



Parents,

It is the time of year when we get letters of intent back from parents that they will either designate that they are returning for the 2019-2020 school year or that they will not be continuing their child's Catholic education at St. Mark Catholic School. For the most part, the overwhelming majority of letter of intent are checked YES they are returning, but a few will be checked NO.

When we have a letter of intent checked NO, I contact the parents and ask them why they are not returning to St. Mark Catholic School. I am not trying to talk them into staying, although I would love for them to continue at SMCS, but I want to see what the reasons are to see if there is something we can improve upon.

Some of the reasons that I typically hear from the parents that say NO is that they are moving to a different city or state. They may have had a job change and transportation is an issue. The cost of tuition is not a good fit for their lifestyle or their budget. They may be going to homeschool their children. Other reasons that they may not share with me. But in the 10 years that I have been Principal, we have always tried to find a way to help those when tuition cost was the main barrier. We have worked to find other families to help with transportation when parents have had a job shift change. We do whatever we have resources to help with, to allow their children to keep getting an education that starts and ends each day with prayer, IF that is what they want for them.

But not all parents put the importance of Christ in their child's education as you do. Cars, homes, cell phones, Starbucks, and other things, sometimes take priority to Christ in their children's lives. I don't judge others lifestyles, people can choose to use their hard earned money how they see fit. But the place where you send your child to school during their most influential years will have the biggest impact on your child's academic development, on their habits that they form, on the friends they will have for the rest of their lives, and on their relationship with God, through His Son, Jesus Christ. Prayer, reading scripture, saying the Rosary, having religion class each day, going to Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, prayer partners, and being taught by teachers that love them and that share their strong faith in God with them, are all reasons to check YES on the letter of intent.

So I thank you for your continuation on the journey of faith with your children. Your commitment to them in providing Christ in their lives each day at school will also allow *you to grow personally in your own faith*. We are a better school because you have chosen to say YES to St. Mark Catholic School, to say YES to your children, and to say YES to Christ. Have a great weekend and we will see you at Mass!

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**

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events

January	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



We are lucky enough to be adding an additional counselor semester. Ashley Cory is our new counseling intern at St. Mark Catholic School and will be working alongside Jonathan Chamblee to service our students! She completed her undergraduate studies in Psychology at Eastern Kentucky University. Ashley is currently studying at IUPUI and will graduate with her Master's of Social Work in August of this year. Ashley spent three years as a teacher at a developmental preschool where she found her love for working with children, specifically working with children to understand what they are feeling when they can't always express that! Ashley then went on to work as a home visitor for 4 years helping parents adjust to having new babies at home. Ashley specializes in alternative methods of counseling, such as mindfulness techniques, yoga and deep breathing, journaling, and sensory based activities. Ashley is happy to join the St. Mark family and looks forward to meeting and working with everyone in this supportive and spiritually uplifting community.

First 
Communion

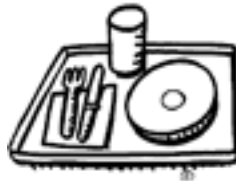
First Communion Preparation begins on Sunday, January 20th from 1:30-3pm. We will meet in Schafer Hall. Questions? Please contact Angi Swiezy at aswiezy@stmarkindy.org or 787-8246 x104.

BUY  YOUR
Yearbook

Yearbook order forms have been sent home with each child. The yearbook orders are due no later than Friday, February 1. The website to order online is www.inter-state.com/yearbook and please enter code 34010T. If you return the order envelope to school and pay with cash, please submit exact change. The cost for a yearbook is \$17.00.

There are additional order forms in the school office if needed.

FROM THE CAFETERIA



Lunch Menu - January 22 thru 25

Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School
Tuesday	Beef Meatballs, Pasta, Bread, Marinara Sauce and Caesar Salad
Wednesday	Taco Seasoned Chicken, Mini Soft Tortillas and Fiesta Lime Corn
Thursday	Hot Ham and Cheddar Cheese Sandwich and Butternut Squash Soup
Friday	Cheesy Ketchupy Burger on Hamburger Bun and French Fries



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)



SMCS Open House
Wednesday, February 6, 2019 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Open Enrollment for any families seeking enrollment for any available classroom spots. Please invite friends and family to our Open House. Help us share the great news of St. Mark Catholic School!

Why Choose St. Mark Catholic School?

- Catholic Identity
- Student Diversity
- Academic Rigor
- Service to Others
- Good Communication
- Strong Sense of Community

Happy Grandparents Day

NEW THIS YEAR!

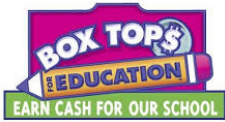
Mark your calendars, The Grandparents Day Reception will be held on March 15th from 1:30-2:30 in the school. We will not be asking our grandparents to attend Mass prior to the reception this year. With our positive recent student growth, the size of our church will not hold all of our students and grandparents. 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
4 Boys BB	Saturday (1/19)	St. Maria Goretti	1:00, Nativity
Cadet Boys BB	Sunday (1/20)	St. Rose of Lima	4:00, Roncalli HS

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.

Community News

- Baseball/ Softball Registrations are OPEN (***Please note this is not CYO athletics***)
- Edgewood Athletics Youth Baseball & Softball REGISTRATIONS are OPEN online www.edgewoodathletics.org thru Feb 11th.
- Ball park is Located @ 6004 Camden Ave. Indpls., IN 46227
- Boys ages 4-12 / Girls ages 4-13.
- Practices will be March 1st (weather permitting) Season begins mid-April games Monday-Saturday's
- Please email edgewoodathletic@gmail.com for further 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.

Indy Junior Rebels Lacrosse

Interested in the fastest growing sport on two feet? Come see what lacrosse is all about! Indy Junior Rebels Lacrosse (the feeder program for Roncalli High School Lacrosse) is registering now for our spring season. Visit jrebellax.com or our facebook page for more information. We currently have teams for boys and girls in grades 3-8. Questions? Contact Julie at juliealdrich@att.net or 317-496-7339.

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.

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