

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to St. Mary's Elementary School!

I have recently been informed that SME has the largest increase in enrollment in the Diocese of Buffalo, something that is true because of our phenomenal staff and the close partnership we have with our dedicated group of parents. Thank you all for helping to make St. Mary's such a truly special place.

Our school has grown with our enrollment, which has resulted in some minor changes to some procedures. Specifically, our pre-K dropoff is slightly different than it has been in the past. The newly renovated **lot on Aurora St.** has arrows alerting parents where to enter and exit. Our teachers have also asked drivers to back into spots if parking, to help keep traffic flowing. For pre-K parents dropping off and pickup up along the side of the building on **St. Joseph St.:** please do not block the driveway. This lane must be clear, as it is used by our buses, which need to stay on a very regimented schedule. And finally, for our **afternoon private pick-up drivers:** We have been able to begin dismissal a bit earlier than we did over the last few years, meaning private pickup students have been dismissed as early as 2:25.

Additionally, we have made many renovations and alterations to our building. I am so excited to share these and so much more about our new Pillars of Saint Mary's program with you at our Meet the Teacher Night, which is next Thursday, September 21, from 5:30 - 7:30. As a reminder, this is an opportunity for you and your child(ren) to come into the school, introduce yourselves to the teachers, and take a look around. This is not a conference night; Parent-Teacher Conference night is November 9.

Have a wonderful week,
Mr. Olejniczak



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Thurs. 9/21** - After-school Care ends @ 5:00pm
- **Thurs. 9/21** - Meet the Teacher Night, Book Fair, 5:30-7:30
- **Fri. 9/22** - Fall Book Fair during school
- **Fri. 9/29** - Pillars of SME Dedication Mass, 8:30am
- **Mon. 10/2** - Walk-a-Thon
- **Fri. 10/6 - NO SCHOOL**, Diocesan PD Day
- **Mon. 10/9 - NO SCHOOL** - Columbus Day
- **Tues. 10/10** - School Picture Day Grades Pk3 & K-2
- **Wed. 10/11** - School Picture Day Grades Pk4 & 3-8
- **Fri. 10/13** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am, My Little Sweetheart Dance 6-8pm

BY THE NUMBERS

In this section we will talk about the numbers of our fundraisers; the good, the bad and the most up to date as possible!

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
Aug. Donation \$4.30
- ◇ RaiseRight Program



FALL PICTURE DAY

Fall picture day is scheduled for:

Tues. 10/10 for Pre-K 3 & Grades 3-8
Wed. 10/11 for Pre-K 4 & Grades K-2

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
Order Code is 80380VF

EXTRA, EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

With the start of a new year, there is much to share!
Please take a moment to go through today's Communication Packet as you don't want to miss a thing!



A quick scroll through your electronic version is also recommended each week as we may attach information electronically rather than printing (to save as many trees as possible!).

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Welcome back to school! The Home School Association is ready for another amazing year of fun! The HSA has many events planned for the year with a few fundraisers too. Last year because of the amazing work of all of our families and the HSA accomplished, the HSA was able to buy new water fountains that fill water bottles for the school. These are going to be an amazing new addition to SME. The HSA was also able to give each teacher start up funds for this school year too. Let's see what we can do this year!

The HSA is open to all parents and if you would like to be involved, volunteer at events or to be a room parent, please fill out this [Room Parent & Volunteer Form](#) of how you would like to help by **9/15**.

A room parent will work with the teachers on planning class parties and service projects for the class. There will be a room parent social on 9/21 at 5 p.m.

Our 1st event for the school year is the Scholastic Book Fair. You can set up an e-wallet for your child by clicking [here](#) or send in cash for them to shop. A schedule will be coming out before the book fair of when classes will be attending.

If you would like to come help the students shop for books and novelties during the school day on 9/21 & 9/22, or help with set up on Wed. 9/20 in the Parish Center, please email Jenny at HSA@smeschool.com. Help is also needed during Meet the Teacher Night too. We always have so much fun at the book fair and it will take you back to when you were a kid.

Did you get the new SME Spirit Wear shirt yet? Attached to the NN is an order form. The shirts are \$15 each. Our first SME Spirit Day will be Monday Oct. 2nd.

Please note below that the October HSA meeting had to be changed. It is now Oct. 11th at 6 p.m. in the gym. All parents are welcome to attend and learn about our upcoming events.

September Events:

20th: Book Fair Set Up in the PC
21st: Meet. the Teacher Night 5:30-7:30
21st & 22nd: Book Fair

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

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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

Do you find yourself asking...

What is RaiseRight all about?

Why all the hype?

Is it worth the effort?

Let us break it down:

Hype: Do love a discount? Purchasing RaiseRight gives a rebate on your tuition. Rebates are good.

Effort: What effort?! Simply send your order into school with your child and it will be forwarded to our RaiseRight team for filling. If you are in need of a card right away stop into our RaiseRight office which is open on Tuesday and Friday from 9-12 & Wednesday from 12:30-3:30!

*Changing your mindset from **gift to payment** cards opens up a world of possibility & rebates on your tuition!*

Need food? From fast food to grocery, we've got a card for that!

New Clothes? Yep.

Medications? All of the local drug stores are on the list.

Do you actually have to give a gift? The possibilities are endless! After all, no one shops for you like you!

Stop pulling out your credit/bank card and grab a payment card instead!

Achieve (self appointed) superstar status when you download the easy to use RaiseRight app!

Online orders can be paid via check through our coordinator or with any credit card.

For a complete list of participating retailers visit the shop with scrip website:

<https://www.raiseright.com/brands>

If you have any questions, please email raiseright@smeschool.com. They are here for you!



DISMISSAL

Wow! It is hard to believe that we are just a week into school for our K-8 students and our dismissal process has become so efficient already! In fact, we're so good that we shaved off some time from the estimates that were shared in our ABC's of SME & Happy School Year Email that went out!

That being said, any student (K-8) that is not picked up and signed out by 2:30 will go to our afterschool care program and Afterschool Care rates will apply. Students can then be picked up at door #5 near the stop sign when you pull into the property. The Afterschool Care forms & informational flyer was included in the supplemental information emailed out by Mrs. O'Grady following your registration.

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) for more information!

ATHLETICS

Attached electronically is information about Diocesan Wide golf and bowling opportunities.

If you are interested or have any questions please contact our new Athletic Director, Mr. Tim Williams (athletics@smeschool.com or williams@smeschool.com).



PARENT PORTAL

Parent Portal accounts have been created for all new families in Kindergarten - Grade 8.

Please refer to the email you received from eSchoolData and follow the directions within it. This email may have gone to your spam folder so please look there also.

If you have any questions: Contact Mrs. Nancy Jezuit (jezuitn@smeschool.com).

SAFETY DRILLS

As is required by law, we will be participating in both fire & lockdown drills while the weather cooperates.



NURSE NOTES

Each month I will be sending out important information from the Health Office in the form of "Notes From the Nurse" which will be attached to the NewsNote at the beginning of each month.

The information may include new school health policies, updates on community illnesses, or tips and tricks to keep you and your students healthy throughout the school year. Please make sure you read these updates and contact me with any questions or concerns. nurse@smeschool.com / 716-683-2112 x128

KITCHEN NEWS

Attached electronically today is a copy of the application for Free & Reduced lunches. If you would like to apply, please complete and return the application to the attention of our Kitchen.

The monthly lunch menu is always posted to our school website and parent portal.

Prepayment is encouraged. A handy cost calculator is at the top of the September menu.

If you are interested in celebrating your child's birthday, a birthday treat order form is available on the lunch menu tab of the school website.

ASBESTOS NOTICE

We are notifying you that in accordance with EPA/AHERA (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act) regulations, St. Mary's Elementary School is required to have an asbestos management plan in place. If any parent, teacher or employee wishes to see the plan, a request can be made to the school office where it is filed.

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/

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.

We will share information & flyers from area high schools as we receive them so be sure to scroll through our electronic version each week.

STAY IN THE KNOW



Save the Date: 10/27 Trunk-or-Treat 6-8

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

Discover the Pillars of SME

so much more than just a school



Social Responsibility



Spiritual Growth



Academic Excellence

St. Mary's Elementary School
2 St. Mary's Hill
716-683-2112 • www.smeschool.com



Pre-K-3 and Pre-K-4
Five full days / week
Kindergarten - 8th Grade



Dear Families:

Get ready! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming our way (YAY!). Choosing their own books empowers kids and inspires them on their journey to becoming lifelong readers. AND—as always—every purchase at the Fair benefits our school.

Here's what you need to know about the big event, which will take place:

Say goodbye to cash and hello to **eWallet**—your child's digital payment account. Before the Fair, set up eWallet for worry-free, cash-free purchases. Anyone can contribute! Share each child's eWallet so friends and family can add funds and give your kids more books to enjoy.

If you can't make it to the Fair, then **shop at our school's Book Fair online**. All orders ship directly to your home, and shipping is free for book orders over \$25. Every online purchase will also benefit our school.

Visit our Book Fair homepage to learn more and get started with eWallet and online shopping:

The countdown to more Bookjoy is on! Catch you at the Fair!

Happy reading,

Principal

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

More Bookjoy, less hassle—with eWallet!

This year, say *goodbye* to giving your kids crumpled bills and loose change...and *hello* to **eWallet**, a super-convenient, secure digital payment account, for the Scholastic Book Fair. Setting up an eWallet for your child empowers them to choose their own books and effortlessly check out during the Best. Week. Ever. at their school. And any leftover funds can be saved for future Fairs. Now, that's a win-win!



Create Account



Add Funds



Share with Family
and Friends



Shop



Visit our school's Book Fair homepage to get started:



<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/fall>



NOTES FROM THE NURSE



Dara Sirianni RN, BSN



September 2023

Spare Clothing

The Health Office will no longer be able to provide or share clothing. I strongly encourage students under the age of 8 to have an extra set of clothing (PE clothing and underwear is acceptable) in a ziplock bag to keep in their cubbies in case of emergencies.

In any and all cases where an accident occurs that is out of character/age for the student parents will be notified.

Illnesses

Please visit the SME website to view our 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.

Allergy Information

This year SME will be following a standard set forth in many schools in our area. In an effort to promote continuity and safety for all students during class celebrations and parties.

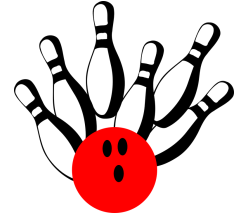
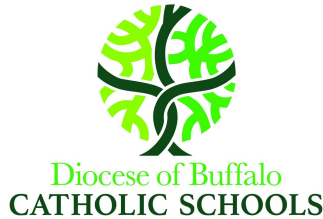
We want to make sure that every student (and parent) feels safe while consuming a treat brought in by someone else. I realize this list isn't long and there may not be any "fun" treats on it, but this is what life looks like for those that have peanut/tree nut allergies.

Please visit the SME Website under the Nurses Notes Tab for the updated snack policy and approved snack list.

Physicals & Immunizations

- All students in grades K,1,3,5,7 as well as any new student or students wishing to participate in sports are required to have a current physical for the 2023 school year. Students must also be up to date on all immunizations. As a reminder students entering kindergarten, 6th & 7th grade have required vaccinations and I will reach out by phone or email if your student is still missing required doses.

Diocesan Bowling League 2023



Tuesdays from 3:30 – 5:00 PM

At either Abbott Lanes, Classic Lanes or
Grand Island's Mallwitz Lanes

Dates: 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31

Championship match for grades 5/6, 7/8 only
(1 boy and 1 girl per level, per school)
Saturday November 4 @ Classic Lanes at 10am.

- **Registration is due by Wed. 9/20.** (Principals, ADs or PE Teachers must sign up the students.)
- Bowlers can be from any grade, bumpers will be used as needed.
- \$35 per bowler, with each school paying the Diocese directly.
- Please register your bowlers with Laurie Wojtaszczyk at the Diocese through this [Google form](#) or email a spreadsheet with their names and grades. Lwojtaszczyk@buffalodiocese.org or 716-847-5525.
- Championship match on Saturday November 4th @ Classic Lanes at 10am limited to grades 5/6 and 7/8. Your school may send your top boy bowler and top girl bowler for grades 5/6 and 7/8. Each school has 4 spots maximum.
You are limited to 1 boy and 1 girl for each level even if you can not fill one of the spots.
- All schools must have a minimum of 1 chaperone present.
- Parents are encouraged to carpool.

2nd Annual Diocesan Golf Tournament

Wednesday, October 11, 2023



This free tournament is open to the top boy and top girl golfer from each school.

Golfers must be experienced and have their own equipment.

(Participation is based on experience, not grade level.)

Grover Cleveland Golf Course
12pm, 9 Holes

- **School teams must be registered by Sep. 29th.**
- Principals, ADs or PE Teachers please register your golfers with Laurie Wojtaszczyk at the Diocese through this [Google form](https://forms.gle/UVeJrveYapiuPzoy9) (<https://forms.gle/UVeJrveYapiuPzoy9>) or email/call to register. Lwojtaszczyk@buffalodiocese.org or 716-847-5525.
- We will need many volunteers for the tournament.

****Be sure to keep an eye on the Office & Activities Blog throughout the year [here](#).****

(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/14gGaAw58c4PXOxJV0d6dqnYioWobezWuQGpgCJrSHjU/edit?usp=sharing>)

Date Withdrew _____

F _____ R _____ D _____

2023-2024 Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Milk

To apply for free and reduced price meals for your children, read the instructions on the back, complete **only one** form for your household, sign your name and **return it to the address listed below**. Call **(716-683-2112 x119)**, if you need help. Additional names may be listed on a separate paper.

Return Completed Applications to: **St Mary's Elementary ATTN: Kitchen**
2 St Marys Hill
Lancaster , NY 14086

1. List all children in your household who attend school:

Student Name	School	Grade/Teacher	Foster Child	Homeless Migrant, Runaway
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Benefits:

If anyone in your household receives either SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits, list their name and CASE # here. **Skip to Part 4 and sign the application.**

Name: _____ CASE #: _____

3. Report all income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you completed step 2)

All Household Members (including yourself and all children that have income).

List all Household members not listed in Step 1 (including yourself) **even if they do not receive income**. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total income for each source in whole dollars only. If they do not receive income from any other source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of household member	Earnings from work before deductions <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Child Support, Alimony <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Pensions, Retirement Payments <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Other Income, Social Security <i>Amount / How Often</i>	No Income
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total Household Members (Children and Adults)

*Last Four Digits of Social Security Number: XXX-XX-__ __ __ __

I do not have a SS#

*When completing section 3, an adult household member must provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SS#) or mark the "I do not have a SS# box" before the application can be approved.

4. Signature: An adult household member must sign this application before it can be approved.

I certify (promise) that all the information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given so the school will get federal funds; the school officials may verify the information and if I purposely give false information, I may be prosecuted under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Home Address: _____

5. Ethnicity and Race are optional; responding to this section does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (Check one or more): American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Black or African American Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Island White

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE – FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

Annual Income Conversion (Only convert when multiple income frequencies are reported on application)
Weekly X 52; Every Two Weeks (bi-weekly) X 26; Twice Per Month X 24; Monthly X 12

SNAP/TANF/Foster

Income Household: Total Household Income/How Often: _____ / _____ Household Size: _____

Free Meals Reduced Price Meals Denied/Paid

Signature of Reviewing Official _____ Date Notice Sent: _____

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for free and reduced price meals, complete only one application for your household using the instructions below. Sign the application and return the application to _____. If you have a foster child in your household, you may include them on your application. A separate application is not needed. Call the school if you need help: _____. Ensure that all information is provided. Failure to do so may result in denial of benefits for your child or unnecessary delay in approving your application.

PART 1 ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

- (1) Print the names of the children, including foster children, for whom you are applying on one application.
- (2) List their grade and school.
- (3) Check the box to indicate a foster child living in your household, or if you believe any child meets the description for homeless, migrant, runaway
(a school staff will confirm this eligibility).

PART 2 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING SNAP, TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE PART 2 AND SIGN PART 4.

- (1) List a current SNAP, TANF or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number of anyone living in your household.
The case number is provided on your benefit letter.
- (2) An adult household member must sign the application in PART 4. SKIP PART 3. Do not list names of household members or income if you list a SNAP case number, TANF or FDPIR number.

PART 3 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE THESE PARTS AND ALL OF PART 4.

- (1) Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are applying for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people **in your household**. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- (2) Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. **Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, every other week (bi-weekly), 2 x per month, monthly. If no income, check the box.** The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should **not** be considered as income for this program.
- (3) Enter the total number of household members in the box provided. This number should include all adults and children in the household and should reflect the members listed in PART 1 and PART 3.
- (4) The application must include the last four digits only of the social security number of the adult who signs **PART 4** if Part 3 is completed. If the adult does not have a social security number, check the box. **If you listed a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR number, a social security number is not needed.**
- (5) **An adult household member must sign the application in PART 4.**

OTHER BENEFITS: Your child may be eligible for benefits such as Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). To determine if your child is eligible, program officials need information from your free and reduced price meal application. Your written consent is required before any information may be released. Please refer to the attached parent Disclosure Letter and Consent Statement for information about other benefits.

USE OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

Use of Information Statement: The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not submit all needed information, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the primary wage earner or other adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs.

We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEAL APPLICATION FACT SHEET

When filling out the application form, please pay careful attention to these helpful hints.

SNAP/TANF/FDPIR case number: This must be the complete valid case number supplied to you by the agency including all numbers and letters, for example, E123456, or whatever combination is used in your county. Refer to a letter you received from your local Department of Social Services for your case number or contact them for your number.

Foster Child: A child who is living with a family but who is under the legal care of the welfare agency or court may be listed on your family application. List the child's "personal use" income. This includes only those funds provided by the agency which are identified for the personal use of the child, such as personal spending allowances, money received by his/her family, or from a job. Funds provided for housing, food and care, medical, and therapeutic needs are not considered income to the foster child. Write "0" if the child has no personal use income.

Household: A group of related or non-related people who are living in one house and share income and expenses.

Adult Family Members: All related and non-related people who are 21 years of age and older living in your house.

Financially Independent: A person is financially independent and a separate economic unit/household when his or her earnings and expenses are not shared by the family/household. Separate economic units in the same residence are characterized by prorating expenses and by economic independence from one another.

Current Gross Income: Money earned or received at the present time by each member of your household before deductions. Examples of deductions are federal tax, State tax, and Social Security deductions. If you have more than one job, you must list the income from all jobs. If you receive income from more than one source (wage, alimony, child support, etc.), you must list the income from all sources. Only farmers, self-employed workers, migrant workers, and other seasonal employees may use their income for the past 12 months reported from their 1040 Tax Forms.

Examples of gross income are:

- Wages, salaries, tips, commissions, or income from self-employment
- Net farm income – gross sales minus expenses only – not losses
- Pensions, annuities, or other retirement income including Social Security retirement benefits
- Unemployment compensation
- Welfare payments (does not include value of SNAP)
- Public Assistance payments
- Adoption assistance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Survivor's Benefits
- Alimony or child support payments
- Disability benefits, including workman's compensation
- Veteran's subsistence benefits
- Interest or dividend income
- Cash withdrawn from savings, investments, trusts, and other resources which would be available to pay for a child's meals
- Other cash income

Income Exclusions: The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care Development (Block Grant) Fund should not be considered as income for this program.

If you have any questions or need help in filling out the application form, please contact:

Name: Liz Heerdt

Title: SME Kitchen Manager

Telephone Number: 716-683-2112 x119 / heerdtl@smeschool.com

SME Spirit Wear

Order Form

Student's Name: _____

Grade/Teacher: _____

Please write the quantity next to the shirt size you would like to order. Each shirt is \$15.

YOUTH SMALL: _____

YOUTH MEDIUM: _____

YOUTH LARGE: _____

YOUTH X-LARGE: _____

ADULT SMALL: _____

ADULT MEDIUM: _____

ADULT LARGE: _____

ADULT XL: _____

ADULT XXL: _____

HSA will host a monthly spirit wear dress down day the 1st Monday of each month beginning in October so everyone can wear their new shirts.



Total Number of Shirts: _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash _____

Total: _____

Check _____

Thank you for your shirt order.

September 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to St. Mary's Elementary School. **We are excited to share with you a tuition credit opportunity through our RaiseRight program!**

This program allows you to save on your tuition* by putting your household shopping dollars to work. Raise Right participating vendors agree to sell gift cards/certificates to our school at a discount. Families purchase gift cards/certificates for full face value, redeem them for full face value, and SME keeps the difference as profit!

These RaiseRight gift cards/certificates are the same gift cards you can purchase at a store *without any hidden activation fees*. Many convenient retailers participate including Tops Markets, Delta Sonic, Frank's Grille, Kohl's, Tim Horton's, and Home Depot. For a full list of participating vendors, please visit the website at www.Raiseright.com. There is also an order form and Master List at our RaiseRight Office!

As an SME family, you are eligible to participate today! Attached, you will find the RaiseRight Information Sheet with further details.

Thank you for your support. As always, please email Raiseright@smeschool.com with any questions.

Have A Blessed Day!
Cindy Olejniczak
RaiseRight Coordinator

Sales Team:
Cindy Olejniczak Doreen Patro Kathleen Spaich

** Tuition credits can be applied with a maximum benefit to each family (\$250 for the first child, \$100 for each child thereafter; after the maximum credit is reached, a 80/20 split between tuition and SME is applied)*

**RaiseRight INFORMATION SHEET
2023/2024**

The RaiseRight Program is an easy, user-friendly way to shop, using gift cards and certificates instead of cash. St. Mary’s offers families the opportunity to help keep tuition costs down by purchasing RaiseRight gift cards!

The profit from your purchases will be allocated 100% towards your tuition cost until the maximum benefit is reached and then 50/50 split between SME and tuition thereafter. The maximum benefit is \$250 for the eldest student and \$100 per enrolled student thereafter. **You can reduce your tuition all year long!!**

The earning quarters run from March 16th - June 15th (Quarter 1), June 16th - September 15th (Quarter 2), October 16th - December 15th (Quarter 3), and December 16th - March 15th (Quarter 4), with the statements being calculated based on the most recent RaiseRight order date.

Example:

Vendor	Card Value	Profit %	Quantity Purchased	Amount Purchases	Rebate Earned
Tops	\$100	5.5%	2	\$200	\$11
Tim Horton’s	\$10	5%	2	\$20	\$1
Frank’s	\$25	20%	2	\$50	\$10
Monthly Total				\$270	\$22

Please take into consideration the places that you normally shop and dine, including purchasing your gasoline at Tops (gift cards accepted at pump) Or Visa Cards with no activation fees! With just a little planning you can save hundreds!

RaiseRight Cards may be purchased in the following ways:

Order – Physical and Online orders placed on Mondays will go home by Friday of that week. These orders can be sent in with your child or dropped off at the school office or in the white RaiseRight mailbox outside the office. If in stock, your orders will be filled the next day and sent home. If cards need to be ordered, your order will be sent home on Friday once we receive them from the company. Payment must accompany your order form in the form of cash or check made out to St. Mary’s Elementary School.

RaiseRight walk in office hours for this school year are as follows:

**Tuesdays and Fridays 9 AM- 12 Noon
Wednesdays 12:30- 3:30**

- **PURCHASE AT RECTORY** - A limited inventory of RaiseRight cards are maintained in the Rectory and may be purchased Monday - Friday from 9:00-3:00. If not in stock, they will be ordered on the following Monday.
- **ONLINE** – Raiseright.com offers free online ordering. Using this feature, you can order from home and send in your payment, reload funds onto RaiseRight gift cards you have already purchased, print your own RaiseRight E-Gift cards, and pay for your order with Presto-Pay or a credit card.*
*See attached sheet for additional information for online shopping options.
- **RAISE RIGHT FUNDRAISING APP** - a new, extremely user-friendly way to buy your Scrip on the go! Instructions for downloading the app are available on the RaiseRight website.

Joining our RaiseRight Program/Online Payment Information

Creating an Account

RaiseRight.com is a convenient way for families to order cards. If you are interested in enrolling in RaiseRight.com, you can go directly to RaiseRight.com and open your account! If an enrollment code is requested our code is **9A9F4CLA3L66**

Information needed: Family name, family ID number (provided upon registration within the school), phone number, home address, and email address.

Earn anytime, anywhere with the Raise Right Fundraising App

- Shop all card types (700+ brands)
- Save your favorites for quick access
- Browse bonuses that are updated weekly
- Manage gift card purchases, check your balance and more, all on the app
- Link your bank account (Presto-Pay)
 - Set up an account in a matter of minutes
 - Create a unique PIN to keep your account safe
 - \$0.15 fee on each transaction
- Pay with your credit card:
 - Visa, Mastercard, and Discover are accepted (\$2.6% fee on each transaction)

Families who pay online earn 45% more than families who don't!

A number of short 'how to' videos have been uploaded to the RaiseRight tab of the school website: smeschool.com for your convenience!

St. Mary's Elementary RaiseRight Order Form - Lancaster, NY

Name		School Family <input type="checkbox"/>	Parishioner <input type="checkbox"/>
Address		Oldest Child's Name	
Phone	Email	Grade/Teacher	ID #

Product	%	QTY	Total
Grocery			
Federal Meats \$20	5%		\$
Instacart \$25 / \$100	4%		\$
ShopRite \$25 / \$100	4%		\$
Tops Markets \$10	5.5%		\$
Tops Markets \$25	5.5%		\$
Tops Markets \$50	5.5%		\$
Tops Markets \$100	5.5%		\$
Dining - Casual			
Applebee's \$25 / \$50	8%		\$
Bob Evans® \$10 / \$25	10%		\$
Carraba's Italian Grill \$25 / \$50	10%		\$
Cheesecake Factory \$25	5%		\$
Chili's Grill & Bar \$25 / \$50	11%		\$
Cracker Barrel \$10 / \$25	8%		\$
Denny's \$10	7%		\$
Frank's Grille \$25	20%		\$
Happy Dining \$25	8%		\$
IHOP \$25	8%		\$
Olive Garden \$25 / \$100	8%		\$
Outback Steakhouse \$25 / \$50	10%		\$
P.F. Chang's \$25 / \$100	6%		\$
Red Lobster \$25	8%		\$
Red Robin \$25	8%		\$
TGI Fridays \$25	9%		\$
Electronics & Office			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Best Buy \$25 / \$100 / \$250	4%		\$
GameStop \$25.00	3%		\$
Office Depot/Max \$25 / \$100	5%		\$

Product	%	QTY	Total
Fast Food			
Arby's \$10 / \$25	8%		\$
Auntie Anne's \$25	6%		\$
Burger King \$10 - Temporarily Unavailable			
Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10 / \$25	10%		\$
Cold Stone Creamery \$5 / \$10	11%		\$
Dairy Queen \$10	3%		\$
Domino's \$10 / \$25	8%		\$
Dunkin' Donuts \$10 / \$25	3%		\$
Little Caesars Pizza \$20	8%		\$
Moe's Southwest Grill \$25	6%		\$
Panera Bread \$10 / \$25 / \$50	8%		\$
Pizza Hut \$10	8%		\$
Qdoba Mexican Grill \$25.00	7%		\$
Sonic \$10 / \$25	8%		\$
Starbucks \$10 / \$25 / \$50	4.5%		\$
Subway Restaurants \$10 / \$50	4.5%		\$
Taco Bell \$10 / \$25	5%		\$
Tim Hortons \$5 / \$10 / \$25	5%		\$
Wendy's \$10	6.5%		\$
Gas & Auto			
AutoZone \$25	7%		\$
Delta Sonic SuperKiss \$15	50%		\$
ExxonMobil \$50 / \$250	1%		\$
Speedway \$25 / \$50 / \$100	4%		\$
Sporting Goods & Outdoors			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Cabela's \$25 / \$100	10%		\$
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25 / \$100	8%		\$

Front Total	\$
Back Total	\$
Grand Total	\$

Please make checks payable to St. Mary's Elementary and select your preferred method of order receipt below.

Send order home with: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____

Order will be picked up from: School Rectory

Parent/guardian signature: _____

ANY CARDS NOT IN STOCK WILL BE ORDERED THE NEXT MONDAY AND SENT HOME THAT FRIDAY

Backorders

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

Office Use Only

Cash \$ _____

Check \$ _____ # _____

Check \$ _____ # _____

Date _____

Initials _____

Clothing & Accessories/Department & Discount Stores			
Product	%	QTY	Total
American Eagle® \$25	10%		\$
Big Lots! \$25 / \$100	4%		\$
Carter's \$25	10%		\$
Children's Place \$25	12%		\$
DSW \$25 / \$100	8%		\$
Express \$25	10%		\$
Famous Footwear \$25	8%		\$
Gap/Old Navy \$25 / \$100	14%		\$
JCPenney \$25 / \$100	5%		\$
Journeys \$25	10%		\$
Kohl's (SME) \$10 / \$25	5%		\$
Kohl's (SME) \$50 / \$100	5%		\$
L.L.Bean \$25 / \$100	16%		\$
Lands' End \$25 / \$100	15%		\$
Macy's \$25 / \$100	10%		\$
New York Store \$25	4%		\$
T.J. Maxx/Marshalls, etc. \$25 / \$100	7%		\$
Talbots \$25	13%		\$
Target \$10 / \$25	2.5%		\$
Target \$50 / \$100 / \$250	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$25 / \$50	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$100 / \$250 / \$500	2.5%		\$
Online Shopping			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Amazon.com \$10 / \$25 / \$100	1.7%		\$
Apple/iTunes \$15 / \$25 / \$100	5%		\$
Groupon.com \$25	7%		\$
Overstock.com \$25	8%		\$
Shutterfly \$25	9%		\$
Wayfair \$100	6%		\$
Zappos.com \$25 / \$100	8%		\$
Specialty Retailer			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Fowler's Chocolates \$20	40%		\$
Hallmark \$25	4%		\$
Happy Moments \$25	8%		\$
Jo-Ann Fabric \$25	6%		\$
Michaels \$25	4%		\$
PetSmart \$25	5%		\$
RJs Piano Tuning \$95	25%		\$

Health & Beauty			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Bath & Body Works \$10 / \$25	12%		\$
CVS Pharmacy \$25 / \$100	6%		\$
Great Clips \$25	8%		\$
Rite Aid \$25 / \$100	4%		\$
Sally Beauty \$25	12%		\$
Sephora \$25	5%		\$
ULTA \$25	6%		\$
Walgreens \$25 / \$100	5%		\$
Home Décor/Home Improvement			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25 / \$100	7%		\$
buybuyBABY \$25 / \$100	7%		\$
Pottery Barn \$25 / \$100	8%		\$
Home Depot® \$25 / \$100	4%		\$
Home Depot® \$500 / \$1000	4%		\$
Lowe's \$25 / \$100	4%		\$
Lowe's \$500 / \$1000	4%		\$
Entertainment			
Product	%	QTY	Total
AMC Theatres \$25.00	8%		\$
AMC Theatres Single Ticket \$12.00	10%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$10 / \$25 / \$100	8%		\$
Dave & Buster's \$25	13%		\$
Fandango \$25	4%		\$
Regal \$10 / \$25	8%		\$
Simply Certificates \$10 / \$25	10%		\$
Universal Prepaid Cards			
Product	%	QTY	Total
American Express No Activation Fee \$50 / \$100 / \$200	1.25%		\$
Visa Gift Card No Activation Fee \$50 / \$100 / \$250	1.25%		\$
Travel/Miscellaneous			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Disney \$25 / \$100 / \$1000	3%		\$
Cascading Card File \$3.00	25%		\$
SME Certificates - Any Amount			\$

Write In Orders			
Any retailers on www.raiseright.com that are not shown on this form can be added in this section.			
Product	%	QTY	Total
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$

Product	%	QTY	Total
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$

Resources

School website: www.smeschool.com
 Parish website: www.stmarysonthehill.org

St. Mary's High School

Lancaster, NY



Open House

Thurs. Sept. 28th • 5-8 pm
Fri. Sept. 29th • 5-7 pm

Register at smhlancers.org

Tour the building, ask questions,
see why St. Mary's will be your
perfect high school home.



Scan here
to register!



Take the next step with us!



St. Mary's students, faculty, and staff are ready to hit the ground running for the new school year, and we want **YOU** to become part of the Lancer Family!

St. Mary's continues to rank among the top high schools - public or private in WNY - and while academics and programs like The Academies at St. Mary's High School are always the top priority, it's important for our students to have fun at the same time. Lancers get involved in athletics and the performing arts, volunteer in the community, run for student government, become ambassadors for their school, and so much more.

We work hard at St. Mary's High School, and we have fun while we do it! It is truly an atmosphere unlike any other, and you have to experience it for yourself!

Join us at our annual Open House on September 28th or 29th to start your St. Mary's journey!

SM ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL
LANCASTER, NY
142 Laverack Ave. Lancaster, NY 14086

The Academies at St. Mary's High School

Focused courses of study, similar to college majors, that allow students to dive deeper into one of eleven areas of interest.

Students will hear from acclaimed guest speakers, take field trips, and learn course-specific material to determine if their "major" is a good fit before applying to universities across the country.

Learn more at smhlancers.org

Click **here** to register!