



Principal's Post

October 28, 2022

Good afternoon St. Margaret School families,

Our October outreach collection is ending on Monday. We can't wait to count how many pairs of socks were donated for families in need! Our November outreach of non-perishable food items will assist the parish with feeding needy families in our community for Thanksgiving. Thank you for your support of our SMS outreach efforts!

As the students are ready to celebrate Halloween on Monday, October 31, please be sure that costumes are appropriate for school. 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 their costumes!

Uniforms - Winter uniforms begin on Tuesday, Nov. 1st. 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. Showing pride in our SMS uniforms is important. Please be sure your child is following the uniform (including hair) guidelines in our handbook. 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>

Progress Checks - We are approaching the end of Trimester 1 in just a few weeks. Progress reports in grades K-2 will be sent home on Tuesday, November 1st.

Parents should review PowerSchool in grades 3-8.

Parent Conferences - We will be using SignUpGenius to schedule in person parent conferences for the afternoons of Monday, November 21 and Tuesday, November 22 from 1:00pm-4:00pm. Look for more information on parent conferences coming soon.

ES Parking Concerns - ES parents, please do not park in the Office of Aging parking lot or in the reserved areas on Wright St. We have received calls from the Office of Aging as well as from the Sheriff's office. We have been informed that effective immediately, you will be ticketed if you are parked or stopped in the areas designated for the Office of Aging.

Please cooperate with these parking procedures as we do not want to see our school families receiving citations.

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. 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!

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.

[November/December Spirit wear Order \(Christmas Order\)](#)

SMS Spirit wear Store Opens: Monday, October 31st- Friday, November 12th

Delivery of Spirit wear to ES campus: Thursday, December 8th

Distribution of Spirit wear to Homerooms: December 9th

AOB Tuition Assistance - The Archdiocese of Baltimore is now accepting applications for Tuition Assistance Grants for the 23/24 academic year. FACTS, an independent third party, helps the Archdiocese objectively assess what a family is able to contribute to its student(s) educational expenses. Awards do not need to be repaid, but an application is required each academic year. There is no automatic renewal process. Completed applications must be received no later than February 28th in order to be considered for a tuition grant.

Please use the link for St. Margaret School's page

<https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/3QDJ0> and apply early for maximum consideration.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

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!

Parish 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.

Hot Lunch 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

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.

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.

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 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

Save the Date - Friday, Dec. 16: ES Christmas Programs, Grades K-5, in the afternoon (ES Gym)

Have a wonderful weekend!

Blessings,
Mrs. Anna Shanahan

Principal