

WELCOME BACK

As we do every day we begin this new year with a reminder of our reason for being here...

***“JESUS CHRIST IS THE REASON FOR THIS SCHOOL,
THE UNSEEN BUT EVER PRESENT TEACHER IN ITS CLASSES,
THE INSPIRATION OF ITS STUDENTS, TEACHERS,
ADMINISTRATORS, FACULTY AND STAFF.”***

HOMEROOM TEACHERS AND THEIR ROOM NUMBERS

Saint Sylvester School will open on Monday, August 28, 2017 for students in Grades 1 thru 8. Kindergarten's first day is Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at 8:00 am. Each kindergarten student will visit with Mrs. Wood on Monday Aug 28 at a scheduled time. Preschool students start on Tuesday, September 5, 2016 at 8:30 am.

The school bell will ring at 8:00 am each day for students to report to their homeroom class

Saint Sylvester Faculty 2017 - 2018

Room 108	Sister Michelle Marie	Preschool
	Mrs. Emma McGowan	Preschool Assistant
Room 103	Mrs. Cathy Wood	Kindergarten
Room 104	Ms. Carolyn Orban	First Grade
Room 105	Ms. Allison Hawrylak	Second Grade
Room 106	Mrs. Christine Daghles	Third Grade
Room 209	Ms. Molly Gallagher	Fourth Grade
Room 209	Ms. Molly Gallagher	Fifth Grade
Room 211	Mrs. Toni Chekan	Sixth Grade
Room 110	Mr. Michael Moore	Seventh Grade
Room 210	Mrs. Susan Clancy	Eighth Grade
Room 208	Mr. Nathan Rossman	Science Department

Administration

Father John Bachkay	Saint Sylvester Pastor
Sister Barbara Anne Quinn, RSM	Principal
Mrs. Jane Long	Administrative Assistant
Mr. Eugene Werner	School Maintenance
Mr. Philip Siar	School Maintenance
Mr. Michael Pilarski	Parish / School Maintenance

BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF SCHOOL

We start school two days after our week long parish festival ends. Therefore, we cannot start the school lunch program on the first full day of school. We can get the dining area cleaned for the students to eat lunch in the church hall the first week of school. However the kitchen will have to be cleaned and so it will not be ready for the program.

As noted on the school calendar Monday, August 28 is an 11:30 dismissal day for grades 1 to 8. Their first full day is Tuesday, August 29, 2017. Although they have to bring a lunch from home the students will be able to purchase milk, water or juice in the cafeteria. (We could not get a Monday delivery for the school milk order.)

“The St Sylvester Family News Envelope” will be sent home on Tuesday, August 30, 2016. Please empty the envelope, sign the front and list the date that you received it. Your child should then return it to their homeroom teacher the next morning. Throughout the year we will award a surprise “out of uniform” pass to families who returned the envelope the next day. This will be a random occurrence.

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2017

Throughout the school year we have scheduled informational meetings for parents related to general school or student related objectives. The first major parent meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 30, 2017. It is “Meet the Teacher Night!” We have sent out several “save the date” notices in summer email blasts. We have posted the school calendar for the year in the file library on Option C. (Optionc.com and the school code is 9022). This calendar lists all of the scheduled days off throughout the entire school year.

INSTRUMENTAL / BAND MUSIC PROGRAM MEETING.

Mr. Thomas Booth is the instructor of our Instrumental Music / Band Program which begins in Fourth Grade. All fourth grade students will have the opportunity during school on Friday, September 1, 2017 to meet with Mr. Booth and find out more about this wonderful program. Anyone in fifth thru eighth who was not in band last year, but is interested in joining this year, will have the same opportunity.

Mr. Booth will have a Parent Meeting at 7:00 pm in the school, Room 110, on Sept. 7, 2017 at 7:00 PM. He will discuss the program and the cost for lessons and renting an instrument if one is needed.

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2017.

On "Meet the Teacher Night", sometimes known as "Curriculum Night" parents will meet in the church hall at 7:00 pm. Following a welcome and general remarks by Sister Barbara Anne parents will report to their child's homeroom in the school. This is really a night for both parents to have an opportunity to get more information about the new school year. Student class schedules will be distributed that night by the homeroom teacher. This is one of the very few times when we ask you not to bring children if at all possible. Child sitting is not available on Meet the Teacher Night. Plan on being at school from 7:00 pm until 9:15 pm...

SCHOOL UNIFORM UPDATE (POSTED IN THE OPTION C FILE LIBRARY.

If you are new to the school, or have never reviewed the online school uniform page at Educator Outfitters website here is a link for your review.

<http://pittsburgh.educationaloutfitters.com/find-my-school/st-sylvester-school/>

The St Sylvester Uniform webpage was set up many years ago and reflects the basic uniform for our school. It is reviewed each year and when in doubt about what we wear check the website page for St. Sylvester School. **We want to be clear that we are not requiring a school uniform that have to come from any one uniform store.** We know that there are area stores that sell basic school uniform type clothing. We know that children grow out of things quickly or can wear the same outfit for several years. We also know that the "right color" is not the only thing that makes it a Saint Sylvester School uniform.

The **Educational Outfitters Store** is located at 2001 Green Tree Road, Suite A 109.Pittsburgh, and PA. 412-882-8810. To have a better idea of what the entire uniform should look like please

check the link above that shows St. Sylvester's uniform items. The uniform store is located in the Scott Town Square, next to the Virginia Manor Shopping Center. You might also stop and see the clothing for yourself. **Hopefully the link will allow you to compare what you find in other stores on sale to be sure it resembles the article on the Saint Sylvester page.**

Some things you want to keep in mind when you are looking at clothing and wondering if it is an acceptable uniform piece of clothing include:

❖ Shirts for boys and girls:

The oxford cloth or cotton blouse / shirt

- ✓ can be white or light blue. .
- ✓ can be long or short sleeved.
- ✓ is plain with no extra pockets, trim, lace, logos, etc.
- ✓ can have a Saint Sylvester logo
if you decide to purchase them at Educational Outfitters.

The knit, or polo type shirt,

- ✓ can be white, light blue, navy blue or red.
- ✓ can be long or short sleeved.
- ✓ is plain with no extra pockets, trim, lace, logos, etc.
- ✓ can have a Saint Sylvester logo
if you decide to purchase them at Educational Outfitters.

❖ Sweaters

Every boy and girl should have at least one of the following:

- ✓ plain navy blue sweater to wear with the uniform especially when they are cold. It can be any style, long or short sleeves, but a non-school logo, hoodie or trim must be removed. Plain means, among other things, the sweater does not have ruffles, lacy cut outs, etc.
- ✓ hoodies may be worn as outside wear but when children are inside the hoodie is hung in the locker and the navy blue sweater is worn.
- ✓ a navy blue sweatshirt with a Saint Sylvester logo on the front, left side, may be worn in place of a sweater during the school day. May be purchase at Educational Outfitters.

- ✓ a white or light blue blouse, shirt, the polo shirt, should be worn under the sweater or sweatshirt at all times.

❖ Dress pants / slacks, skirts, skorts and jumpers:

The dress pants / slacks / skirts / skorts that are considered “uniform” are very plain.

- ✓ they do not have extra pockets nor are they the popular “cargo” style, capris, etc.
- ✓ the dress pant / slacks do not have double stitched seams sometimes referred to as a “jean seam”.
- ✓ they do not have decorative rivets or logos of any kind.
- ✓ they should be navy blue or khaki in color.
- ✓ the skirts, skorts, or jumpers can be navy blue, khaki or plaid
- ✓ between April 1 and October 31st boys and girls can wear navy blue or khaki walking shorts. Walking shorts are a casual, not athletic type of shorts.

Girls:

The length for shorts, skirts, skorts, and jumpers is to be at least below the finger tips when the arms are resting straight down at their sides. The goal is to have the required length no shorter than 2” above the knee. (If you are purchasing new shorts please select the 2” above the knee length.)

Boys:

They do not seem to have the problem girls have in complying with the length requirement. Two inches above the knee applies for their walking short length requirement.

The reason we still have a goal of the 2 inches above the knee length requirement is to allow families who have the below the fingertips length clothing that is still good and able to be worn to use it. Do not buy new clothing in the shorter length if you think it would still be worn next year. New clothing should have follow the no shorter than 2 inches above the knee length guideline. If you cannot find an article of clothing with that length then there are two choices. One is to buy the shorts at the uniform company. The second choice is to not wear shorts to school.

GYM CLOTHES

Our students wear their gym uniform all day on the day that is scheduled for their gym class. This eliminates the need to bring gym clothes in a bag. Students may wear sweatpants or long shorts, t-shirts and tennis shoes. The colors worn are white or royal blue. Sweatpants may be grey or navy blue as well. T-shirts can be plain or have the school logo on them. The **SSS Sports Club** sometimes offers a shirt that is an acceptable gym uniform shirt either as a reward or in their annual spirit wear sale. If you find a shirt in the Uniform Exchange that has a Lancer logo either small or large on the front it can be worn for gym class. It has to be royal blue and white or the ash grey shirt that is sometimes seen with Spirit wear logo on it... The only logo permitted for gym clothing is the St Sylvester logo or the word LANCERS.

BELTS

The rule for all of the above is **“if it has belt loops then it requires a belt”**. Belts may be navy blue, black, or brown. They may be plain or braided.

Shoes

A sturdy school shoe or athletic type shoe is required. They can be black, brown, navy or white. Even the athletic / tennis shoe should meet these color requirements. No neon trim on shoes) When looking for shoes, please consider sturdy tie-ons which are better while on the playground. Sandals, high heeled shoes, flip flops, crocs and clogs are not worn during the school day. **Boots and fur lined shoes may be worn in the winter months November through March**

Socks

Navy, brown, black or white socks are to be ankle / crew length or knee socks. Girls may wear navy or white tights. The popular “leggings” cannot be worn during the school day. Footies and sport socks that fit below the shoe top are not considered uniform socks.

Hair

Hair is to be kept neat and clean and be of natural colors. Boy’s hair should not extend below the collar line. Hair accessories should be navy, white, khaki or red to match the uniform. Fad hair styles are not consistent with the uniform appearance and should not be worn.

Jewelry

No jewelry is worn with the exception of a watch and, if the ears are pierced, a small earring may be worn on the lower lobe of each ear. The earring should not dangle below the ear itself.

On "Out of Uniform Days" the rule for the length of clothing remains the same. Longer than your fingertips while with a goal to reach no shorter than 2 inches above the knee as a standard length (see above).

We have a Uniform Exchange on the second floor of our building. Families who have uniforms that may no longer fit, and are in excellent condition, may exchange them for items that might fit their children. We do not want to collect clothing if families do not use the service. It has been our experience that many people feel the area is for families who "really need them". Last year we gave car loads of clothing to St. Vincent DePaul because families left clothing but did not exchange items for additional clothing. Everybody likes a bargain and a uniform exchange, used properly, is a service and a bargain for everybody. Mrs. Deneen Skalniak and her family organized the Exchange for us again this year. Please stop in and see what your family can use even if you have nothing available to make an "exchange".

ANSWERS TO SOME UNIFORM QUESTIONS THAT WERE ASKED

We received a few questions that may be ones that other families have as well. (Even though we try to get others to double check things before we hit the "send" button sometimes we all miss things that then become questions.)

- ✓ First of all children in preschool and kindergarten do not wear uniforms. In the past some kindergarten children have started to wear a uniform but end up wearing the regular school clothes after a few weeks. We are not sure if this was a student or parent decision. Kindergarten students wear regular shirts, pants, skirts, blouses and dresses
 - they should start to realize that their "school" clothes are their work clothes.
 - If they change clothes when they go home and put on their "play" clothes this helps them start to make the distinction.
 - They do not wear jean type clothing to school except on "out of uniform days" when the big kids often wear jeans, etc.
 - You will find Out of Uniform / Jean days listed on the monthly school calendar.
 - Sandals, clogs, flip flops, etc., are not to be worn. For safety reasons a sturdy school or athletic type shoe is to be worn.
 - Shoes should have ties or Velcro strips as well.

- ✓ .Gym clothes can be royal blue, white or **navy**. We have the navy blue color on the Educational Outfitters website The clothes do not have to be all one color but must be the colors listed here. For example sweatpants can have a white stripe down the sides of the legs. They are not uniform if the stripe is red. The T shirt should be a plain royal blue, navy blue or white shirt. No logos unless it is a spirit wear item that has a Saint Sylvester logo on it. The mention of "ash grey" is not the introduction of a new color. It was meant to cover the spirit wear t-shirts that sometimes are offered in a grey color with a blue or white logo. . A plain grey t-shirt is not a uniform shirt.
- ✓ Yes, the polo shirt can be in the new "dri-fit" material. You will find it listed on the uniform website along with the other polo's. If the polo is not a "banded bottom" shirt then the student will be reminded their shirt must be tucked in at all times. Banded bottom polos were added to solve the problem for those who find it difficult to keep their shirts tucked in.
- ✓ Navy blue, brown, black or white socks are the uniform colors.
- ✓ Belts can be black, brown or navy blue. (If a child can wear black shoes then a black belt might be the logical selection.) Belts can be plain or braided.

Shoes can be a solid black, brown, navy or white. Athletic shoes might have two of these colors and still be considered uniform. Because it is impossible to "cover or erase" the athletic shoe logos they may be worn. While we recognize that finding the right fit for shoes is often difficult we hope that if you have the option to buy a solid black, navy blue, brown or white shoe you will do it. With all other articles of uniform clothing the message is "no logos".

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ARE ABLE TO VOLUNTEER TO WORK AT THE PARISH FESTIVAL!

The parish festival begins on Monday, August 21 from 7:00 pm until 10:00 pm. The festival's last evening is Saturday, August 26 from 7:00 pm until 10:00 pm. As you might imagine volunteers are always needed and the time spent helping make our festival a fun event is most appreciated. Call Jane Long in the school's office, Lea Kirchner, or Debby Chodor to inquire where help is needed now.

LANCER LOOT RAFFLE, KIDS STUFF BOOKS AND FOOTBALL MANIA TICKETS

As you know we are required to fundraise a total of \$125,000 to help support the school's operating budget. To this end we offer the following Fall fundraising activities.

- We are sending home the next set of LANCER LOOT calendar raffle tickets. The September tickets (sold in August) were mailed to you a few weeks ago. The money

and stubs or the unsold tickets should be turned into the schools office no later than September 1 at 3:00 pm.

- We will continue to sell the Football Mania tickets this year. Mrs. Jennifer Darkowski organizes this fundraiser. Look for more information from Mrs. Darkowski soon.
- The Kids Stuff Coupon Books Fundraiser will start on Wednesday, August 30, 2017. The books have been ordered and will be distributed as at the Meet the Teacher Night Meeting on August 30. Mrs. Deneen Skalniak has organized this important fund raiser. Please call Mrs. Skalniak and volunteer to help her get the bags ready for distribution on the 30th.
- Our School SCRIP program is still going strong. SCRIP (gift cards) can be purchased every day at the Rectory office and on Tuesday and Thursday mornings before school in the school's office. They are also available at the SCRIP table in church after the week-end Masses. If you attend Mass at St. Sylvester's please volunteer to help staff this table. It takes about 15 minutes at the end of Mass to do the job. Mrs. Lea Kirchner would love to add your name to the monthly calendar for selling after the 4 PM Saturday or 9 or 11 AM Sunday Masses.