

†J.M.J.

August 2023 Newsletter



*Dear SMS Families,*

Happy feastday of St. Maximilian Kolbe! He is one of my favorite saints! (Click [here](#) to listen to his story with your child!)

I am SO EXCITED about starting this 2023-2024 school year!! Welcome and welcome back to all new and returning families!! The Holy Spirit has been hard at work compiling a beautiful mix of people who make up the SMS Family: our pastor, deacons, students, families, alumni, teachers, staff, parishioners, volunteers, community members, and people behind the scenes praying for us! It has been a joy to watch His plan unfold for St. Mike's over my first 3 years as principal. Fresh air, light, and beauty are flowing throughout our ministry here!

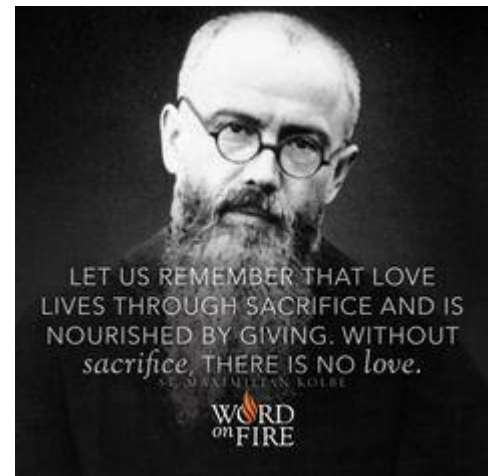
Our pastor, Fr. Brandon, agrees! Please take a few moments to read his letter to us in this past week's bulletin (page 3) [here](#) for what we've been up to this summer, including an introduction to our new Fundraising and Marketing Coordinator, Mrs. Trichelle Eddy!

If you have been at SMS for any amount of time, I can't wait to reintroduce you to Lateran Hall, complete with new lights and painted by our very own Joe and Jenn Ribley (parents of 3rd Grader, Jackson)! If you are new to SMS, just know that a LOT of time and love went in to making this space a clean, bright, and beautiful building for your child! Fr. Brandon also assembled a team of men from our parish to rip up the carpet of 3 rooms in our basement that will be used for PreK3, PreK4, and Art (you can imagine why those rooms wouldn't be suitable for carpet!). We are now on the docket for a flooring company to install the new floors late this week and early next.

Not only are we carefully preparing our physical space well, but also our curriculum. If you haven't yet read my **Letter to Prospective Families**, please take a minute (attached), so you can better understand how we are approaching education in a distinctly Catholic manner, by incorporating the Catholic Liberal Arts!

For all families, please also take time to become familiar with our **school's website**: [saintmichael1.org](http://saintmichael1.org). We update our scrolling banners regularly to reflect the latest going on in our school. You can also find our school calendar, handbook, OptionC parent portal (to check your child's grades), FACTS portal, uniform guides, videos from recently graduated students, and so much more. At the bottom of the site, newsletters will be uploaded throughout the year. You can also see pictures posted to our school's Facebook (especially fun for people, like me, who don't have a FB account).

This year, we have again asked our parishioners to go school shopping for you! They were SO generous last year! **No need to go out or online to get your child anything other than a backpack, water bottle, and lunchbox for the start of the year!** If you'd like to help shop for our school or other students, you can find our [Amazon wish list here](#). You can also stop by our church's Gathering Space to find a colorful board in with all of the supplies we are looking for.



If you have a child in Kindergarten-7th Grade and would like to exchange, buy, donate, or get new uniform clothes OR purchase new SMS Spiritwear you are in luck! The PTO is hosting a **Uniform Exchange and Spiritwear Store on Thursday, August 17, from 6:00-8:00pm in McElhinny Hall**. This is the room under the church. If you are looking at the church, park in the parking lot to the left and then follow the lower sidewalk to the basement doors. We may put a green wavy blow-up there to mark the spot! For more information, contact Trichelle Eddy

We have had such a positive response to our PreK4 program, that Fr. Brandon and I decided to open another section of PreK4! This is the first time in well over a decade that SMS has had a grade split into 2 sections! What a blessing!! Because of this split, we had the opportunity to bring another teacher on to our team! We now have a FULL staff! The following is the list of amazing individuals who will be part of our SMS Teaching Team this year:

- Fr. Brandon Kleckner - Pastor and 7th Grade Religion Teacher
- Mrs. Aimee Forsythe - PreK3 Teacher
- Mrs. Erica Dorio - PreK4 Teacher
- Mrs. Sue Stanfa - PreK4 Aide
- Mr. Steve Neral - PreK4 Teacher
- Mrs. Lynne Rinella - PreK4 Aide
- Mrs. Julia Toy - Kindergarten Teacher
- Miss Emily Zgonc - Kindergarten Religion Teacher
- Mrs. Emily Maloney - 1st Grade
- Miss Kyla Zuschlag - 2nd Grade
- Dcn. Marty Aubel - 2nd Grade Religion Teacher
- Mrs. Natalie Endicott - 3rd Grade
- Mrs. Jaime Knicely - 4th and 4th Grades
- Mr. Doug Dorio - 7th Grade
- Mrs. Corrie Giffone - Music, Choir, Band, and Gym Teacher
- Mrs. Susan Cawley - Art Teacher
- Mrs. Theresa Hoovler - Secretary

Due to ripping up and replacing the carpet with beautiful floors in our basement, **we are cancelling the PreK and Kindergarten Camp for this summer. We WILL still have a "Playdate on the Playground" Meet and Greet on Monday, August 21, at 5:30pm.** This will be an opportunity for families and children to not only meet and get to know each other, but also for you all to meet and interact with our teachers and give our PreK4 teachers a sense of how to split up the PreK4 students into classes. I apologize for the cancellation of the Camp, but look forward to meeting and spending time with you all on the 21st!

From the desk of Mrs. Susan Swartzbeck, our Business Manager: Families who intend to make monthly payments, **please set up your FACTS accounts immediately**. Because the deadline for families to set up FACTS accounts was August 11 (to meet the August 25 payment date) families are being offered a 9-payment option by the FACTS system. Mrs. Swartzbeck can adjust that to a 10-payment schedule that has a slightly different starting date, but accounts must be set up **BEFORE she can enter charges or adjust the payment date**. If have used FACTS in the past, please verify that all your information is correct. ALL FAMILIES NEED TO RETURN A SIGNED TUITION LETTER.

There will be a **MANDATORY** parent meeting on Thursday, September 7, at 6:00pm via Zoom to learn about how everyone can play a part in keeping tuition at our school affordable. Please see the attached flyer titled St\_Michael\_School\_Town\_Hall\_Updated to access the meeting.

Finally, on **Thursday, August 31, at 5:30pm**, we invite you, your child(ren), and family to our **Back-to-School Open House and Picnic!** At 5:30pm, we'll begin in the church for an opening prayer service to bless the school year. First week of school packets will also be there with papers to fill out for the first week of school. After our opening prayer, we'll meet in Lateran Hall for our Back-to-School Picnic: please bring your favorite dish to share (this will be a potluck event). We will then open the school for families to walk through to see the rooms and meet the teachers. Families are encouraged to stay and play on the playground after!

I look forward to inviting you and your child(ren) into a clean, up-to-date, and beautiful facility for our Back-to-School Open House and Picnic on Thursday, August 31, at 5:30pm and again for our **first day of school on Tuesday, September 5!**

May God richly bless you, your child, and your family! Mary, Cause of our Joy, pray for us! St. Michael, pray for us!

*Love,*

*Miss Emily Zgonc, Principal :)*

*"Open wide the doors of your heart to Christ! Do not be afraid!" -St. John Paul the Great*