



October 5, 2022

Dear Families:

Although today may seem like an ordinary Wednesday in October, it's actually a special day on the calendar—World Teachers Day!

I did some research and found out that World Teachers Day was established in 1994 to commemorate the signing of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's, *Status of Teachers*, which recognized the rights and responsibilities of teachers around the world.

We all have a teacher or two who has made a lasting impact on our lives. I'm sure you can recall who yours are. That's what's so exciting about being an educator, knowing that you are having a lasting impact on children's lives. In our classrooms right now, the extra help a teacher offers or the kind word she shares with one of her students may be changing that child's life. What an awesome responsibility!

However, the job of the teacher is not without its challenges, and that's why it's appropriate to remember parents on World Teachers Day, too. After all, you are your child's first teacher, and each year the partnership that is developed between the teachers in school and the families at home is vital to children's success and continued growth!

Speaking of this partnership, today you will see an important notice regarding a change with how we will conduct parent-teacher conferences this year. We hope that this "adjustment" to our usual procedures will afford families and teachers a more consistent and viable opportunity to work together in support of our students. Therefore, I ask that you please review this notice carefully.

Finally, don't forget to celebrate World Teachers Day. The best way to do that is with two simple words: Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal



IMPORTANT CHANGE TO PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE PROCEDURES

October 5, 2022

Dear Families:

Although it is only October, it is time for our first parent-teacher conferences of the academic year.

As I mentioned at our Back-to-School night meeting, we are changing our procedures for conferences this year. In the past, families met with their children's homeroom teacher in December to discuss the first report card. **This year, families will be meeting with their children's teacher for the progress report later this month.**

Progress reports will be distributed on Thursday, October 20 and Friday, October 21:

- On **Thursday, October 20th** parents will have the opportunity to have a conference in the *evening* with their child's teacher. Ten-minute time slots will be available from **5pm to 7pm**. **Evening conferences will be either a phone call or Zoom meeting. There will be no in-person evening conferences.**
- On **Friday, October 21st** parents will have the opportunity to have a conference in the *afternoon* with their child's teacher. Ten-minute time slots will be available from **12:30pm to 3:30pm**. **Afternoon conferences will be in-person. There will be no phone call or Zoom meeting afternoon conferences.**

(Families will pick one day for a conference, not both.)

What is the difference between a progress report and a report card?

Progress reports are given in the middle of every trimester. Like the name implies, they are meant to show students' progress thus far. The progress report allows families to see how their children are progressing; it gives them an opportunity to understand their children's strengths and what areas need additional attention. Progress reports are unofficial and are not part of a child's permanent record. Progress reports are typically issued in October, January, and April.

Report cards are given at the end of every trimester. They indicate the child's final grade for each of the three trimesters. A report card is an official document that is part of a student's permanent record. Report cards are typically issued in December, March, and the final day of school in June.

Why was this change made?

This change was made to give families and teachers the opportunity to see how students are doing **prior to the report card**. All too often, during report card conferences families will ask their children's teachers about what is necessary to improve for the next report card. By holding progress report conferences, parents and teachers can have those conversations and plans can be put in place before a **final report card** is issued.

Will my child still get a report card?

Yes, of course! Every child will still receive a report card. However, report card conferences will not be mandatory. Rather, teachers will contact individual families to set up a report card conference only when they feel it is absolutely necessary.

How do I sign up for a conference?

An email will be going out shortly that will allow parents to sign up for conferences online. These slots are filled on a first come-first served basis.

Understandably, sometimes change can be difficult, so if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us, and we'll do our best to assist you. It is our sincere hope that this "adjustment" to our usual procedures will afford families and teachers a more consistent and viable opportunity to work together in support of our children. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal

Mrs. Lisa Rizzo
Assistant Principal

HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN PATCH

at Saint Mark Catholic Academy

Tuesday, October 18

OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

Participating students will get...

- A PUMPKIN
- A DRESS DOWN
- COTTON CANDY
- CANDY APPLE
- CHOCOLATE COVERED MARSHMALLOW

Cost: \$12 per child

To pay, visit:

<https://payit.nelnet.net/form/nmNkJdn6>

or scan



Celebrate Italian Heritage Month

October 14th at 6:30pm
In Saint Mark School Cafeteria/ Lion's Den
Please Enter through the Main Door in the School Yard

"All are Welcomed"



*No Advance Tickets
Necessary*

Columbus Day

\$15 - Adults
\$10 - Children 14/under

Come and celebrate a piece of Italian heritage "Christopher Columbus Day." Together we will feast on a spectacular menu of Italian Cuisine filled with Sausage & Peppers, Meatballs, Pasta, Cannoli, and Coffee. We will also gather to watch the movie "Moonstruck."

For more information, please contact Michael Davis at **347-574-1828** or the Church Rectory at **718-891-3100**

