



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The Bridge

January 11, 2019

POSITIVE ATTITUDES COURAGE PATIENCE WISDOM PEACEFUL WAYS

"Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

Parents,

As we begin the year 2019, we continue to explore, decide and improve. From our ever-changing school makeup, one that continues to reflect our community like no other school in our area, to the societal changes that tempt and test our children, and our self, every day, to the daily movement of what is accepted in our world by the ebb and flow of knowledge and of ignorance of some. We explore and discover what is best for our school community. We make decisions on not what society says is correct, but what our Catholic faith teaches us. And we seek improvement every day, from continually looking inward to what is working well and what needs changing to make our school the best it can be.

Some of you know our recent story of the changes that have affected our school. In the fall of 2009 I began as the principal of St. Mark Catholic School, having come from Bishop Chatard High School as an assistant principal, and before that from Scecina Memorial High School as their Athletic Director. I had never taught or worked in an elementary school before I arrived at St. Mark Catholic School. There were some definite immediate challenges that we faced as a school. Enrollment was on the decline at 165 students. The St. Mark parish was supporting the school financially at a high rate (over 30% of the schools budget), and the morale of the school's staff and students needed improving.

We explored what needed to be improved immediately, involved our parents, our students, and our staff, rolled up our sleeves and went to work. But with changes came resistance. We had families that did not buy into what we were doing. The increase in student discipline expectations, the increased academic rigor, the change in our spiritual involvement in our everyday activities, and our welcoming of all students was not universally accepted by some. Some families decided to change schools and some new families decided to come to St. Mark Catholic School and be a part of these changes.

We did away with our acceptance of unwanted drama from people that did not have our Catholic Mission in their heart. We changed the culture of our teachers and staff by being examples of kindness, hard work, and a strong faith in God, which we shared daily through prayer, through our words, and through how we treated our students, our parents, and each other. By walking the walk that we talked, we hold ourselves accountable to the same standards that we expected from others.

We began to improve our communication with our parents, to our students, and to our parishioners. We became known throughout the Archdiocese of Indianapolis as a school that challenged their students, no matter what level they were at, and built upon the academic foundation that their parents had laid to prepare them for their future. We were seen as a school that put our faith first, before anything else. The word was out that St. Mark Catholic School was accepting of all of God's children, those that were white, brown, black, and every color in between. Our school began to look more Catholic, like the universal church that we have always been.

As we continued to grow from 165 students in 2009 to our current 395 students, we began to attract teachers and staff that wanted to be a part of this changing culture. They wanted to teach in a school where they could not only share their faith in God but grow in their own faith. They saw the partnership we have with our student's parents and wanted to experience that partnership. They desired to teach students that represented our world and the diversity that it has, right in their classrooms.

With changes come challenges, but our approach has always been to only make changes if they help our students. Adding HVAC in 2011 and beginning to include 1 on 1 Chromebooks for every student in grades 2-8 in 2012. Increasing the opportunities for faith growth each year to include more of the Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, and most importantly prayer in each day. Adding the main office to its current location, renovating the main entrance to make it more inviting, replacing the roof over the East wing of the school, and much more has improved and updated our infrastructure to prepare our building for its next 70 years.

And as the 70th graduating class comes up to the altar on May 21, 2019, to get their diplomas, the Class of 2019 will have been the first class since I have been principal to go from Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade. They will have experienced the many positive changes that we have made to help them get a better Catholic education. They will have had more opportunities to grow academically, more chances to give service to others, and they will have had the good fortune to have experienced more ways to grow in their faith than any class previously.

So as you fill out your Letter of Intent (and return it by next Friday at 3:30 pm) please do so with the knowledge that you are committing to something special at this school. You are signing your children up for more than an academic opportunity. You are helping them to establish friendships that will last until they are very old, to learn that to give of themselves is more important than to give to themselves, and they will learn that God, through His son, Jesus Christ, loves them dearly. Please pray that God continues to allow us to bring others closer to Him through our ministry at St. Mark Catholic School. Have a great weekend and we will see you at Mass with your children!

Thanks and God Bless,



Rusty Albertson

Principal

St. Mark Catholic School

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" -**Matthew 18:20**

Parish News

The next St. Mark Men's Club meeting will be held Thursday January 17th. We will have a special start time of 7pm so we may enjoy the Pacers/Sixers game on National tv. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Please come join us. We are open to all men of the parish 21 and older.

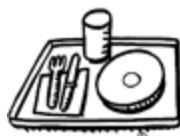
"The mission of the St. Mark Men's Club is to provide opportunity for spiritual growth of the men of St. Mark Parish by sharing time, talent and treasure in the parish, by celebrating faith through prayer, service and stewardship, and by a commitment to generosity for the improvement of church, school and athletics."

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events

January	18		Letters of Intent and Registration Fee for 2019/2020 are due in school office
	18		Staff Development-Students Dismissed at 1:00 pm - No Aftercare
	21		Martin Luther King Day, No School
January	22		Parishioners without children at SMCS may begin registering for 2019/2020
	26	5:00-7:30 pm	PTG Spaghetti Supper, Monsignor Schafer Hall
January 28 - February 1			Catholic Schools Week
February	6		Open Enrollment Begins for 2019/2020
	6	5:00 - 7:00 pm	SMCS Open House, School
	7		Dine Out Night, Jagers
	8		3rd Quarter Progress Report
	15		Staff Development-Students Dismissed at 1:00 pm - No Aftercare
	18		President's Day, No School

FROM THE CAFETERIA



Lunch Menu - January 14 thru 18

- Monday** PK-1 Mini (chicken) Corn Dogs and Baked Beans
2-8 Corn Dog (chicken, turkey, pork, beef) and Baked Beans
- Tuesday** PK-1 Breaded Mini Chicken Patty, Cole Slaw and Kids Snack Mix
2-8 Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ Pulled Pork, Cole Slaw and Hush Puppies
- Wednesday** Popcorn Chicken in Asian Sauce, Fried Rice and Sugar Snap Peas
- Thursday** Beef Tips in Beef Gravy, Mashed Potatoes and Banana Bread
- Friday** Pepperoni Pizza Rippers, Green Beans and Kids Snack Mix



Registration for St. Mark Catholic School 2019-2020 Pre-Kindergarten program is now open for those children age 4 by August 1, 2019. Our Pre-K program is a full day, 5 days a week program and follows our normal school schedule.

The registration fee for Pre-K is \$200. You may register in the school office or by emailing Mr. Albertson at ralbertson@stmarkindy.org. Please call the school office at (317) 786-4013 with any questions you may have.

NEWS: We now have tuition assistance available for Pre-Kindergarten Students for 2019-2020 school year! The tuition assistance will be based on family size and income. We will use the SGO income and family size scale to determine eligibility and amount of assistance. Please stop by the main office for more details. If you are going to apply for tuition assistance for your child(ren) for 2019-2020, you will need to submit a copy of your 2018 taxes. We will need a copy of the front page of your 2018 Federal Tax return that shows the dependents listed by name and your adjusted gross income. You can bring a copy into the Main office or you can email them to Mr. Albertson at: ralbertson@stmarkindy.org. We have three types of tuition assistance: Indiana Choice Scholarships (Vouchers), SGO Scholarships (Tax Credit Scholarship), and our new Pre-Kindergarten Tuition Assistance Scholarship. All three are based on your family size and adjusted gross income for 2018. PLEASE SEE MR. ALBERTSON IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ON TUITION ASSISTANCE! YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR MONEY TO HELP PAY SOME OR ALL OF YOUR TUITION!

St. Mark Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, January 26th, 5-7:30

The St. Mark PTG Spaghetti Dinner is quickly approaching! The Spaghetti Dinner is a great social event that brings our St. Mark families together for a great meal while raising money.

Prices

- Family \$20
- Adult \$8
- Youth (5-12) \$5
- Senior Citizen \$5
- Children 4 and under eat free!!!

Desserts

We will be asking for plated dessert donations the week of the dinner. Desserts will be collected on Friday, January 25th. More information to come.

Questions? Contact Lauren Cline at lcline@stmarkindy.org



There will be times when we have a two hour delay or school closing due to inclement weather. We try not to alter the school day but we do keep the safety of our families and staff first and foremost. If we are on a two hour delay or the school is closed, you can obtain this information from the following:

- Our web site, school.stmarkindy.org (*Mr. Albertson will post on our website first*)
- Local TV stations:
 - WRTV 6
 - WISH TV Channel 8
 - WTHR TV Channel 13
 - FOX 59
 - Channel 4
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram

We will also send out communication to your email address and text you via Jupiter. Please make sure your email address is up to date on Jupiter and if you wish to receive text messages, Mrs. Cline sent an email this morning with directions on how to change this in your settings on Jupiter. If you need any assistance with your Jupiter account, please contact Mrs. Cline at lcline@stmarkindy.org.

Schedule for two hour delay:

- Before Care available at 9:00 am
- School doors open at 9:35 am
- School begins at 9:55 am
- School day ends at regular time, 3:00 pm (2:45 pm for Pre-K)

Happy
Grandparents
Day

NEW THIS YEAR!

Mark your calendars, The Grandparents Day Reception will be held on March 15th from 1:30-2:30 in the school. We will not be asking our grandparents to attend Mass prior to the reception this year. With our positive recent student growth, the size of our church will not hold all of our students

and grandparents. We are looking forward to showing our grandparents how blessed we are at St. Mark Catholic School!

CONTINUING FUNDRAISERS



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com. You will need your Kroger Plus Card Number.



Box Tops

Please place Box Tops in the collection box in the church narthex or turn in to the school office.



Coca-Cola Rewards Program is back this year!

Caps and boxes that have a "My Official Coke Rewards Code" on them Can be redeemed for money and the money goes back to St. Mark School! Just turn your coke reward products into Mrs. Leszcynski in the office.

 **CYO SPORTS**

For CYO athletic questions, please contact one of the following on the St. Mark Athletic Commission Board:

- SMAC President ~ Michelle Goss at the following email:
gossteach@yahoo.com
- SMAC Athletic Director ~ Kris Able at the following email:
kable@stmarkindy.org

Event	Day of Week	Opponent	Time, Location
January 11 - 18			
Cadet Boys BB	Saturday (1/12)	OL Greenwood	9:00, CYO Center
56 Boys BB	Saturday (1/12)	St. Barnabas	10:00, CYO Center
4 Boys BB	Sunday (1/13)	Holy Name	3:00, Holy Name



St. Mark Cadet Wrestling (Grades 5 – 8) Registration

Registration for boy's wrestling is now underway. St. Mark cadet wrestling is open to all Parish boys in grades 5-8. This season, the cadet wrestling team will be joining with St. Barnabas and OLG/SSFC to field the Rebels South cadet team. All cadet practices will be held at Roncalli High School and CYO practice will begin on Tuesday, January 8. A \$50 registration fee will pay for CYO participation plus a season membership in the Roncalli Rebel Wrestling Foundation (RWF). Please contact Patrick Collier at collierfamily8@att.net for more information.

St. Mark Little Lion Wrestling (Grades K – 4) Registration

Registration for boy's wrestling is now underway. St. Mark Little Lion wrestling is open to all Parish boys in grades K-4. All Little Lion practices will be held in the St. Mark cafeteria and practice will begin on Monday, January 7. Please contact Patrick Collier at collierfamily8@att.net for more information.

RONCALLI REBEL NEWS



Reminder: Roncalli High School Application

Roncalli is excited to welcome the Class of 2023 next fall! With scheduling for freshman year starting in a month, if you haven't started the application process yet, you will want to get on that ASAP!

The Application for Admission is now available online at <https://www.roncalli.org/application>. Once the application is complete and the \$100 registration fee is received, you may continue the registration process. Please contact Director of Admissions Allie Ross at aross@roncalli.org or (317) 787-8277, ext. 243 with any questions.

Roncalli Parents Organization

The Roncalli Parents Organization (RPO) invites you to join us on **Friday, January 18th** between 5:00 PM and 7:30 PM in the Roncalli cafeteria for a delicious meal. We will be serving chili, hot dogs, dessert and a beverage for only \$5/person. After dinner, cheer on the Rebels Boys Basketball team as they take on New Palestine.

SOUTH DEANERY BAND SALUTE NIGHT

- Who: 7th and 8th Grade South Deanery Band Members
- What: Roncalli High School Band's South deanery Band Salute Night
- Where: Roncalli High School, Bandroom (room 117 first). We will be playing on the gym stage.
- When: Friday, January 25th, 6:00 PM
- Dress: A tee shirt, polo, or sweatshirt with your school's name, and jeans, no shorts

RSVP to Miss Peach, kpeach@roncalli.org. We need to know how many people are coming for set up. We will not turn anyone away though. We can't wait to see you!

You will get to sit in with the band during the game. We sit on the stage, so our seats are great! You will get third quarter off, just like the high school band kids, and you can get up to \$5.00 in free food at the concession stand.

Games are usually over between 8:50 and 9:30 PM. It depends on the pace of the game, overtime, etc.

Come and join the Roncalli band make some noise at the basketball game!

20th Annual RHS Athletics Cash Bash & Raffle—Saturday, February 23, 2019

Presented by the Roncalli Athletic Booster Club

The Atrium - 3143 East Thompson Road

Doors open @ 6:30

Dinner served @ 7:30

Raffle begins @ 8:00

\$5,000 in Cash Draws and Raffles Tip Boards, Ticket Draw prizes, 50/50's and Pull Tabs

REGISTRATION, PAYMENT & TICKET OPTIONS

Cut off bottom portion and return, with payment, to Roncalli High School: 3300 Prague Rd. Indianapolis, IN 46227 – Attn: Athletics

General Ticket and Corporate Sponsor includes dinner for two, drinks, and one raffle chance

General Admission Ticket: \$100

Corporate Sponsor: \$150—includes program and banner recognition

Table Sponsor: \$500—includes 4 tickets, reserved seating, with program and banner recognition

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Sport:

RSVP For Dinner (1 or 2):

We'll confirm your registration, payment, and your raffle ticket #.

Please contact if you have questions. Chris Lauck: clauck@roncalli.org or David Lauck:

dlauck@roncalli.org

License Number: 149044