



Principal's Post
November 11, 2022

Good afternoon St. Margaret School families,

Today we celebrated our Veterans with special prayers and a patriotic red, white and blue add on day. We thank Coach O, Mr. Rooney and all of our SMS family members who have served our country and we will continue to keep them in our prayers.

Our students in grades 4-8 also traveled to John Carroll today to see the play ELF! This was a great way to begin our holiday cheer! There will be many activities coming up in the month of December, some of which have costs or donations are asked for. Please remember that these activities are optional and not required. We know the holidays can be a difficult time financially for many. Next week you will receive a flyer with all of our various SMS holiday activities and events.

One of our SMS holiday traditions is celebrating St. Nicholas Day! On December 2 we will be celebrating St. Nicholas Day on both campuses. In the afternoon students will remain in their homeroom and watch a Christmas movie. A \$5.00 "snack pack" will be sold for this day. It includes a bottle of water, a soft pretzel and fruit snacks. Students may bring in their money November 14 - November 18. The proceeds from the snack packs will benefit the Welcome One Harford Family House.

Update - We will not sell prepackaged holiday gift items prior to our December 9 event. An evening of holiday fun for our SMS families will be held on **Friday, December 9** in the **ES gym from 5:00-7:00pm** with crafts, activities, pictures with Santa "Rooney", etc. Look for a flyer coming soon with more information. We hope to see you there!

We have a few busy weeks ahead! Here are some important dates for the remainder of November:

On Monday, November 14, all faculty and staff will participate in an emergency training professional development session. **Please be prompt for pick up on Monday, Nov. 14** to allow our faculty and staff to arrive at our training by 3:15pm. **Thank you for your assistance.**

During the week of November 14 we will have our **Food For Fuel Runs!** Our PE teachers Mr. Sharretts and Coach O are organizing our annual "Food is Fuel" runs which will take

place during PE classes. The students are encouraged to bring in non-perishable food items for our November outreach which will assist the parish food collection for the needy in our community. We are also collecting gently used winter coats for needy families. **Thank you for your support of our SMS outreach efforts helping those in need!**

Wednesday, November 16 is the **feast day** of our patron saint **St. Margaret of Scotland**. A student dressed as St. Margaret will be traveling to the classrooms to read about the life of St. Margaret and deliver gold “chocolate” coins to the students. ***St. Margaret, pray for us.***

Picture Retake Day November 16 - Lifetouch will be holding picture retakes on both the ES and MS campuses on November 16th. The online code to order retakes is EVT6JH6N. Please email your student's teacher before November 16th if your child will be receiving retakes.

Parent Conferences - In person parent conferences will be held during the afternoons of **Monday, November 21 and Tuesday, November 22 from 1:00pm-4:00pm**. These are early dismissal days for the students. Please sign up for one conference using these SignUpGenius links:

Elementary School (PreK-5th) <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050448aaaf23a6fe3-parentteacher7>

Middle School (Grade 6-8) <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050448aaaf23a6fe3-parentteacher6>

November 28 - Fr. Kevin's annual Anniversary Pizza Lunch! - all students and staff will receive a pizza lunch on Monday, November 28. Two slices for MS and one slice for ES. Students should bring other lunch items with them if they would like more than the slices of pizza. Deanna Townsley is coordinating the lunch. Thank you Fr. Kevin and Mrs. Townsley!

November 29- Giving Tuesday, Love 4 Maggie “#Love4Maggie” - Starting on #GivingTuesday, November 29, and for the following week we will be conducting a fundraising challenge. For each gift that is made to St. Margaret School, we will place a colored heart on the likeness of Maggie in each campus' lobby. Grade levels will compete to see which grade raises the highest number of gifts and dollars. Each class will have its own special colored heart put on Maggie for each gift made. At the end of the week, we'll announce which grade has raised the most money and the most gifts.

- Each day the grade level leaders in each category will receive special rewards. At the conclusion of the fundraising week the leaders in each category will be awarded special prize packages including a dress down day and a delivered lunch for their grade level!
- Make your gift during the competition and learn more at smsch.org/giving/love4maggie and show your #Love4Maggie and St. Margaret School! The link will go live for donations on November 29th.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

From the Health Suite- As cold and flu season are upon us please follow our health suite policies to ensure the health and safety of our students. All illness related absences need to be documented by emailing the homeroom teacher as well as the office secretary and the nurse on each campus. Any student absent for 3 days or more requires a doctor's note to return to school. Our nurses will be in communication with families with illness related absences. Thank you for your support.

Elementary School:

Mrs. Currey (scurrey@smsch.org) and Mrs. Piechocki (kpiechocki@smsch.org)

Middle School:

Mrs. Schafer (pschfer@smsch.org) and Mrs. Zankowitz (lzankowitz@smsch.org)

Uniforms - Turtlenecks at the ES with the embroidered logo are permitted only this year as they are being phased out. Plain turtlenecks are not permitted. Vests at the MS for girls are permitted this year as well as they are phased out. Neither option will be permitted next school year. 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>

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.

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. Thank you for your cooperation!

Middle School Arrival and Dismissal 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.

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.

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.

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!

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.

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!

Nov. 14: EDC Closes at 2:30pm

Nov. 16: Picture Retakes

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

Nov. 23-25: School Closed for Thanksgiving

Nov. 26: Parish Winter Festival and Tree Lighting 2pm-6pm

Save the Date - Friday, Dec. 16: ES Christmas Program in the afternoon (ES Gym)

Have a wonderful weekend!

Blessings,
Mrs. Anna Shanahan
Principal