



*Cathedral School  
of Saint Mary  
Since 1866*

July 26, 2011

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

Welcome to the Family of Cathedral School of Saint Mary. We know you have a choice in your child's education, and we are glad to have you with us not only this upcoming school year, but in the future.

We were so glad to see many of you last weekend for our Meet & Greet. All of our new staff was present, the hot dogs were delicious, and we had an opportunity to fellowship. Students met their teachers, and Coach Bobek started signing up girls for volleyball, so if you are interested, please email me ([mmhitt@smcaustin.org](mailto:mmhitt@smcaustin.org)), and I will forward it to him. Volleyball is open to girls in grades 5-8, so send your name, grade, and phone number so he can contact you.

Please remember that grades Pre K 4-8 have a required reading list. It is posted on the web site. Grades 5-8 have a **Graphic Organizer** that is due on the first day of school, August 10. Make sure you have done a graphic organizer for each of the two books you have read. **Please note: Booklists and the Graphic Organizer are on the web site.** Middle School also has a biography to read. Even though Pre-K 3 did not have an assigned summer list of books, we hope you are exposing these students to reading.

Here is a suggestion that has worked for me, and I still do it today. I have found that most children, no matter what age, enjoy having books and stories read to them. Perhaps you can do that with your children. Even older students (mine is a high school sophomore), enjoy parents reading to them. I do this to spot-check that my son has done his required summer reading. My techniques are to both read the entire book and discuss the book, or to read a page or two and ask questions about those pages just read. I ask comprehension questions to increase critical thinking skills such as, "Why did the main character not tell his parents about the mystery letter?" Other questions I ask are who, what, where, when, why as well as asking my son's opinion on different elements of the story such as the characters, the setting, the conflict or problem in the story, and even how could this story/book end differently.

A list of school supplies for grades first– eighth will be available online Tuesday, August 2. If you need your list before then, email me the grades you need, and I will send your specific lists to you. Early Childhood, Pre-K 3 – Kindergarten have supplies provided from your registration fees. Those of you who pre-ordered our pre-packaged school supplies (Edukit) have no worries! Your child's boxed supplies will be delivered to the classrooms before school begins in an individually marked box. Please mark your child's name on all supplies and uniforms with permanent markers.

We are having a used uniform sale on Saturday, August 6 during our Sparkle/Beautification Day and Mandatory New Parent Orientation. Ms. Monique Highlander and our Pre-K 4 teacher, Mrs. Kimi Mudd are running the sale. These are used **Parker-only** uniforms which are donations that we have.

Reminder: The only style anklets/short socks that can be worn are the white LOGO Quarter Socks with the blue CSSM logo only from Parker Uniform. Girls may wear the plaid-lace or white-lace anklet socks.  
**NO OTHER STYLE ANKLET SOCKS MAY BE WORN.**

Also, please remember that the only shoe that is acceptable is a ***solid black shoe***. The only exception to that is a girls' Saddle Oxford shoe in navy and white. If students wear a dress-style shoe rather than an athletic styled shoe, then they must bring a pair of athletic shoes on their P.E. days.

***Saturday, August 6 is a MANDATORY NEW PARENT ORIENTATION & SPARKLE/CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION E DAY.*** All families are welcome to come and help beautify our school and cathedral grounds as well as help teachers in their classrooms. **Sparkle/Campus Beautification Day begins at 8:30 A.M. and New Parent Orientation begins at 9:00 A.M.** We will serve pizza to those who help us "sparkle" the campus as well as our new parents.

**Parents who want to volunteer as room parents, chaperones, or wish to work with students must take the Diocese's EIM class.** It is a three-hour class, but required. You are due for a renewal if it has been three years since your last EIM class. A refresher class lasts 1 ½ hours. Please contact the Diocese to see when these classes will be offered. Please do not wait until the last minute, because there are no exceptions to this required Diocesan policy even if you have been trained through Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts.

### **First Days of School for 2011-2012**

Wednesday, August 10-Half day for all grade levels from 7:45 A.M. – 11:45 A.M. There will be no lunch or Extended Day.

Thursday, August 11- Half day for all grade levels from 7:45 A.M. – 11:45 A.M. There will be no lunch or Extended Day.

Friday, August 12- Half day for all grade levels from 7:45 A.M. – 11:45 A.M. There will be no lunch or Extended Day.

Monday, August 15-Full day from 7:45 A.M. – 3:15 P.M. and all grades, Pre K 3 – 8 attend. There will be lunch and Extended Day.

### **Mandatory PTC & School Orientations**

***Although you can attend any day especially if you have multiple children, teachers only will be there on their designated days.***

Monday, August 8-5:30 P.M. Grades Pre K-3 – 1

Tuesday, August 9-5:30 P.M. Grades 2 -5 & Middle School

### **Fees & Tuition Payments**

We are now using FACTS TUITION MANAGEMENT. By now, you should have paid all of your fees and your first month's (July) tuition unless you have signed a ***Promise-to-Pay*** extending your due date.

Everyone must be set up online at [online.factsmgt.com](http://online.factsmgt.com) . If you have not, you must do so immediately by contacting Mrs. Lara Morgan at [accounting@smcaustin.org](mailto:accounting@smcaustin.org). Mrs. Morgan can only take that past due payment in-house or spread your payments over 9 months instead of 10 months which will mean your payments will be somewhat larger. ***In any event, July payments must be made in full prior to August 10, the first day of school.***

### **New Staff & Changes**

Mr. Christopher (Chris) Bearer, Music

Mr. Quinn Bobek, P.E. & Computer Technology

Mr. Donald Boyles, 1st grade

Ms. Sarah DeGreene, 5th grade & M.S. English/Language Arts

Mrs. Kimi Mudd, Pre-K 4

Ms. DeGreene will be the fifth grade homeroom teacher and teach some of the fifth grade subjects in the fifth grade classroom. The other subjects will be taught to the fifth grade by the middle school staff. Fifth grade remains in the fifth grade classroom for academic classes as the teachers will come to their room. Mrs. DeGreene will be the Middle School English/Language Arts teacher. She will teach Middle School English/Language Arts in room 6. Mr. Bobek will be the 6<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teacher.

Mr. Bobek will be the computer teacher and these classes are in the computer lab. He is very excited about working with all students to build our P.E. program and field sports' teams. He is interested in hearing your ideas as we want to involve all grade levels in team sports.

### **Books/Technology**

We have bought some new books (you will especially like the Catholic handwriting program), we will soon be ready for a new user friendly grade book portal for teachers, parents and students. This will replace the old Headmaster system. All of us will have easy access to grades in real time. You can sign on and see your child's grades. We will continue with the teacher web sites and homework postings after school starts.

Our summer hours continue to be 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.; we are closed on Fridays. The school will resume regular hours 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on August 1. Please remember the teachers do not report for duty until August 8. They will, however, be at our Mandatory New Parent Orientation & Sparkle/Campus Beautification Day August 6.

You are a vital part of our program. It is yet another way to show interest in the school and your child's work. Feel free to call me if you have anything to discuss or if we can be of service to you. Our wonderful and active Parent-Teacher Club wants you to be active and take a part in your child's schooling through the team-building and community activities as well as fundraising that they sponsor for our students.

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer vacation. We will be praying for you, and we ask that you pray for each of us. Thank you for sharing your children with us. Together we make a difference as we call our students to that higher standard. Remember: God is GOOD....ALL the Time!

In His grip,

*Mary Margaret Hitt, M.Ed., Principal*

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*Excellence in Education Since 1866*