LUNCH</i>	8	12:14	12:51	Lamb-Grade2
	9	12:53	1:30	Pych HR - 6
	10	1:32	2:09	Cooper - Gr 3
	11	2:11	2:20	-----
Friday	Period	Start Time	End Time	
	1HR	7:40	8:16	Mass
	2	8:18	9:37	Mass
	3	9:39	10:12	Gr. 8
	4	10:14	10:47	Matter
	5	10:49	11:22	Cooper - Gr 5
<i>K,1,2 LUNCH</i>	6	11:24	11:57	Chudyk HR - 6
<i>3,4,5 LUNCH</i>	7	11:59	12:32	Guenther
<i>6,7,8 LUNCH</i>	8	12:34	1:07	
<i>EXCEL</i>	9	1:09		Pre-K
<i>EXCEL</i>	10		2:09	Pre-K
	11	2:11	2:20	-----

CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF BUFFALO



OPEN HOUSE

OCTOBER 3, 2024

6PM - 8PM

*Pre-registration event.
Please sign-up today!*

MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP
SHADOW DAY - OCTOBER 11TH

Prospective students and families can meet our dedicated faculty and our articulate and joyful students. Come see all that a classical education at Chesterton has to offer!



CALL ADMISSIONS 716.674.8101 OR VISIT CABUFFALO.ORG

5331 Genesee St, Bowmansville, NY 14026

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute

2024-25: Class of 2029 Admission Process

Pete Kennedy '97 – Vice President of Enrollment Management

Matt Kwiatkowski – Director of Admissions

Margaret Pearson – Admissions & Marketing Manager

716.874.4953 – admissions@sjci.com

Step 1: VISIT CAMPUS

Our community is happy to provide opportunities for prospective students and their families to visit campus this fall and to select an option that works best for their family. Details and registration information are available at our [Admissions Events Page](#). For questions, concerns, or more information, contact our Admissions Center, at 716.874.4953 or admissions@sjci.com.

Step 2: APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

To be considered for admission, prospective freshmen for fall 2025 must do the following:

1. Complete an [online Application for Admission](#)
2. Sit for the Entrance & Scholarship Exam on Saturday, November 23, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. A completed Application for Admission serves as registration for the Entrance & Scholarship Exam.
3. Provide the Admissions Office copies of final academic transcripts, or reports cards, from grades 6 and 7, along with the first 8th grade report.
4. Schedule an Applicant Family Interview by contacting the Admissions Office at 716.874.4953. The interview is optional but provides an excellent opportunity for the Admissions Committee to determine how St. Joe's can best serve a student.

Step 3: ENTRANCE EXAM PREP COURSE

Let the faculty of the premier college preparatory school in Western New York prepare you for the Catholic High School Scholarship & Entrance Exam. Open to boys in grades 7 & 8, our tried-and-true methods will have you feeling your best come exam day.

Registration is open at [St. Joe's Entrance Exam Prep Course](#)

Four consecutive Saturday mornings October 26 – November 16

Step 4: SCHOLARSHIP AND ENTRANCE EXAM

Prospective members of the Class of 2028 must take the Scholarship and Entrance Exam held on ***Saturday, November 23 at 8:30 a.m.*** at St. Joe's.

Step 5: ADMISSION DECISION NOTIFICATION

Notification of acceptance & merit-based awards will be mailed to students on **January 23, 2025**. Notification of any need-based awards, along with instructions concerning enrollment, will be mailed to parents also on 1/23/25.

Step 6: ENROLLMENT

To enroll an accepted student in the St. Joe's Class of 2029 parents will complete our online enrollment process, select a payment plan, electronically agree to our tuition contract and pay the \$525 deposit via credit card. Specific instructions will be shared with parents upon acceptance.