



SAIN⁺T MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A guiding light for children today.

May 19, 2021

Dear Families:

After many days of dreary dampness and chilly temperatures, it appears that spring has finally “sprung.” For some, it may be a few potted plants, and for others it may be a sizeable outdoor garden, either way, now that the warmer weather is here, I’m sure many of us have begun to tend to our own planting and gardening. That’s why I’d like to share with you this prayer that I found in our daily prayer book, *Prayer Before the Bell...*

*Dear Jesus, You are an awesome gardener.
You send us what we need to grow:
Sun and rain and soft winds, rich soil to bloom in.
Thank you for caring for us
so we can grow to be strong and productive.
Help us bloom where you plant us.
Thank you, dear Jesus, for tending us with love. Amen.*

As an educator, one line that stands out to me is “Help us bloom where you plant us.” As teachers, it is our primary goal to help our students mature and thrive. Since September, the children of Saint Mark Catholic Academy have grown academically, emotionally, and spiritually; the “seeds” that were planted in the fall have now begun to blossom.

Speaking of growing and maturing, this Friday many of our eighth graders will be receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation. Please keep them in your prayers as they are fully initiated in the Catholic Church!

Appropriately, this Sunday is also Pentecost, which commemorates when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles fifty days after Easter. The gifts that our students receive are also referred to as the “fruits of the Holy Spirit.” “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...” (Galatians 5:22-23). It has been our great joy to see these gifts—these “fruits”—cultivate and grow in our eighth graders during their many years at Saint Mark Catholic Academy.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal



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UPDATE REGARDING SUMMER PROGRAM

May 19, 2021

Dear Families:

A few weeks ago, we sent out a survey to determine interest in our summer program. Since that time, the school administration has held several meetings to determine the feasibility and viability of offering a summer program this year.

After careful consideration, we have come to the difficult decision to not offer a summer program this year.

We understand that there are families who may have been anticipating enrolling their children in the program this summer, and we apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you and your family. Please know that this decision was made with the following factors being taken into consideration:

- Health and safety guidelines from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene would have severely limited the activities available during the program.
- Since it would have been difficult to cohort students, especially during the extended-day portion of the program, just one positive case of COVID-19 could have resulted in a suspension of the entire program for at least two weeks. This would not have been feasible for a program that only runs five or six weeks.
- With the addition of the 3-K for All program and an overall increase in enrollment expected for September, we anticipate significant renovations and repairs taking place in many locations throughout the school building and grounds, which would again place significant limitations on program activities.

We are aware that some students may be required to attend summer school in order to advance to the next grade. This requirement will not change. The Diocese of Brooklyn may be offering a remote summer school option for students, and the New York City Department of Education will also be offering a summer program.

We would like to again emphasize that this decision was made with the best interests of our students in mind. We already anticipate our summer program returning in summer 2022—bigger and better than ever!

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal

St. Mark Catholic Academy

YEARBOOK AD SALE

Deadline
May
26th

Our school yearbook will be coming out in June. Every child's picture will be featured in this yearbook along with a copy of their writing and or artwork.

You can place your Order for a personal ad congratulating your child on their accomplishments for the year.

Quarter
Page Ad

\$25

Half
Page Ad

\$50

Full
Page Ad

\$100

Place Your Ad to Congratulate your child on their:

- Graduation
- Stepping up
- Honor Roll
- High School Acceptance
- First Holy Communion
- Confirmation
- Or simply a Job Well done this year.

Any person placing an Ad will receive one complimentary copy of the YearBook

Place your YearBook Ad Here

Visit website

<https://forms.gle/KhjPEyamQed2qu3m7>



SCAN ME

"MAY"HEM DRESS DOWN DAYS

FRIDAY, MAY 21ST & FRIDAY, MAY 28TH

\$5

TWO DAYS OF DRESS DOWN DAYS FOR ONLY \$5!

Please send in dress down money in a clearly labeled envelope with your child's name and grade.



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 jeans

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

EARLY DISMISSAL

on Friday, May 21st

- Please continue to use your usual entrance/exit.
- This is a **FULL DAY** for Pre-K for All students.
- The after-school program will continue to be available for all students.

DISMISSAL TIMES FOR FRIDAY, MAY 21st

- **Nursery A and Nursery B** will dismiss at 12:15pm.
- **Kindergarten A and Kindergarten B** will dismiss at 12:30pm.
- **Grades 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 3, and 4** will dismiss at 12:40pm.
- **Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8** will dismiss at 12:30pm.

EXCITING NEWS!

SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY
WILL OFFER **3-K FOR ALL**
IN SEPTEMBER 2021!



We are excited to announce that **Saint Mark Catholic Academy** has been awarded two 3-K FOR ALL classes (30 seats) by the New York City Department of Education.

Anyone who is interested in applying for our 3-K FOR ALL program is asked to contact **Education Director Ms. Jeannie Vok** at (718) 332-9304 ext. 3 or jvok@smsonthebay.com.

We're excited to get started and look forward to making 3-K FOR ALL part of our school family!

Find us on [MYSCHOOLS.NYC](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov) by using PROGRAM CODE: **22KAKF3K**