



St. Mary's School of Piscataway

Discover the Difference!

Weekly Newsletter

August 2, 2019

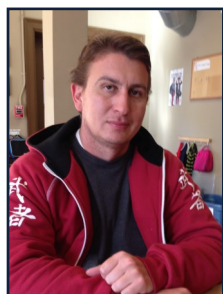
Electronic Newsletter

In years past, St. Mary's School has sent weekly correspondence to school families every Friday in students' backpacks. This year we have decided to go digital and send weekly newsletters via e-mail ONLY. This will allow us to save time, money, and materials. Please be sure to keep your e-mail address and other contact information updated in your TADS account to ensure that you receive our weekly correspondence. We will also be posting newsletters on our website at www.stmaryspiscataway.org → Parents → News so that you can retrieve previous newsletters.

New Faculty

We are very close to being full-staffed for the 2019-20 school year! We received numerous résumés from well-qualified candidate and chose individuals that we felt were the best fit for our students and families. Please join us in welcoming the newest members of St. Mary's School Family!

Mr. Robert Bekas, Physical Education



Robert Bekas was chosen to be our new Physical Education Teacher. He originally came from Poland where he graduated from The Academy of Physical Education in Warsaw with a Master's Degree in Physical Education. Mr. Bekas specializes in Fitness and Martial Arts. He has over fifteen years of experience in teaching and has taught students from Pre-K to college level. Mr. Bekas was formerly at St. Catherine Laboure School and also teaches at Holy Redeemer School, where besides teaching P.E., he created and ran a very popular after school Karate program and a fun summer camp.

Mr. Bekas' goals are to produce an energizing and creative learning environment that will bring out the best in our students. "The goal is overall fitness, but I also want them to learn the basic rules of baseball, football, soccer as well as fair play. I also try incorporate team spirit. When we play, we play for fun. We don't keep score; I want the students to be nice to each other, not get in arguments over who is winning. I try to keep it on the fun level, not necessarily the sports level," Mr. Bekas said. His hobbies are sports; mainly martial arts and combat sports. He holds black belts in Karate, Taekwondo and Kickboxing.

Mrs. Christine Garner, Fifth Grade Teacher



Mrs. Garner has 14 years of teaching experience in various subject areas from multi-grade levels (toddler, preschool, elementary school, ESOL for high school and adults). She started her career in her home country of the Philippines as well as Okinawa, Japan. She has taught in culturally-diverse settings; both in a private and public schools. Mrs. Garner earned a Masters in Arts in Early Childhood Education from Ashford University and recently served as RELA (Reading English and Language Arts) and Social Studies at PG County Public Schools for the past 4 years.

Mrs. Garner's family is a retired U.S. Air Force family and has moved around a lot. Her and her husband were blessed with two children ages 8 and 10. Her family loves spending time at beaches and traveling to different places.

Looking Ahead

- † **Friday, August 2-4**
Virginia Tax-Free Weekend
- † **Sunday, August 11-17**
Maryland Tax-Free Week
- † **Tuesday, August 20**
First Day for Teachers
Professional Development
- † **Friday, August 23**
All School Family Picnic 5:30-7:30
Open House 1:00-3:00
- † **Tuesday, August 27**
First Day of School
Early Dismissal 12:00
- † **Friday, August 30**
All School Mass
- † **Monday, September 2**
Labor Day
No School
- † **Tuesday, September 3**
Back to School Night 6:00
- † **Friday, September 6**
Grandparents Day Program
Early Dismissal 12:00
- † **Monday, September 9**
Open House 9:00-1:00
- † **Tuesday, September 10**
**Enrollment Forms and
Immunization Records
Submission Deadline**
- † **Wednesday, September 11**
911 Remembrance
- † **Monday, September 23**
Autumnal Equinox
- † **Wednesday, September 25**
Vision & Hearing Screening 9:00
- † **Friday, September 27**
Progress Reports Sent Out
Open House 9:00-1:00
Native American Day
- † **Monday, September 30**
All School Mass
- † **Wednesday, October 2**
National Custodial Worker's
Recognition Day
- † **Friday, October 4**
Feast of St. Francis of Assisi -
Blessing of the Animals
Early Dismissal 12:00
- † **Monday, October 14**
Columbus Day



Miss Ellienne Planchet, Director of Religious Education



Miss Planchet, a New Hampshire native, has four years of teaching experience in both the elementary and junior high school levels. She studied Theology/Catechetics and English at Franciscan University of Steubenville as an undergraduate student and then completed her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Mississippi through the Mississippi Teacher Corps. She has spent seven summers working at a Catholic girls' summer camp in New Hampshire as both a counselor and then the Liturgical Life Director. She will also be the Director of Religious Education for St. Mary's Church.

Miss Planchet enjoys traveling, running, skiing, and hiking. She is looking forward to joining the community of St. Mary's School!

Uniform Sale and Exchange

We have brand new and gently used uniforms for sale. We will have two sale events on Thursday, August 8th and Saturday, August 17th. We are looking for parent volunteers to help with these sales. This is a great way to get your family service hours in before the school year starts. If you have not been Virtus trained/cleared, this is also a wonderful opportunity because you do not have to be Virtus cleared for this project!

Volunteers will be tasked with sorting and organizing the uniforms, setting them up on the tables, and coordinating the sales procedures. We are looking for up to four volunteers for each session. If you would like to volunteer, please use this SignUp Genius link to register.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A054AACAC2EA0FB6-uniform>.

Used uniforms can be exchanged piece for piece. Exchanged pieces must be gently used and in good repair. If you do not have anything to exchange, each used piece will be available for sale for just \$1. Brand new uniforms will be available at these prices:

Youth Slacks - \$16	Adult Slacks - \$18
Youth Walk Shorts - \$15	Adult Walk Shorts - \$17
Youth Uniform Sweaters - \$15	Adult Uniform Sweaters - \$15
Youth Gym Shorts - \$7	Adult Gym Shorts - \$9
Youth Gym Sweatshirts - \$8	Adult Gym Sweatshirts - \$10
Youth Gym Sweatpants - \$8	Adult Gym Sweatpants - \$10



Grades 1-4 Get a Technology Update!

We are happy to announce that Grades 1-4 will be receiving Kindle Fire tablets to use in the classroom! Two years ago, during the 2017-18 school year, we purchase Google Chromebooks for middle school. We have decided to go with Kindle Fire tablets for the lower grades because of their reputation for ease of use and durability. E-readers like the kindle—larger than an average paperback but smaller than a laptop—can be stocked with digital texts, which are downloaded from computers or special websites. Users can transport them, and in effect an entire digital library, to an armchair, the subway, a sunny beach, or a classroom.

The Kindle, the best known of the current crop of e-readers, weighs just 10.2 ounces. Text displayed on the gadget's six-inch screen is remarkably legible, by virtue of so-called electronic ink, a display technology that is reflective like paper. With no backlighting, it uses less power than other devices, too, extending the time between battery charges.

RSVP for the Annual All School Picnic

Let's celebrate the beginning of the school year together! School will provide iced tea, lemonade, hamburgers and hot dogs. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share!

Friday, August 23 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

You will be able to take a look at the new renovations, meet the teachers, and make some new friends! Be sure to RSVP by clicking here: <http://evite.me/XzX5RPvCDZ>

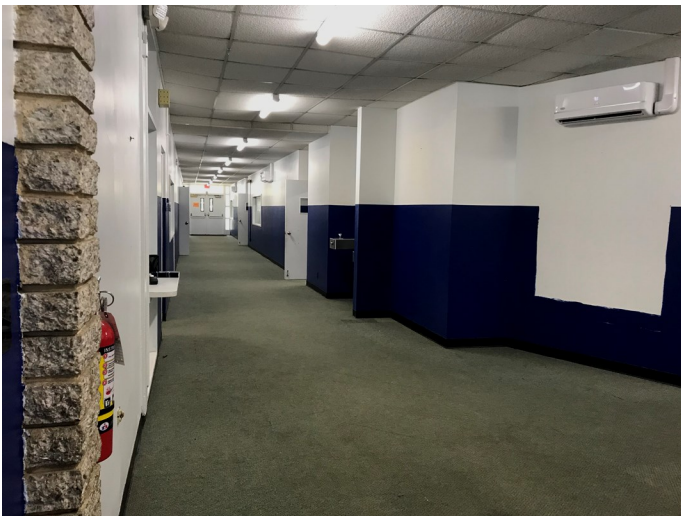




Renovations Underway

St. Mary's has been hard at work this summer to renovate, refresh, and renew the campus. The entire Pre-K classroom, library and hallways have been freshly painted with lighter, brighter colors. These areas will also have brand new flooring. Some draperies in the classrooms that were coming off of the tracks have been repaired, cleaned, and hung. The library is getting all new furniture.

Take a look at some pictures of the work currently in progress. Be sure to RSVP for the Annual All School Picnic on Friday, August 23 from 5:30 - 7:30 to see the completed projects. RSVP here: <http://evite.me/XzX5RPvCDZ>



Lower Grades Hall ~ Before



Lower Grades Hall ~ In Progress



Main Entrance Hall ~ Before



Main Entrance Hall ~ In Progress



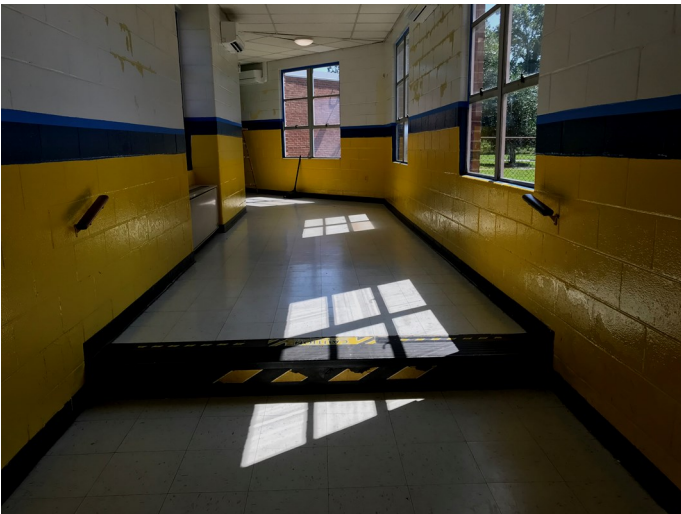
WORK IN PROGRESS



Upper Grades Hall ~ Before



Upper Grades Hall ~ In Progress



Hallway to the Parish Hall ~ Before



Hallway to the Parish Hall ~ In Progress

Uniforms Available at Carousel Clothing

This is a reminder that this year, all uniforms should be purchased exclusively at Carousel Clothing in Waldorf, MD. If you have not already done so, be sure to visit them during these hours:

Monday - Friday 10-7

Saturday 10-6

Sunday Closed

Don't wait! Some items may be on back order if not purchase in time.





Enrollment Forms

Please do not forget to submit enrollment forms as soon as possible. The deadline to have all forms submitted is Tuesday, September 10, two weeks into the 2019-20 school year. The following should be scanned and uploaded to TADS.

Birth Certificate,
Baptismal Certificate (for Catholic students only)
Immunization Acknowledgement (Archdiocese form #3)

All other forms should be submitted to the office. The earlier you are able to submit them, the better! The most important form to be submitted is the Immunization Acknowledgment Form. If we do not receive that by the deadline, your child(ren) may not be admitted into the building until that form is received.

If you lose your forms or need an extra copy, you can always find them at www.StMarysPiscataway.org > Parents > School Forms. Thank you!

Grandparents & Special Friends Day

This year we decided to coordinate Grandparents and Special Friends Day to coincide with National Grandparents Day (Sunday, September 8). In case your child(ren)'s grandparents live far away, we wanted to give all families ample notice to invite them to our school event. If your child's grandparents are not able to attend, you can also invite a special friend like an aunt, uncle, or elderly family friend. More information will be sent out closer to the event.



Volunteers Needed for Cleanup Day, August 17

Every year, we rely on the help from parents to get the facility cleaned and ready for teachers. If you are able to help on Saturday, August 17th, please be sure to sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A054AACAC2EA0FB6-school>

Please bring cleaning supplies and tools so that we have enough for everyone to pitch in.



TUESDAY
AUGUST 27
8:00 AM

*Want to know what we're
up to this summer? Follow
us on social media!*

@SMSPiscataway

