

The mission of St. Martin Catholic School is to teach a life of Prayer, Leadership, Love, Service and Kindness through Catholic Education.



July 1, 2020

Dear Families,

Happy Summer! I hope my newsletter finds you enjoying the laziness of summer as well as the peace and tranquility it brings. It is hard to believe that it is July already! In so many ways the month of June flew by! Although it is summer, the teachers and I have been working together in planning for the brand new 2020-2021 school year. We spent time together by attending a training to learn more about the Virtue-Based Restorative Discipline program. We also spent time thinking about and planning for what the new year will bring in terms of logistics, social distancing, on-line learning as well as classroom learning. As these unprecedented times continue, we are eager to welcome the children back into our school, build relationships with them and continue to help them become the best version of themselves. I think I speak for our teachers and all the staff members, IF SMS Homeschool NEVER happens again, it will be too soon!

We work in a school for one reason and that is THE KIDS! So bring on the kids, bring on their energy and the managed chaos, and help us be better versions of ourselves through them! Let's get this new year started!

FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATE

We have had a few changes while the children have been away. We tearfully said good-bye to Mrs. Smith. After 33 years as the 2nd grade teacher at St. Martin School, she decided to retire and focus her energy on being a full-time grandma. Although we know she has earned a rest, it is very sad to see her leave. We also say farewell to Mrs. Hodges. She was blessed to become a mother the week before the world went crazy. She and her husband welcomed their son, Henry, into their lives. It was a joyful event for their family, but a sad one for our community as she has decided to stay home and care for her son. We wish her much happiness as she embraces the role of a stay-at-home mom. We also say good-bye to Judy Berhorst who has been a part-time cook in the cafeteria for over 20 years. It will be hard to replace her love for cooking for the children of St. Martin Parish. Mrs. Jenna Perry will also not be returning as the After School Care Director. She has been given the opportunity to advance in her cosmetology career at Ulta, we wish her well in her new role.

Although we had to say good-bye to so many of our staff members we are still VERY blessed to have a stellar crew returning. First, we welcome Mrs. Ashton Riegel to our staff, she will be teaching 4th grade alongside Mrs. Heather Henley. Mrs. Riegel is a veteran teacher of 10 years. She has taught 2nd and 5th grade at her previous school. She loves teaching and is a self-proclaimed "techie". I think she will be a welcome addition to our technology crew. Welcome to the Home of the Jaguars, Mrs. Riegel!

We also welcome back an amazing returning staff: Ms. Ashley Moore, Preschool-3 year olds; Mrs. Andrea Benne; Prekindergarten-4 year olds; Ms. Lisa Silvey and Mrs. Julia Hinton, Kindergarten; Mrs. Shannon Schroer, First Grade; Ms. Kelly Boeckman, Second Grade; Mrs. Leann Higgins and Ms. Annie Donovan, Third Grade; Mrs. Heather Henley, Fourth Grade; Mrs. Dawn Crader, 5th grade Homeroom, 5th-8th grade Language Arts; Ms. Sammie Yarnell, Sixth Grade Homeroom, 5th-8th gr. Social Studies; Mrs. Chrissie Woehrer, 7th gr. Homeroom, 5th-8th gr. Math; Mrs. Rosemary Bardwell, 8th Grade Homeroom, 5th-8th gr. English; Mrs. Katelyn Knox, 5th-8th Science; Technology; Mrs. Debbie Boeckman, Technology; Mr. T.J. Higgins, PS-8th grade Music and Instrumental Band; Mr. Michael Metzger, PS-8th PE; Ms. Pickett Lee, PS-8th grade Art.

Our After School Program will be directed by Mrs. April Smallwood. Mrs. Smallwood, has been part of the ASC staff for 5 years and looks forward to putting her experience and love of children into action. We also welcome back our awesome support staff. Mrs. Andrea Fender, Administrative Assistant; Mrs. Janet Branson, Mrs. April Smallwood, and Mrs. Kelsey Rademan - Pre-Kindergarten Aides; Mrs. Cara Carel, Head Cook; Mrs. Linda Schroer and Mrs. Doris Brondel, Assistant School Cooks; Mr. Travis Hoskins, Head of Maintenance and Head Custodian, Mrs. Brenda Henderson, part-time custodian; Ms. Judy Eggen, Parish Secretary; Ms. Betty Brandt, Assistant Secretary; Mrs. Cathy Francka, Parish Book-Keeper; Br. Mark McGuire, Pastoral Services, Rev. Mr. Francis Butel, Rev. Mr. Steve Kliethermens and Rev. Mr. Brad Jones, Deacons. We especially welcome our new pastor, Rev. Fr. Jason Doke.

VIRTUE-BASED RESTORATIVE DISCIPLINE

As you know, the faculty were afforded the opportunity to attend training on this unique Catholic approach to discipline this summer. As the students witnessed last year, this approach to disciplining cultivates virtue and provides a rich foundation for fostering faith both at home and at school. The entire school community will work together to continue to learn and integrate virtue into our everyday lives. As we cultivate virtue, it helps us to form a moral intelligence as a way to shape an inner guide for who we ARE rather than what we DO in a particular circumstance. We will continue to learn about virtue and practice it and in doing so it will help

us to make our mistakes right again. This way of life leads us to the understanding of prudence in choosing words carefully and refraining from cruelty as a choice to imitate God in our words, deeds and actions.

The children continue to learn more about the Guiding Principles for VBRD:

1. We will dedicate ourselves to living virtue
2. We will support others in living virtue
3. We will commit to constructive thoughts, words and deeds
4. When faced with challenges or conflict, we will find solutions that cultivate virtue for ourselves and for one another.

As the children and staff continue studying about and working on growing in virtue, the parents will have the opportunity to work together also. Mrs. Lynne Lang, creator of the Virtue Based Restorative Discipline program, will come to St. Martin School and provide the unique opportunity for parents to come together and learn how to cultivate virtue in your home; help you implement the guiding principles into your family's routine and also help you find opportunities to grow in virtue personally.~Date and more information to follow!

Please begin praying the VBRD prayer together as a family:

We are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, Help us to grow in heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. So we may bear with one another and be forgiving. IF we have a grievance against another, may we be as forgiving as you have been with us. And over all these virtues may we put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. Let your perfect peace control our hearts, the peace that calls us into one body. We are thankful in your holy name.

By working together at home and in school we can create a consistent message of hope by actively cultivating virtue and holding relationships as the highest priority. together we will change hearts and bring each other to Christ.

WEEKEND MASS

HOORAY CHURCH IS OPEN! WE CAN GATHER AGAIN AS THE BODY OF CHRIST! The Bishop has opened up Mass for all of us. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE make this a priority for your family again. I know that it's easy not to hassle with getting everyone ready on Sunday morning, so you can get to Mass. But it is so very important for the spiritual development of your child's faith life. They need to be in the church, the building itself helps them know that something special is happening. Just like going to grandma's house is exciting, we want your children to have the same feeling about coming to God's house and the only way to cultivate that feeling is by making it happen.

So, let's storm the doors this Sunday! Get everyone up, talk about how exciting it will be to see all the people they know and to be in God's house again. Celebrate Sunday as the Lord's Day in the Lord's house. We are so blessed to be a part of something so GREAT.

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

The first full day of school will be WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19, 2020. Although our hope is that this year will be like most of the other years, in the school building, 2 recesses a day, Mass together, good food for lunch, etc. We also know that the Coronavirus pandemic forces us to make changes in how we go about our school day. At this time the complete plan is not ready to share. I can tell you that what we have constructed will be a 3 phase plan that takes in consideration Low, Moderate and Critical spread of COVID-19. Phase 1 will be a traditional day of school with minor changes on how the children move about the school building, an increased awareness on how to practice good hygiene habits, etc. Phase 2 is if there is an outbreak in the school building. In this phase there will be some remote learning for the "exposed students" but the other students will come to school. The Cole County Health Department and the Diocese will determine how this will be handled. Phase 3 is critical and we will take our direction directly from the Diocese, Health Department as well as the Governor. Thank you for your patience as we continue to build a plan for the unknown. However, what isn't changing is St. Martin School's commitment to building a plan that will optimize student and staff safety as well as continue to provide a strong faith-based, Christ centered education. To help me to better prepare a plan of action **please take the following survey by Friday, July 10, 2020.** <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/EkoFuZzz>

A PDF of the school calendar was attached, but we have a copy on our school Website at <https://stmartin.diojefcity.org/school/>.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLAST-OFF SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH

We will be trying something different this year. Because we had to cancel Summer Blast-off, a beloved day by all the kids, we thought it would be fun to blast-off the beginning of the school year with a mini version of the fun-filled day. So... you can sign-up for a time to come to school on August 16th to drop off your student's supplies, meet their teachers, have your child's school picture

taken, sign-up for volunteer opportunities and committees, have lunch hosted by the Home & School organization and participate in some fun activities. Every family should make plans to attend!!! Please use the sign-up link to schedule your time to come. <https://signup.com/go/yzSiCML>



St Martin Jaguar T-shirts Available for purchase:

Traditionally, these were the yearly t-shirts that could be purchased at the end of the year with Summer Blast Off. However, since those activities have been moved to Open House so has the option to buy extra t-shirts!

The t-shirts are dark heather gray and 100% preshrunk soft style cotton.

One T-shirt will be given to each St Martin student and faculty member at no cost. Funds from last year's cookie dough sales will be used to cover this cost. T-Shirts will be distributed at the Back to School Blast off Open house on August 16 and **should be worn on the first day of school.**

Extra t-shirts can be ordered for your family. Sizes range from youth- extra small through Adult 5X. Prices are: All Youth sizes: \$6.00, Adult Small-1X: \$7.00, Adult 2X: \$9.00, and Adult 3X-5X: \$12.00. Please use the link to order family extra t-shirts only. **(You do not need to enter your school enrolled child's size for the no cost t-shirt as we will use the size indicated on the school registration forms.)** <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/0sWQcosJ>

Online t-shirt orders are due by July 10, 2020

Please contact Jill Cremer with questions. (573) 694-3292.

DRESS CODE

This past year the School Advisory Board passed a policy that extended the dress code guidelines down to our Preschool 3-4 year old and Prekindergarten 4-5 year old programs. The complete dress code policy for these programs is attached as well as in the Parent/Student Handbook.

Just a reminder for all our students. Students are not to wear pants that have a distressed look, have external pockets, rivets or flaps on their pockets or have frayed, pockets, or cuffs. All pants, shorts and skirts are to be hemmed. Knit pants/leggings are not acceptable. Girls may wear skirts or skorts. During the winter months girls may wear leggings under their skirt or skorts. Please remember that the pants, skirts, skorts and shorts must be SOLID navy blue, black or khaki. If the pants/shorts have belt loops, a belt must be worn. Pants that have belt loops cut off will not be allowed. Pants/shorts should be loose-fitting but not baggy. Shorts should be appropriate length, which is mid-thigh to right below the knee.

Please make sure that your student is in compliance with these expectations. Girls especially will want to make sure that their shorts, skirts or skorts are the required length. If they are not appropriate length, a pair will be provided for her to wear for the rest of the day. Children are encouraged to wear tennis shoes when possible. We have a lot of steps and the children do run and play at recess. A shoe that is comfortable, flexible and can be tied is best. Platform shoes, strapless shoes /sandals or CROCS, cowboy or work boots are not acceptable. All shoes must be worn with socks at all times. This includes out-of-uniform days.

Green fleece ¾ zip jackets & sweatshirts with the school logo may be worn during the school day.

There will be a booth at the BACK-TO-SCHOOL Blast with information for you to order spirit-wear items such as jackets, sweatshirts, or polo shirts with logos.

SPIRIT DAYS

On spirit Fridays students may wear a St. Martin T-shirt with their uniform bottoms.

Out-Of-Uniform DAYS An OOU day is a day set aside for students not to come in uniform. The student council may put a theme to the day such as "Superhero Day". Other times the day is a casual day and the choice of attire is left to the student.

On these days students' attire should be modest, clean and neat. No ragged, holey jeans or distressed clothing is acceptable. Girls are not to wear leggings as their choice of pants. Shirts should be long enough that no midriffs show at any time, especially when the student raises their hand and loose enough that it is comfortable. Junior high girls should pay close attention to the neckline of their shirt. Young men should wear their pants at their waist. The pants should not sit low on the hips to where their undergarments show. If a student continues to go against the guidelines set for out-of-uniform days, he/she will lose their privilege of participating in these special days. The teacher has a right to determine what is appropriate and what's inappropriate on both "normal" and out-of-uniform days.

One of the main reasons we have a dress code and set guidelines is to teach modesty and respect through appearance. Parents, please assist your child with their clothing choices. For the full dress code guidelines consult your Parent-Student Handbook.

CELL PHONES, APPLE WATCHES, I-POD, I-TOUCH, NINTENDO DS, ETC

All cell phones, or any electronic devices (ie: i-pods, Nintendo DS, etc.) are not to be brought to school. However, the school understands the necessity of the child having the device for after school activities. IF the device is brought to school it should be turned off during the school day. Please note, the school will not assume responsibility for any electronic device brought to school. This includes the days the students participate in field trips. If a child has any of these items on school property or out while participating in school sponsored activities, the item will be taken and placed in the school office where it can be claimed by a parent.

If a child chooses to wear an Apple Watch or something similar, it is not to be played with. If it becomes a distraction, the teacher will take it and send it to the school office where the parent will need to pick it up.

COMMUNICATION

100% of ALL communication from the school office will be sent to you via email through the FACTS system. These messages are usually sent to you at 6:00 pm. If during the day, an immediate communication needs to go out, the parents will receive a text in regards to the information.

Each month the school office will publish a monthly newsletter. These communications are the most up-to-date information on hand. Sometimes there are changes to the yearly calendar that will be noted in this communication. You should assume that the dates, times and events listed in these newsletters are correct. However, if you have any questions when reading these, just call the school office. Sometimes we receive correspondence that cannot be emailed. In these cases, we send it with the youngest child.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Letters have been sent to families with an outstanding balance on their account. Please pay the total amount due or contact Mrs. Clingman (principal@stmartinjc.org) to make arrangements by Friday, July 10th. Payment plans for the 2020-2021 school year became active July 1st and SCRIP credits have been added to the accounts. Sustaining Fees are due by October 1, 2020, however you can start making payments or pay the balance in full starting today! The first installment for Preschool, Prekindergarten and Tuition payments are due September 1st. . If you have questions regarding your account please contact Mrs. Fender at afender@stmartinjc.org.

Any account credits or positive balances in prepay lunch accounts will roll over to the 2020-2021 school year.

LUNCH PROGRAM

Dear St. Martin Families,

The Lunch Program strives to offer nutritious, tasty lunches for your child. In recent years, we have dedicated ourselves to provide as many fresh fruit and vegetable offerings by adding a daily fresh or frozen fruit along with a regular option. We also take pride in the salad bar that is provided in addition to the regular vegetable offering.

We have been working hard behind the scenes to come up with different TEMPORARY options to make this happen. It is very important to us during the pandemic uncertainty that we continue to provide as much fresh fruit and vegetables that we can while keeping your child and our volunteers and staff as safe as possible.

This may include temporarily offering pre-made salads and vegetable cups instead of the open salad bar, offering a fresh or frozen fruit as our option 2-3 times a week, depending on availability and temporarily changing the meal service from "offer" to "serve" to limit contact.

I would like to invite anyone with questions or concerns to contact me at ccarel@stmartinjc.org

Thank you,

Cara Carel, Food Services

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Please see the attached School Supply list. Please understand that this list might change due to unprecedented times and the possibility that student needs may change. **A PDF was attached but the list is also on our school Website at <https://stmartin.diojeffcity.org/school/>**

SCRIP

For the 2020-2021 School year we earned \$7,286.39 in SCRIP rebates! Thank you to all who participated in this program. If you need more information about how SCRIP works please contact Mrs. Fender in the office.

In July SCRIP will be available through the parish office (Tuesday-Friday 8:30-4:30), online through shopwithscrip.com or online through our FACTS Forms website. Here is the link to the online FACTS SCRIP form: <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/FmeRd7Rr>
Buying from our program before heading out to purchase items needed for school helps our school and your family financially!

You can see more on our SCRIP Web page at <https://stmartin.diojeffcity.org/7651-2/> for more information and links to forms.

HOME AND SCHOOL NEWS

UTV Fundraiser

Draw Date: July 12th at the Fish Fry in July

Please return any SOLD or UNSOLD tickets to the Parish office by Wednesday, July 8th

Here is a link to order physical tickets to pick up at school for selling. Your account will be charged when ticket stubs are returned. We ask that you return any sold or unsold tickets by July 6th so that others may have the availability to sell them.
<https://payit.nelnet.net/form/eOfmO6PO>

Here is a link for school families to purchase tickets to be billed to their FACTS Family account. This online ticket takes the place of a paper ticket. <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/nSIWnly7>

Here is a link to share with non-school families to purchase and pay for UTV tickets online: <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/fMRZChke>
This online ticket takes the place of a paper ticket.

As an incentive, for every 10 tickets your family sells, you will receive a \$50 SCRIP Gift Certificate. SCRIP Gift Certificates will be issued the week of July 13-17th.

FISH FRY IN JULY: A Parish Event

Please join us for the St. Martin Drive Thru Fish Fry in July
Picnic Sunday, July 12th from 12:00-5:00
Fried Fish dinner with chips, cornbread and coleslaw
\$11.00 per meal / Senior pricing \$10.00
UTV Raffle \$50.00/ticket
50/50 Raffle tickets @ \$5.00/ticket or 5 for \$20.00

Please also see our online auction to bid on quilts and more at <https://www.smparishauctions.com/>

Interested in helping at the fish fry?
Please contact Andrea Fender at 573-694-0586 or email school@stmartinjc.org

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

The school office will be closed July 1st - July 31st. School email (school@stmartinic.org) will be checked periodically. If you have an urgent matter please contact the rectory office at 573-893-2923 and leave a message for Mrs. Clingman.

In closing the first official communication for the 2020-2021 school year, I want to wish everyone an enjoyable continuation of their summer vacation, and ask that you pray daily the Colossian Prayer for the students, faculty and staff of St. Martin School. Through your prayers and the intercession of our patron saint, St. Martin and under the mantle of protection from our Blessed Mother Mary, we will have a successful "normal" school year.

So, I ask the Lord to help each of us to grow in VIRTUE and Help us to build a life of grace.

God Bless,

Mrs. Julie Clingman
Principal