



SAINT MARY
STAR OF THE SEA SCHOOL

14 N. Willard Avenue • Hampton, Virginia 23663
Ph: (757) 723-6358 • Fax: (757) 723-6544
Asc: (757) 723-5054

The Weekly Word

Check your email and click on the live links to access documents, sign-up sheets, lunch forms, & more!

www.saintmarystarofthesea.com

August 22, 2018

Welcome
Back to
School!



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Jesus, I believe in your love for me!

Greetings in Christ!

Welcome back to a new school year! Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these (Mt. 19:14)". We are so happy that your children are coming to Saint Mary Star of the Sea School. Jesus has called them and wants to lead them to heaven through the gift of Catholic education. The faculty and staff eagerly prepared for their arrival and we have all enjoyed our first couple of days.

Our theme for this year is based on the virtue of Faith: *Jesus, I believe in your love for me.* This theme is inspired by the Word of God from St. Paul to the Romans, chapter 5, verse 5: "The Love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." This verse relates to the Sacrament of Baptism and so we want to review and learn more about this sacrament and renew the promises we made at Baptism so that the power of the gifts of the Holy Spirit can grow along with faith, hope and love.

This school year we want to continue to increase our cultural awareness and learn more about the wonderful diversity of ethnic backgrounds which we enjoy in our school family. We will also focus on positive discipline along with learning to make virtuous choices. Our academic emphasis will be on Math and Marine Science across the curriculum.

At Saint Mary's we teach the whole child: heart, mind, soul and body. As we begin this journey together, we welcome your help with the following 'Top Ten' ways:

- Emphasize respect for God, others and self. This brings JOY when we put Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself third.
- Actively participate in your parish or church family – attend Mass/Church service each weekend and show the importance of family together to worship God and give Him His time on Sunday, the day of rest. Pray each morning and night together, at meals, and in the car.
- Expect cooperation from your child, and expect them to do the same with the teachers and staff – your example of support and respectful consideration of the teachers and staff helps them to follow your lead.
- Read over the Parent-Student Handbook and follow the policies and procedures given; your children will follow your lead!
- Your children will make mistakes – it is okay; learning from mistakes is far more important than denying them or trying to get out of consequences.
- Follow Safety rules! Remember: *Patience Saves Lives!* During carline – don't beat the clock! 8 a.m. is considered tardy. At the circle drive, please pull up to the sign on the side gate.
- Communication: If you have a short message/question for teacher, please use email; for long message/concerns, please call the school office and leave a message or email to ask the teacher to call you. Give teachers 24 hours to respond. Face-to-face communication about problems or concerns is the best method. I always recommend that you speak to the teacher before coming to me.
- For absences/tardies, you need to send in a note from the doctor for absences/tardies; accumulation of absences/tardies without sufficient reason could result in a student being dismissed.
- Check the school website and RenWeb for calendar items, forms and other information that may find answers to your questions quickly! Read and review the contents of the Weekly folders and *Weekly Word* newsletter to keep up with what is going on each week at school.
- Support our Parent/Teacher Organization! Contact co-chairs, Mrs. Andrea Brown and Mrs. Jade Atkins at pto.smss@gmail.com to volunteer for family events and fundraisers which support the mission of the school and build community. All that you give to the school in time, treasure and talent will be given back to you in ways that only God can do.

God bless you and your families.
Sr. Mary John, O.P., School Principal

NEWS FROM YOUR PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

We thank all the parents who joined us at our Boohoo Yahoo Breakfast. It was a time to socialize with each other and share our tears and laughter. Welcome back to Saint Mary's!



Who We Are

The Saint Mary Star of the Sea School

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is comprised of our dedicated, hardworking, and positive SMSS parents and teachers. The PTO is you! The committee is open to all SMSS parents and we welcome everyone's participation. There are many ways to be involved this year and we are always seeking volunteers. PTO booklets and information will be sent home in the next few weeks with information on PTO sponsored events as well as an "interest" sheet for you to fill out and return. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Brown at pto.smss@gmail.com.

We will have more information, including sign up sheets, and will be there to answer any questions on Back to School Night on September 6. Be sure to follow Saint Mary Star of the Sea School on Facebook, as well as our SMSS PTO Facebook group to stay up to date on announcements and upcoming events!



UPCOMING!

- **September 3:** Labor Day - School Closed
- **September 6:** Back to School Night, 6:30 p.m. , Parents Only!
- **September 9:** Back to School BBQ, 12:30—2:30 p.m. Convent Lawn, (Reservation Forms Going Home Next Week!)

Back to School BBQ Party!

Fun, Food, Fishing, Music & BBQ
Sunday, September 9, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
SMSS Convent Lawn

- \$25/immediate family
- \$8/adult
- \$5/child (14 & Under)

Please bring your own lawn chair!



Reservation Forms Going Home Next Week!

NEWS & INFORMATION!

Dismissal Procedure To Ensure Safety of Children

Carpool numbers are being sent home today along with a letter explaining the procedure. Please place the number in your passenger side window. This procedure will begin tomorrow. There is one change from the letter: Students in 3rd grade who have no younger siblings will be picked up on Willard Ave. rather than in the circle.

Publicity Permission Forms Due

In order for students' pictures to be used in newsletters, yearbook, print ads, social media, the website and others, parents must sign a permission form. Please sign and return the media release form that is going home today.

Spirit Wear Fridays!

We are excited for our new Spirit Wear design! Students are allowed to wear Spirit Wear on Fridays with the regular pants/skirts/jumpers, etc. Orders will be taken through August 30. Please be sure to order by then as this is the only order that will be placed this semester. [Live Link: Order Form](#). Please print the order form and submit it to the school office with payment!

Back to School Night is Thursday, Sept. 6

Back to School Night will be held Thursday, September 6. This is an opportunity for parents to visit the classrooms and meet the teachers without the students. Join us in the gym at 6:30 p.m. for an introduction, followed by visits to the classrooms in 15-minute intervals.

Parent/Student Handbook 2018/19 is Posted on the Website

The Parent/Student Handbook has been posted on the school website, under Academics. Please be sure to read it thoroughly and return the signed compliance form by September 7. Students will have until Monday to comply with the uniform regulations. [Live Link: Parent/Student Handbook 2018-19](#)

Cafeteria Orders For August/September Due!

August/September lunch forms are posted on the school website. Please be sure to turn it into the office with a check attached or exact change. This form will also be used as the "daily" lunch form and must be turned in by 8:30 a.m. for same day lunch. Two volunteers are needed in the cafeteria each day. A great way to earn volunteer hours and help the school!

[Live Link: Aug/Sept. Lunchforms.](#)

All Families Required to Complete After School Care Forms

Please be sure to complete the ASC (orange) form **even if you do not plan to use the program**. The information needs to be on file in case a student unexpectedly needs to go to ASC. ASC is open until 5:30 p.m. each day.

Inclement Weather Notifications through RenWeb

In case of inclement weather, you will be notified of the close or delay of school through our RenWeb parent notification system. It will also be listed on the website as well as WAVY 10 news.

Follow us on Social Media!



Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/SaintMaryStaroftheSeaSchool



Follow us on Twitter:
[@SaintMaryStar](https://twitter.com/SaintMaryStar) or [StMaryStarofSeaSchool](https://twitter.com/StMaryStarofSeaSchool).



Saint MaryStarof Sea Catholic School



Connect with us on LinkedIn
[StMaryStaroftheSea School \(non profit company/education\)](https://www.linkedin.com/company/SaintMaryStaroftheSeaSchool)



Instagram:
[SaintMaryStaroftheSea](https://www.instagram.com/SaintMaryStaroftheSea)

Coming Home Today: Emergency Forms (please return tomorrow), Parent/Student Handbook Compliance Form, Dismissal Procedure/Carpool Numbers, September calendar, Computer Acceptable Use Policy, Media Release form, Counselor's letter.