

August 6, 2018

Dear Parents,

I hope that your summer has truly been a time of joy and rest from the hectic pace of the school year. It is hard to believe that school will begin in just a few weeks. We are all looking forward to the coming school year!

It is very important during the course of the year to stay informed of events and schedules. These are available in the weekly newsletter (the *Bell*- archived on Sycamore and the website). The calendar and many other important announcements are also kept current on Sycamore. If you haven't logged onto Sycamore yet, or have misplaced your login information, contact the office (after we open on August 21st, some days will have limited hours, please see "Office Hours" section below). We will continue to use Sycamore for attendance, hot lunch, grades, Educare and scheduling conferences. I would be the first to agree that it is not the most intuitive system, but it is cloud based and it consolidates much of the necessary record keeping.

"End of Summer" Office Hours: The school office will be open **August 21-24 and Aug. 27, 29, 30 and 31st** from 9-3 with a few exceptions. Teacher inservice days are August 28-30th. The teachers and I will have limited availability on those days and the office will be closed all day **Wednesday, August 28** for a staff retreat.

This coming year, as in past, the *Bell* (and many other notifications from the school) will be sent out via email and have a limited number of hard copies in the glass case by the office. This 'green' step will ensure that the information going out to you is up to date, it will also save the school hundreds of dollars on paper and time used to copy and collate! I know how busy your lives are, but I would encourage you to take 5 minutes a week and look over the *Bell*. It will keep you informed about many school events, and (most importantly) give you a chance to read *Nauditt's Notes*!

The first day of school is **Tuesday, September 4th**. Classroom doors will open at 7:50, but students may be dropped off at 7:45, as there will be a teacher on duty in both the front and back. Students dropped off before 7:45 must check in to Educare. In mornings it is located in the gym, the NE door (facing parking lot) opens at 7:00. It is a full day of school, with dismissal at 2:45. It is a uniform day. If you pre-ordered school supplies (last spring) they will be in your child's classroom waiting for them.

The following are the staff assignments for the coming school year:

I am pleased to announce that I have hired Mrs. Andrea McNitt as the 5th grade teacher. I have also hired Mrs. Jennifer Sharp as the PK4 teacher. Mrs. Krista Huntley has accepted the position of long-term substitute for Mrs. Rapp, our 3rd grade teacher, while she takes her maternity leave this fall/winter. They have many years of teaching experience and we are delighted to welcome them to the staff this year!

Mrs. Chelsea Weiler will be back as the Office Manager this year. Mrs. Sharon Greany will serve as Bookkeeper and Mrs. Terri Matsch will continue in Advancement.

Pre-K 3 – Mrs. Leanne Shaurette
Pre-K 4 – Mrs. Jennifer Sharp and Mrs. Findlater
Kindergarten & Admin. Support – Mrs. Mary Urbaniak
1st grade – Mrs. Becky Clift
2nd grade – Mrs. Lori Hattamer
3rd grade – Mrs. Devon Rapp (Mrs. Huntley during Mrs. Rapp’s maternity leave)
4th grade – Mrs. Shannon Pearson
5th grade – Mrs. Andrea McNitt
6th grade homeroom – Mr. Paul Kennar
English (6-8) - Mrs. Kendra O’Dea
Math (6 & 7) - Mrs. Gina McCauley
7th grade homeroom – Mrs. Becky Schmidlkofer
8th grade homeroom & Vice Principal – Mr. Kevin Schultz
Science (6-8) / Technology.– Mr. Brian Hull
P.E. – Ms. Lorie Lafferty
Music – Ms. Kristen Nauditt
Band – TBA (Gonzaga Prep)
Classroom aides –
Mrs. Marty Ray
Mrs. Debbie Heine
Mrs. Jessica Tamayo
Mrs. Michelle Couvion
Mrs. Echo Thompson
Mrs. Meta Boik
Mrs. Robin Gregory
Educare Supervisor- Yolanda Findlater

Our maintenance crew have been working hard this summer cleaning and making repairs around the school. Preliminary work on enclosing the breezeway has begun with extensive concrete work around the campus. While excavating the concrete we discovered and remedied some sewer pipe issues. We are completely gutting and retiling the bathrooms between grades 5 and 6. In addition the floors are waxed and all the carpets are cleaned! I know you will be impressed by how great the campus looks!

Liturgy:

Our regular school Mass day will continue to be Tuesday this year – unless there is a major feast that week (e.g. Ash Wednesday). Our priests, Fr. Jeff Core and Fr. Mike Ishida, will share responsibilities as celebrant. Our first school Mass will be on Tuesday, September 4th at 1:30 PM. Msgr. Robert Pearson will be the celebrant. You are all invited to worship with us and help us thank God for the blessings of our new school year!

Uniforms:

Please review the [uniform code](#) on-line (located on [website](#) under: Parents - Uniforms) Remember that both hunter green and white shirts are uniform options. Remember that uniform shorts may be worn through October 31. Shorts should be modeled after those sold at the Spokane Uniform House. Short and skirt length was an issue in the upper grades last year. Please verify the length and style of shorts before purchasing (shorts and skirts should not be more than 2 inches above the knee). They should be solid-colored (no fancy pockets, rivets or decoration) capris are also an option for girls during short season. Girls' shorts do not need to be cuffed. Cargo style pants and shorts are not uniform code. "Patch" pocket style shorts and pants are also not uniform code. Pockets should be "slacks" style internal pockets, not external pockets like what you see on most pairs of jeans. Please do not allow your children to wear these styles. I would like to mention that khaki *I encourage you to ask about acceptability of specific uniform pieces (before you remove tags or wash them)!*

PE uniforms to be worn by students in grades 5th-8th on Mondays and Wednesdays. PE uniform shirts will be available for order in the school office. Students (5th - 8th) will also be allowed to wear Fun Run shirts on PE days. Other components of the PE uniform are available for order through Lands' End. There are detailed instructions for how to order the PE uniforms through Lands' End in the Bell including the school code so that you can get the correct items. There have been occasional issues with back orders from Lands' End. If that is the case this year, let us know and students can wear regular uniform shorts or pants on PE days until the items are available.

Immunizations:

State School Board 1988 Regulation (WAC 248-100-166) requires that every child attending school present proof of immunization at the time registration. There are forms in the office and a schedule of Minimum Vaccines Required. We are required to exclude children from school if they do not meet minimum vaccination requirements. Please stop by if you have any questions.

WA State is now requiring **2 doses** of Varicella (Chickenpox vaccine) for grades 7-12. This newer vaccine requirement started in 2015 for students in 7th and 8th grades. Starting in the fall of 2016, all students in 9th through 12th grade will also be required to have two doses of the vaccine. *Students who already had two doses of the vaccine do not need to repeat it.* The vaccine prevents chickenpox and its serious complications. Teens are at higher risk of severe complications if they get chickenpox. The new requirement helps protect these young people.

Washington State has required only students in kindergarten through 6th grade to have two doses of chickenpox vaccine, until now. The new requirement is based on national recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Classroom Preview/Ice Cream Social:

I want to invite everyone – both new and returning families (adults and children) to get a peek at their classrooms and socialize on Thursday, **August 30th**. Classrooms for all grades will be open from 4:00- 6:00 PM and teachers will be in their classes. I think this change of format will give folks a chance to meet other children and parents in the class as well as ask questions of teachers, representatives from various groups, and of me. If you ordered a SchoolKidz school supply kit they should be available in your child's classroom to pick-up. We will have samples of uniforms available and ice cream bars.

I will also have a **Code of Conduct/ Virtus training session** that evening beginning at 5:15 in the music room (adjacent to the gym, near the Mary Courtyard). If you have not taken the Code of Conduct/ Virtus training I would encourage you to attend (new or current families). For those of you who have been in the school for a while know, the Code of Conduct/ Virtus training is mandatory to all volunteer opportunities that involve being around children. I only do 2 evening Code of Conduct/ Virtus trainings each year so don't miss out on this chance. The Code of Conduct/ Virtus trainings are for adults only. If you have attended Code of Conduct/Virtus training before you don't need to re-attend.

Traffic Concerns:

In order to insure the safety of our students, we ask that all parents follow the traffic procedures that are attached below. Please cross the parking lot *ONLY* using the marked crossing area with the crossing guards. Do not encourage your children to meet you in another area of the parking lot – they are not supervised and cars may not be looking for children outside the designated area! Also remember, **absolutely no** parking in the drive-thru lanes. If you are putting your car in 'park' you do not belong in the drive-thru lane. (You may come to a full and complete stop to let your children out.) Please pass this information onto others (especially grandparents) who may be dropping off or picking up children. Teachers are on duty to assist students and cannot conference with parents at that time. Also, please be mindful of the speed limit in the parking lot, and remind your teenage drivers to slow down and drive carefully when picking up siblings.

Hot Lunch:

Again, hot lunches will be prepared on site by Carol St. Clair. Prices are remaining the same as last year. Students will be charged **\$3.80** a day for their lunch. Students (4th grade and up) can also purchase an extra entrée for **\$1.00**. They need to notify their teacher of their wish to have an extra entrée at lunch count time in the morning so that the correct amount of food will be prepared. If you would like to order daily milk for your child, the cost for milk will be .30 cents a day. (This also comes out of the family hot lunch account, not a separate card as in the past.) We are sending the application forms for free or reduced lunches with this mailing. (This is a

Federal Program and doesn't cost the school anything for you to participate, if you qualify.) Please read it carefully and fill out the appropriate paperwork. Hot lunch money will be accepted at the office and credited to your family account as we have done in previous years. If you send in cash for hot lunch, be sure that it is in a sealed envelope labeled with your child's name and that it is for "hot lunch." We will be posting our daily menu on the website later in August. Hot lunch will be available on the first day of school. If your child's balance goes below -\$7.00, we will switch out the regular entree for a cheese sandwich. The rest of the lunch will be the same. Please check your hot lunch balance (now on Sycamore) to avoid the great cheese sandwich sadness! We did notice, when checking hot lunch data on Sycamore this summer that a great many accounts are in the red. If you put in \$10 and you are \$9 in the hole – you will be in the red again with your child's first lunch purchase.

Electronics Policy:

Cell phones **cannot** be used during the school day without staff permission. Students in 6th-8th grades are asked to deposit their phones in a pocket chart during the school day. Texting is prohibited during the school day. If you need to get a message to your child during the school day, please call the office, and we will relay that message to your child. Cell phones are a distraction to the learning process. Their use can also open up possibilities for cheating and cyber-bullying. If your child is using a cell phone during the school day (without permission) the teacher will bring the phone to the school office and a **parent** will need to get that phone from me.

Educare: We will continue to use the computerized check-in (on Sycamore) and out for students using Educare. Students will be logged in by their student number when they arrive in Educare, and you will log them out as you pick them up. Because we want to ensure the safety of students, any child not picked up by 3:00 will go to Educare and will be charged for time there. Educare costs will be **\$4.50** an hour for the 1st child, **\$4.00** for the 2nd child, and **\$3.50** for each additional child. These prices will cover the minimum raise increase for our workers. Times are billed to the nearest 5 minute increment so you are not billed for time you don't use!

Web Site and Sycamore:

As mentioned earlier, there is a lot of information available to families via the Sycamore system and our website. I encourage you to check the both Sycamore and the school website often <http://school.stmarysspokane.org> You will find a lot of information about the school and our programs there. You can log your volunteer hours, check grades and assignments, download calendars and forms and get tons of other information.

Volunteer Hour Logging Process:

All parents can log their volunteer hours via [Sycamore](#). To log hours just log-on to Sycamore, then click on: "My School" then "Service Logs" then "New Log." You will then want to choose your Opportunity (ie: Auction, Fun Run, Other, etc.) and just put in the date, time and amount of hours logged. Please enter notes for each Service Log to describe exactly what the volunteer

time was for. This is especially important for the "Other" category so there is proper documentation of the volunteer time.

Emergency Notification:

We will contact you, via email (through the Sycamore system) , as well as text (through the IRIS system) if there is a school emergency. It is important that you keep your contact information current on Sycamore for emergency notification. We also notify the local TV stations in case of a school closure. It is imperative that you provide the school with current contact information so that you are notified should there be an emergency. You may update contact information on Sycamore yourself, however please also let the office know of any changes so we can update all other lists that are not connected to Sycamore.

We hope to start a Math is Cool team for grades 6-8 this year. If you are interested in coaching or participating, please contact the school office. Here is a little background from about the benefits of participating in math competition:

"Math club is a fun and competitive activity that any student can participate in. It is a great way for students to develop intuitive thinking skills and learn new types of math. Students will not only learn new material, but will apply their previous knowledge from school to fun and challenging problems. Furthermore, they will learn to view math not as a set of rules or guidelines, but as an art. Math is a subject full of creativity and opportunity that many students enjoy. Besides the academic benefits, math club is also a great way to meet new people and develop teamwork skills."

St Mary Fall Sports 2018 Practice schedule

Sports Physicals must be completed by the first day of practice for all sports. Sports Physicals are valid for 2 consecutive years then must be renewed.

7th and 8th Volleyball - will start practice Monday August 20th and will practice Monday - Friday 4:00-6:00 PM Head Coach Jeff Witherow. Please contact Miss Lafferty LLafferty@stmarysspokane.org with any questions.

5th and 6th Volleyball - will start practice Monday August 20th and will practice Mon - Friday 6:15-7:30 PM Head Coach Jessica Henry. Please contact Miss Lafferty LLafferty@stmarysspokane.org with any questions.

7th and 8th Football - will start practice Monday August 20th at St. Al's School 3:30-5:30 PM St Mary Coach Craig Savage. Please contact Miss Lafferty LLafferty@stmarysspokane.org with any questions.

5th and 6th Football - will start practice Monday August 20th at St Mary 5:00-7:00 PM Monday through Thursday for the first two weeks before school starts. Head Coach Rob Tipps. Please contact Miss Lafferty LLafferty@stmarysspokane.org with any questions.

1st-8th Cross Country - will start practice Monday August 20th at St Mary and will practice 6:00-7:00 August 20 and 22nd at St Mary and Aug 21 and 23 at South 1016 Steen Court. Head coach Frankie Ferraro. Please contact Miss Lafferty LLafferty@stmarysspokane.org with any questions.

7th and 8th Cheerleading - will start practice August 27th and will practice Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 6:15-7:30 the first two weeks in the St Mary Courtyard. Head coach Theresa Combs. Please contact Miss Lafferty LLafferty@stmarysspokane.org with any questions.

3rd & 4th Flag Football we are still looking for a few more player and a Head Coach. If your son or daughter is interested please contact Miss Lafferty LLafferty@stmarysspokane.org

I look forward to the beginning of another school year here at St. Mary. The office will officially open on August 21 from 9-3, but I do check by phone messages and email regularly, so feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Lauri Nauditt

Principal

On-line Information: <http://school.stmarysspokane.com>

◆ Look under the "Parent/Parent Resources" tab on the website for the 18-19 School Calendar, the monthly events and Hot Lunch Calendar * available later in August, the Supply List, the Uniform Code and Traffic Pattern