



SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

110 ROBINWOOD DR. S.W.
FT. WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA 32548
(850) 243-8913 * FAX (850) 243-7895

Rev. Doug Halsema, Pastor
Mrs. Amy T. Akins, Principal

July 24, 2017

Dear Saint Mary Catholic School Families,

We want to welcome all families, both new and old, to the Saint Mary Catholic School Community for the 2017-2018 School Year. It is our prayer you will enjoy being an active member of the Saint Mary Catholic School Family and have a wonderful experience this year, both academically and spiritually. This is an exciting time to be part of our school community; we are growing! We are welcoming over 30 new families, new faculty members, and our new Pastors, Father Doug Halsema and Father Paul Moody. We are blessed to be part of a community that continues to place student faith-formation and academic achievement as its highest priority.

I am honored to serve as your principal for the 2017-2018 School Year. I wholeheartedly believe in the mission and philosophy of Catholic Education, the education and well-being of all students, compassion toward others, and the uniqueness and integrity of each human being. We are very excited for the upcoming year.

Welcome Back Meeting

- There will be an orientation for all parents on **Thursday, August 3rd at 6:00 p.m.** in the Parish Life Center Café. This meeting will provide our new parents and returning parents an opportunity to learn more about Saint Mary Catholic School.
- Immediately following the Welcome Back Meeting, there will be a follow-on meeting for **Middle School** parents at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Life Center Café.
- There will be a supply drop-off for students in grades 1st through 8th on Monday, August 7th from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Classroom assignments will be posted outside of the Office.
- If your child will ride the bus for the new school year, please call the office to let us know. Our buses go to Navarre, Niceville, and Destin. The bus routes are on the website.
- Our orientation for all K3, K4, and K5 students and parents will be on **Monday, August 7th**.
 - * K3 - K4 Parents and students are invited to Orientation in the individual classrooms, Rooms 201 and 202, from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
 - * K5 parents and students are invited to Kindergarten Orientation from 10:00-11:00am in the Kindergarten classrooms, Rooms 203-204. Parents are welcome to bring their child's supplies at this time.
 - * Band Orientation, to include registration and instrument selection, will be Monday the 7th from 9:00am – 12:00am in the Band Room. Playground Music will be in attendance.

The first day of school will be Tuesday, August 8th. The first two days of school will have **early dismissal at 11:30. There will be AfterCare. Carpool for the first two weeks of school** will be as follows:



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- All families will be issued a **name tag** for their car and are asked to display the name card at dismissal time. Please use this tag each day throughout the year.
- **Arrival starting the first day of school:** students in grades K3 through 5th should be dropped off in front of the Old Cafeteria in the main parking lot off of Coral Dr. Staff members will help the children get out of the car and to the correct classroom. Our Staff ***will be on arrival duty the first day of school.*** If parents wish to walk their child to class they may park and do so but we ask that you walk them in only during the first week of school.
- Middle School Students who do **not** have younger siblings may be delivered and picked up in the circular driveway in the **front** of the school office.
- Middle School Students with younger siblings go to the Elementary Car Pool.
- **Students in Grades K3-5th will be picked up in the classroom for the first two weeks of school. This is also called Rainy Day Dismissal or Alternate Dismissal.**
- **Students who have younger siblings will walk to their youngest siblings' classroom for parent pick-up. Example, if you have three children, you will pick them all up in your youngest child's classroom.**
- Staff will be on duty the first two weeks of school to assist older siblings in getting to their younger siblings' classroom.
- 8th Grade Students who have younger siblings may all go to Middle School Carpool for pick-up. This is an 8th Grade Privilege.

Communication is very important to us, and one of the ways we share information is our **Monday Morning Message**. Please sign up to receive our **Monday Morning Message** by assuring we have a correct email.

There is a **Welcome PTO Meeting** the first day of school, August 8th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Cafe for all parents. Please stop by and meet our new families and greet old friends. We encourage you to partner with us in preparing our future leaders.

We are looking forward to working with students, parents, alumni, faculty and staff to make each year at Saint Mary Catholic School an exceptional year. If you have any questions, or if we can be of any additional service, please do not hesitate to call the school at 243-8913.

God Bless,

Amy T. Akins
Principal