



Principal's Post

October 7, 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 school year. Thank you!

Our next big school event is the HSA sponsored **Trunk or Treat!** This event is already **SOLD OUT!** There is a waitlist at this time so please reach out to the HSA if you cannot use your ticket so another family can receive a spot for the event.

October Outreach - "SOCKTOBER"! Please help SMS students celebrate Socktober by donating new socks of any kind for families in need. Collection ends 10/31/22. We will have a crazy sock day on Monday, October 17th in all grades Preschool through 8th grade. Thank you for encouraging your class families and students to support our SMS outreach efforts!

Hot Lunch - Please look for an email coming directly from the room parents to sign up for hot lunch!

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. 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. Thank you for helping to keep our students safe!

Parish Children's Choir - St. Margaret Parish Children's Choir is looking for students to join! For more information contact the parish Assistant Director of Music, Amanda Bentkowski 410-879-2670 abentkowski@stmargaret.org.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

October is Respect Life Month - The parish has placed white crosses on the front lawn of the church (ES campus) for Respect Life Month. Please be aware that a sign accompanies the crosses explaining that each cross represents the life of one baby. If you have any questions please contact St. Margaret Parish.

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. 15: HSA Trunk or Treat (rain date Oct. 22)

Oct. 17: Crazy Sock Day

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