



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

# *The Bridge*

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."**

May 13, 2022

Parents,

This will be the last Bridge that I write as the Principal of St. Mark Catholic School. The last thirteen years have been very joyful for me and my family. The opportunity to lead this school has been a true blessing for me as I have experienced every emotion possible over my years here. I was told by one of my early mentors to "always have an exit plan for your career" and I subscribed to this over five years ago when I put May, 19, 2022 on my calendar as "My last day as principal". That calendar date hit home this week when it popped up as a reminder to me. Reality has set in, the ride has been great, my time as your school's leader is nearing an end, and a new vision is on the way.

The very first teacher I met back in the summer of 2009 was Mrs. Carmen Eliasson. Mrs. Eliasson was a former nun who had taught over 50 years when she retired. When I sat down with her, we immediately became friends as we shared a love for Catholic education. Mrs. Eliasson was a true mentor to me and all the way up to her passing on December 13, 2014. I had a chance to visit her right before her passing to Heaven, and she told me to continue to follow God's path and to lead this school while glorifying God. Mrs. Eliasson was an example of how our teachers and staff changed the lives of our students and those around them.

I have had four pastors over my 13 years as the Principal of St. Mark Catholic School. Fr. Plaster, Fr. Todd, Fr. Bill, and currently Fr. Tim. All were very helpful with their support of our school and Catholic education. They each had their own qualities, but all four were very staunch supporters of our school and its growth. During the last few years, I have appreciated the vision of growth that Fr. Tim brought to our parish and school at St. Mark. Growth of facilities, but also a growth in new families of all walks of life to our church and school. It is very refreshing to have a priest that explains the word of God to all age groups in a way that each of them understand and learn from.

The person that has been my biggest supporter while at St. Mark Catholic School has been my wife, Julie. A converted Catholic, she has stood by me in times of joy and times of growing pains at St. Mark. She has a strong faith that she readily shares with others and she has been a source of strength for me over our 32 years of marriage and my 13 years as your principal. When I ask her, she gives me advice, and she has helped me through some difficult times that most people did not see. She is my rock, my foundation of faith, that I rely on for my spiritual strength.

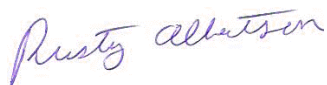
My life has changed over the last 13 years. I have learned that I work best, when I work hard. I have become more patient, but not as much as I need. I have grown in my faith by being at a school where we share our faith in God so readily, where Catholic identity is a part of our fiber, and not just a statue on the wall. I see the world through a different set of lenses, a world that is in need of love and of peace, a world where our material possessions should be shared and not put in a vault. And a world where you can have a school of 165 students, and 13 years later have a school that is much more diverse with over 500 students.

I want to thank everyone that has been a part of my tenure as your principal. I have the people that appreciate what I have done, and I have some that have not. I never walk into the doors each day trying to please anyone. I walk into the doors trying to make our school a better place to be, where all are welcome and Christ is the reason for our school.

My prayers for this school are many. May God bless you and your family. May God bless this school and the transition to new leadership. May God continue to put Christ at the center of everything we do, where decisions are made at the best interest of our students and not because of convenience to adults. May this school continue to welcome all students from all walks of life. And may God bless the students of St. Mark Catholic School as they follow the path that He has laid for them.

And finally, I want to recognize one of the best teachers our school has ever had. Mrs. Cathy Boyle will be retiring at the end of this school year. I want to personally thank her for the love that she puts into every lesson, and the love that she shows her students, our staff, and myself. I will miss our early morning talks before everyone else arrives that I drew much strength from, and I know God will be with you Cathy. You are loved by so many.

Thanks and God Bless



Rusty Albertson  
Principal  
St. Mark Catholic School

## CALENDAR

Thursday	May 19	1:00 pm	Last Day of School- <b>1:00 Dismissal</b>
----------	--------	---------	---



Save the Date of July 14, 15, 16th for the St. Mark Funfest! Again this year we will have the rides, food, music, and a whole lot more family fun! The St. Mark Funfest cannot happen without volunteers, please consider joining school and parishioner families and donating your time! Please note all new & returning volunteers must complete the SafeParish training. To learn more or volunteer please reach out to [festival@stmarkindy.org](mailto:festival@stmarkindy.org)! The Funfest committee will be signing folks up to volunteer after masses in the coming weeks.

## LUNCH MENU

**May16 - 19, 2022**

- Monday** Daily Choice or Breaded Pork Tenderloin on Bun and Baked Beans  
**Tuesday** Daily Choice or French Toast and Sausage  
**Wednesday** Daily Choice or Last Chance Chicken (Chef's Choice) and Green Beans  
**Thursday** *Pizza Palooza, Lunchie Munchie and PBJ are only choices today*

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Have your school supplies delivered directly to school and ready for your child on their first day ~ August 3rd!**



<http://1stdayschoolsupplies.com/kits.php?sid=1178419>



Parents ~ if you would like to volunteer or be a chaperone during the upcoming school year, you will need to complete the Safe Parish program for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. This new program replaces the old Safe and Sacred program. Please complete the new program this summer (website below) so you will be ready to go for next August. When you create your account, please be sure to complete all of the training as well as have your background check completed. In year's past, some parents have waited too late to complete the program and have not been able to chaperone a field trip. So please complete if you would like to volunteer or chaperone a field trip at SMCS. Thank you ~

[www.archindysafeparish.org](http://www.archindysafeparish.org)

Organization Code

code: Archindy2021



# 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](mailto:gossteach@yahoo.com)
- SMAC Athletic Director ~ Frank Litz at the following email: [SMAC@stmarkindy.org](mailto:SMAC@stmarkindy.org)

Event	Day of Week	Opponent	Time, Location
<b>May 13 – May 20</b>			
Track	Friday 5/13	CYO Field Events	TBD, Guerin HS
Track	Saturday 5/14	CYO Running Events	TBD, Guerin HS
Track	Wednesday 5/18	City Finals	TBD, Guerin HS

## CONTINUING FUNDRAISERS



### Kroger Community Rewards

Do you shop at Kroger? Sign up your Kroger's Plus Shopper's Card in the Kroger Community Rewards Program and choose "St. Mark Catholic School". Our organization number is: XM409. The web site is:

<https://www.kroger.com/topic/school-programs>



### Coca-Cola Rewards Program

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 school office



### Box Tops for Education

- Buy Box Top Products
- Scan your Receipt (use the app to snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase)



### **Purchase a 2022-23 Roncalli VIP Card**

Find out how at the link below...all details are included!

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gVdG3txEubfOBXWdgGJsQ4nu3KySDgmyMFUVoAG7UwM/edit>

### **Roncalli Cross Country Program Seeking Runners**

As summer training approaches, the Roncalli Cross Country Teams are seeking incoming freshmen to join our teams. No experience required, all are welcome. For boys interested, please contact Jeff Buckley at [boysxc@roncalli.org](mailto:boysxc@roncalli.org) or 317- 506-1821. For girls interested, please contact Cathy Kitchens at [ckitchens@roncalli.org](mailto:ckitchens@roncalli.org) or 317-938-0700.

### **Roncalli Cheerleading Clinic**

The Roncalli Cheerleading Clinic 2022 will be held May 31-June 2 from 6-8 PM in the Roncalli High School Bubble Gym. Anyone interested in cheerleading, any experience level, Grades 1-8 are welcome! The cost is \$50 per student. Sign up at <https://www.roncalli.org/athletics/summer-sports-camps> to reserve your spot and guarantee your t-shirt! **NOTE: This clinic is not for incoming freshmen.**

### **Host an Exchange Student from Spain!**

Interested in being a host family? Ximena is from Spain, with a GPA of 3.8. She says, "I would be very grateful to spend a year in the US! I am a friendly and energetic girl who loves reading, meeting my friends and practicing sports. I want to join a dance team or volleyball. I play the transverse flute, and I am learning to play the piano. I consider myself responsible and a mature girl, and I want to be an airplane pilot one day." Her favorite classes are chemistry, physics and biology. Contact Janet Shaffer at (317) 372-8971 or [Lazydlake@aol.com](mailto:Lazydlake@aol.com) for information on hosting!

### **Roncalli's Academic Summer Camps-SPACE IS LIMITED!**

Roncalli will offer multiple academic camps this summer! For the first time, a Psychology Camp (June 6-9) will be offered for students going into grades 6-8. Drafting & Woodworking Camp (June 13-16) is back, and it's going to be for students in grades 5-8. A Coding Camp (June 13-16) will also be offered for the first time this summer, and students going into grades 6-8 are welcome to attend. Grades for all camps indicate the grade students will be in for the 2022-23 school year. Please contact Allie Ross at [aross@roncalli.org](mailto:aross@roncalli.org) for all official camp details.