



January 12, 2022

Dear Families:

Even though we just recently returned from the Christmas Recess, I'm sure many of us are looking forward to the long weekend ahead. Being bombarded with negative news reports each day is indeed tiring, so a break at any time is certainly welcomed.

That said, it is important that we not lose sight of the reason for the day off. On Monday we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. In fact, this Saturday would've been Dr. King's 93rd birthday. The late Congressman John Lewis said of Dr. King, "When he died, I think something died in all of us. Something died in America. Each day I think we must find a way, to dream the dream that he dreamed. And build on what he left all of us."

Recently, Sidney Poitier, who became the first Black performer to win the Academy Award for Best Actor, passed away at the age of 94. *Vanity Fair* magazine described him as the "Martin Luther King of the movies." One of Mr. Poitier's famous roles is as a teacher in *To Sir, with Love*. A famous quote of his from that film is, "I believe one should fight for what one believes. Provided one is absolutely sure one is absolutely right."

It is my sincere hope that, along with their daily academic subjects, the students of Saint Mark Catholic Academy are also learning to "fight for what they believe," for in doing so they are certainly building on the dream of Dr. King...

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson

Principal



IMPORTANT RE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

January 12, 2022

Dear Families:

Believe it or not, as we turn the calendar to a new year, we also turn our attention to September. Although it is nine months away, time moves very quickly, and preparations for the new school year are already underway.

At some point this week you will receive an email with information explaining how to re-register for the 2022-23 school year. As soon as you get this email, it is important that you complete the online form as soon as possible. **No paper re-registration will be going home.** We already have prospective families inquiring about September, and we'd like our current families to have first priority.

We understand that all of our families make tremendous sacrifices to send their children to Saint Mark Catholic Academy. That said, we have done our best to ensure that our tuition and fees remain reasonable for families:

- The one-child tuition rate for both Catholic and non-Catholic families will increase \$12.50 per month.
- The two-or-more-children tuition rate for both Catholic and non-Catholic families will increase \$17.50 per month.
- If you re-register before March 1st, the re-registration fee remains unchanged at \$150. If you re-register after March 1st, the re-registration fee increases to \$200.
 - (This year, the re-registration fee will be paid online after you complete the re-registration form.)
- The **Operations and Maintenance Fee** of \$215 and **Technology Fee** of \$235 *per student* and the **Fundraising Commitment** of \$300 *per family* remain **unchanged**.
 - Families will still have the option to pay the Fundraising Commitment in one "lump sum" in July or spread the payments out to \$30 per month for 10 months.

We remain humbled and honored that you have chosen us to partner with you on your child's "educational journey." Should you have any questions or concerns about the re-registration process, please do not hesitate to contact us at (718) 332-9304. As always, thank you for being part of our school family.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal

Mr. Julian Cleland
Business Manager

SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

IT'S TIME TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID!

Tuition assistance is available for students in kindergarten through grade 8 who meet certain eligibility requirements.

TO APPLY...

- Families must be enrolled for the 2022-2023 school year, including all paperwork and re/registration fee.
- Contact **Mr. William Bunch** in the Business Office.
 - (718) 332-9304, extension #2
 - wbunch@smsonthebay.com
 - Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30am to 2:30pm
- Have 2021 W2 and 1040 Federal Tax Forms ready.
- There is a \$35 application fee.

DEADLINES...

- Application process begins **Tuesday, January 18th**.
- **March 24, 2022** for families who received an award last year.
- **April 23, 2022** for families applying for the first time.

FREE SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE...

- If you are interested in applying, please contact Mr. Bunch. Funding is limited, so we **highly recommend** that families work with Mr. Bunch during this process to ensure the best possibility of receiving an award.



DRESS DOWN FUNDRAISER

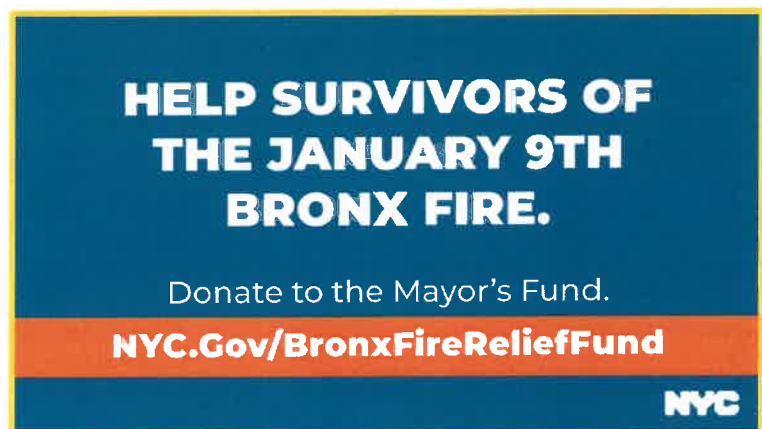
TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF BRONX APARTMENT BUILDING FIRE

\$5 SUGGESTED DONATION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20TH

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE MAYOR'S BRONX FIRE RELIEF FUND.

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.