



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Guiding Light in Sheepshead Bay

January 8, 2025

Dear Families:

Happy New Year! It is my sincere hope that you had a great Christmas and enjoyed the time off with your children!

Although Santa's sleigh landed back at the North Pole two weeks ago, there's still an important gift left to give, and it's not one anyone can find under their tree. The gift I am referring to is the gift of Catholic Education. Although it cannot be unwrapped, it is perhaps one of the most important and meaningful gifts you can give your children.

Today, each family will receive a manila envelope, which includes all of the necessary information about how to reregister for the 2025-2026 school year. Please return your packet as soon as possible since we are already getting inquiries from prospective parents about the upcoming school year.

Along with being the principal of Saint Mark, I am also a parent who sends his child to a Catholic school. I understand the sacrifices you make—especially around this time of year—to send your children to SMCA. However, at the risk of sounding clichéd, indeed, the gift of a Catholic Education is “the gift that keeps on giving the whole year.”

Coincidentally, today I was asked to complete a brief survey, with one of the questions asking what it means to me to be the principal of a Catholic school. I'd like to share my response with you:

“As a product of Catholic Education, I am grateful to be a Catholic School principal because I am now able to “return the favor” by working to ensure that future generations—like my own daughter—are able to receive the same education that I did, a Catholic education that not only meets academic standards, but also provides children with a safe, welcoming, and caring learning environment.”

Thank you again for choosing Saint Mark Catholic Academy and providing your children with a Catholic Education, a gift that does not go out of style, break, or wear out, but rather one that will be valued and appreciated for years to come.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal

Continuing the tradition of faith, service, and education.

2602 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11235 | (718) 332-9304 | smcaonthebay.org

“CST” DISMISSAL FOR K-8 on Friday, January 10

- Please continue to use your usual entrance/exit.
- The after-school program will continue to be available for all students.
- **NO MORNING OR AFTERNOON BUS SERVICE.**

DISMISSAL TIMES FOR FRIDAY

- 3K-A and 3K-B will dismiss normally at 2:30pm.
- Pre-K A, Pre-K B, and Pre-K C will dismiss normally at 2:40pm.
- Kindergarten A and Kindergarten B will dismiss at 1:50pm.
- Grades 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, and 4 will dismiss at 2pm.
- Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 will also dismiss at 2pm.



IMPORTANT CHANGE TO YEARLY CALENDAR

November 20, 2024

Dear Families:

Recently, Saint Mark Catholic Academy went through re-accreditation. Accreditation is a form of quality control, ensuring that schools satisfy certain standards. A team from Cognia, a company that handles the accreditation process, visited SMCA last month. They highlighted and commended our strengths and also recommended areas that are in need of improvement.

One of the specific topics that the Cognia team emphasized was for our school to “identify and implement ways to increase staff interactions.” In other words, there is a need for our teachers to have common time, so they can communicate and plan together.

In order to facilitate this, we are making an adjustment to our yearly calendar: **Beginning in January 2025, there will be one day per month when students in kindergarten and grades 1 through 8 will be dismissed at 2pm; these will be known as Common Staff Time (CST) days. (3K and Pre-K dismissal times remain unchanged.)**

The following days will be Common Staff Time days, and students in kindergarten and grades 1-8 will be dismissed at 2pm:

Friday, January 10

Friday, February 14

Friday, March 14

Friday, April 11

Friday, May 9

By making this change, our staff will have time to evaluate curricula, analyze student data, and review other aspects of our school, all in effort to further improve our academic program and facilitate continued growth for our students. We anticipate that CST days will be a part of our regular schedule and continue in the 2025-26 school year.

Please note...

- **Our after-school program WILL BE in session on CST days.**
- **There will be NO BUS service on CST days, so please plan accordingly.**
- **All students will have lunch and recess at their usual times.**

It is our hope that announcing this change now will provide our families with enough time to adjust their personal schedules. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal

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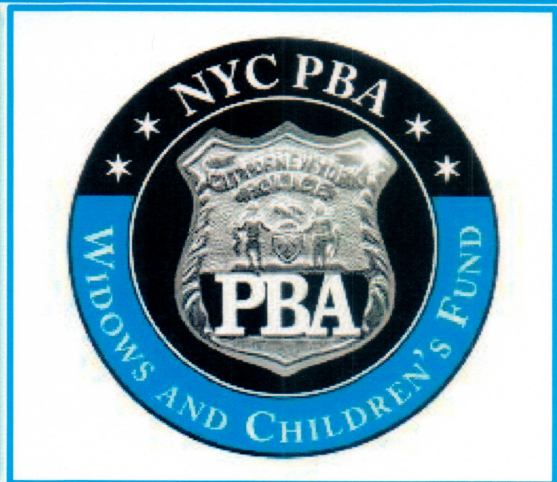
LAW ENFORCEMENT DRESS DOWN DAY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

SUGGESTED DONATION \$5

All proceeds to support the NYPD Widows' and Children's Fund, which provides aid and assistance to widows, widowers, and eligible dependents of police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

JANUARY 9 IS LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY



Although it is a dress down day, students are reminded to dress with modesty. Students should adhere to the following attire as described in the **Parent-Student Handbook**:

- Appropriate length skirt, shorts or dress – no shorter than 3" above the knees
- No torn or tight jeans or pants
- No spaghetti strap tanks, midriffs, tube tops, etc.
- No logo type T-shirts
- No hats (unless specifically designated)
- No loose/baggy pants or shorts
- No make-up or nail polish (including gels/French manicures)
- No hoop earrings or excessive jewelry
- No jeggings, leggings or skinny jean

Parents will be called to bring a change of clothes for students who do not adhere to these regulations.

January 2025 Saint Mark Catholic Academy

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			SCHOOL CLOSED:	SCHOOL CLOSED: CHRISTMAS RECESS	SCHOOL CLOSED: CHRISTMAS RECESS	SCHOOL CLOSED: CHRISTMAS RECESS
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
SCHOOL CLOSED: CHRISTMAS RECESS	iReady Cycle 2 Begins 		Reregistration for 2025-26 School Year Begins 	Law Enforcement Appreciation Day \$5 Blue Dress Down for NYPD Widows and Children's Fund 	First Friday Mass at 8:30am Common Staff Time (CST) Day 2pm dismissal for K-8 Regular Dismissal Times for 3K and Pre-K NO BUS SERVICE AFTER-SCHOOL IN SESSION	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				First Trimester Honors Assembly Grades 4-8 2pm in the gym		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	SCHOOL CLOSED: Martin Luther King Day 		iReady Cycle 2 Ends Progress Reports Issued	Evening Progress Report Conferences 5pm to 7pm	Early Dismissal Day for All Students Afternoon Progress Report Conferences 12:40pm to 3:00pm NO BUS SERVICE AFTER-SCHOOL IN SESSION	
26	22	28	29	30	31	1
	Catholic Schools Week: Separate Schedule Coming Soon! 	Catholic Schools Week: Separate Schedule Coming Soon! 	Catholic Schools Week: Separate Schedule Coming Soon! 	Catholic Schools Week: Separate Schedule Coming Soon! 	Catholic Schools Week: Separate Schedule Coming Soon! Early Dismissal Day for K-8 Regular Dismissal Times for 3K and Pre-K NO BUS SERVICE AFTER-SCHOOL IN SESSION	