



Principal's Post

October 21, 2022

Good afternoon St. Margaret School families,

Thank you for helping to make our annual Trunk-or-Treat event a success! It was a great turn out as usual and thank you for your continued support in donating canned goods! Please see the following updates, reminders, and notifications.

Halloween costume guidelines- Please make sure that student costumes are appropriate. No face paint, makeup, or weapon-like props are permitted. Colored washout hairspray and hair accessories are permitted. We are excited to see students in costumes!

Parish events - The parish is hosting a "Saints Alive" event on Saturday, November 5, see the attached flyer for more details. All middle school students are invited to The Youth Ministry Game Night sponsored by the parish. Please see attached flyer for more details.

We love our SMS Grandparents! Our grandparents are special and we want to make sure we include them when we share videos and send seasonal mailings. Please use [this form](#) and share their contact information with us. Thank you!

Tuition Assistance - St. Margaret Parish provides tuition assistance to eligible families for children attending our parish school from preschool through Grade 8. Families registered AND active in Saint Margaret Parish are eligible to apply for tuition grants. The parish defines "active families" as those that are part of this worshipping community by regularly attending Mass at Saint Margaret Parish. An application must be made each year, and are not automatically renewed. **Applications Accepted November 11, 2022 - January 6, 2023 ONLY 2021 tax information will be used.** More details to follow.

Vacations - Per the school handbook - absence from school during the academic year due to family vacations is strongly discouraged. Missed work and assignments may only be obtained upon return.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

October Outreach - Please help SMS students celebrate SOCKTOBER by donating new socks of any kind for families in need now through **10/31**. Thank you for your support of our SMS outreach efforts!

HOT LUNCH IS BACK! The Saint Margaret School hot lunch program is now open for orders! Hot lunch service will begin on Tuesday, October 25th. Hot lunches will again be ordered through the Hot Lunch online system:

<https://stmargaret.h1.hotlunchonline.net> Order deadlines are one week prior to the hot lunch scheduled. In other words, orders can be placed 7 days prior to any scheduled lunch. If you have any questions or difficulty setting up your account or ordering process, please feel free to contact stmargarethotlunch@gmail.com

Elementary School- Parents are not permitted to pull into the lane between the white building and the garage during school hours (8:30-3:00pm) off of Hickory Avenue. Preschool students are dropped off at this location in the morning (8:05-8:30am), however the cones that block the entrance from Hickory Avenue should remain in place to prevent cars from entering. During the school day students walk between buildings and it is unsafe for our students. Thank you for your cooperation.

Winter Uniforms - Long pants and sweats **before Nov. 1st are acceptable** if the weather is chilly. November 1st is the official change over to the winter uniform. Jackets and coats are permitted outside but are not to be worn inside the buildings during school hours. Jackets and non-SMS sweatshirts will not be worn during Mass.

Middle School Arrival and Dismissal NO LEFT TURNS - There are to be NO LEFT TURNS from our middle school parking lot during arrival or dismissal. The no left turn sign is posted. Those who are continuing to disregard this procedure are causing safety issues for our school community. Please assist us by following our school safety guidelines. Thank you.

Parking - Please do not park on the yellow curbs. There is one in front of the Adult Education Center (old white church building) and another to the right of the intersection at Lee Way and Hickory. When cars are parked or even stopped on those yellow curbs, it makes it dangerous to turn out of the church parking lot and out of Lee Way onto Hickory. Please do not park in the handicap parking spaces during the school day. Please also remember not to park or stop at the yellow curb. Thank you for helping to keep our students safe!

Please Label SMS Sweatshirts As weather begins to get cooler please be sure to label your child's sweatshirts and jackets. We sort through lost and found often and return anything labeled to students.

Late Pick Up Reminders - Beginning October 3rd, a fee will be charged for the After School Care of any child remaining more than 15 minutes after dismissal (Starting at 2:50pm at the MS and 3:15pm at the ES). Parents will be charged \$5.00 for the first 15 minutes of care and an additional \$5.00 for every five minutes after that. A flat fee of \$5.00 will be

levied in an emergency situation. More instructions are on the form. Parents are receiving this information as well in the Principal Post.

Lunch Duty PreK 4 - Grade 5 - Please be sure to sign up to help as a lunch helper volunteer! All volunteers in classrooms need to be Virtus compliant.

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

Please be sure your child is following the uniform (including hair) guidelines in our handbook (pages 20-23). Uniform slips will be given for not following the school uniform guidelines. ***Thank you for your support with our school procedures!***

Parent/Student Handbook link: <https://smsch.org/assets/imgs/featured/Handbook-St.-Margaret-School-2022-2023.pdf>

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.

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>

Looking ahead!

Oct. 31: Early Dismissal Day

Nov. 1: Winter Uniform Begins (Please refer to page 20 in the Parent/Student Handbook)

Nov. 16: Picture Retakes

Nov. 21 and 22: Early Dismissals and Parent Conferences in the afternoons

Nov. 23-25: School Closed for Thanksgiving

Have a wonderful weekend!

Blessings,
Mrs. Anna Shanahan
Principal