

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."

September 1, 2020

In this newsletter:

- Welcome Back
- Bus Drop off
- Spirit Wear
- Back to School



Dear Parents,

Welcome all new families and welcome back to all returning families. New families include, Dan and Theresa Borchardt, Connor 4K, Richard and Laurie Frahm, Thorsten 1 and Elwood 4K, Eric and Beth Geier, Easton 4K, Dustin and Margaret Kaiser, Hans 4K, Raymond and Tanya Riehle, Lucas 2, Katherine 1 and Gabriella 5K, Eric and Brittany Stoller, Lillian 5K, Richard and Kimberly Wadzinski, Piper 4K and Garrett Weiler/Elizabeth Joliffe, Jace Weiler 5K. Welcome as well to our new staff, Mrs. McMeeken, 5th grade, Miss Schroeder middle school english and social studies and Mrs. Tousignant, middle school science, health and religion. They replace Mrs. Conley, Miss Larsen and Mrs. Petersen. Also recognized for years of service over the summer (thank you Home and School for gifts and assisting in the banquet) were Mrs. Gore (5 years), Miss Wirkus (5 years), Mrs. Kind (15 years) and Mrs. Fischer (25 years). In the kitchen, we have decided to end being part of the National School Lunch Program. I'll explain more what that means in the future, but for hot lunch, the government requirements on what needs to be served no longer needs to be followed.

We will have multiple bus drop offs, every day except Wednesday with different bus numbers a possibility. Please review busing with your children and we will be helping them as well. Butch Knauf will again assist students off the bus and up towards school. Like last year, students should stay on the church side of the sidewalk when walking up from the bus. The alleyway between the church and the rectory will be off limits to drive through until 8 AM. Parents can again drop off their students directly in front of school. We ask that you exit on 7th Street to Main Street to stay away from the buses that are on 6th and Market Street. If you have a change of plans for the end of the day, for example your child was supposed to go on the bus but is now being picked up, please tell us as early in the day as possible.

Our Spirit Wear orders are due on Friday (on-line only):

<https://fourseasonsmarathon.com/stmarys2020>).

Unfortunately, we will not be able to do several things in the fall that we normally would do. They include the book fair, swimming and Mary Cakes with an all school Mass celebrating the birth of the Virgin

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Mary. There likely will be more cancellations and changes. It may be similar to major league baseball where having baseball in summer brings some normalcy, but the baseball season has not been completely normal with teams having games cancelled. If there is a COVID+ case while a person was in the school, you will be contacted through a classroom letter or schoolwide letter. The person will be not identified, and if you ask we cannot tell you due to privacy issues, but depending on the letter you receive you will know whether the person was in your child's class (you likely would have already been contacted through close contact tracing). Exclusion criteria is through DHS and Marathon County Health Department and can be found at <http://www.stmarysmarathon.org/ExclusionCriteria.pdf>. Currently isolation for COVID+ is 10 days minimum, close contact is 14 days minimum and being sent home for COVID symptoms is 10 days (unless negative COVID test or separate diagnosis). Depending on weekly updates released on Wednesdays from the MCHD a sibling of a sick child may also have to stay home 10 days if a sibling is sent home. Those with just one tier 2 symptom (as noted in exclusion criteria) that are sent home for just that symptom may not need to stay home for those symptoms but those with 2 or more would. Thus, there may be an appearance of inconsistency as a child (with 1 symptom) that goes home can return while another (with 2 symptoms) might need to stay home for 10. Likewise, a sibling may also need to stay home for 10 days while another 2 weeks later (if MCHD has changed their weekly updates) wouldn't. However, despite this appearance, we are following the guidelines. Community members can call MCHD at 715-261-1900 and state "I have a question about COVID-19." They have people answering COVID questions from 8-4:30, Monday through Friday.

Despite all this, we are looking forward to the year. It's great to have the students' energy back in the building.

Please make note of upcoming dates and activities:

- Monday, September 7th: **No School, Labor Day**
- Tuesday, September 8th: Classroom celebration The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, September 13th: Packer Tailgate Party Raffle Drawing
- Monday, September 14th: 7- 8 Grade Mass
- Wednesday, September 16th: 5 – 6 Grade Mass
- Monday, September 21st: 3 – 4 Grade Mass
- Wednesday, September 23rd: 1 - 2 Grade Mass
- Monday, September 28th: 7 - 8 Grade Mass
- Wednesday, September 30th: 5 - 6 Grade Mass
- Thursday, October 1st: Q1 Mid-terms grades 5 – 8
- Friday, October 2nd: **No School, Marathon in-service**



Mr. Koch, Principal