

SMCS Core Values: Loving God. Embracing Family.
Excelling Daily. Respecting Always. Called to Serve.

First Friday Parent Newsletter

January 4, 2019

Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann
Seton, Religious

ST. MATTHEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ST. MATTHEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL:

Inspiring Minds,
Nurturing Souls

SAVE THE DATE:

PTO Chili Bingo—
Saturday, February 2.

PTO needs volunteers to help from about 5:45-10:00pm. Email Megan Chavez at meganchavez14@gmail.com to sign up. Please look for order forms to come home soon.



Dear St. Matthew Catholic School Families:

New Year Blessings! The Christmas season continues as we return to school Monday. We will begin the New Year and our second semester by celebrating the Epiphany. On this day we remember the gifts that each of the kings shared with the infant Jesus. This is a great time to remember the gifts that have been shared with us and reflect on how we are to use this gifts to share the message of Jesus with others. Three lucky students (one from lunch period) will be crowned as a king/queen during lunch on Monday and will join me for a special lunch on Tuesday.

Report cards will be available online on Monday. Please let us know if you would like a hard copy. During our second semester we are encouraging our middle school students to show their rigor by providing rubrics for their elective classes so they will know how the electives will be assessed and graded. We are also focusing on writing skills during our MTSS time school wide. This will be in conjunction with our English Language Arts lessons.

The end of the month we will celebrate Catholic Schools Week. I always look forward to this week because we have so many amazing things to celebrate: great students, dedicated teachers, supportive parish and wonderful families. Our celebration will begin with Mass on Saturday, January 26 and end on February 2, with our PTO providing a night of fun with Chili, Bingo and an auction for all to enjoy. We will be asking for students to serve as liturgical ministers during our kick-off Mass. We will also need your help with the Chili/Bingo. Information for both will be sent home soon, as well as a full schedule of the week's events.

God bless,
Theresa Lein, Principal



NEW YEAR BLESSING:

As an Epiphany tradition started in the German Catholic Church, you are invited to use chalk to inscribe a blessing on your home for the Year of our Lord 2018 as follows: • Gather around the inside of your front door and inscribe the following on your lintel (frame or trim above the door) with chalk: 20 + C + M + B + 19 • As you are writing, pray the following blessing aloud: "May Christ bless this home." The number of the new year is split at the beginning and end. The initials represent the Magi's legendary names, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The letters also abbreviate the prayer "Christus mansionem benedicat" ... "may Christ bless this house." Throughout the year, those who come and go through that door will enjoy the blessing of Christ. We invite Christ to be with us as we cross the threshold into 2019.



2nd grade Sacrament preparation dates:

First Reconciliation and Retreat:

February 9
Service/Confessions
10:15-11:45am
Lunch is at 12:00pm

First Eucharist Parent Meetings:

Sunday, February 24 at 9:15am OR Wednesday, February 27 at 6:45pm

“Jesus Day”

April 25

First Eucharist Retreat:

April 27, 2019
9:00am-12:00pm

First Eucharist Practice:

April 27 at 7:00pm

First Eucharist:

Sunday, April 28, 2019
Mass at 2:00 pm



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS 12-15:

Midland Care Youth Corps is a great program for youth to gain character skills during the summer and following school year. SMCS mom, Stephanie Broxterman, is the Manager of Volunteer Services there. For more information, please contact Stephanie at sbroxterman@midlandcareconnection.org.

DADS FOR DONUTS AND MUFFINS FOR MOMS:

Dads and Moms, Mrs. Hunt is looking at her calendar and will be letting us know the February date, for Donuts for Dads and the May date, for Muffins for Moms.

HAYDEN CATHOLIC CONNECTION:

January 2019 thru May 2019

Any student wanting to visit Hayden and shadow a current Hayden student can expect the following:

- Tailored visit based on the student's interests in academics and activities
- Lunch will be provided (on full school days)
- Tour of the campus
- Experience a class schedule
- Call Sheri Cafer at 272.5210, ext 100 to schedule.

Additional Hayden News

- The PACE office has moved from behind the gym, to the Library!
- Hayden is welcoming 9 new students this semester. (This just shows that we are growing) Our breakdown is as follows: Freshman - 116, Sophomores - 129, Juniors - 101 and Seniors - 99
- Chili Feed - Hayden student council is hosting a chili feed on Friday, January 11 during the basketball games vs. Seaman. We will be serving from 4:30-7:30 in the cafeteria. For only \$7 you get all you can eat chili/chili dogs, veggies, drink (tea/water) and a cinnamon roll. Additional cinnamon rolls will be available for purchase at \$1.50 each. Come join us for a fun night of food, fellowship, and good basketball!



KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP:

is coming to SMCS on Friday, March 8. Parents may choose from a morning session (8:30 - 11:00) or afternoon session (12:30 - 3:00). St. Matthew ELC pre-K students will be brought by ELC staff, but all parents are asked to attend an informational meeting at either 10:30 - 11:00 or 2:30 - 3:00. To reserve a spot at Roundup, please contact the school office 235.2188 or school@saintmatthews.org

One can also register by going to: [this link](#)

*Let what you
heard from the
beginning abide
in you. ~1*
John 2:24

2018-19 PTO MEETINGS:

All meetings are at 6:30 p.m. Attendance counts toward your volunteer hours! (Faculty representatives attending are listed to the right.)

Thursday, Jan. 10th, 2019, Parish Conference Center:

Ms. Lobmeyer

Ms. Mascarenas

Wednesday, Feb. 6th, 2019, Parish Conference Center:

Mrs. Hunt

Mrs. Pettit

Wednesday, May 1st, 2019, Parish Conference Center:

Ms. Katsbulas

SAVE THE DATES:

- 1st Annual All School Lock In 3:30-9:00 -see attached flier for details
- Catholic Schools Week Kickoff Mass- January 26, 2019
- Catholic Schools Week Chili/Bingo - February 2, 2019
- Catholic Schools Week - January 26 - February 2
- Enchilada Project Prep - February 22-23
- Enchilada Rolling - February 28-March 1, 2019.
- Student Mass -1st and 6th grade -March 24, 10:30
- Archbishop Neumann will bless our outdoor Stations of the Cross-March 24 after the 10:30.
- 6th annual SMCS golf tournament - Friday, April 26, 2019. Rainout date is Friday, May 3.
- **SMCS Jeans Days:** January 17, February 21, March 21, April 25, May 16.

Please send **candid photos** to ottingd@saintmattnews.org and maybe you will see them in the yearbook!

**Photos used for the yearbook may not include any non-students due to privacy laws.

BOXTOP FAMILY CHALLENGE COMING IN FEBRUARY 2018:

Have your friends and family save their Box Top for Education labels for you! The family submitting the most labels will win a prize. More details to come.



PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES:

will be held Thursday, February 14, from 1:00 - 7:00 p.m. Please call Jamie Rodriguez at 235.2188 or rodriguezj@saintmatthews.org to schedule your conference time.

Report your **volunteer hours** at: smcsvolunteers@saintmatthews.org Please note that liturgical ministries (greeting, lecturing, etc.) do not count for volunteer hours.

Please make sure you turn in your **stewardship forms** to the parish office if you haven't already done so. Extra copies can be requested from the school office or <http://saintmatthews.org/> under "Parish Documents" on the right side.

8TH GRADE DATES:

- **7th and 8th grade families** - Just a reminder that volunteer hours can count as school volunteer hours OR Confirmation hours, but not both. Thank you!
- Confirmation Class 2nd Sunday of each month, now through February from 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. in Parish Hall. All candidates and their sponsors must attend. If the sponsor cannot attend, a proxy may stand in.
- Confirmation will be on **Wednesday, February 27** at 7:00 p.m.
- There will be a pro-life rally January 22 (8th grade).



VIRTUS® TRAINING:

If you volunteer in any capacity (including field trip drivers) at St. Matthew Catholic School, and have not been trained in the Virtus® program, please plan to do that at your earliest opportunity. To view the schedule and sign up, log on to www.archkck.org and click on the "VIRTUS" link on the upper right. Then click on the "Register for Virtus Training" icon. When it asks for your organization, choose Kansas City in Kansas (Archdiocese), then follow the prompts. There is a class in Topeka at Most Pure Heart of Mary on January 5.

Epiphany Blessing,
O God of light and peace,
whose glory, shining in the child of Bethlehem,
still draws the nations to yourself:
bless us abundantly
and dispel the darkness that shrouds our path,
that, like the wise men, we may come
to kneel before Christ in true worship,
offer him our hearts and souls,
and return from his presence to live as he has taught,
now and forever and ever. Amen.

Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family



Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest will be held Friday, January 22, 6:30 p.m. in Trompeter Gym. All youth ages 9-14 are encouraged and invited to participate.