



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."

September 27, 2019

Parents,

Being part of a team is much like being part of a family. Whether it is a sports team, a work team, or school team, there are many components that go into the makeup of the team. Within those components there are many factors that affect the productivity and the cohesiveness of the team. The components and the cohesiveness of the team are greatly affected by the individuals that make it up. The individuals that make up the team each have their own needs, their own skills, their own problems, and their own identities.

I have coached many teams for the last 31 years. Some have had great chemistry. They bonded very quickly as a unit. They enjoyed each other's company. They had each others back in tough situations. They stood up for their teammates in difficult situations. They were there for them in good or bad times. They won as a team and lost as a team.

I have coached teams that have struggled to bond as a team. Their individual goals got in the way of the team goals. Their own wants and needs circumvented the needs of the team. Their personal differences did not serve as a bridge to unity, but as a wedge to growth and togetherness. Those teams lacked leadership. Those teams had people who were dividers and not uniters. Their team goals got lost because of a few individuals.

Our school family is a team. We all have the same goal: to help bring our children closer to God. As members of our St. Mark Catholic School Team, we find ways to help our students replace the evil that grips society with a God who loves them, cares for them, and would do anything for them.

We use parables from the Bible. We pray, we pray, we pray. We provide opportunities to use God's love for us by treating others with that same love. We teach our children to use their talents God has given them to bring others closer to Him. We share our faith with them. Personal examples of how God has changed our lives. Stories of happiness, stories of pain, stories of growth. We share with them our relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ.

But just like teaching Math, or coaching football, we need to know where our children are currently in their faith, before we can help them to grow. Do they believe in God? Do they understand our Catholic and Christian faith? Do they see the good in their classmates? Do they feel love and comfort when they pray? Do they know how to pray? Once we determine their needs, their foundational faith gaps, we can help them grow in their faith. As parents, ask your child this weekend "Where are you in your faith life?" and get ready for a great discussion. Get ready to answer the same question, when your child asks you "Mom or Dad, where are you with your faith life?"

Our school team, is a family. Our school team is made up of students, parents and staff with a great diversity. Our school team has many goals, but the most important, the highest ranking, the number one goal is to help others grow in their faith in God. Not to prepare them for Harvard, but for Heaven. To have a team full of Disciples, spreading the Good News to everyone that will listen. To share our faith. To grow in faith.

I feel blessed to be the head coach of such a great team at St. Mark Catholic School for 11 years. We have teachers and staff that enjoy coming to work each day. That work together to overcome problems. That are uniters not dividers. That get to know their students and help them grow closer to God.

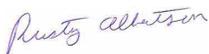
We have parents that work with us, that sacrifice to send their children to school here, that have the same values, expectations and vision that we do. Our parents facilitate faith growth at home and at church for their children. They provide leadership for their family by attending weekend Mass, by praying together, by saying the Rosary with their children, by doing service for others as a team.

We have students that act as leaders for others. Students that help guide those students that are lost, that share their personal relationship with Jesus to their friends, that grow in their faith. Students that form lifelong friendships. That are models for Christ to others.

I tell potential teachers when I interview them, that they have to want to be here. That our school may not have all the bells and whistles that some schools do, but we do have God present each day. When I talk with prospective students in my office I ask them “where are you at in your faith?” and I get some interesting but honest answers from them. Helping someone to grow in their faith is something we are called to do as Christians. We are put on this earth to bring as many as we can to the table of the Lord.

So if you are a teacher, staff member, parent, parishioner, or student, thank you for being a part of our team, a part of our family. We have wins and losses each day. We have good days and we have better days. We don't always agree, but we have the same mission. We care for each other and we love each other. I pray that the Holy Spirit will come upon you and allow you and your team to grow closer to God. Have a great weekend and we will see you at Mass with your child!

Thanks and God Bless,



Rusty Albertson
Principal
St. Mark Catholic School

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oct	7		End of First Quarter
	9		First Quarter Report Cards Sent Home
	10		Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:15 - 7:00 pm
	10		Dine Out Night - 4:00 - 8:00 pm - Chipotle, 8812 US 31
	11		Parent/Teachers Conferences, Students Dismissed at 1:00 PM (No Aftercare)
	14-18		Fall Break, No School
	24	1:00 pm	1:00 pm Student Dismissal-Teacher Development (No Aftercare)
	28		October 28 thru November 1, Book Fair
	29		Family Literacy Night 3:45 pm

FROM THE CAFETERIA

Lunch Menu - September 30 - October 4

Monday	Cheesy Ketchupy Beef Burger on Hamburger Bun and French Fries
Tuesday	Hot & Spicy or Golden Chicken Tenders, Rotini Pasta Noodles and Broccoli
Wednesday	Beef Tacos in Soft Tortilla, Refried Beans and Mixed Pepper Medley
Thursday	Popcorn Chicken in Asian Sauce, Fried Rice and Asian Blend Vegetables
Friday	(PK-1) Cheese Pizza Slice; (2-8) Personal Cheese Pizza; All-Roasted Cauliflower

St Mark Holiday Craft Fair

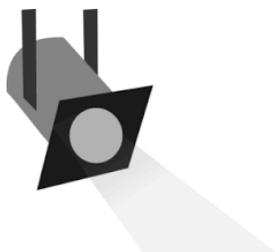
The St, Mark Holiday Craft Fair is November 2nd, 8:00am-2:30pm in Msgr. Schafer Hall. Vendor Registration is now open!

The cost is \$40 for a booth and is first come, first serve. Here is the Google Form to register: <https://forms.gle/R7mnTaGP9KJJoNQn6>

Please email Beth Leszcynski at the school office if you have any questions (bleszcynski@stmarkindy.org)

CONTINUING FUNDRAISERS

Spotlight on Kroger Community Rewards program



Do you shop at Kroger? Sign up your Kroger's Plus Shopper's Card in the Kroger Community Rewards Program and choose "St. Mark CatholicSchool". St Mark Catholic School will get a percentage every time you use your Kroger Card! This money allows us to purchase new educational materials for our school. It will not cost you anything extra. Please sign up today and choose St Mark Catholic School! Our organization number is: XM409. Tell your friends and relatives! <https://www.kroger.com/topic/school-programs>



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 school 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



Sign up for CYO Volleyball is underway!

- Who: Girls Volleyball Grades 4th - 8th and Boys Volleyball Grades 5th - 8th.
- When: Sign up by November 19th!
- Cost: The fee is \$85. www.cyoarchindy.org

<u>Event</u>	<u>Day of Week</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time, Location</u>
K-2 Flag Football	Saturday (9/28)	Holy Name Giants	11:00, St. Mark
34 Football	Saturday (9/28)	OL Grace	11:15 St. Maria Goretti
Cross Country	Sunday (9/29)	Immaculate Heart	1:00, North Central HS
5 Football	Sunday (9/29)	Immaculate Heart	1:00, Tabernacle Field
6 Football	Sunday (9/29)	Christ the King	2:30, Roncalli HS
Cadet Football	Sunday (9/29)	Notre Dame Acad.	2:30, St. Lawrence
Cross Country	Thursday (10/3)	St. Jude Invitational	6:00, Don Challis Park



REBEL WRESTLING FOUNDATION

Registration for elementary and middle school club wrestling is now open and you can sign-up at any time throughout the year. You can sign up during preseason practices on Tuesday and Thursday 4:15 - 5:30 PM and Sunday 7:00 - 8:00 PM at the Roncalli High School Wrestling Room.

The youth wrestling season will start November 5, with practices on Tuesday and Thursday (Beginners 6:00 - 6:45 PM, Advanced 6:45 - 8:00 PM), and we will have a full competition schedule.

Club and CYO wrestling schedules are coordinated together and compliment each other so our athletes can participate in both programs. More details can be found on the website - rebelwrestlingfoundation.org OR contact Coach McClurg @ 317-501-8306, wrestling@roncalli.org

STARS Resource Program Roncalli High School Parent Information Meeting

- Who: Parents of students identified with Specific Learning Disabilities, ADD/ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Language Impairments, Hearing Impairments, Visual Impairments, Emotional Disabilities and Other Health Impairments
- When: Tuesday, October, 22, 2019 7:00 pm
- Where: Roncalli High School Media Center
- What: Learn the process for students to receive accommodations on Roncalli's high school placement test and hear details about the STARS resource Program.

** Please bring a copy of your student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Individual Service Plan (ISP) as well as any psychometric testing to the meeting.

If unable to attend please contact: Michelle Roberts Director of Special Services
mroberts@roncalli.org