

+J.M.J.

February 24, 2022

Dear SMS Families,

Next week is LENT already! We will be going to Mass on Wednesday, March 2, for Ash Wednesday. **There will be no pepperoni rolls that day to allow us all to abstain from meat together.** The following is taken from the [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops \(USCCB\) website](#):

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

Around the School:

- The 8th Graders are cool! (I promised them I would say this today, and it's true!! 😊)
- **After careful consideration and discussions with our Wellness Committee, Fr. Christopher, and other principals in our diocese, we are updating our face mask policy. Starting on Monday, February 28, face masks will be HIGHLY RECOMMENDED in school (especially for those who have health issues), but NOT MANDATED. If the numbers in our school or county increase again, we will be revisiting this update. Thank you all for your support and patience with COVID regulations these past 2+ years!**
- **Please return your Letter of Intent by Tuesday, March 1. This helps us plan for the 2022-2023 school year.**
- **The American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge** is going on this week! Please take a few minutes to watch this [video featuring 2 Heart Heroes from our school!](#)
- **Tomorrow is a Mass day.** Remember: parents are always welcome to attend with us. We are very excited to have student Lectors and Cantors at Mass again!
- **An updated Basketball schedule is attached to this and will be going home with students. The following is from Coach Amanda McCloskey, regarding Basketball:** With the great turnout number of kids, Mr. and Mrs. Dorio and I thought we might switch up the Friday basketball days. Since the gym is really packed with 50 plus kids it's a little hard to get every kid a ball and hoop time. We came up with the idea of making individual days for the groups. So we will have PreK through 1st grade one group and

then 2nd through 8th grade another group. This Friday (February 25) we will only have grades 2-8 practice, next week will be PreK-1st only and so on. Also, we decided we will have a little Green and White Basketball Scrimmage Tournament to wrap up the basketball season. That way parents can see what their kids have been up to and learning. We were thinking of having it Saturday May 21st. Grades 2-8 will be broken up into teams and play each other (green vs white) and during the half times preK-1st grade will play against each other in a little games of their own.

- Next Week is **Read Across America Week!** Each day next week, the students will have the opportunity to show their love for Reading!
 - **Monday:** *Cozy Up with a Good Book!* (Pajama and Stuffed Animal Day + Book)
 - **Tuesday:** *We Can't Mask Our Love for Reading!* (Wear a Mardi Gras-Colored Shirt: Green, Purple, Gold/Yellow – we'll be creating masks in school)
 - **Wednesday:** *We're Crazy About Reading!* (Wear your craziest socks!)
 - **Thursday:** *Dress Up as Favorite Book Character!*
 - **Friday:** *Hat's Off to Reading!* (Wear your favorite or funniest hat!)
- You may be contacted to be on the **CAR RAFFLE committee**. **Please consider saying YES! We need AT LEAST 20 school parents to make this a reality. This is the BIGGEST FUNDRAISER for our school (we typically raise \$50,000+), and we REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!** Our next meeting will be after Easter.
- **Applications for financial assistance through the diocese for the 2022-2023 school year (STAR and BTAP) were sent home with students last Monday.** These applications, along with an application fee are to be mailed to the diocese by April 15. An internal financial aid packet will be coming home within the next few weeks.
- **Scholarship forms and applications for our school and community will be coming home soon.**
- Our **snow make-up day** will be remote a Flexible Instruction Days (FID): Monday, March 21. Packets of work will be sent home with students on March 17. Completed packets will be counted for attendance for that day. No students or staff will be reporting to the school building on that day.
- **Thank you to those who placed Daffin's orders!**
- A survey to gain your input on **Catholic Schools Week** was emailed last Monday. Please take a few minutes to share your feedback with us.
- **Please prayerfully consider nominating another parent, teacher, or yourself to serve on the PTO Executive Board for the 2022-2023 school year.** A Google Form was sent out on which you can submit your nomination(s). Open positions for next year will include President, Vice President, Secretary, and Co-Treasurer. **Elections will take place at our next open PTO Meeting: Monday, March 14 at 5:30pm in Lateran Hall.** *Thank you to our current Board: Shannon Thomas, Leighanne, Tina Sheirer, and Shalyn Martin for all you have done and continue to do to support our school!*
- **Do you have your clearances with us (or would be willing to get your clearances) and like working with our littlest students? We can use your help as a PreK Aide Substitute!** This will be a volunteer role, and only needed occasionally throughout the rest of the year. Call the school's office to get on our sub list!
- **YOU and your CHILD are the best PR for SMS!** Please share positive stories with your friends, family, and neighbors: in person and on social media to help bring more students and families into our community!

- Join the **40 Club!!** It is one of the biggest fundraisers for our school!! You can win 100s and even 1,000s of dollars! Call the church or school for more information! Spread the word to your family and friends!
- **Please bring your families to Mass! St. Michael School is a mission of and an integral part of St. Michael and St. Margaret Church!** Going to Mass on Sundays, I miss seeing and praying with young families, especially our school families. Our parish offers 4 Masses each weekend: 4:30pm on Saturday, 7:00am, 11:00am on Sunday (this is the Mass I always go to!) at St. Michael in Greenville and 9:00am on Sunday at St. Margaret in Jamestown.
- **Please be on the lookout for COVID symptoms in yourselves and your children.** If you suspect any symptoms, please have your child or you tested. In order to maintain a safe environment for all, please practice and help your children practice COVID protocol: proper mask wearing at all times, social distancing, and frequent hand washing with warm soapy water. **If your child is sick, please keep them at home!!** Kindly contact the school if you or your child does develop any symptoms and also check with your child's doctor for next steps. Talk with your doctor and your child's doctor about whether the COVID vaccine is right for you and your child. **COVID vaccines are available now for children ages 5-12.** Speak with your child's pediatrician about the right decision for your child.
- **If your child is in need of a uniform, please let us know!** We can save you a lot of money! We have a PLETHORA of uniform shirts and pants that we are willing to give away at no charge. If your daughter is in K-4, we have plaid jumpers of many sizes! If you have a daughter in Grades 4-8, we have a LOT skirts of many sizes as well! All plaids from us are \$20. If you are *exchanging* a plaid, there is NO COST!

Thank you for partnering with us to make our students' year a great one!

Have a wonderful evening!

St. Michael, pray for us!

Many Blessings,

Emily Igone 😊

Principal

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