

St. Mary 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."

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. This will be a different year. For the bus routes, there will be two drops per route and different routes/buses on Wednesday as we have school and the public school does not. You will see this on the bus slips in the packet. One student example:

Bus: WEDNESDAY1 AM, (means on Wednesday mornings, you will be on bus 1)

Bus: 10 AM (means on MTRF morning pick up, you will be on bus 10)

Bus: 10B PM (means on MTRF afternoon drop off, you will be on bus 10)

Bus: Wednesday1 PM, (means on Wed. afternoon drop off, you will be on bus 1)

If you have questions, please contact Fischer Transportation (715) 352-2169.

I had mentioned in previous newsletters what would happen if we would have a COVID+ case. As of now, there will be a minimum of 10 days of isolation for the positive person and a minimum of 14 days quarantine for any close contacts. If your child is a sick, please leave them at home. The current exclusionary criteria for a child that is sent home from school with symptoms that are new and unusual states that they and their siblings need to stay home for a minimum of 10 days unless they get a negative COVID test or a different diagnoses from a doctor. There may be further guidance and clarifications before school starts but what that currently means is that if a child with symptoms is sent to school, they as well as any siblings will be sent home and instead of just staying home from work one day with a child, every person in the household will now have to stay home for 10. As stated in a previous newsletter, you should be checking with your employer's leave and sick policies. Furthermore, our opt out option is still available. What you should be looking for before sending your child to school is cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, fever or chills, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, headache, fatigue, muscle or body aches and sore throat. The back to school checklist was in a previous newsletter, <http://www.stmarysmarathon.org/COVIDBacktoschool.pdf>. Once again, if your child is showing any symptoms, please keep them home. If they have any current conditions like migraine headaches, please tell us now. After they get sent home for a headache, it's too late; they will need to spend time at home. In anticipation of possible closures, either classroom or schoolwide, please contact the main office if you have no/unreliable internet and/or if you would not be in need of a school Chromebook as you would have an available device at home.

We have several changes that are middle school specific that were largely test runs from last spring. Students in grades 5 – 8 will have the option of completing up to two reports either orally or written to receive AR credit. This allows for credit for non-AR books and may help students that are anxious with the quizzes. This option was given last spring and most students stuck with the AR quizzes and can still do that this year but there will be an option to do reports for AR points. English teachers in each of those grades have further details. In grades 6 through 8, instead of ADD, students with complete math work through Moby Max in the morning as a way to check progress. Last spring, we put together a master schedule of assignments for grades 7 and 8 and put them in the educational packets. We will

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continue this year with a link of the weekly master schedule on your students' homeroom front page in Sycamore. Ongoing online grading was for grades 7 and 8 last year and will be for grades 5 – 8 this year. All assignments and grades will be up to date Monday (or first day of the school week) on Sycamore at 5 PM. Teachers will add assignments throughout the week as well. I had some people communicate to me last year that an assignment was handed in and an hour later it wasn't in Sycamore. That's not an expectation especially if the teacher is teaching that hour. However, by Monday at 5 all the previous week's work should be graded and recorded in Sycamore, which will be consistent with what we have done with Monday folders. An exception would be large or ongoing assignments, but the teacher should be indicating to students and parents when and how those types of assignments are graded and when they will be posted to Sycamore.

Items that have carried on from last year include the enclosed bookbill/tuition policy developed by Father Joe for the 2020-2021 school year. Please feel free to contact him with any questions or concerns. The Parent-Student Handbook sets the guidelines, rules and regulations for the upcoming school year. Please read and discuss the items in this handbook with your child(ren) and then sign the signature page of the handbook indicating you and your child(ren) have read and understand the items discussed in the handbook. Items in **bold** all families need to sign and return. If you are interested in Spirit Wear, the online store (<https://fourseasonsmarathon.com/stmarys2020>) is open until Friday, September 4th at midnight.

ENCLOSURES: *Please read through and sign all necessary papers by Friday, September 4.*

- 1) **Parent/Student Handbook Signature Page**
- 2) **SIS and Emergency Information Letter/Sign off**
- 3) **Acceptable Use Policy (Technology)**
- 4) Bookbill/Tuition Policy
- 5) **Diocesan Permission Form (One per child)**
- 6) After Care Registration and Information
- 7) Band Sign Up
- 8) School Calendar (**Revised**)
- 9) Liturgy Schedule
- 10) Hot Lunch Menu
- 11) Morning Milk Letter (*4K and 5K only*)
- 12) Prayer Booklet
- 13) Code of Conduct (*one per child in grades 5 – 8*)
- 14) Support Letter
- 15) Library Information/Memorial Books
- 16) Bus Slips (yellow, give to bus driver on the first day)



Included in new family packets **only**, but accessed through our website/parent's page/forms:

- 17) Emergency Form
- 18) Sycamore Parent Letter
- 19) Medication Form to give permission to administer medicine in the office. (*Use this form **only** when needed. Please note the medicine must be sent in **original container or prescription container with instructions – DO NOT SEND MEDICINE IN ENVELOPE OR BAGGIE.***)
- 20) Authorization for Administration of Inhaled Asthma Medications (*Only if needed*)
- 21) Parent/Student Handbook

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REMINDERS:

- 1) When making plans for the upcoming year, please refer to the revised school calendar to prevent potential conflicts. Any changes or additions to the calendar will be indicated in the Monday letters.
- 2) Students should not be arriving at school prior to 7:25 AM unless they have a prearranged work time with a teacher. This is especially important this year. In addition, students should be picked up promptly at the end of the school day at 2:50 PM or report to After Care.
- 3) Please be sure to sign and return the bookbill/tuition contract. If it is possible, it is greatly appreciated if bookbills are paid at the beginning of the school year, as the school has large book company bills that are due NOW. If you wish to make payments throughout the school year, that is also acceptable.
- 4) The school day begins at 7:40 AM. Call the office before 8:00 AM if a child is not in school. If a child is to be contacted by a parent or guardian during the school day, it is important that this be cleared through the office. If a child is to be picked up by someone other than a parent or guardian, please contact the school office and the teacher will be informed. Notes regarding appointments to leave school are always cleared through the school office.
- 5) Each Monday the children bring home their work from the previous week in their "Monday Folder." Parents are asked to review the work and keep it at home. If you have any questions concerning the work, please contact the teacher promptly through the returning folder, a phone call, or e-mail. All Monday folders are to be signed and returned promptly to the student's teacher. Your signature is verification that the contents of the folder were looked over. In addition, each family will receive a Monday letter with information concerning the upcoming week. Please take time to read this letter. Often times calls are made to school with questions that have been addressed in the Monday letter.
- 6) The Hot Lunch Menu will come home the first of every month. Hot Lunch is \$2.95 per day or \$14.75 per week or in advance monthly. Milk is \$.40 per carton if purchased with cold lunch or as an extra carton. Students are asked to bring money in an envelope. Their name and parent's name should be written on the outside of the envelope. It is important that money not be left in school bags or desks all week. The Policy Statement for Free and Reduced Price Meals was sent to you in the summer mailing. Families who fit into the family size income scale are encouraged to fill out the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible.
- 7) Students are asked to have all textbooks and workbooks covered by September 4th unless told otherwise by their teacher. If the students are using cloth book covers, please make sure they are large enough so the book bindings are not broken.
- 8) Each student must have an up-to-date physical examination card on file with the Athletic Director prior to beginning practice for any athletic activity. To possibly get an extension on a physical, fill out this form:
<https://www.wiaawi.org/Portals/0/PDF/Health/WIAA-Physical-Extension.pdf>

Thank you for your commitment to Catholic education. I look forward to a year filled with the best that God has planned for us.

Mr. Joseph Koch, Principal

P.S. If your child has COVID symptoms, please do not send them to school.