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Mrs. Debra R. Masiello, Principal

## SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

*Welcome back to a new school year at St. Mark's. You will receive a newsletter at the beginning of each month. Please ask your child for it. It will contain many activities and announcements you won't want to miss.*

**Openings:** We still have openings in grades Kindergarten – Grade 8. If you recommend someone to our school and they stay through December 31, you will be eligible for our Christmas Club which is the credit of one month's tuition in the spring.

**Sunday, September 7 - Christian Education Sunday** at St. Mark's: All of our faculty and staff will be in attendance at Church for the "Blessing of the Teachers." Following the 10:00 AM service will be our annual church and school picnic. The flyer was sent home the first day of school. We hope to see many of you here on Sunday

### **St. Mark's is up for its Middle States and Lutheran Schools**

**Accreditation renewal in the spring.** To help us prepare for that, there will be a half day of school each month. There will be Aftercare on these days at no additional charge to our regular Aftercare parents. The drop in rate is \$10 per hour. **AFTERCARE ENDS AT 4 PM ON THESE HALF DAYS!**

*Our first half day is Friday, September 12.*

**Meet the Teacher** night is on September 16. We meet first together in the church where you will hear a short presentation by the principal and the PTL. Following that you will be invited to your child's classroom to hear what goes on during your child's school day. This is an evening to discuss curriculum and classroom routines. Please arrange to meet at a different time for a private meeting with the teacher concerning your child. Please arrange for your child(ren) to stay at home. This is not an evening for them.

Our first **School Spirit Day** is Friday, September 19. Wear RED and WHITE – Our school colors. The year's schedule is attached. Students do not need to wear their uniforms on these days.

**Chapel Schedule** for September is as follows:

Sept. 10 – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade sings.

Sept. 17 – 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> Grade sings.

Sept. 24 – 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade sings.

**Dismissal:**

**Pre-K 3** dismissal is at 11:30 AM for half day and 2:40 PM for full day.

**Pre-K 4 and Kind.** is at 2:45 PM.

**Grades 1-8** are at 3:00 PM.

**Aftercare Program** will begin next Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Forms are available in the school office if needed.

**Safety** is always of utmost concern to us. Parents, please do not drive quickly onto the parking lot. Parents, please keep an eye on your children before they enter the school and after you pick them up from their teachers. Let's keep our children safe.

Our **Tardiness** policy is as follows: The main door of the school is open at 8:00 AM for arriving students and closes at 8:15 AM. After that, you are considered late. We follow the time in the school office. If you are late five days in a quarter, your child will not be allowed to attend school on the following day. Excessive tardiness is a disruption to the teacher and classroom and not helpful to your child. If you are consistently running just a few minutes late each day, please leave earlier. No child should be arriving after 9:00 AM without a doctor's note.

**Absence notes** (including half days or when your child went home early) must be sent in with your child. They need to be kept with the school records.

**Hot Lunch** will begin next week for students in Grades 1 - 8. Menus have been given out. All menus and monies **MUST** be sent in by Friday of the previous week. Please help make our bookkeeping easier by sending in the menus by Friday.

Please **DO NOT PARK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PARKING LOT AND LEAVE YOUR CAR FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME!** Grades 1- 8 have their recess at 12:00. Gym classes are held outside in good weather.

**Forms:** If you have not yet done so, please send in all the forms from your summer packet as soon as possible. These need to be completely filled out. For new students, we must have a copy of your child's birth certificate. If you have not done so, please send one in as soon as possible.

**One Call Now** is our communication system with parents. This is a communication system whereby, with one phone call or text message, or email from the school, every parent can immediately be notified of any school closing, delayed opening, emergency, etc. It is important to get those emergency cards back so we add our new parents. No text messages will be sent unless you choose to opt in to that delivery system. New cell phone numbers will receive an initial text so that you will have the opportunity to opt in. For returning parents - If your phone numbers or email has changed, please inform the school office so we can update One Call Now.

**Dress Down Mondays:** For a cost of \$5 PER CHILD, students may dress down on Mondays. This \$5 is paid monthly and is due on the first Monday of each month. If we do not have school on a Monday, they do not dress down that week. Teachers may also pay \$5 and dress down on Mondays.

***Dress Down Mondays starts next week!***

**Tuition** is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. You have a grace period until the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. If the 10<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend, you have until the next school day to make your payment. After that, tuition is late and a \$45 late fee is added to your tuition.

The **milk program** begins next Tuesday, September 9. If you want to receive milk for your child, you need to send in the form from your summer packet and the monies by Thursday, the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**McLean Ave. Street Fair** is Saturday, September 13. Plan on stopping by the St. Mark's table and say hi. We will be selling popcorn and water. We will have a poster display of our school and activities. If you are able to help us man the table, please let the school office know.

