



### **Letter from the Pastor**

Dear Parents and Friends of St Mark's,

#### **Welcome home!**

What a gift it was this past week, walking through the halls, witnessing the joy of our students, teachers and staff; school is once again the reason for us to be together! Without question, it is due to the tremendous work of Mrs. Gordon and her team, Tim LaMott's assistance to deliver and install air filtration systems for each classroom, and Diocesan support, that we are able to gather for in-person instruction this fall in our parish school! Please thank them with a note and a prayer!

The opportunity for our young disciples to be physically present with one another and their teachers serves a terrific need! Similar perhaps, to the need Christ fills in us with the gift of His Real Presence in the Eucharist.

There will be more information to come next week regarding our community's **Consecration to the Eucharist. Please stay tuned!**

May the light of Christ continue to shine into the future through our children.

Until we see each other again, I remain, sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Ben

### **Letter from the Principal**

Dear St. Mark's Families,

What a blessed week! Words cannot express how wonderful it is to have your children back at St. Mark's and to welcome so many new families. It was heart-warming to see teachers and staff bond with their students in a small setting and have quality time to begin building relationships. I am truly grateful for your patience and support during this phased in approach. We have been able to adjust our procedures and protocols with ease and gradually acclimate ourselves to the school year.

Next week, we begin our A/B schedule with half of our students attending each day. On your child(ren)'s days at home they will not be logging into live classroom sessions, but working on any projects or assignments in their Google classroom. On Friday, teachers will be checking in with families and students to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

The Diocese of Boise is asking all parents who have their children enrolled in one or more of its Catholic schools to sign an **Acknowledgement of Risk** form. Please note



that it is not a liability waiver. While we are taking every precaution to create a safe environment for all of our students, there is still a risk that you or your child(ren) may contract COVID-19. Please read the attached form and return it to the office by Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you so much for choosing St. Mark's! Please continue to pray for a successful start to the school year and let's all practice the 3 Ws - wash your hands, watch your distance, and wear your mask.

Donna Gordon  
Principal

### Technology Pick Up Day

On Monday, August 24 from 3:15-4:00 p.m. we will be checking out Chromebooks to families who need the use of a device at home during remote learning. We will have a table set up in the school courtyard brick area in front of the main doors. The **Chromebook Agreement** must be read over thoroughly and signed before checking out a Chromebook. If you need a Chromebook for Remote Learning and haven't requested one, **email** the school office by noon on Monday to be added to the list.

If you have enough devices at home we are kindly asking that the Chromebooks stay at school to mitigate the risk of damage or loss. These devices are hard to replace as they are in very high demand. Each student has been assigned a Chromebook and it is the responsibility of the student to safely transport the device back and forth from school to home. If the device is left at home we have very few backup devices and you may be called to bring the device to school.

### Procedure/Policy Reminders

#### Procedure/Policy Reminders –

- Please check your children for symptoms before bringing them to school in the morning. **Click here** for Checklist
- Please review the **Decision Trees** below to determine if it is safe to send your child(ren) to school
- Please do not leave your vehicle unattended in the drop off/pick up zones
- Please remain in your vehicles unless you park your vehicle in designated parking areas
- If you park your vehicle to walk your child to the building, please say good-bye to them at the gate to the playground or at the front door.
- Students will be in their uniforms starting Monday unless it is a designated spirit wear day (please check calendar)
- Shoes must be predominately (85%) white, black, navy, or grey (no neon, sparkles or light-up shoes)

### Decision Making Trees - What if I'm Exposed to COVID

Parents please read and become familiar with the links below to evaluate if you should send your child to school:

**Guidance on COVID Exposure**

**Illness Decision Tree for Students**

## Student Spotlight

Has your student done something amazing during COVID to help others or accomplished a great feat? Send their picture and story to [schooloffice@stmarksboise.org](mailto:schooloffice@stmarksboise.org) and we will post the information here.

### Lion Pride Recognition



# LionPRIDE

Practice  
MAKES  
Saints

	CLASSROOM	HALLWAYS	LUNCH ROOM	PLAYGROUND	BATHROOMS	CHURCH
<b>P</b> <b>PERSEVERANCE</b> <i>Every Day - Every Time</i>	Be Prepared Be On Time Be On Task Be Present	Be Timely Be Courteous Model Good Behavior Walk Slowly	Use Your Manners Be Patient Wait to be Excused	Be Safe Obey the Rules Play Fair Share Space & Equipment Be a Good Sport	Throw Away Trash Keep it Clean Flush Toilet Wash Hands	Be Engaged Pray, Not Play Behave Appropriately
<b>R</b> <b>RESPECT</b> <i>Others, Self &amp; Property</i>	Be Positive Listen to Others Be Prompt Follow Dress Code Care for School Property	Be Quiet Keep Your Hands to Yourself Keep Clean	Clean up Messes Share Space Eat Only Your Food Keep Voices Low Keep your Hands to Yourself	Use Kind Words Use Equipment as Intended Keep Your Hands to Yourself	Give Others Privacy Use Appropriate Volume	Listen Attentively Enter and Leave Quietly Treat Church Materials with Care
<b>I</b> <b>INTEGRITY</b> <i>Honesty in All You Do</i>	Be Honest Be Accountable Do Your Own Work Set & Meet Goals Honor Due Dates	Do the Right Thing Respect Posters & Displays	Use Manners Don't Be Wasteful Pay for Purchases	Notify Staff if Problems Arise Follow Staff Directions	Return to Class Promptly & Quietly Report any Inappropriate Behavior Use at Appropriate Times	Be Kind Be on Time
<b>D</b> <b>DISCIPLESHIP</b> <i>Following Jesus' Example</i>	Support Others Cooperate with Others Be Honest Share Christ's Love	Help Others in Need Say Thank You to Our Custodians	Sit by Those Sitting Alone Engage in Appropriate Conversations	Encourage Others to be Kind Be Inclusive Lead by Example Help Others When Needed	Use Only as Needed Report Supply Shortages Clean Up After Yourself	Be Revere Actively Participate Be Involved Show Appreciation
<b>E</b> <b>EXCELLENCE</b> <i>Strive for Success</i>	Do Your Very Best Work Challenge Yourself Learn Beyond the Classroom Ask Questions	Set a Good Example Greet People Politely	Follow Cafeteria Rules Use an Inside Voice	Solve Issues in a Peaceful Manner Line Up on Time Stay in Assigned Areas	Use During Non-Instructional Times Report Problems to an Adult	Be the Best Version of Yourself Follow Dress Code for Mass



**Congratulations to this week's winners:** Each week students are nominated by staff for exhibiting behaviors from our LionPRIDE chart above.

### Weekly Calendar

#### Monday, August 24

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. "A" schedule  
TVCS Volleyball practice starts

#### Tuesday, August 25

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. "B" schedule

#### Wednesday, August 26

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. "A" schedule

#### Thursday, August 27

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. "B" schedule

#### Friday, August 28

Remote Learning & Check In

## Upcoming Events

### Monday, August 31

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. "A" schedule in school, B schedule remote learning at home

### Tuesday, September 1

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. "B" schedule in school, A schedule remote learning at home

### Wednesday, September 2

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. "A" schedule in school, B schedule remote learning at home

### Thursday, September 3

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. "B" schedule in school, A schedule remote learning at home

### Friday, August 28

Remote Learning & Check In

## Home & School

Ada County has informed St. Mark's School that it has canceled availability at the Barber Park Education and Event Center in compliance with the directives from Central District Health, thus cancelling the venue for this year's Dinner Auction.

We are saddened by this news as our community relishes in celebrating together and gathering to support Catholic education, however we understand the need to keep our community safe. The Dinner Auction scheduled for Saturday September 19, 2020 will **NOW** be a virtual event. Dinner auction tickets will not go on sale this evening. Please know we are working to solidify details and hope to share them next week.

We are incredibly humbled by our community who has contributed to the Dinner Auction's 300 X 300 Challenge. If you have not donated to the 300 x 300 Challenge, we ask for your support now more than ever. Contributions can be made at:

<https://stmarksdinnerauction.afrogs.org/#/index>.

Together, our MISSION of Catholic education is POSSIBLE.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Each family is required to complete 6 hours of Volunteer Hours for the Dinner Auction each year and additional hours (tbd) for the school. Attached is the **Volunteer Log** which we are asking you to print and keep track of your hours at home until we are able to keep the log book at school. At the beginning of a normal school year, a blue binder is placed outside the School Office where each family has a Volunteer Log page in the binder and families are responsible for keeping track of their volunteer hours on their family page.

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At the present time, the only in school volunteer opportunity is in the Lunchroom.

## Lunch Room Volunteers

## NEXT WEEK'S LUNCH HELPERS

Monday (24)—

Tuesday (25)—Horton

Wednesday (26)—Boroff, Dunlap

Thursday (27)—Horton

Friday (28)—

St. Mark's offers a healthy, delicious hot lunch to students and staff EVERY FULL DAY OF SCHOOL!

**4 LUNCHROOM HELPERS ARE NEEDED EACH DAY from 10:45-12:30** to load lunches on to trays and deliver the trays to the classrooms. Volunteers are given a free lunch. Please call (208) 375-6654 or **email** the School Office to volunteer.

Daily Lunch Schedule: 11:15 a.m. (PS-2); 11:35 a.m. (3-5); 12:00 p.m. (6-8)

## News

Has your child had a change in a health condition or begun taking a medication since you registered in Rediker last spring? Please print the **Annual Health Information Update** or the **Medication Authorization Form**, complete the form and return it to school in your child's folder. All information is kept strictly confidential in the Nurse's Office. Medical forms can also be found on our website under "School Forms".

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**Hot Lunch** - new families should have received an email from **EZSchoolApps.com** inviting you to set up your child's hot lunch account. This will allow you to see what is being served for lunch each day, what your child's account balance is and what days they have eaten hot lunch. You can also set alerts for low balances in the lunch account. If a child comes to school and forgot their cold lunch, they will be served a hot lunch and their account will be charged \$3.50. Cold lunch milk will be available for .15¢ and that amount will be deducted from the student's lunch account.

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The School Office is selling jumbo book covers for \$2.00. We have a large selection and the book covers fit our larger textbooks. Students may bring money to school next week to purchase the book covers from the office.

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Picture Days (pictures taken by Parker Portraits) are scheduled for Tuesday, September 1 ("B" day schedule) and Wednesday, September 2, 2020 ("A" day schedule). Every student will have their photo taken for our yearbook and lunch card, whether or not a package is ordered. **STUDENTS MAY WEAR FREE DRESS FOR THEIR PHOTOS AS LONG AS THEY CONFORM TO OUR DRESS CODE.** Due to current events and in an effort to keep our staff and your family safe, we are going exclusively to online orders. Please see the instructions below:

1. Go to **[www.parkerportraitsonline.com](http://www.parkerportraitsonline.com)**
2. Leave STUDENT KEY blank
3. Click on Job/Event for the drop down menu
4. Select St Marks Fall 2020
5. Click Open
6. Place your order

**All orders must be placed by September 2, 2020. There will be no in school retakes this year. Retakes will be scheduled at Parker Portraits studios.**

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Girls on the Run will be offered this fall at St. Mark's School for girls in 3rd-5th grades. [Click here](#) to view the flyer and for information on how to sign up.

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### **Idaho Catholic Women's Conference**

LADIES-Registration is now open for the 2020 Idaho Catholic Women's Conference. Our theme is Brave, and our keynote speakers are Sister Miriam James Heidland and Heather Khym, two of the co-hosts of the Abiding Together Podcast; and Father Justin Brady of the Diocese of Boise. This will be a virtual conference and will include a virtual Mass, adoration, cameos from Catholic personalities, live chat and Q&A, virtual marketplace, and nine days of live, pre-conference online sessions in the Serenity Lounge. The date is Saturday, September 19th . **The early bird price of \$20 and discounted conference shirt orders last until Tuesday, August, 25.** For more details and to register go to: [www.IdahoCatholicWomen.com](http://www.IdahoCatholicWomen.com) or call 208-484-0898.

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The **August/September lunch menu** is attached. The menu includes through the first week of September.

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If you have not turned in your Acknowledgement and Receipt of the 2020-2021 Parent-Student Handbook, please visit our website at [www.stmarksboise.com](http://www.stmarksboise.com), review the Handbook, print and sign the Acknowledgement page and return it to school. The handbook can be found under the "Forms" menu.

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The **August Monthly Calendar** is available for viewing.

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**Child Safe Environment Workshop** - Every person who volunteers in our school must take a Child Safe Environment Workshop (SEW) and pass a background check. If you are new to our school or have never taken a SEW class and want to eventually volunteer, you must take a Live class. This year being different, we are suspending the Live classes and are asking volunteers to take an online class in place of the live class. To do this, create an account in **CMG Connect**, select "My Trainings" from the menu on the left and start the "Safe Environment Renewal Training". This is the online class which takes the place of the live class this year, next year we will ask you to enroll in a live class.

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Find out what is happening in our Middle School in this week's edition of the **Middle School Newsletter**.

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All new and current families will receive an email from Plusportals with your family logon and password. If you are a current family, your information remains the same as last year. Your family account allows you to view your student's grades, attendance, progress reports, teacher emails, student directory and family demographics that can be updated by you. Please contact the School Office at 208-375-6654 if you did not receive the email.

## **TVCS Events/Sports**

**TVCS Band Information** - Mrs. Bailey is looking forward to helping your young musician(s) continue their instrumental learning. Whether they are brand new to an

instrument, or more experienced, she's ready! This school year, Mrs. Bailey is teaching her children at home, so lessons will be one-on-one online. Registering online through TVCS will guarantee 10 online private 30-minute lessons and 2 online "group" lessons. Unfortunately, a final concert is just not possible at this time. Lessons will start the week of Labor Day (September 7) and run to Christmas break, so please register soon, and let Mrs. Bailey know that you have at [kbailey@sacredheartboise.com](mailto:kbailey@sacredheartboise.com). Please e-mail her if you have any questions. Thanks!

### TVCS Golf Season Information

Where: **Lakeview Golf Club in Meridian**

When: September 7th - October 27th (**Mondays + Tuesdays**)

Dates: **September 7th** + 8th, 14th + 15th, 21st + 22nd, 28th + 29th, October 5th + 6th, 12th + 13th, 19th + 20th, and 26th + 27th.

Start time: **5:00pm**

Kids will be split into teams and have a day where they practice for an hour (5-6pm) and the other day they will play golf which takes approximately 2 1/2 hours.

Information for both 7th and 8th grade Volleyball:

**Volleyball practices will be held at Bishop Kelly High School.**

**Start Time: 6:45 pm**

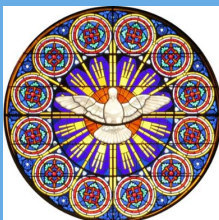
**Start date: Aug. 24th**

You will be receiving an email from your VB Head Coach with more information about practice. New game schedule coming soon with the first game September 8th! Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### September

- 1 FB v. Emmett Middle School
- 3 X-Country v. Emmett Middle School @ Emmett
- 8 Golf Match Play @ Lakeview Golf Club
- 9 FB v. Mountain Home Jr. High School
- 10 X-Country v. Sage Valley Middle School
- 15 FB v. Sage Valley Middle School  
Golf Match Play @ Lakeview Golf Club
- 17 X-Country v. Middleton Middle School @ Middleton
- 22 Golf Match Play @ Lakeview Golf Club
- 23 FB v. Vallivue Middle School @ Bishop Kelly HS
- 24 X-Country v. Vallivue Middle School
- 29 Golf Match Play @ Lakeview Golf Club
- 30 FB v. Middleton Middle School

## Preschool Happenings



### Parish News

Have you met Tim Segert?

Tim is a St. Mark's parishioner, a seminarian at Mount Angel and a gifted musician. Another fun fact: he will



be spending the year with us! Tim has been assigned to St. Mark's for his pastoral year. He will soon be 'moving in' to the clergy office here at the school. He is looking forward to getting to know our young disciples by joining them on their faith journey.

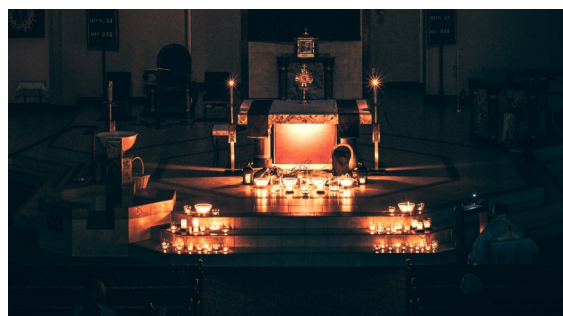
Please keep him, all seminarians, and an increase to the vocation of the priesthood in prayer.

What about Jordan Renfro? Have you met our youth minister?

Jordan is a Boise native, Bishop Kelly alum and a recent graduate of Catholic University. Her overall vision of youth ministry is one that focuses on equipping young people to live out the call of Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations." She believes this begins with accompaniment.



Jordan will be present at each Mass this weekend, please stop by and say "hi!" Learn more about our Junior High, High School, and Confirmation programs and register [HERE](#).



### **Mercy Night - September 26th- 6:30pm-8:00pm**

Join us at the parish for an evening of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, contemplative music and the sacraments of the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation.

### **Stay connected to our parish!**

- **Text BOISESTMARKSNEWS to 42828** to sign up **OR [Click here](#)** to sign up for the weekly newsletter.
- **[Click HERE](#) to upload the Parish Bulletin**

## **Notes from the Nurse**

### **Saint Alphonsus School Health Program**

Dear parents,



As you are well aware, the beginning of this school year will be like nothing we have encountered before. As each school proceeds with their individual re-opening plans, it is important to remember the goal towards which we are striving. To safely assimilate our students back into the classroom. The safety measures we will be following stem from



hours of discussion and coordination with a variety of sources. We will work with the staff and faculty at each school to promote healthy habits, which will help to control the spread of any virus type.

Frequent handwashing  
Wearing a mask  
Maintaining social distancing

A combined effort between families, students and school staff is our best chance to maintain a safe school environment.

Through the St. Alphonsus School Health Program, TBD, our school nurse, is at St. Mark's on Thursdays and Mrs. Placido, CNA, SASHP Assistant is here on Tuesdays.

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Dear parents,

As we move forward with plans for the reopening of school this fall, the cooperation of parents in the following areas will be of great importance. The Saint Alphonsus School Health Program has been collaborating with the Diocesan task force for schools as well as schools in the Boise and West Ada districts and Central District Health. The guidelines set forth by the CDC and the Health Department will be important tools in determining health procedures for the schools.

The school experience will look different when we begin in the fall, and it will take a combined effort from parents, students and all school personnel to maintain a safe environment.

We will have infrared thermometers in the schools to take student temperatures. However, we will be asking parents to check their students temperatures at home if they suspect a fever.

Please keep sick students home from school. This will help with the prevention of virus spread.

If a student has a fever at school, they will be isolated and immediately sent home.

Please have all contact information up to date, including the numbers for any back-up persons, in case a parent cannot get to school in a timely manner.

By working together, we can lower the risk of virus spread at school and keep our population healthy.

Thank you for your cooperation

MaryLou Cunningham | RN, BSN, NBCSN, MHS

Coordinator, School Health Program

Saint Alphonsus Health System

1055 N. Curtis Rd., Boise, ID 83706

Office: 208-375-6010 | [Marylou.Cunningham@saintalphonsus.org](mailto:Marylou.Cunningham@saintalphonsus.org)

## Notes from the Counselor

Welcome back! It's the time of year when back to school busyness happens. Add on top of that all of the other things we are currently dealing with, namely COVID-19, and it can be a stressful time. For the most part, children are extremely excited to be back: to see teachers, friends, have a set schedule, etc. You may notice that your children are more excited, tired, grumpy, even acting out, than usual. All of this can be expected during a typical back to school year when children are trying to get into the swing of things. There will be an initial adjustment period to earlier bedtimes and waketimes, not being able to eat whenever they are hungry, having structured activities that fill a

day, and more. When you add on the potential anxiety that some parents and children are feeling it will add in even more modifications that need to be made. Here are some things you can do to help your child with the adjustment of going back to school:

1. Have a set bedtime – sleep is very important for kids, it’s a time for their bodies to rest, grow, recover, etc. Getting enough sleep helps their bodies to fight off sickness and their brains to function at full potential.
  2. Provide a good breakfast, snacks and lunch – it’s important to start your day with a nutritious breakfast that will provide energy for at least a few hours until snack time. Since children have been used to eating when hungry it’s equally important that they have snacks at school. It’s hard to focus on learning when you are hungry. Healthy meals and snacks will provide them with the nutrients their bodies need to stay healthy and not get sick as often as well as give them energy for both mental and physical activities.
  3. Have a set schedule – regardless if school is full day, 5 days a week, online, or a hybrid of both, having a set schedule will help both you and your child to feel more relaxed and on top of things. Children will know what to expect and usually thrive on schedules.
  4. Schedule in “down time” – give your children time to do whatever they would like, even if it’s nothing. Having some free time to read, go outside and play, etc. can help re-energize children and help them adjust.
  5. Practice patience – if we remember that our children are going through an adjustment period and have patience with them it can help keep the tension down in our home.
- Next week we’ll talk more about possible anxiety that parents and children may be feeling and some coping skills that can be used to help.

Joe Lipetzky Psy.D.  
Ms. Jen Boehm. LCPC

Dr. Joe Lipetzky, our school psychologist, is at St. Mark’s on Monday and Friday mornings.

Mrs. Jen Boehm, our school counselor, is at St. Mark’s on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.