

*St. Mary's School*  
*"Excellence in Education"*  
716 Market Street ~ PO Box 102  
Marathon, WI 54448

*"We, the family of St. Mary's School, are committed to promoting Catholic values to God's children through faith, Christ-centered worship, service and academic excellence."*

July 28, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope your family is enjoying your time together during these summer months. As we prepare for the 2020-2021 school year, we wish good luck to Mrs. Conley, Ms. Kramer, Mrs. Mroczenski and Mrs. Petersen as they have moved on. We welcome Mrs. Tousignant as our middle school science, health and 7<sup>th</sup> grade religion teacher and Mrs. McMeeken who will be our 5<sup>th</sup> grade and littles physical education and computer teacher. With Mrs. Mroczenski leaving we have a part-time position open in the kitchen. If you or anyone you know are interested in applying for this position, please contact Karen Fischer at [hlunch@stmarysmarathon.org](mailto:hlunch@stmarysmarathon.org).

We will soon welcome back our students, replacing the back to school night assembly with a back to school day. The back to school day will be Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, from noon – 8 PM. Families new to St. Mary's should attend a short meeting at 6 PM in the cafeteria to review policies and we will answer questions. Existing families will drop off supplies at any time between noon - 8 as they normally do, pick up their back to school packet and can visit with their teachers, but there will not be a schoolwide meeting in the gym this year. The school supply list was sent home with the end of year packet and can be found on our website, Parents' Page/School Supply List.

School pictures will also be taken on the 25<sup>th</sup> from noon – 8 in the gym. A paper picture order form copy can be used and is found in this packet, but Lifetouch is encouraging filling orders online to minimize exchanging of paper copies. When you use the online version, which can be found at [mylifetouch.com](http://mylifetouch.com) with a picture day ID of EVTSDMSW6, you will receive \$30 in Shutterfly coupons to spend plus a free 8x8 photo book from Shutterfly when you purchase a package. Plus you will receive a digital download with any package. Parents can sign up for a photo time slot for the 25th in Sycamore similar to how they signed up for P-S-T conferences last year. If you don't have Internet access, contact the school with three times you would like to sign up for and we will try to sign you up for one of those times. If you don't sign up, the photographer will take your child's picture when there is availability between those that have signed up. This would also be a good time to make sure your contact and medical information is correct, which can be found in the "My Family" tab in Sycamore.

Instructions for picture sign up time in Sycamore:

1. Log into Sycamore
  - On the right side you should see "My Students" and a picture of your child(ren). Below the pic you should see Picture Day Schedule and a blue link "Check Your Schedule". Click on the link and proceed to #4. If you do not see that, go to #2.
2. Click on My School on the left side.
3. Under My School, select my P/T Conferences

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4. Select your child(ren) from the drop down and then click on any available green box. Once you confirm the time, you will need to contact St. Mary's if you need to change it. If you are having trouble with this or with logging into Sycamore, please contact me via email: [jkoch@stmarysmarathon.org](mailto:jkoch@stmarysmarathon.org).

There is a postcard in this packet explaining this year's Packer Tailgate Party. We will not have an in-person tailgate party this year, but we will have raffle tickets. We have expanded the number of winners and the cost of tickets is \$25 each. This may be the only fundraiser we have this calendar year, so please support the fundraiser. Tickets are available in the school office, parish rectory, or in back of church.

We are continuing to look at our reopening plan with the assistance of the Diocese and Marathon County Health Department (MCHD). We have bought and installed several sanitary items such as hands-free devices and are arranging for social distancing as best we can. Some activities have been delayed or canceled. For example, at the beginning of the school year we generally have swimming at the swim center but will not this year. Our fall sports will, at a minimum, be delayed and if we have them, they will not begin until after the beginning of the school year. We are looking at ways to help students academically and emotionally when they return. For example, the first three weeks of the school year will be "schoolwork, not homework". Although students will not have homework those three weeks, it's not free time; they have classwork and if students do not do any work during class the first three weeks, the work will be waiting for them at the beginning of week four. However, the intent is to both serve somewhat as a review session and to see where the students are at as they readjust to school, and thus to better help them throughout the year. This year, we also will have dedicated weekly times for teachers to meet with each other to discuss student concerns and how to help them. We are expecting some to be anxious as they return so if you are noticing concerns, contact your child's teacher so we are aware. We have a child screening tool on our website, School Resources/Family Support Link to assist in determining anxiety. Not all questions currently apply but it can be used to help see where your child is at. In discussing reopening with MCHD yesterday, their main suggestions to parents were again to make sure if a child is sick to keep them home; it's the top item they stressed. Also, to continue to train your children in hygiene habits such as washing hands for 20 seconds with soap, covering coughs and if they are using masks, the proper way to put them on such as not grabbing them in the middle but on the sides and also sanitizing before and after use. Finally, to proactively check with your employers on leave and sick day policies as it possible that your entire family will need to stay home for an extended period. There is the possibility we would need to move back to distance learning and although as a group our school community did well with this last spring, it's not ideal. We have a survey that you can take to help indicate what went well and for you to give suggestions: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FKBSK3B>.

There was a busing survey sent to you by Fischer Transportation as well. Usually we have busing information for you at this time, but that will be in your August 24<sup>th</sup> packet.

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**Supplies:** When picking up school supplies, please use the list which was in the packet sent home the last day of school. You may go to our website at [www.stmarysmarathon.org](http://www.stmarysmarathon.org) to find school supply lists, alternate site forms, etc. Don't forget to use Scrip.

**Bookbills:** Bookbills for students in grades 4K – 8 may be paid any time and the bookbill for parishioners will remain the same as last year, \$550 for one child, \$800 for two children and \$1,000 for three or more children. 4K students are \$400 if they are the only child in school. Sacrament Books for Grade 2 are paid separately (you will be notified during the school year). Included in the upcoming August packet will be a bookbill or tuition (for non-parishioners) policy. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 715-443-3430.

**General Fee:** A fee of \$50 is charged at the beginning of the year. The money is used for technology maintenance. This should be paid by sending the fee to school marked "General School Fee". You may choose to purchase enough Scrip from June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021 to equal \$50 *in profit* instead of paying the General Fee. If you pay the General Fee *and* purchase enough Scrip to equal \$50 in Scrip profit, you will be offered the chance to receive your \$50 back in Scrip. Look at the % of profit each vendor will give. We will continue to have the option to purchase Scrip online; however, you must contact the school office in order to give you the necessary directions. Scrip continues to be sold at school, however contact us in advance with your order, as we are looking to limit the number of visitors in the school building this year. If you have questions, please feel free to call the school office.

**Band:** Band (not group this year) is offered to students in grades 5 – 8. There is no quarterly fee for students who take band. Students will need to rent their band instruments from a music store if you do not already have one.

**After Care:** After Care will be offered again this year. Information will be in your August packet.

**Hot Lunch Prices:** \$2.95 per day per child, which includes a carton of milk. The cost of milk is \$ .40 per carton if your child chooses to take a carton of milk with his/her cold lunch. More information on the school hot lunch will come home in your packet. Free and Reduced Forms are enclosed.

**Alternate site:** If your child needs bus transportation to school from a site other than your home in the morning – or – if your child goes to a site other than your home after school, you need to fill out a form making a request. You will find a copy of the Alternate Site form on our website, Parents Page/Forms/Alternate Site Forms **Alternate site forms must be sent to Fischer Transportation, Inc. by August 7<sup>th</sup>.**

As the school year draws near, I ask you to keep St. Mary's School in your prayers. Even if this year goes well it will be difficult at times so we will need to rely on God and each other.

Sincerely,

Mr. Koch, Principal