



October 9, 2024

Dear Families:

Next week, Saint Mark Catholic Academy will have a re-accreditation visit. Accreditation is a form of quality control, ensuring that schools satisfy certain standards. A team from Cognia, a company that handles the accreditation process, will be visiting SMCA. They will highlight and commend our strengths and also recommend areas that are in need of improvement. Think of it almost as a progress report for our school.

Coincidentally, next week our students will also get their progress reports. The first indication of how everyone is doing so far this school year. Similar to the team from Cognia, teachers will highlight and commend students' strengths and also recommend areas that are in need of improvement.

Having gone through Cognia accreditation twice now, I know that their mantra is "continuous improvement." The report they provide isn't supposed to sit on a shelf or in a folder. It's meant to be a "living document," one that is referenced over the years so the school can continue to improve.

The same can be said for progress reports. The reports—and, more importantly, the feedback from teachers—should be tools for continuous improvement, too. We all strive for perfection, so hearing about areas that we need to improve isn't always easy. As the principal, I may only want to hear the positive things the Cognia team has to say, but I need to hear their suggestions for improvement. That's the only way our school can do better.

So, I encourage our students, teachers, and families to take advantage of progress report time and use it as an opportunity to work together. Maintain the areas of strength and stay focused on what needs growth and improvement. Know that your school is doing the very same!

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson  
Principal



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## REMINDER ABOUT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE PROCEDURES

October 9, 2024

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 have changed our procedures for conferences. In the past, families met with their children's homeroom teacher in December to discuss the first report card. **Just as we did for the past few years, families will be meeting with their children's teacher for the progress report later this month.**

**Progress reports will be distributed on Thursday, October 17 and Friday, October 18:**

- On **Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>** 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 in person only. There will be no phone call or Zoom meetings.**
- On **Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>** 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 **12:40pm 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 sent 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

SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

presents

# Halloween Party 2024

JOIN US FOR SOME GHOULISH GAMES, FREAKY FUN, AND FRIGHTENING FOOD!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024

6:30PM TO 9:30PM

ST. MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY GYM



Plenty of food, fun, and some frights, too!  
Children should wear costumes!



\$22 FOR STUDENTS

\$17 FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

\$30 AT THE DOOR FOR ALL TICKETS

INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TOO!

To purchase tickets, please visit:

<https://payit.nelnet.net/form/GpDISNL5>

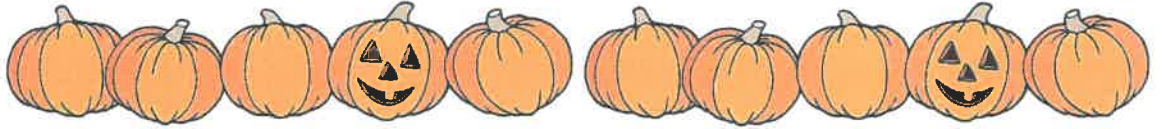
PLEASE DO NOT SEND IN ANY CASH TO THE SCHOOL!





# A SAFE HALLOWEEN AT SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

October 9, 2024



Dear Families:

On **Thursday, October 31st**, students in **3K through grade two** will be allowed to wear costumes. Students in **grades three through eight** will have a black and orange dress down day.

For those students **wearing costumes**, please remember...

- No costume masks of any kind.
- Sneakers must be worn with all costumes.
- No costumes that restrict movement or vision or prevent sitting at desks.
- Costumes may not promote violence or have accessories or props that could be used as a weapon.
- No pretend "prop" weapons such as water pistols, knives, or swords.
- Costumes should not include items with sound effects, lights, or other components which would disrupt the classroom learning environment.

For those students **dressing down**, please remember...

- Appropriate length skirt, shorts or dress - no shorter than 3" above the knees
- No torn or tight jeans or pants
- No spaghetti strap tanks, midriffs, tube tops, etc.
- No logo type T-shirts
- No hats (unless specifically designated)
- No loose/baggy pants or shorts
- No make-up or nail polish (including gels/French manicures)
- No hoop earrings or excessive jewelry
- No jeggings, leggings or skinny jeans



**Parents will be called to bring a change of clothes for students who do not adhere to these regulations**

On **Thursday, October 31st**, classes will have the opportunity to have some Halloween fun. How each class celebrates is at the discretion of each teacher. Some teachers may elect to watch a Halloween movie, go on a virtual field trip, and/or do some Halloween arts and crafts.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation as we work together to provide a fun—and safe—Halloween for our students.



IT'S TIME FOR TRUNK-OR-TREAT AGAIN!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023

### What is TRUNK-OR-TREAT?

Families drive into our schoolyard, decorate their cars for Halloween (sometimes creating elaborate scenes out of their trunks). Then kids walk from vehicle to vehicle, collecting candy the way they would during a normal trick-or-treating outing. It is a fun and safe way for our children to trick-or-treat in our schoolyard!

### WE NEED CANDY!

We would appreciate **CANDY DONATIONS** for TRUNK-OR-TREAT this year. If you are able, please send in sealed, unopened bags of fun-sized candy. We ask you to please be conscious of students with allergies, so **no candy with NUTS or PEANUT BUTTER of any kind! Also, please be mindful of candy that can be a potential choking hazard, so no "Jawbreakers" or any type of hard candies.**

Often, small bags of pretzels or cheese doodles are good!  
Donations can be sent in until Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

### CAN YOU BRING YOUR CAR?

Yes! But spots are limited, and you must email me ([mwilson@smsonthebay.com](mailto:mwilson@smsonthebay.com)) by October 25<sup>th</sup>. We can only fit a certain number of cars in the schoolyard, so parents are invited on a first-come, first-served basis. Once we get your email, we'll provide you with the specifics!

**WE WILL PROVIDE THE CANDY THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY DONATED.**

All you need is your car and creativity!





# PINK DRESS DOWN DAY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024

SUGGESTED DONATION \$5

WEAR PINK TO SUPPORT BREAST CANCER RESEARCH!

Dress Down  
Day



METAVIVOR

Metastatic Breast Cancer Research, Support and Awareness

Although it is a dress down day, students are reminded to dress with modesty. Students should adhere to the following attire as described in the **Parent-Student Handbook**:

- Appropriate length skirt, shorts or dress – no shorter than 3” above the knees
- No torn or tight jeans or pants
- No spaghetti strap tanks, midriffs, tube tops, etc.
- No logo type T-shirts
- No hats (unless specifically designated)
- No loose/baggy pants or shorts
- No make-up or nail polish (including gels/French manicures)
- No hoop earrings or excessive jewelry
- No jeggings, leggings or skinny jean

**Parents will be called to bring a change of clothes for students who do not adhere to these regulations.**

**REMINDER: All “fundraiser” dress down days are still cash payment only.**

# Halloween Party Food List

## Meats/Chicken/Fish

Fried Chicken \_\_\_\_\_  
Chicken Cutlets \_\_\_\_\_  
Chicken with rice \_\_\_\_\_  
Baked Chicken \_\_\_\_\_  
Chicken nuggets \_\_\_\_\_  
Steak \_\_\_\_\_  
Other choice \_\_\_\_\_

## Deserts

Cookies \_\_\_\_\_  
Cupcakes \_\_\_\_\_  
Fruit platter \_\_\_\_\_  
Donuts or munchkins \_\_\_\_\_  
Cakes or pies \_\_\_\_\_  
Other choice \_\_\_\_\_

## Starch Dishes

mac & cheese \_\_\_\_\_  
Rice: white/brown/black \_\_\_\_\_  
Pasta \_\_\_\_\_  
Potato salad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mashed Potato \_\_\_\_\_  
Sweet potato \_\_\_\_\_  
Mozzarella sticks \_\_\_\_\_  
French fries \_\_\_\_\_  
Sweet potato fries \_\_\_\_\_  
Patties Jamaican or Haitian \_\_\_\_\_  
Other choice \_\_\_\_\_

## Beverages

Waters \_\_\_\_\_  
Capri suns \_\_\_\_\_  
NO 64oz JUICE or SODA\*\*\*

## Vegetables

Carrots \_\_\_\_\_  
Peas \_\_\_\_\_  
Corn \_\_\_\_\_  
Broccoli \_\_\_\_\_  
Asparagus \_\_\_\_\_  
string beans \_\_\_\_\_  
Brussels sprouts \_\_\_\_\_  
Salad green or Caesar \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Please list: HALF TRAY \_\_\_\_\_ or FULL TRAY \_\_\_\_\_

ALL FROZEN FOOD MUST BE DROPPED OFF ON OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup>, THE DAY PRIOR TO THE PARTY.

PARENT NAME/ CHILD NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT # \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact Michael Davis for any question regarding other dishes or drop off times @ 347-574-1828

PLEASE BE AWARE NOT TO USE PEANUT OIL OR ANY NUT INGREDIENTS\*\*\*\*\*

# PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN POTENTIAL

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR

## TRIPLE P: POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM

THIS FREE PROGRAM INCLUDES:

Virtual parent group sessions that focus on addressing commonly encountered issues that parents may face.

For Parents of Children 12 - 16

**TOPIC:**

***Building Teenagers' Survival Skills***

**PROGRAM GOALS:**

- 1- Help parents manage misbehavior and set rules and routines.*
- 2- Support healthy parent-child relationships and communication.*
- 3- Prevent different types of risky behaviors.*

**Friday, October 18th, 2024**

**11am -12:30pm**

To register, please use below link and provide your contact information:

<https://forms.gle/9U18S7tZx1ZnVuJs6>





**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT**

**FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

I acknowledge that I have received and read the Parent-Student Handbook and all subsequent forms (“Handbook”).

I have read and understood the contents of this Handbook, and will act in accord with these policies and procedures. I have explained the contents of this Handbook to my child. I agree that I am responsible for my child’s adherence to the policies in this Handbook.

I understand that this Handbook supersedes any other previously issued handbook and personnel manual and that all previous versions are hereby revoked.

I understand that the Academy reserves the right to add, amend, modify, or discontinue any of the policies and procedures as set forth in the Handbook at any time, with or without notice.

Policies relating to the COVID-19 virus, where applicable, will be provided as part of a supplement to this Handbook.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child(ren) and Grades: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**FOR STUDENTS GRADES 6-8**

I have read the Parent-Student Handbook, have discussed its contents with my parent/guardian, and agree to abide by all its terms.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDIA AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE**

I hereby consent to the taking of photographs, movies, videos, and images capable of reproduction in any medium of me or my children or children of whom I am the designated guardian by the Academy, Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, and/or Department of Education and their parents, affiliates, trustees, directors, members, officers, employees, volunteers, agents and contractors (the "Parties").

I hereby grant the Parties the right to edit, reproduce, use and reuse images for any and all purposes including, but not limited to, advertising, promotion and display, and I hereby consent to the editing, reproduction, use and re-use of said images in any and all media in existence and all media yet in existence including, but not limited to, video, print, television, internet, and podcasts.

I forever grant, assign, and transfer to the Parties any right, title and interest that I and/or my child/children may have in any images, including negatives, taken of me and/or my children by the Parties. I hereby agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Parties from any and all claims, demands, actions or causes of actions, loss, liability, damage, or cost arising from this authorization.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Grade of Child: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you are choosing to opt out of this policy, the Academy MUST receive the signed acknowledgement below and return it to the Principal by the first day of school:**

I have read the Media Authorization and Release Policy and am choosing to opt out.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Grade of Child: \_\_\_\_\_

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

**Parent/Guardian**

As the parent/guardian of a student at the Academy, I have read the Acceptable Use policy and agree to abide by its terms, and to ensure my child abides by its terms. I understand that computer and internet access at the Academy is designed for educational purposes. I am aware that it is impossible for the school to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold the Academy responsible for materials acquired in use. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use of school's technology resources is not in a school setting. I hereby give permission for my child to use the school's technology resources and certify that I have reviewed this information with my child.

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**For Students Grades 6-8**

I have read the Acceptable Use Policy in this Handbook.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION**

*If a parent/guardian chooses to sign any form electronically, the following MUST be submitted beforehand to the Academy with an original, and not electronic, signature.*

I authorize the Academy to accept my electronic signature.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_