

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3 SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Dear SME Families,

Thanks to all who attended last week’s Meet the Teacher Night. The construction in the gym that forced us to relocate to the parish center has been completed. We have a brand new ceiling and the lights have been installed! The gym is again usable for physical education classes, and will be complete after the speakers are installed.

Because we were in close quarters, it was difficult to hear, and things may have been rushed, I wanted to share in print an abridged version of my annual welcome message. Please see the message below:

Welcome to our annual Meet the Teacher Night!

If you are returning to St. Mary’s, please notice the upgrades and improvements we have made to the building since last year. We have renovated room 107 and room 100, to increase learning space to meet the needs of our growing enrollment. Our library has been moved to room 109.

We have also continued to take steps to communicate the identity of our school with everyone, students, our teachers and staff, parents, and guests. Everyone who walks through our halls will know that we strive to increase the **social responsibility** of our students, help guide them in their **spiritual growth**, and enable all students to work towards their potential, their **academic excellence**.

Whether this is your first year here at SME or you have been here for a decade, as you walk through the school, please notice the reminders of our mission statement and the shields associated with each wing of our building.

We will continue to see these shields and learn of their significance. This year, we will continue to grow our spin on the house system. In what we have coined the Pillars of SME, all students will be assigned one of our pillars and colors. Over the year, we will have friendly competitions - SME games - and keep score, to see how our pillars are doing. Whichever house accumulates the most amount of points will be awarded the SME Cup and a special reward for their victory! All students from the Steller Blue Team, which represents academic excellence, enjoys a dress down day every Monday for the rest of 2024.

Some of the goals of this idea are

- 1) **Create opportunities for the students to have fun.** Students enjoy themselves and each other’s company at St. Mary’s. School can be serious. We certainly take our responsibilities and our service as educators very seriously, but it also must be fun. Our pillars are a way for all of us to enjoy the relationships we are intentionally building - as we also celebrate each other.
- 2) **Build community.** A third of our students will be on team red, white, and blue. The kiddos in grades 7 and 8 on the red team will be rooting for the kiddos on the red team in Kindergarten and grade 3. It is my hope that our entire building continues to grow closer together as a result of these purposeful steps we’re taking to build camaraderie.
- 3) **Leadership.** Our teachers will also be competing and on a team. They’ll be working with student leaders on various projects over the year. This will allow all of us to see different sides of each other - and it will also allow aspects of each individual to shine through. Not everyone is an honor student or an athlete or an artist. This system is a way for students to get involved and be proud of their school, as they can also work to make it an even better place to be.

This year, we will be selling our new pillar t-shirts. Please contact HSA if you are not sure which color team your son or daughter is on. You can order the shirt through the QR codes.

As information is shared about the Pillars, please feel free to email me with questions - or offers to get involved in the school and help to do your part. This is such an exciting time for St. Mary’s - we’re truly a special place ... and so much more than just a school.

In closing, please allow me to make my annual HSA pitch...

**HSA stands for Home School Association.** My vision for HSA, the organization’s main goal, is to help build the community of SME. I view our HSA as a group of well-intentioned folks who want to make their children’s school a better place. Yes, at some point and at some level, there is a fundraising element to the group, but to me that is a far distant secondary goal of HSA. Instead, hear this: **If you and your kids are enjoying SME and are happy learning and spending time here, please consider assisting us with an event.** We are not professional event planners or fundraising specialists; We’re educators who make SME the best place possible for the children. A place that is safe, supporting, and nurturing. When we solicit volunteers, we are asking for just a small amount of your time or expertise to support all that we offer your children. Please do not view this as a daunting or overwhelming ask, because it is not. And if you are in a position to help, please do.

In closing, and I’m addressing all of us parents as a whole, please do not let anyone imply or suggest that we don’t have a thriving group of parent volunteers. Last year, we had 100s of parent volunteers chair events, volunteer for events, serve as room parents, volunteer to coach sports, offer to moderate extracurricular clubs, etc. **We’re flourishing as a community because of the strength of our HSA and the support, partnership, and volunteerism of our parents.**

Thank you for all you have done to help grow our school. And please consider continuing to volunteer to help in the future, so that we can continue to offer as much as we do to our students.

God Bless,  
Mr. Olejniczak



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Fri. 10/4** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am
- **Fri. 10/4 - 15 Min. Early Release Drill**
- **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](http://www.smeschool.com)



UPON THIS HILL,  
WE DO GOD'S WILL



## 15 MIN EARLY RELEASE DRILL

On Friday 10/4 we will be participating in  
Lancaster Central School Districts  
15 Minute Early Release Drill.

As a result our dismissal timeline will be as such:

**1:30 Pre-K Students**  
**2:00 K-8 Bus Students**  
**2:15 K-8 Parent Pickup**

We will still be hosting our Afterschool Care  
program as scheduled.

## FALL PICTURE DAY

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  
88250C

[Order Here](#)



## STREAM WALK-A-THON

Our STREAM Walk-a-Thon is coming!

This year's walk will be held on Monday October 7th.

Students will walk the sidewalks around the St. Mary's property. Please sign and return the permis-  
sion slip / pledge form and return it to school by Friday 10/4. Pledges can also be submitted via this  
cheddar up link: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/sme-walk-a-thon/items?cart>



## VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Are you a parent / grandpar-  
ent with a few hours to spare  
during the lunch hour?

We are looking to add volun-  
teers to our lunch monitor  
crew. If you are interested  
please contact Mrs. Kuhn  
([secretary@smeschool.com](mailto:secretary@smeschool.com))  
for more information!



Social Responsibility



Spiritual Growth



Academic Excellence

## PILLAR SHIRTS

There are just 13 days left to  
place your Pillar team shirt!

[https://all-  
stars.printavo.com/merch/  
crestofstmaryswebstore](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!



## HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

### Book Fair

The fall Book Fair was a great success! The students had so much fun shop-  
ping and the teachers were able to pick out some new books for their class-  
rooms, as well. Thank you so much to all those who volunteered their time!

### My Little Sweetheart Dance

Are you interested in helping out with a school event? We are in need of a  
chair (or co-chairs) for the upcoming My Little Sweetheart Dance! The com-  
mittee is responsible for ticket sales, ordering food and beverages, decor, and  
any crafts or activities. There are others who can assist, we just need a point  
person who can coordinate planning and ensure that things run smoothly the  
night of the event. If interested, please reach out to [hsa@smeschool.com](mailto:hsa@smeschool.com).

### HSA Meeting

We will be holding an HSA meeting on Wednesday 10/2 at 5:30pm in room  
140. Any parents interested in learning more about HSA are encouraged to  
attend.

### Fall Craft Show

Save the date for the SME Fall Craft Show, to be held on Saturday 11/9! If you,  
or someone you know, would like to be a vendor, please reach out  
to [craftshow@smeschool.com](mailto:craftshow@smeschool.com) for more information.

### Parent T-Shirts

Show your SME pride with SME Parent t-shirts. Each T-shirt is \$10. Adult sizes  
small - 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 look-  
ing for is sold out, please join the waitlist. You will be notified  
when waitlist sizes will be available by the end of Septem-  
ber. 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>



## 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/](https://catholichswny.smapply.io/prog/application_for_admission_grade_9/)

Please be sure to print and sign the confirmation email you receive upon com-  
pletion 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.  
More included this week!



## 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 of-  
fice on Monday completing pa-  
perwork and ordering so you  
can also reach me on that day  
as well. I am sorry to say **Tim  
Horton** cards are **still unavaila-  
ble** for ordering.

If there is anything I can do for  
you, please email me  
at [raiseright@smeschool.com](mailto: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



ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
2 St. Mary's Hill  
Lancaster, NY 14086

**STREAM WALK-A-THON**  
**PERMISSION/PLEDGE SHEET**  
**TO BE HELD **OCTOBER 7, 2024****

My child(ren) has my permission to participate in the STREAM Walk-A-Thon on the sidewalks around the property of St. Mary's Elementary School, Lancaster, NY.

**SIGNED PLEDGE SHEET DUE BACK BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH**

**\*\*Pledge Money due back by Friday, **OCTOBER 18th, 2024**\*\***

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ CHILD'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_  
CHILD'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ CHILD'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

| PRINT SPONSOR'S NAME & PHONE | FLAT PLEDGE | AMOUNT DUE                | AMOUNT COLLECTED | CHECK # | CASH |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------|------|
|                              |             |                           |                  |         |      |
|                              |             |                           |                  |         |      |
|                              |             |                           |                  |         |      |
|                              |             |                           |                  |         |      |
|                              |             |                           |                  |         |      |
|                              |             | SME COORDINATOR FILLS OUT | TOTAL            |         |      |

Funds raised for STREAM will benefit our students directly by allowing us to purchase supplies and new academy kits as well as help to fund our field trips and transportation costs to many of the cultural institutions in our community. STREAM funds help us to continue to provide creative, hands-on opportunities for all.



Cheddar Up Donation QR



**STUDENTS NEED TO WEAR SME GYM T-SHIRT, SME SPIRIT-WEAR, SME SWEATSHIRT/HOODIE. JEANS ARE PERMITTED WITH NO RIPS/TEARS.**



# St. Mary of the Assumption **Angel Choir**

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Students are invited to join the **Angel Choir** and sing at the **10:00 a.m. Mass** on the following Sundays:  
**2024**



*October 6*

*November 3*

*December 8*

*December 24\**

*\*4pm in the Parish Center*

**2025**

*January 12*

*February 2*

*March 9*

*April 13 - Palm Sunday*

*May 11*

*June 8 - Pentecost*

Our first practice will take place **Wednesday, October 2** from **6-7 p.m.** in church.

Please contact Andrea Ross,  
Choir Director with any questions.  
[andrea@stmarysonthehill.org](mailto:andrea@stmarysonthehill.org)







**ST. MARY  
OF THE  
ASSUMPTION**

# **Altar Server Training**

**Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>  
at 11:00 am in the church**



## **What does an altar server do?**

- Assists the priest and deacon
- Prepares the altar
- Lights candles
- Handles the special items used during the Mass

## **Why be an altar server?**

*Some of the reasons are silly...*

- You don't have to sit with your parents at Mass
- You'll get a front row seat
- You'll look really cool in that white robe

*But seriously and more importantly...*

- You will make a difference by performing an important ministry
- You will become a leader in our parish and/or school
- You will learn more about the Mass and it will mean more to you
- It can lead to a deeper relationship with God

**Plan to attend the initial training session!**

**Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am – 1:00 pm in the church**

**A parent/guardian must attend with the student.**

Boys and girls 4th grade & older (must have received their First Communion) are invited to sign up by completing the attached registration form.

Return the completed application to the Faith Formation Office (can scan & email it) or to the

Rectory *attn. Deacon John*

~ Becky Hoag, Director of Faith Formation

[becky@stmarysonthehill.org](mailto:becky@stmarysonthehill.org)



ST. MARY  
OF THE  
ASSUMPTION

**Altar Server Registration/Permission Form**  
**4th Grade and up for new and current servers**  
*\*youth must have received their First Communion\**

**\*To be filled out by parent(s) only**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Altar Server \_\_\_\_\_ New Altar Server \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Current servers of St. Mary's church do not need to attend training unless it's been a long time since they last served and they could use a refresher. If a student is a server at a parish other than St. Mary's, they need to attend the training to learn how altar serving happens here at St. Mary's.*

**(Print) Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Print) Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Email (that is checked regularly):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Grade for 2024/2025 School Year:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please rank #1, #2 and #3 top preferences for weekend Masses you wish to serve.*

**Saturday:** 7:00 pm \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday:** 10:00 am \_\_\_\_\_ 12:00 pm \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional instructions or requests made by parent(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you willing to serve during Holy Day Liturgies?** \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Are you interested in serving Wedding and Funeral Masses?** \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

*If yes, you will be contacted for further training by email.*

**Parent's Permission:** My child, listed above, has my permission to be an altar server at St. Mary of the Assumption R.C. Church and/or St. Mary's Elementary School. My child and I understand that this commitment entails serving at all assigned Masses, attending a training session, and following all the rules and regulations for altar servers at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish.

**Parent's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Training will last about 2 hours:**

**Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**PLEASE NOTE: A PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST ATTEND THE TRAINING WITH THE STUDENT.**

**Please return the completed form to the Faith Formation Office attn. Becky Hoag, Director of Faith Formation OR Drop it off in the grey lock box outside the main doors of the school OR email the completed form to [becky@stmarysonthehill.org](mailto:becky@stmarysonthehill.org) OR drop off the completed form to the rectory attn. Deacon John**



# Cardinal O'Hara

HIGH SCHOOL

# OPEN HOUSE



SCAN TO  
REGISTER FOR  
OPEN HOUSE

## Fall 2024 OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, October 3rd 4-6pm

Saturday, October 5th 9-11AM

## Entrance Exam Prep Course

October 23 & 30

November 6 & 13

5:30-7:30PM Cost: \$100

Includes COHS exam registration fee and prep book

## HAWK FOR A DAY

Experience a day in the life of an O'Hara student.

Attend the classes, meet the teachers,  
have lunch on us, and see why

## You Belong Here

**CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION**

[www.cardinalohara.com](http://www.cardinalohara.com)

716-695-2600 x357

Find us on:  @cardinal.hs

 @cohstonawanda

 @COHSTonawanda