

NEWSNOTE

JANUARY 8TH, 2025



FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Happy New Year! And welcome back to St. Mary’s! It’s so wonderful to be back in the building, working with our amazing team of teachers and learning with our students. I hope everyone had a rejuvenating holiday season spent with family and friends, and that we are energized and ready to journey together through 2025! Below are some highlights of upcoming events and SME happenings:

Friday, January 10 is a Buffalo Bills Dress Down Day. This will be a minor fundraiser for our Athletics program, and we are asking students who would like to dress down to bring in at least \$1. **If the Bills win this weekend, Monday the 13th will also be a Bills dress down day!** We will be using funds raised via this dress down day to purchase basketballs for some of our basketball teams. If you or your child would not like to participate, students should wear their traditional SME uniform. Thank you for supporting this dress down day.

On **Thursday, January 16th**, we will be hosting our **PK and Kindergarten Open House, from 6:00 - 7:30**. PK3 and PK4 families are encouraged to attend. Our entire Pre-K and Kindergarten teams will be sharing information about our PK and Kindergarten programs. Although much of our PK4 information is very similar to our PK3 information, Kindergartners do undergo a marked developmental leap. For this reason, Kindergarten is very different from pre-K. I encourage all of our PK4 parents to attend this open house and receive our teachers’ message. I also encourage ALL SME families to share our PK and Kindergarten Open House information with families and friends who may be looking for a school home.

We will begin our annual Catholic Schools Week celebration on **Sunday, January 26th, with mass at St. Mary’s parish.** I strongly encourage all of our families to attend! In recent times, our school has grown in leaps and bounds, and I think it would be just wonderful if we were able to gather as a community to celebrate our school and demonstrate to the entire St. Mary’s family the strength and active participation of our school. Please mark your calendars and consider attending Sunday mass with members of your school family on **January 26th @ 10:00 am.**

Have an amazing beginning to your year!
Mr. O

- **Fri. 1/10** - Christian Witness Mass @ 8:30am
- **Thurs. 1/16** - Pre-K & Kindergarten Open House 6p-7:30pm
- **Mon. 1/20** - NO School: M.L.K Day
- **Fri. 1/24** - NJHS Induction Mass 8:30am
- **Sun. 1/26** - Catholic Schools Week Kick-Off Mass 10am
- **Tues. 1/28** - Open House 6p-8p
- **Wed. 1/29** - NO School
- **Fri. 1/30** - Distinguished Grad Mass 8:30am
- **Fri. 2/7** - Christian Witness Mass @ 8:30am, Date Knight Dance 6pm-8pm
- **Mon.- Fri. 2/17-2/21** - NO School
- **Wed. 2/26**- Spring/Club/Sport Picture Day
- **Thurs. 2/27**- K & Grade 8 Graduation Picture Day
- **Fri. 2/28** - Meat Raffle 6pm-10pm

UNIFORM DRIVE

We have launched a **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 next week **M, T, TH, F** during all hours. The bins will be set up on tables outside the main office!

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!



DATE KNIGHT DANCE

Mark your calendar for our annual Date Knight Dance, to be held on Friday 2/7 from 6-8pm. This event is for all of our boys and a special guest (mom, aunt, grandma, sister), it’s going to be a great time!

To purchase tickets, click the link below:
<https://date-knight-dance-2025.cheddarup.com>

If you’re interested in volunteering, click the link below to sign-up:
<https://date-knight-dance-volunteers-2025-58551.cheddarup.com>



HSA

HSA Meeting

Interested in learning about HSA and our plans for the coming months? Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday 1/22 at 6pm (in the conference room next to the PC). We will be discussing the Date Knight Dance, Meat Raffle, Spring Book Fair, Penny Fair, the School Picnic, and more!

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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ST. MARY'S
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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www.smeschool.com



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

Updated Office Hours:

Monday 12p-2:15p
Tuesday 9a-12p
Wednesday 12p-2:15p

All online and school orders will be checked on Fridays and go home on Monday if inventory allows.

For a complete list of participating retailers, visit the RaiseRight website:

<https://www.raiseright.com/brands>

If you have any questions, please email raiseright@smeschool.com.

Our team is here for you!



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>



NURSES MESSAGE

Please take a moment to review this months Nurse Notes attached electronically today!

8TH GRADE INFO

Transcripts have been sent to students 1st, 2nd, and/or 3rd choice area catholic high schools



PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

Do you have family, friends, co-workers, or neighbors with pre-K or Kindergarten age children? Spread the word that SME is the place to be & invite them to join us for our upcoming open house!



Use the link below to register for open house on January 16th from 6pm-7:30pm!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS001F4myWRbqIgRPZaKXmDWOFHa8UUb3bTqRYJw2hMLSLrw/viewform?usp=dialog>

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.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Winners have been drawn for the 12 Days of Christmas Raffle!

Congratulations to all our winners!

12/25: ticket # 03428	1/1: ticket # 02204
12/26: ticket # 07809	1/2: ticket # 00827
12/27: ticket # 04773	1/3: ticket # 08460
12/28: ticket # 02027	1/4: ticket # 02553
12/29: ticket # 06522	1/5: ticket # 02875
12/30: ticket # 02978	
12/31: ticket # 05789	

LADIES OF CHARITY

THANK YOU SME FAMILIES!

The Ladies of Charity wish to thank everyone at St. Mary's who was kind enough to donate children's winter clothing for our Catholic Charities families in need of warm clothing!

Your response has been overwhelming and very much appreciated! You have filled two full trunk-loads of clothing to date!

Our collection box will remain in the SME foyer during the month of January should you have more children's clothing to donate.

God Bless you all!

Notes from the Nurse



I hope everyone enjoyed time with family and friends as you celebrated the Holidays and New Years. Now that we are back to school I wanted to share information about the Norovirus. As you may have seen, there has been an increase in reported cases this year. My goal is to give you the facts and some tips to help you and your children stay healthy!

What Is Norovirus? Norovirus is a virus that causes diarrhea and vomiting. It's sometimes called the stomach flu or stomach bug, but norovirus (NOR-uh-vy-ris) isn't related to the flu.

What Are the Signs & Symptoms of Norovirus Infection? About a day or two after contact with norovirus, a person may have symptoms such as:

- nausea and vomiting
- watery diarrhea
- belly pain

Is Norovirus Contagious? Yes. Norovirus spreads easily, even before someone has symptoms. Sometimes an infected person can spread it for weeks after they feel better. Anyone can get a norovirus infection, especially if they spend time where many people gather; like at childcare centers and schools.

How Long Does Norovirus Last? Symptoms of norovirus infection usually last about 2–3 days. Kids with a norovirus infection should not go to school or childcare until their vomiting and diarrhea has stopped for 24 hours.

Can Norovirus Be Prevented? While it isn't possible to completely prevent it, there are ways to minimize risk of infection and decrease the likelihood of the virus spreading.

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer is not as effective in decreasing and preventing the spread of infection so wash your hands prior to eating/drinking or touching your face.
- Wear gloves to clean up vomit and stool.
- Wash potentially contaminated hard surfaces and bathroom fixtures with a diluted bleach & water solution. Make sure to leave solution on surfaces for at least 10mins before wiping away.
- Wash contaminated linens in hot water and dry on hottest heat setting when possible.

When Should I Call the Doctor? In most cases symptoms get better in a few days. But call your doctor if you feel like your child is lethargic, not able to keep fluids down for more than an hour, is having blood in vomit or stool, or is showing other signs of dehydration. Please visit:

https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/norwalk/fact_sheet.htm for more information.

IT HAPPENS

Norovirus doesn't have to.
Norovirus can be spread by people
who didn't wash their hands.
Don't be one of them.

WASH YOUR HANDS.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Dara Sirianni RN, BSN

Office Hours- 9:30-1

Phone- (716)683-2112 ext 128

email- nurse@smeschool.com

SME HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

NEON

GLOW IN THE DARK DANCE

NIGHTS

6-8PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025

TICKETS \$14 PER PERSON - PRESALE ONLY



THIS EVENT IS FOR ALL SME BOYS
AND THEIR SPECIAL GUEST
(MOM, AUNT, GRANDMA, SISTER, ETC).

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

January
2025

Student lunches are \$3.75, 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 three alternate choices offered daily; Turkey Sandwich, Yogurt Parfait, or Sun Butter/Jelly Sandwich. 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 \$0.50-\$1.00. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at heerdt@smeschool.com. We appreciate your support. Liz Heerdt & Tracy Hadsall (menu subject to change)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Lunch = \$3.75 2 Lunches = \$7.50 3 Lunches = \$11.25 4 Lunches = \$15.00 5 Lunches = \$18.75	6 Lunches = \$22.50 7 Lunches = \$26.25 8 Lunches = \$30.00 9 Lunches = \$33.75 10 Lunches = \$37.50	11 Lunches = \$41.25 12 Lunches = \$45.00 13 Lunches = \$48.75 14 Lunches = \$52.50 15 Lunches = \$56.25	16 Lunches = \$60.00 17 Lunches = \$63.75 18 Lunches = \$67.50 19 Lunches = \$71.25 20 Lunches = \$75.00	21 Lunches = \$78.75 22 Lunches = \$82.50 Cash or Check to SME Change Will Go On Acct
		1 No School	2 No School	3 No School
6 Pancakes/ French Toast Sticks Egg Patty Veggies, Fruit & Milk	7 Chicken Parmesan with Pasta Veggies, Fruit & Milk	8 Cheeseburgers Veggies, Fruit & Milk	9 Chicken Souvlaki Bowl Veggies, Fruit & Milk	10 Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk
13 Goulash Veggies, Fruit & Milk	14 Beef and Cheese Burrito Veggies, Fruit & Milk	15 Chicken Salad Wraps Veggies, Fruit & Milk	16 Sweet 'N Sour Chicken with Rice Veggies, Fruit & Milk	17 Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk
20 Martin Luther King Day No School	21 Taco Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk	22 Homemade Mac & Cheese Veggies, Fruit & Milk	23 Chicken Caesar Salad Veggies, Fruit & Milk	24 Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk
27 Breakfast Burrito Veggies, Fruit & Milk	28 Nachos Supreme Veggies, Fruit & Milk	29 Lunar New Year No School	30 Chicken Ramen Bowl Veggies, Fruit & Milk	31 Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk

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Prepayment Guidelines for Student Lunches at St Mary's Elementary

1. The upcoming lunch menu is always posted on the SME Website by the last Wednesday of the month. Once you look over the menu, you may decide to prepay for as many or as few lunches as you wish.
2. A check or cash may be sent with your child/children in an envelope clearly labeled with 'Name, Amount Enclosed, and Number of Lunches Paying For.'
3. The Kitchen will then record how many Prepaid Lunches are available for your student(s), and will be marked accordingly. We will track your account(s) as the lunches are used and the account is depleted.
4. Even if the account balance is at zero, no child will ever go without a lunch. A Notice of Account will be sent via e-mail to indicate that the account needs to be replenished.
5. We also allow for ala carte milk to be prepaid. We will record and track daily milk purchases, just as we do for lunches. Simply send in a clearly marked envelope with your 'Name, Amount Enclosed, and Number of Milk Purchases Paying For.'
6. Any questions regarding the SME Lunch Program, contact us at Heerdt@smeschool.com, or 683-2112 extension 119 during school business hours.

Please note our daily offerings and menu options are subject to change. Our menu has become somewhat more fluid, often changing to accommodate supply chain interruptions and shortages. We have had to make several changes as deliveries have not included what was requested at the beginning of the month, when the menu was created. We do not always know when a manufacturer stops production or drops a product from their line because of demand, or lack thereof. Although these substitutions are made after the menu has been created, the daily offerings are still in keeping with the National School Lunch Program, and adhere to all standards set forth. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at Heerdt@smeschool.com. Thank you for your support of our school lunch program! We love our Customers and appreciate their patience.

