

# NEWSNOTE

ISSUE 4 OCTOBER 4, 2023

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy October!

Please see the notes below to help navigate us through the second month of the year:

- **Thank you** to all who supported our **Walkathon!** We were fortunate to have a beautiful weather day and the students were able to support their school and spend some time outside getting fresh air and exercise! We are still accepting donations for the Walk through October 16, in case you are able and interested in supporting our STREAM and EXCEL programs. At that time, we will share the total sum we were able to raise for our new educational initiative.
- Students should NOT bring peanut (or any other nut) butter to school. Items such as PB&J sandwiches, Uncrustables and other brands, Reese's Peanut Butter cups and other candies that contain peanut butter, Nutella and other hazelnut spreads, etc are not allowed in our school. As a parent of a 3 and 5 year old, I do realize this may alter typical meals and snacks of children without allergies, but we must all work together to keep everyone in our building safe and healthy - and this prevents keeping SME free of these foods. Please see the attached letter that discusses foods prohibited from the school from Nurse Dara. These guidelines should be followed every day - even for classroom Halloween parties.
- Our wing dedication ceremony was a beautiful moment for St. Mary's Elementary School! Our school has undergone an updating, and with unveiling our new EXCEL @ SME Program, it is certainly a most exciting time to be a member of our SME community! But for as excited as we are about our future, it is also extremely important to honor and respect our past. We can't truly know where we're going unless we more fully understand where we've been. Taking intentional steps to build relationships and pay homage to individuals who gave so much of themselves to enable us to walk proudly and grow SME into the future was the least we could do to demonstrate appreciation and respect to Sr. Barbara, Fr. Dave, and Fr. Paul.

Have a wonderful week of continued beautiful weather,  
Mr. Olejniczak



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Fri. 10/6 - NO SCHOOL**, Diocesan PD Day
- **Mon. 10/9 - NO SCHOOL** - Columbus Day
- **Tues. 10/10** - School Picture Day Grades Pk3 & K-3, Hometown Catalog Sale Begins
- **Wed. 10/11** - School Picture Day Grades Pk4 & 4-8
- **Fri. 10/13** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am, My Little Sweetheart Dance 6-8pm
- **Tues 10/24** - Hometown Catalog Sale Ends
- **Wed. 10/25** - Gr 4- 8 Progress Report Upload
- **Fri. 10/27** - Trunk or Treat 6-8pm
- **Wed. 11/1** - All Saints Day Mass, 8:30
- **Fri. 11/3** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30
- **Thurs. 11/9** - Veterans Prayer Service, 8:30

## BY THE NUMBERS

We offer a wide variety of opportunities to support SME and will be changing things up this year with our offerings.

We understand that every fundraiser will not be for everyone, but we do appreciate any & all support you can give!

Year round ways to help:

- ◇ Boxtops 4 Education

*Sept. Donation \$7.70*

- ◇ RaiseRight Program

### Upcoming Fundraisers:

**10/16** - EXCEL Walk-a-Thon pledges due. *All proceeds benefit EXCEL @ SME!*

**10/10-10/24:** Hometown Catalog Sale (HSA Sponsored)



## WALK-A-THON

We had a beautiful morning for our walk-a-thon!

Please collect and submit all promised pledges &/or donations by Monday, October 16th.

As a reminder, all monies collected will directly benefit our EXCEL/STREAM program here at SME!

## FALL PICTURE DAYS

Fall picture days are scheduled for:

**Tues. 10/10 for Pre-K 3 & Grades K-3**

**Wed. 10/11 for Pre-K 4 & Grades 4-8**

Students are allowed to dress up on picture day, but should always adhere to the dress code outlined in the uniform policy.

Inter-State Photography has shifted to online ordering and you can order now! [inter-state.com/order](https://www.inter-state.com/order) Our Order Code is 80380VF

Paper orders are also accepted. Forms available upon request to [Mrs. Kuhn](mailto:Mrs.Kuhn).

## HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

There are only 2 more days left to register for the My Little Sweetheart Dance. The form is due along with payment **Tomorrow**. Sign up to volunteer at the event here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040E4DABAF2FABF49-44520940-mylittle>

The first HSA meeting of the year will be next Wed. Oct. 11th at 6 pm in the gym. We hope you can make it and learn about all the amazing things happening at our school.

It's time for the first HSA Fundraiser- Hometown Holidays Catalog. The catalog and the instructions on how to sign up will be coming home next week.

All of the fundraising HSA offers goes directly back to the students, teachers and our school. It helps keep the cost of tuition affordable, helps buy new items for our classrooms and pays for the fun events and speakers at school. As with any fundraiser, please help if you can, and participation is optional. Please participate in the fundraisers that work for your family.

**Trunk or Treat:** Our Trunk or Treat event will be held on Friday, October 27th from 6-8pm. Get your costumes (and trunks!) ready and plan to join us for some pizza, pumpkin decorating, and lots of treats! Click on the link below to RSVP for the event and sign up to pass out candy or volunteer. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CAFA72CABF4C43-44792834-trunk>

### October Events:

11th: HSA Meeting in the Gym at 6 p.m.  
10th-24th: Hometown Catalog Fundraiser  
13th: My Little Sweetheart Dance  
27th: Trunk or Treat Family Fun Night

### November Events:

11th: Craft & Vendor Show

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRINCIPAL'S DESK	1
BY THE NUMBERS	1
Picture Day	1
HSA	1
Walk-a-Thon	1
RaiseRight	2
Sweetheart Dance	2
Athletics	2
Angel Choir	2
RRW - Sneak Peek	2
Volunteer	2
Nurse Notes	2
Bus Safety	2
8th Grade Info	2
Stay in the Know	2



## ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2 St. Mary's Hill  
Lancaster, NY 14086

Phone: 716-683-2112  
Fax: 716-683-2134  
www.smeschool.com



UPON THIS HILL,  
WE DO GOD'S WILL



## RAISERIGHT



Walk-in office hours:  
**Tuesday** 9:00-12:00  
**Wednesday** 12:30-3:30  
**Friday:** 9:30-12:00

For a complete list of participating retailers visit the shop with scrip website:  
<https://www.raiseright.com/brands>

Here is a quick link to the order form:  
[RR Order Form](#)

Reminder: Families earn 100% of rebates up to \$250 and an 80/20 split thereafter.

Creating an online account:  
[RaiseRight.com](https://www.raiseright.com)

SME Enrollment Code: 9A9F4CLA3L66

If you have any questions, please email  
[raiseright@smeschool.com](mailto:raiseright@smeschool.com).

Our team is here for you!

## MY LITTLE SWEETHEART DANCE



Last Call! Please return all RSVPs & payment by **Tomorrow** as we do not have school on 10/6.



*Looking forward to an enchanting evening with our girls and their guys!*

## Pretty in Pink My Little Sweetheart Dance



**Friday October 13th**  
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.



dad, grandpa, uncle or older brother are welcome to accompany their lovely young lady

Cost: \$12 per person  
Payment Due: Oct. 6th  
Tickets are Pre-Sale Only

## ATHLETICS

If you have any questions regarding the athletic opportunities at SME please contact our new Athletic Director, Mr. Tim Williams ([athletics@smeschool.com](mailto:athletics@smeschool.com) or [williams@smeschool.com](mailto:williams@smeschool.com)).

### BASKETBALL INTEREST FORM:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/175erLQsXC5Nh92S-jaHPz4ch\\_xP31rGOaGguGRSo228/edit?usp=drive\\_web](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/175erLQsXC5Nh92S-jaHPz4ch_xP31rGOaGguGRSo228/edit?usp=drive_web)



The first step to the basketball season is establishing interest. Please complete the form ASAP so we can hit the court running!

### KICKBALL TOURNAMENT 10/14:

There will be a diocesan kickball tournament held @ St. Christopher School on Saturday, October 14th. The free tournament is open to all students in grades 3/4 & 5/6. If your child is interested please contact Mr. Williams as team registration ends on 10/10. Coaches are also needed to participate, please let Mr. Williams know if you are able to assist with that as without coaches we cannot send a team.

## RED RIBBON WEEK - SNEAK PEEK

Red Ribbon Week is October 23-27th. We will have themed attire days all week. If your child(ren) decide not to participate on any given day, they should arrive to school in their uniform.

Perhaps you want to start looking for: neon colored tops/clothing, superhero items, crazy hair ideas, a fun hat!

Keep your eye on the 10/11 NewsNote for a schedule of the daily themes!

## NURSE NOTES

Nurse Office hours:  
M-F 9:30am - 1:00pm

Please review this month's Notes from the Nurse attached electronically this week!

Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns:

[nurse@smeschool.com](mailto:nurse@smeschool.com)

716-683-2112 x128

Nurse Dara Sirianni RN, BSN

## ANGEL CHOIR

All students are invited to join St. Mary of the Assumption's Angel Choir! The students will meet from 6-7pm in the church.

Interested families can sign up here:

[Angel Choir Sign Up](#)

Any questions please contact Ms. Ross ([ross@smeschool.com](mailto:ross@smeschool.com) or [andrea@stmarysonthehill.org](mailto:andrea@stmarysonthehill.org)).

## BUS SAFETY

Our students will be participating in school bus safety sessions on Thursday & Friday next week. All students in grades K-6 will partake.

While our students learn how to be safe on the bus it is the perfect time to remind our families to also adhere to bus safety while on the road which includes watching for and stopping when the bus has it's flashing stop signs on & out. Bus safety also applies in our parking lot as well.



## MONTHLY CALENDAR

We've put together a monthly calendar which can easily be posted with all the information pertaining to October.

## VOLUNTEER NEEDED



Are you a parent / grandparent with a few hours to spare during the lunch hour?

We are looking to add volunteers to our lunch monitor crew. If you are interested please contact Mrs. Kuhn ([secretary@smeschool.com](mailto:secretary@smeschool.com)) for more information!

## Social Responsibility



## Spiritual Growth



## Academic Excellence

## 8TH GRADE INFO

If your child plans on attending a catholic high school next year you will need to complete the online application:



[https://catholicswny.smapply.io/prog/application\\_for\\_admission\\_grade\\_9/](https://catholicswny.smapply.io/prog/application_for_admission_grade_9/)

Please be sure to print and sign the confirmation email you receive upon completion and submit to the main office. Without this signed document, we are unable to submit a copy of your child's 1st report card to their 1st & 2nd choice catholic high schools.

Students should take the entrance exam at their **1st choice** school. Exam date is 11/18/23.

## STAY IN THE KNOW

**Save the Date:** 11/9 10:45 Early Dismissal P/T Conferences, No Afterschool care available

**Save the Date:** 11/10 No School Veterans Day

**Save the Date:** 11/11 Craft/ Vendor Fair

**Save the Date:** 11/15 Fall Picture Retake Day

**Save the Date:** 11/17 Grandparents Mass 8:30am

**Save the Date:** 11/27 1:00 Early Dismissal: Staff Development Day



# NOTES FROM THE NURSE



Dara Sirianni RN, BSN



October 2023

## Vision & Hearing Screens

Vision & Hearing screenings will begin in October.

Students in Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th & 7th grades will have their vision and hearing checked. As will any student who is new to SME.

If you would like your child's vision or hearing checked please reach out and I will happily add them to the list.

Referrals will be sent home as needed.

## Illnesses

Please view the accompanying handout "I need to stay Home If...". This handout will provide you with the guidelines necessary to help prevent the spread of illnesses. Also, please note that any student who tests positive for Covid must isolate for 5 days and can return on day 6 with the recommendation they wear a mask days 6-10.

*We can minimize illness by:*

- 1- Getting plenty of rest
- 2- Eating a balanced diet
- 3- Drinking more water
- 4- Avoiding crowded areas
- 5- Covering coughs/sneezes
- 6- Washing hands frequently or using sanitizer

## Physicals

New York State requires all students in grades K,1,3,5,7 as well as any new student or students wishing to participate in sports to have a current physical for the 2023 school year.

Physicals are also required for students to participate in PE, please send in your students physical ASAP if you have not done so already.

I will continue to reach out if one is still needed for your student.

## Contact Information

Dara Sirianni RN, BSN  
Office Hours- 9:30-1  
phone- (716)683-2112 ext 128  
fax- (716) 683-2134  
email- nurse@smeschool.com

# ST MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2 St. Mary's Hill  
Lancaster, NY 14086-2033  
www.smeschool.com

Phone: (716) 683-2112  
Fax: (716) 683-2134  
“...visible examples of gospel living”

---


Dear Parents/Guardians:

Every year the number of students with severe, life threatening food allergies and strict dietary restrictions continues to grow across the country. Each year we welcome multiple students into our school (PreK-8) with multiple food allergies and sensitivities. Schools are responsible for working diligently to place the children's safety and good health on the forefront and we ask for your cooperation, and understanding with the following policy:

- No unwrapped bulk, unlabeled, or home baked items may be sent into the classrooms.
- All food items brought into the classroom for celebrating and sharing must be from the accompanying pre-approved snack list.
- All treats must be dropped off in the Main Office prior to the classroom celebration, no exceptions.
- Any treats that are included in a party favor type bag MUST HAVE the original bag used to make such party favors included with them at drop off, no exceptions.
- Students are not allowed to share with or purchase food items for other students during lunch or snack time. Sharing, touching, or trading of food is strictly prohibited.
- \*\*Treats/snacks brought in for celebrations that are not on the pre-approved list will be sent home. \*\*

In an effort to assist parents/guardians and teachers please see the accompanying pre-approved snack list. We realize that there are not many items on the list, however, this is what life looks like for those who suffer with life threatening food allergies. Also, items that were once safe can quickly become unsafe and we will update the list as needed throughout the year.

Thank you for your attention and support regarding this very important matter. We look forward to working together to make this a healthy and safe school year for every student at St. Mary's. If you should have any questions or concerns please contact the principal or the school nurse.

  
Glenn Olejniczak, Principal

  
Dara Sirianni RN, BSN

# ST MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2 St. Mary's Hill  
Lancaster, NY 14086-2033  
www.smeschool.com

Phone: (716) 683-2112

Fax: (716) 683-2134

*"...visible examples of gospel living"*

---

Parents/Guardians:

As a reminder, students are only allowed to distribute food/snack items from the pre approved snack list for any/all class celebrations, birthdays and holidays. These items are peanut and tree nut free:

## **Pre-Approved Food List:**

- ❖ Raisins
- ❖ Pretzels (Rold Gold: Rods & Braided twists, Utz all brands)
- ❖ SmartFood White Cheddar Popcorn (Black Bag)
- ❖ Kellogg's Rice Krispies treats Original (blue package)
- ❖ Nabisco Oreos Blue or Gold packages only
- ❖ Nabisco Teddy Grahams
- ❖ Pepperidge Farms Goldfish
- ❖ Barnum's Animal Crackers
- ❖ Pirates Booty
- ❖ Cheez-its
- ❖ Made-Good products
- ❖ Smarties
- ❖ DumDums
- ❖ Jolly Ranchers, Life Savers, Ring Pops
- ❖ Peppermint Hard Candy
- ❖ Organic Fruit strips Wegmans or Cliff
- ❖ Pre cut/ pre packaged fruits and veggies
- ❖ Fruit cups
- ❖ Freeze Pops

**\*\*Food Items brought in MUST be from this list or they will be sent home\*\***


**Non Food items are always encouraged:**

- ❖ **Pencils**
- ❖ **Stickers**
- ❖ **Dollar Tree Goodies**
- ❖ **Bubbles**
- ❖ **Bookmarks**

Attention all parents/guardians:

Please note that if your child is not feeling well at home we ask you to use your best judgment when determining whether or not to send them to school. Illness can and will spread rapidly among younger students and it is our goal here at SME to take precautions to minimize the instances of these illnesses.



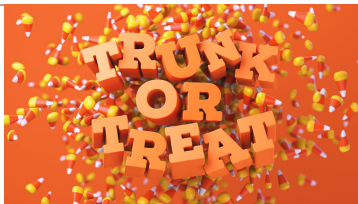
Your student **MUST STAY HOME** if any of the below items apply. This also applies anytime a student is sent home from the Health Office.

I NEED TO STAY HOME IF...						
I HAVE A	I AM	I HAVE	I HAVE A	I HAVE	I HAVE AN	I HAVE BEEN IN
FEVER	VOMITING	DIARRHEA	RASH	HEAD LICE	EYE INFECTION	THE HOSPITAL
						
Temperature of 100.4 or higher	Within the past 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours.	Body rash with itching or fever.	Itchy head, active head lice.	Redness, Itching, and/or "crusty" drainage from eye.	Hospital stay and/or ER Visit
I AM READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL WHEN I AM....						
Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication i.e. Tylenol, Motrin	Free from vomiting for at least 2 solid meals	Free from diarrhea for at least 24 hours	Free from rash itching, or or fever. I have been evaluated by my doctor if needed.	Treated with appropriate lice treatment at home and proof is provided to nurse.	Evaluated by my doctor and have note to return to school	Released by my medical provider to return to school.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me in the Health Office.

School Nurse,  
Dara Sirianni RN, BSN

# OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Pre-K - Gr 8: EXCEL Walk-a-Thon	3	4	5	6  Diocesan PD Day	7
8	9 No School 	10 Pre-K 3 & Gr. K-3 Picture Day Hometown Catalog Sale Begins (HSA)	11 Pre-K 4 & Gr. 4-8 Picture Day	12 Bus Safety Drill (Gr. K-6) Day 1 of 2	13 Christian Witness Mass, 8:30 Bus Safety Drill (Gr. K-6) Day 1 of 2 My Little Sweetheart Dance 6-8pm	14
15	16 EXCEL Walk-a-Thon Pledge/Donation money due today!	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Hometown Catalog Sale Ends (HSA)	25 Progress Report Upload: Gr 4-8	26	27  6-8pm	28
29	30	31	1 All Saints Day Mass, 8:30	2	3 Christian Witness Mass, 8:30	4



# FALL PICTURE DAY IS HERE!

Picture Day is:  
*El día de fotos es el:*

**Tuesday, October 10, 2023 &**

**Wednesday, October 11, 2023**

*martes, 10 de octubre, 2023 & miércoles, 11 de octubre, 2023*

Pictures will be taken at:

*Las fotos serán tomadas en:*

**St. Mary's Elementary School**

**CUSTOM STYLES MADE JUST FOR YOUR SCHOOL!**



**ORDER ONLINE\***

**INTER-STATE.COM/ORDER**

**USE ORDER CODE:**

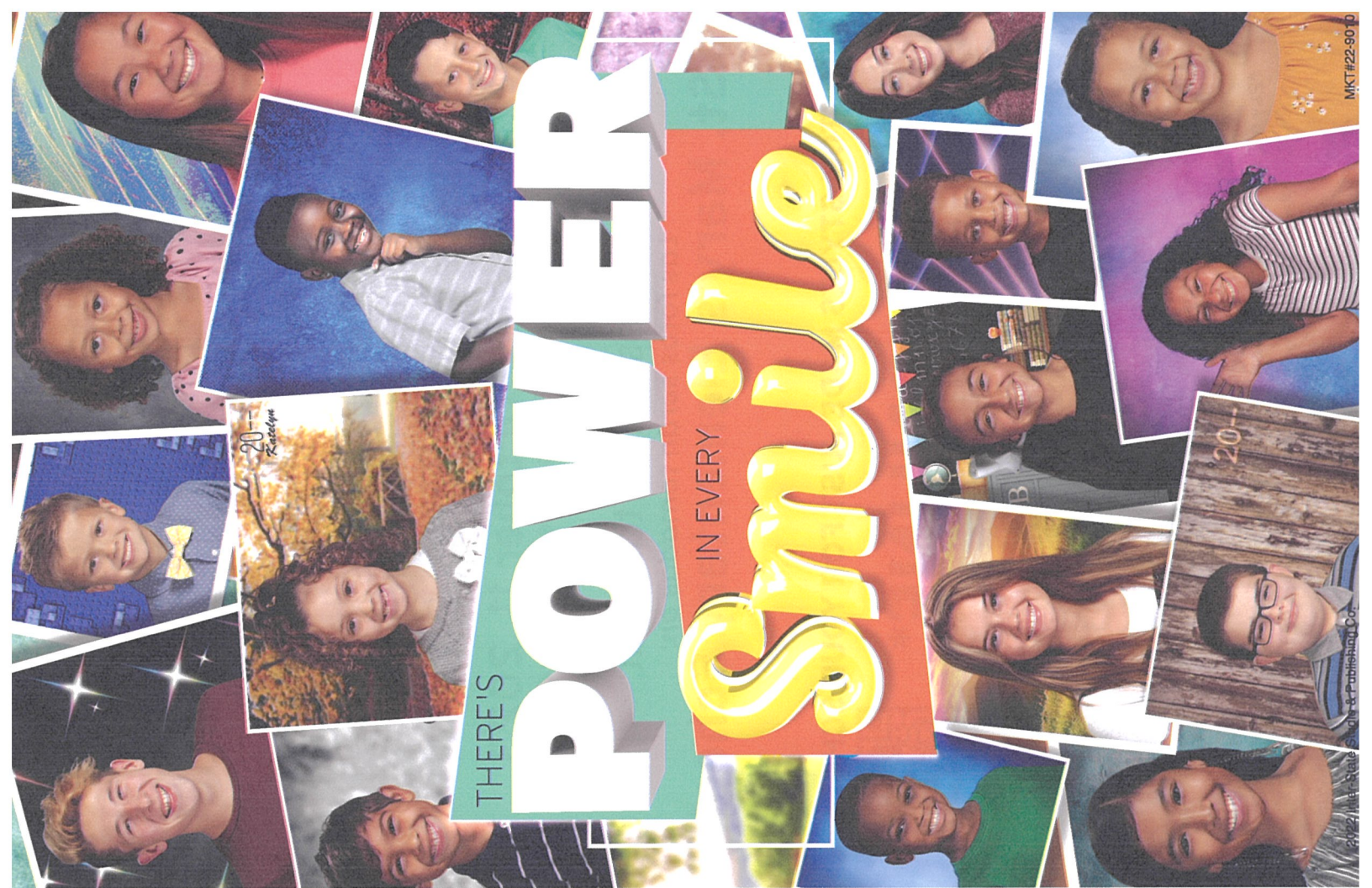
*Use el código de pedido:*

**80380VB**

\*Pay online with your debit card, credit card, PayPal, Apple Pay or Google Pay.

\*Pague en línea con tarjeta de débito, tarjeta de crédito, PayPal, Apple Pay o Google Pay.

80380W





Please join us for our

# Halloween Trunk or Treat



DECORATE YOUR TRUNKS AND COME  
FOR TREATS

October 27, 2023

6:00-8:00pm

Pizza, Drinks and Pumpkin decorating in  
the Parish Center

Admission: 1 non-perishable food item



# BOX TOPICS

OCTOBER  
2023

Easy ways to make a difference for your school.



5  
WINNERS!

It's time to trick or treat yourself to some of Box Tops' delicious seasonal products.

When you scan an earning receipt, you'll be entered to win **1,000 Bonus Box Tops** for your school and a **Monster Cereal Prize Pack** for you. Now that's an eerie-sistible offer!

Sweepstakes runs 10/01 through 10/31.  
See [btfe.com/spooktacular\\_sweeps](https://btfe.com/spooktacular_sweeps) for more details.

## HALLOWEEN REFER A FRIEND BONUS

For **One Week Only** when you refer a friend and they scan their first receipt, you'll earn 40 Bonus Box Tops for your school. Ready, set ... refer! Bonus runs 10/25-10/31.



## CARVE OUT SOME TIME FOR HALLOWEEN FUN

Decorate a jack o'lantern with your family! Our pumpkin stencils make it easy. When you're done carving or painting your pumpkin, take a photo of your creation, post it on social media and tag us. We'll repost your masterpieces in our story!

You can download the stencils at [btfe.com](https://btfe.com).



GET THE BOX TOPS APP & START EARNING FOR YOUR SCHOOL TODAY!





# ST. JOE'S



## OPEN HOUSE

October 15 & 16, 2023

## ENTRANCE & SCHOLARSHIP EXAM

November 18, 2023

## MARAUDER FOR A DAY

Starting September 26



@SJCI





**FALL OPEN HOUSE *for all prospective families***

**Sunday, October 15, 10 am-1 pm**

**Monday, October 16, 5-7 pm**

All prospective students and their families are invited to Open House for private tours of our modern campus. Your tour will include our entire campus with opportunities to interact with our teachers, staff, coaches, and students. This is a pre-registration event only with limited attendance and appointment slots. Select an arrival time at the link below and please arrive on campus during that 15 minute time slot. Once on campus, please plan on your tour lasting approximately 1.5 hours.

[RSVP for Fall Open House 2023](#)

**MARAUDER FOR A DAY (Shadow Day) *for prospective students in grade 8***

**Begins Monday, September 25**

Marauder for a Day allows prospective 9th grade students in fall 2023 the opportunity to become a St. Joe's student for the day! A current freshman will act as your son's guide as he experiences our Community of Excellence. Each Marauder for a Day is paired with a current freshman, attends all classes, enjoys a complimentary meal in our Dining Room, and ends the day with light refreshments. St. Joe's is limiting the Marauder for a Day Program to twelve (12) prospective students per day.

[Schedule a Marauder for a Day Visit](#)

**ENTRANCE EXAM PREP COURSE *for prospective students in grades 7 & 8***

**Saturdays from 8:30 am to noon, October 21-November 11**

The St. Joe's Entrance Exam Prep Course is specifically designed to fit the individual study needs of boys in both 7th and 8th grade. The 8th grade class emphasizes test taking strategies, including timed practice.

The 7th grade curriculum will focus less on test-taking and more on developing the underlying skills that help better prepare students for academic success: reasoning skills, math problem solving, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. A practice exam will be given during the final session, and a detailed score report will be mailed to parents after the completion of the course.

[Enroll in the Entrance Exam Prep Course](#)

**ENTRANCE & SCHOLARSHIP EXAM *for prospective students in grade 8***

**Saturday, November 18, 2023**

All prospective members of the Class of 2028 must take the Catholic High School Entrance & Scholarship Exam on Saturday, November 18, 2023. Parents that have any questions regarding the exam may contact me directly at 716.874.4953 or [pkennedy@sjci.com](mailto:pkennedy@sjci.com).

As in past years, a completed [Application for Admission](#) serves as registration for the exam.