



Principal's Post
September 9, 2022

Good afternoon St. Margaret School families,

Each Friday afternoon you will receive this “Principal’s Post” highlighting important SMS information. Please take the time to read these weekly posts (including any attachments) and use the information for your planning purposes throughout the year.

Thank you to the parents who attended our Middle School Back to School Night this week! Reminder - our Elementary School (all Grades Preschool-Grade 5) Back to School night is Thursday, September 15th at 6:30pm - parents report directly to homeroom at 6:30pm - there will be three sessions 6:30PM, 7:00PM and 7:30PM.

This week we were busy learning the rules and guidelines for SMS and how we can show “GRIT” (God, Respect and Responsibility, Integrity and Teamwork). We will show GRIT in all areas of our school day - properly wearing our uniforms, during our weekly liturgies, in our classrooms, outside at recess, in the hallways, on field trips, etc. Our Catholic identity will lead our behaviors in all that we do here at SMS.

Dress Code and Uniform Policies - (Handbook pages 20-23)

As we are beginning our third week of school, please be sure your child is following the uniform (including hair) guidelines in our handbook (pages 20-23). Parent/Student Handbook link: <https://smsch.org/assets/imgs/featured/Handbook-St.-Margaret-School-2022-2023.pdf>

Opening Liturgy is Thursday, September 15 - On Thursday, September 15, Middle School students should be dropped off to the Elementary School campus. We will celebrate 8:30 Mass together in the church and enjoy time with our Prayer Partners after Mass. Parents are welcome to attend our Opening Liturgy!

SMS September Outreach Our September outreach collection assists the *Choose Hope Women's Center* in Bel Air. Most needed items are: baby lotion, wash, shampoo, diaper cream, socks, towels, blankets, pacifiers, small sleepers and onesies, 18-24 mo. clothing, large diapers, and Pull-ups. Donating to our monthly outreach is optional. Please offer your prayers to those in need in our Harford County community.

Arrival Reminders - Students may not exit vehicles prior to 7:20am at the Middle School campus and 7:45am at the Elementary School campus.

Campus Safety - Please be aware that students should not remain outside on the campuses after school (on playgrounds, etc.). Students should not be returning into the buildings to

use the bathrooms or water fountains after school. We all love our pets, however dogs should not be outside of vehicles on the campuses. Students should not be petting or playing with pets for safety reasons. Thank you for your cooperation.

Fall Festival “Wish List” - The Fall Festival Committees have put together a wish list. Every item donated helps to make St. Margaret's Fall Festival a huge success! Please follow this link to get to the SignUpGenius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B44A8AF28A7F58-fall1>

Band Information - Band is offered to students in grades 4-8 by a third party vendor, the Instrumental Music Program-Baltimore. Please see the attached "Join the Band" letter and information sheet on instrument rentals.

SMS Band teacher: Mr. Sytsma

Email: sytsma.music@gmail.com

Phone: 443-946-1224

Parish Cub Scouts - Please see the attached flyer for more information on Cub Scouts (for boys and girls Kindergarten-5th grade)

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

Lunch Duty PreK 4 - Grade 5 Lunch duty parent helpers will begin in October! Each homeroom will receive a Sign Up Genius from the school. Please look for an email to be sent at the end of September.

Family Income Survey We need your help! Every year our school has an opportunity to participate in federal and state programs that benefit our students with a variety of materials and services. Parents are asked to complete a brief Family Income Survey in order to assist our Catholic schools with receiving these additional materials and resources. Please use this link to complete the form **by Friday, September 16**. Thank you for your assistance!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe2MaxgjJq-YA7fsnNhmamEjoi7hq7Bn1nnv01fjFJyKWUsjw/viewform>

Volunteer Compliance VIRTUS - Please review the VIRTUS requirements for volunteering. All those who wish to volunteer in our school must be appropriately screened and provide three written references to the school. Parents may not volunteer without completing this mandatory screening. <https://smsch.org/giving/volunteer/virtus>

CYO Basketball - Please read the attached flyer for more information on the CYO Basketball Program which begins in October!

Looking ahead!

Sept. 15: Opening Liturgy and Prayer Partners - MS students are dropped off at ES campus
Elementary School Back to School Night 6:30PM

Sept. 23: School Closed - Faculty Retreat

Sept. 23-24: FALL FESTIVAL!

Oct. 7: School Closed - AOB Professional Development Day

Oct. 22: HSA Trunk or Treat

Oct. 31: Early Dismissal Day

Have a wonderful weekend!

Blessings,

Mrs. Anna Shanahan

Principal