



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Guiding Light in Sheepshead Bay

October 12, 2023

Dear Families:

As I said on Monday to the teachers in their weekly email, Columbus Day is usually the “first hurdle” of the new school year...congratulations, you made it. By the time we get to Columbus Day, there’s a sense of routine and normalcy has begun to set in.

While things are starting to “calm down” a bit at school, October is usually an exciting time in the sports world. Baseball playoffs have begun; the NFL season is fully underway. Hockey just started yesterday, and the NBA’s opening night is later this month. As you can see, if you like sports, October is your month!

So many times, sports can be analogous to life. Novels, poems, and movies have addressed this subject often. I consider myself to be part of a “team,” an administrative team. Throughout the course of my day, there are many decisions I have to make, some minor and some fairly significant, but I never make my decision without first meeting with my team. Depending on the situation, I’m grateful to have so many people that I can speak to and consult to help me make the best decision for our students and our school. While it may sound cliched, “Teamwork does make the dream work!”

In that same vein, you and your children are part of a team, too. You have classmates and other families who are there to support you. We have a great faculty who is always ready to “go to bat” for our students—and the same team that supports me is there to support all of you, too!

Often we say that Saint Mark Catholic Academy is a family, and that’s absolutely true. But, we’re also a team, and when we support each other and look out for each other, we win...every time!

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal

Continuing the tradition of faith, service, and education.

2602 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11235 | (718) 332-9304 | smcaonthebay.org



REMINDER ABOUT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE PROCEDURES

October 11, 2023

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 last 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 19 and Friday, October 20:

- On **Thursday, October 19th** 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 20th** 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

Mrs. Lisa Rizzo
Assistant Principal

A SAFE HALLOWEEN AT SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

October 11, 2023



Dear Families:

On Tuesday, 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 Tuesday, 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.



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

presents

Halloween Party 2023

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023

6:30PM TO 9:30PM

ST. MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY GYM



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



\$20 FOR STUDENTS

\$15 FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

\$25 AT THE DOOR FOR ALL TICKETS

INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TOO!

To purchase tickets, please visit:

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

PLEASE DO NOT SEND IN ANY CASH TO THE SCHOOL!



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

TUESDAY, 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 26th.

CAN YOU BRING YOUR CAR?

Yes! But spots are limited, and you must email me (mwilson@smsonthebay.com) by October 25th. 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 13

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE BENEFIT THE SUSAN G. KOMEN BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

\$5 SUGGESTED DONATION

Dress Down
Day



susan g.
KOMEN[®]



Where the end of breast cancer begins.™

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.