



St. Mary's News

August 2009

Good and Gracious God, as a new school year begins, fill the hearts of our students with an eagerness to learn about the world you have created, about themselves and, most of all, about you. Bless our teachers with the gifts of wisdom and patience that they might help students find the truth. Give our parents generous hearts to encourage and support their sons and daughters. Help us all work together to form a community of learning that teaches not only skills for academic success, but all that we need to live our faith fully.

Prayer for a New School Year (Creative Communications)

Note from the Principal

With enthusiasm, we welcome our returning students and parents and extend a special greeting to our new families as we begin the school year. We continue to be enriched by each other's presence. Let us take time to read the prayer below and let it be a spiritual guide.

Let it be known to all who enter here
That Christ is the reason for this school,
The unseen, but ever-present Teacher
In its classes,
The model of its Faculty and
The inspiration of its students.

author unknown

As principal, I am fortunate to be working with excellent teachers, who provide a rich and varied curriculum to meet the needs of all children. Likewise, I am fortunate to have concerned parents, who are involved with their children, volunteer for fundraisers, help in the classrooms, and help at other school activities. Also, I am fortunate to have Fr. David, who is a strong advocate of Catholic Education and is looking forward to teaching and talking to the students in church and in the classrooms.

St. Mary's provides our children a safe, loving, and faith-centered educational environment, which instills in them the understanding that they are a part of a school, parish, and community. They are expected to give back and share what they have learned with the world in which they live. How wonderful it is to be a part of the St. Mary's family!

As we all know, the first educators of our children are parents. St. Mary's works with our parents in this pursuit. We encourage parent participation at school in the classroom and in activities that are planned for them.

At St. Mary's, students interact with other children whether it is playing on the playground, eating lunch together, or cross-age tutoring. This opens the door for communication while at play, at work or at prayer with older and younger children.

Volunteers

Please be advised the Kroll America Background Forms need to be filled out and returned if you wish to volunteer in the school. The Diocese of Nashville requires these forms for all persons volunteering at a parish or school event. The volunteer form is strictly confidential. I will need one set of forms for each person wishing to volunteer and/or drive on fieldtrips.



Urban Ministries

Urban Ministries is an organization that collects food for the needy in Clarksville. We provide non-perishable food to Urban Ministries as one of our community service projects. Our first Urban Ministries Out of Uniform Day is Friday, August 21. Students may bring in their can or box of food beginning Monday, August 17. Students are to take their food to their classroom. Those students who bring in food may be out of uniform on August 21.

Uniforms

All St. Mary's students must wear the school uniform. **All uniforms must be purchased from Lands End.** Uniforms help the students develop pride in themselves and in their personal appearance. Each student should be neat and well dressed in the uniform. The student should not do anything to his or her uniform or personal appearance that detracts from this philosophy. Unusual or distracting haircuts and dyed hair is not allowed at St. Mary's. The students must wear their socks above the ankles. Please remember to review the Uniform Policy found in the Student Handbook.

Please check your child's tennis shoes (**sneakers**). The **policy states an all white shoe is required** however; they may have a **small logo (one color) only on the side** of the shoe.

Middle School Uniform

Middle school students (grades 6 – 8) have to wear a dark shoe. Students may wear any tennis shoe for gym class.

Boys are allowed to wear shorts and tennis shoes for their summer uniform.

Summer Uniform

August 9 – October 30 and April 1 – May 20

Middle School Boys must wear long pants, blue shirts and ties on days they attend mass.

Middle School Girls must wear skirts, white quarter length sleeve shirt and vest on days they attend mass. The first mass of the school year is Tuesday, August 18.

Tennessee Car Seat Law

Adults transporting children ages four (4) through age eight (8), and measuring less than five feet (5') in height, in a passenger motor vehicle upon a road, street or highway of Tennessee is responsible for the protection of the child and properly using a belt-positioning booster seat system, meeting federal motor vehicle safety standards in the rear seat, if available, or according to the child safety restraint system or vehicle manufacturer's instructions.

NOTE: If the child is not between age four (4) and age eight (8), but is less than five feet (5') in height, he/she must still use a seat belt system meeting federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Due to the law, we cannot and will not ask parent volunteers to transport students between the ages of 4 and 8 who do not have a booster seat.

Hot Lunches

Students have the opportunity to purchase lunch from Quiznos and Chick-fil-A. The first lunch order form and money are due **by 9:00 AM Friday, August 21**. We are unable to accept late orders. Order forms are located in the brown folder.

Parents need to attach a check to the order form and send it back to school either in the brown folder or with one of their children.

Milk Program

Students have the opportunity to have milk during lunch. The order form for the fall semester is located in your brown folder. The completed milk form and money (check) are due Wednesday, August 21. Please write a separate check just for your milk order. Do not combine milk with lunch money.

Weekly Offering Envelopes

We place Church envelopes for students in the brown envelopes each week. We do not ask students to place money in the envelopes, but we do ask and encourage all students to record their good deeds on the front of the envelope and return it before mass each week. Those parents and students who wish to contribute money are encouraged to do so.

Allergy Alert

We feel parents should be aware that there are several students in our school with severe life-threatening food allergies especially to peanuts and nuts. This condition causes severe reaction to specific foods and can result in death within seconds. Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to inform you so that you may choose to send nut-free foods to school with your child.

Student Medication

We can only give medication to students if we have proper documentation completed and approved. We have included a copy of the Medication Prescription/Non Prescription Form in your brown folder. This applies to all types of medications (prescription and non-prescription to include cough drops, Benadryl, Benadryl cream for rashes or bites, etc.)

Lost and Found

Each school year, boxes of lost and found articles are given to charity. With a new school year beginning, we ask parents to **label** their child's equipment and clothing. This will make it easier for our teaching staff to find the rightful owners of lost articles. In many instances' children do not seem to recognize their own belongings.

Important Fall Dates

August

** Please check your calendar, teacher newsletters, and weekly notices for additional events or changes.

- 10 ½ Day of School
(Dismissal begins @ 11:15)
- 11 First Full Day of School
- 13 Home & School Meeting 6:30 PM
- 15/16 Middle School Students serve as Greeters at IC
- 18 All School Mass
- 20 Middle School Mass
- 21 Urban Ministries Out of Uniform Day

Get Back into the Routine

Human beings are happiest when they have a regular routine. Children need a routine to get their homework completed and to get enough sleep. Adults need one--both at work and at home--to maintain their health and happiness as they manage their multiple responsibilities.

Sometimes a busy period at work or even a vacation will disrupt our routine and leave us feeling a bit lost and confused. If your routine has been interrupted after a summer vacation, you will need to spend a little energy to get it back in line. Otherwise, you may find that you feel a little off balance and sometimes even a little grumpy. Getting back to the routine of work can require changes to your sleeping, eating, and exercise habits. Scheduling time for each of these areas of your life can help you get back into the swing of things. Take the time to restore your routine, and you will feel a lot better about yourself and certainly increase your productivity at work and at home. Once you feel re-balanced, you can add a bit more variety to your life and your routine.

We all know that children seem to be happier, more relaxed, and more attentive in class when they have a regular routine and get enough sleep, but we often forget that adults need the same thing. Children need enough sleep to learn in class while adults need a good night's sleep just to stay alert and on top of all our different responsibilities as well as maintain our mental and physical health.

Maintaining your routine will not just help you find new energy, but will also help you feel happier and healthier.

Jesus was a perfect model volunteer. He gave totally of Himself in service to others and asked for nothing in return. The reward, He knew, was of an eternal nature. The time and effort you give can help make our school the best learning environment possible for our students. The faculty and staff at St. Mary's thank you in advance for your support. May God bless you in many unexpected ways for your generosity to His children.

Again, I leave you with this message:

Each day is a gift from God. He offers each one of us an opportunity, an adventure, and a beginning. He rejoices each time one is used to share His Love.

A reflection is "looking back, a mental image and idea or a memory." St. Mary's is a network of the Christian Community that is bound by a common interest. It is indeed a model of the vision and dream that Immaculate Conception had for the community – a treasure worth preserving.

As I reminisce, I can only say thank you. Thank you for your loyalty and love that allows St. Mary's to continue to grow and succeed.

Our prayers are answered, not when we are given what we ask, but when we are challenged to be what we can be.

Education is about relationships. The most important relationship, the one that facilitates learning, is between the student and the teacher.