

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 28, 2020

In this newsletter:



- Lunch
- No School/in-service
- Mask Mandate
- Sibling Exclusion
- Free COVID testing
- Midterms
- Collective Goods Books
- Picture Retakes

Dear Parents,

As stated in a previous newsletter, we are no longer part of the government lunch program. We no longer need to follow rules on portions, so we no longer have to force kids to put something on their plate which is just thrown away, therefore there is less wasted food. We have been able to offer seconds on some of the food. We are no longer forced to prepare food a certain way with certain ingredients and thus have more food options. For example, last week was the first time in a long time we had homemade bread for lunch. We can continue to buy from the same distributors, but there are no longer minimum purchase requirements anymore and we are no longer limited to those distributors. We can buy different types of foods from anywhere and we can also now take donations. Other schools that have done this have gotten sweet corn and sides of beef donations from local farmers as well as vegetables from parishioners. We are developing what we might want for donations. There is significantly less paperwork so that frees kitchen staff to do other kitchen tasks. Free and reduced students will not be affected other than they must fill out a different form in the future and we no longer get commodities from the government. With less paperwork, less wasted food, free food via donations and new foods being prepared, we are looking forward to improving hot lunch. Mrs. Fischer has developed a hot lunch survey which is included. We hope you will fill it out with your children and return it to each child's homeroom teacher. Students in grades 5 – 8 will be filling out the survey independently at school. The October lunch schedule is also included in this packet.

A reminder that this, Friday, October 2nd, we do not have face to face instruction as it is an in-service day.

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The mask mandate was extended by Governor Evers last week as were the directives of the Diocese. Thus, the rules for wearing masks that were enforced the first four weeks of school will continue until the mandate ends. This includes sporting events that St. Mary's hosts as all participants, spectators and coaches must wear masks and follow the provisions of the mandate.

In the September 1st newsletter, I mentioned the concept of sibling exclusion, meaning that siblings of sick students would need to stay at home as well. I mentioned that MCHD may enact this exclusion at any time in the future, and last week they did. This means if students are sick, you will need to keep any siblings home as well. MCHD can reverse this sibling exception at any time; it is largely determined by the number of COVID cases and/or the ability to keep up with disease investigation and contact tracing. The sibling exclusion does not currently apply to siblings of those in quarantine. MCHD also notified us of free COVID testing at NTC this Friday, October 2nd, from 8 - 5. We have attached a link on the homepage of our website.

Midterms for grades 5 – 8 are based off of work completed by the end of the day this Thursday. A paper copy of those midterm grades will be included in next week's Monday folder.

Collective Goods (formerly known as Books Are Fun) has an online link if parents wish to order. You may order through 10 PM this Wednesday, September 30th. Items will be dropped off at the school and will be sent home with your child: <https://order.collectivegoods.com/>

Picture retakes are Friday, October 16th. There is additional information in this packet.

Please make note of upcoming dates and activities:

- Wednesday, September 30th: 5 - 6 Grade Mass
- Thursday, October 1st: Q1 Midterms, grades 5 – 8
- Friday, October 2nd: **No School, In-service**
- Monday, October 5th: 3-4 Grade Mass
- Wednesday, October 7th: 1 - 2 Grade Mass
- Monday, October 12th: 7 – 8 Grade Mass
- Wednesday, October 14th: 5 - 6 Grade Mass
- Friday, October 16th: Picture Retakes
- Monday, October 19th: 3 – 4 Grade Mass
- Wednesday, October 21st: 1 - 2 Grade Mass
- Friday, October 23rd: **No School, Diocese in-service**



Sincerely,

Mr. Koch, Principal