

Dear St. Mary Families,

I feel extremely blessed to have the students back with us here at school. I love their smiles and their energy, and teachers have reported nothing but good news to me. Thank you to everyone who attended our back-to-school picnic and supply drop off day. Those are great ways to kick off the year and network, particularly if you are a new or younger family. If you liked the events, maybe consider joining our Home and School committee, which is looking for new members. Picture day was so fun this year and the kids looked awesome in their outfits. The 1st through 8th graders attended their first mass of the year and we look forward to the P4Jers and Kindergarteners joining us in the coming weeks. Now that the kids are here, a quick checklist:

- Are all forms from September family envelope turned in (including physicals for athletes, medical and emergency information, after care, etc)?
- Do you have an active FACTS Account?
- Can you log into TeacherEase? (grades k-8)

Looking Ahead

We are looking to use the next few weeks as an opportunity for the students to get back into the routine of school. With the exception of the 8th graders heading off to their kayak trip, we do not have a lot of major interruptions planned. It will be great for the students to get into the flow of the days. We do have a Scoopie night coming up on 9/12. The 8th graders work from 4-8 at the Milton Ave location as a fundraiser for their Washington D.C. trip. On 9/20 we will have a Back to School Parent night. The evening will be dedicated towards the following topics:

- Expectations of parents
- Parent/Student Handbook, including dress code
- TeacherEase and FACTS
- Student Technology overview

The evening will start at 6:30 and will last between 60-90 minutes. All parents are encouraged to attend, in particular new parents to our school.

STAR 360 Testing

Last Friday an email announcing STAR 360 was sent out through TeacherEase. These assessments analyze reading and mathematics skills for our students, providing instructors with data to ensure quality instruction. The computer-adaptive tests take around 20 minutes to complete. We like the STAR 360 model because they provide us with instantaneous results and does not monopolize a lot of class time. For the remainder of the week, please take extra care that students are getting enough sleep and eating a big breakfast.



Upcoming Events:

- 9/6: 8th Grade Kayak Trip
- 9/12: Student-led mass - all are welcome! (8:15)
- 9/12: Scoopie Night (4-8)
- 9/13: World's Finest Chocolate Kick-off
- 9/19: Student-led mass - all are welcome! (8:15)
- 9/20: Back to School Parent Night (6:30pm)
- 10/14: Steeple Chase

Athletics

Cross Country has started for 4th – 8th graders. Thank you to Jordon McBride, Dan Kessler, and Ryan Spies for helping coach. Their first meet is 9/7 for the St. Paul's Invitational.

Working Together

We are so grateful you have entrusted your kids with us this school year. Ultimately, the success of your child is a collaborative relationship between all of the influences in your child's life. As you know, your role as a parent cannot be understated. The most important thing you can do is invest in your child's education. Read with them. Do homework with them (although not for them). The success of your child here at St. Mary's begins when your child wakes up at home each morning. Eating a healthy breakfast and providing healthy snacks in addition to tending to their mental and emotional needs are paramount. As many of you know, our school excels when we have volunteers step up to make our events great. We expect a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer time from each family enrolled in our school. **To get things started, we ask for you to complete the following survey of volunteer opportunities that will be available throughout the school year:**

<https://goo.gl/forms/VFPuaSug13yqr9in1>

Stay Connected

We want to connect with you as much as possible and there are things you can do to help us out!

1. Follow us on Facebook (@StMarySchoolJVL) and Instagram (st_mary_school_janesville)
2. Check your email! If you do not have an email from me via TeacherEase, let me know! That means you are missing out on email blasts that get pushed out.
3. Keep track of your Wednesday Folders! Our administrative professionals work very hard to ensure essential paperwork gets sent home every other week. Please help us out by getting both the folders and paperwork returned.

In Christ,

Matt Parish
School Principal
principal@nativitymary.org
608-754-5221 x23