

St. Patrick's School  
Tuesday Notes  
January 14, 2025

Reenrollment for the 2025-2026 SY

As soon as this evening but by Thursday morning, you will receive an email (one per student) for reenrollment for the 2025-2026 SY. The email will be sent to both parents or to the email address that is associated with TADS and Rediker. The email will appear to come from me so as long as you didn't block me, it should not end up in Spam, but keep an eye on that folder as well!

All families will be asked to pay a \$500 deposit which will be applied to tuition for the '25-'26 year. This deposit can be made by credit card, even for those not using FACTS for tuition collection. For those who wish to pay this deposit by check, please email me asap so I can update the FACTS portal.

A few important points:

1. Using FACTS for Tuition Collection: The recommendation is that the parent who will be the primary for financial communications be the one who also reenrolls your child and creates the FACTS account. You will be asked at this time to choose a payment plan. You will be assessed an annual fee per family account at this time.  
Yearly or semesterly payment options=\$20 fee  
9- or 12-month payment options= \$50 fee
2. Not Choosing FACTS for Tuition Collection: There are no added fees if a family chooses to work directly with St. Patrick's for automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings account. You will receive a contract and payment plan (as always) in mid-March. If you have not already emailed me and would still like this option, please email me today.

Parent Speaker

Dr. Jonathan Dalton, Licensed Psychologist and Director of the Center for Anxiety and Behavioral Change, will join us on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Dalton visited us about 8 years ago and was terrific and incredibly informative! He is visiting with us again to address the increase in anxiety we are seeing in our children. He shared his greatest talking points are:

- The current levels of anxiety in children and adolescents are 5 to 8 times the levels seen during the Great Depression and WWII.
- Compassionate and dedicated parents can accidentally worsen their children's anxiety by trying to make them more comfortable.
- There are evidence-based, but counterintuitive, parenting strategies that are effective in reducing their children's anxiety. These strategies will be reviewed during this talk.

Please plan to join us, whether for your own child(ren) or a friend's child, we all need to be educated, empowered, and prepared in how to support our anxious children!

Security Upgrade

I am pleased to share that over the Christmas holiday we added bullet resistant glass to both the interior and exterior front doors, all the windows and doors on the lower level, and all the doors in the parish center (gym, front, & side) as well as the PK windows. Please see attached for further details on the product used.

This security upgrade was mostly paid through a grant I was able to obtain in the fall, and although I hope it is never needed, the added protection is a welcome addition and added line of defense. This, in

addition to the existing 16 exterior and interior cameras giving Mrs. Ali, Mr. L'Etoile, and me full campus views, I pray we will continue to provide the highest level of safety.

Our children have been taught to never open a door and never prop open a door. You may have even encountered that a child may wave and walk away to get an adult as they have been instructed. Please be mindful of this whenever you come to school and please never put a child in a position to open the door for you when they have been instructed otherwise.

Our classroom doors are always locked so that teachers or students can quickly close and secure themselves in the room should they ever be alerted to do so. You may also recall that our students have been taught the A.L.I.C.E method for maintaining school safety. I imagine many of our older students will know for what the acronym stands. This ADW mandated safety program teaches our children to be prepared in an unsafe situation and empowers them, at all ages, to decide what is safest for them in a critical situation. Many students know that Locking Down our classroom is only one option now, we can Evacuate (run and hide) and even Counter a person (taught in grades 5-8). Our teachers participate in annual training and bring these valuable lessons to our children every fall.

Please do not hesitate to reach out regarding school safety and security. We have a security team who operate under our school advisory board and a liaison with the Montgomery County Police Department. Our local precinct station and SWAT team have records of our floor plans and our evacuation plan should it ever be needed.

St. Patrick's School has a confident crisis management team and detailed security plan, and although the plan cannot be made public, and I am limited in the information I can share for our internal safety, I will share and highlight our safety measures to any parent who inquires.

We have been taught over and over our critical response and preventive measures are key in this situations, and I have confidence in the preparedness of our teachers, staff, and students as well as the decisions to maintain a proactive approach to the security of our campus.

#### Open House Volunteers

Our next Open House will be held on Friday, January 31st. If you are available to give tours to prospective parents from 9am-11am, please contact Miss Short. Don't forget to spread the word to family, friends, and neighbors to join us!

#### Calendar Change- Super Bowl Monday!

We will have a 2-hour delay on Monday, February 10th, so all our super bowl fans can catch up on sleep. Drop-off will begin at 9:55 a.m. and all students are expected in their classrooms by 10:15 a.m.

#### "CHEERS TO 20 YEARS" ANNIVERSARY GALA

St. Patrick's is thrilled to announce the "Cheers to 20 Years" Anniversary Gala to be held on Saturday, March 15, 2025. This event will honor 20 years of excellence in education and reconnect our community by celebrating our successes with both current and alumni families. Join us as we transform the Parish Center into a glorious ballroom with Live music, delicious food and an exciting Live auction. This is an occasion you will not want to miss. Gather your friends and family and prepare to celebrate 20 years of St. Pat's! Tickets available during Catholic Schools Week!

#### Save the Date

January 26<sup>th</sup>-January 31<sup>st</sup> marks the annual National Catholic Schools Week Celebration. This years' theme is "Let your Light Shine". The schedule of events and activities will be posted next week.

#### Book Fair- Coming Soon

Our annual book fair is scheduled to kick off Sunday, January 26 between 8:30 am - 12:00 pm in the school cafeteria. While shopping a fantastic collection of books and gifts for your favorite readers, enjoy doughnuts, coffee, and juice. The Book Fair is a great opportunity for our students to explore a world of literature and foster their love for reading and an exciting part of our Catholic Schools Week festivities.

The Book Fair will also be open during lunch and after school (3-4pm) on Monday, January 27 through Wednesday, January 29th.

Second Grade is leading the charge for this year's Book Fair, but we still need your help to make it a success! Check out the Sign Up Genius and grab a volunteer spot if you're available. We're especially looking for extra hands during the big kick-off event on **Sunday, January 26**. Thank you for helping us bring the joy of reading to our community! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0544ACAC2AA1FD0-54375566-book>

#### Read-A-Thon

Our annual pre-book fair read-a-thon will kick off this Friday! See attached with reading logs and other helpful information. Let the reading competition begin!

Log minutes beginning this Friday (1/17) and return the first reading log by next Friday (1/24).

#### Shamrock Bingo Night - Friday, January 31st!

Please join the HSA and 3rd Grade Class for Badger Bingo Night on Friday, January 31st from 6:30 - 8 pm in the school cafeteria.

This is a free family event and pizza and dessert will be provided.

Please consider donating gently used books and any other items you have lying around to help fill the prize table. Donations can be sent into the front office with the label 'Bingo.'

Kindly RSVP by Tuesday, January 28th so we can get a headcount and plan accordingly!

<https://evite.me/zSgPkxKUpU>

Please contact Whitney Greaney if you have any questions (whitneygreaney@gmail.com).

#### Career Day

Mark your calendars for St. Patrick's first-ever Career Day on March 10, 2025! The planning committee is looking for individuals from a variety of careers to participate and help make this day a success for our children. There will be opportunities to present to students, host a table as part of a Career Expo, or do both! If you or someone you know would like to be part of this inaugural effort for our children, please complete the google form below. Questions can be directed to Brigid McKelvey at [dunmaryb@gmail.com](mailto:dunmaryb@gmail.com) Please consider helping out if you can. Together we can make this a fun and educational day for our children!

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNqXrmluiXHyaUtb8dmWUoIDeL4X2Qy1rnnW2rDpRewzUMQg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNqXrmluiXHyaUtb8dmWUoIDeL4X2Qy1rnnW2rDpRewzUMQg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

#### MAP Testing Schedule

Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:30-10:00 Reading

Make-up's only during CSW

Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> 8:30-10:00 LA

Wednesday, February 5 10:15-11:45 Math

### Chess Club

Chess Club needs seven more students to take place this winter. Please see attached sign up. To accommodate the need for more players, Chess Wizards is postponing the classes by a week. The first class will be held on January 21<sup>st</sup> now and the last class will be on March 25<sup>th</sup> (10 classes).

### Rockville Catholic Summer Program

Registration opens in February for our parish summer camp, the Rockville Catholic Summer Program! Each year, RCSP hosts 1,500+ campers, ages 4-14, for 7 weeks of sports, crafts, LEGO robotics, tree house building, Minecraft and more! Our prices are the lowest in the area and our staff is the best! Visit [www.rockvillecatholicsummer.com](http://www.rockvillecatholicsummer.com) to learn more! Contact [rockvillecatholicsummer@gmail.com](mailto:rockvillecatholicsummer@gmail.com) with any questions.

### Summer Camp at Georgetown Visitation

Visitation is offering a new two week-long summer camp opportunity for rising 6th to 8th grade girls at the end of June, ***Camp Visi***. If you have a daughter or know a family whose daughter might enjoy working with Visitation faculty and coaches to explore athletics, STEM, the arts, and leadership, feel free to share this link with them <https://www.visi.org/academics/summercourses/camp>.

### The Upcoming Weeks:

Friday, January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Read-a-Thon Begins! End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter Noon Dismissal; Aftercare until 6:00 p.m.
Monday, January 20 <sup>th</sup>	No School; Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Thursday, January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	MAP Reading Test 8:30-10:00 a.m.
Friday, January 24 <sup>th</sup>	PK Open House 9:00 a.m. Report Card Distribution
Sunday, January 26 <sup>th</sup>	National Catholic Schools Weeks Begins Book Fair
Friday, January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Open House for Prospective Students K-Grade 8 at 9:00 a.m. BINGO Night 6:30 p.m.