



### St. Mark's Catholic School Vision

**St Mark's Catholic School is dedicated to educating student disciples in body, mind and spirit, through the collaboration of families, community and the Church.**

### Our Mission

**St. Mark's Catholic School is a ministry of St. Mark's Catholic Community that fosters academic excellence, rooted in the Catholic faith, and Christian values.**

### Letter from our Pastor

**Pope Francis' 2024 Lenten message:  
"Lent is a Season of Conversion, a Time of Freedom"**



Pope Francis has centered his Lenten message for 2024 on the Book of Exodus, choosing *"Through the Desert God Leads Us to Freedom"* as its main theme to encourage the faithful that the season is a journey from bondage to spiritual renewal and freedom. The pope framed this reflection on the departure of the Israelites from Egypt, a story that not only represents the journey from bondage to emancipation but also of revelation and spiritual freedom. *"When our God reveals himself, his message is always one of freedom,"* the pope said. The Holy Father went on to note that this process *"is a demanding one"* and that *"it is not answered straight away. It has to mature as part of a journey."* *"We realize how true this is at those moments when we feel hopeless, wandering through life like a desert and lacking a promised land as our destination. Lent is the season of grace in which the desert can become once more – in the words of the prophet Hosea – the place of our first love,"* the pope observed.

Pope Francis also underscored the centrality of the desert in the New Testament, observing that on the first Sunday of Lent, we are reminded that Jesus *"was driven into the desert by the Spirit in order to be tempted in freedom."* *"The desert is the place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery. In Lent, we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken,"* the pope added.

During Lent 2024, the pope has encouraged the faithful to undertake an interior examination by asking: *"Do we hear that cry for freedom? Does it trouble us?"* *"Our Lenten journey will be concrete if, by listening once more to those two questions, we realize that even today we remain under the rule of Pharaoh..."* *"All too many things keep us apart from each other, denying the fraternity that, from the beginning, binds us to one another."* The Lenten season, according to the pope, is a time that is

characterized by personal struggle as we suffer from myriad temptations, but it is the recognition of this that calls us to *“pause in prayer, to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister.”*

Highlighting the three pillars of Lent – prayer, almsgiving, and fasting – the pope noted that they are not disparate acts but form a symbiotic *“movement of openness and self-emptying in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us.”* The pope closed his Lenten message by highlighting the communal aspect of the season, noting, *“In the presence of God, we become brothers and sisters, more sensitive to one another: in place of threats and enemies, we discover companions and fellow travelers,”* he added. *“I invite every Christian community to do just this: to offer its members moments set aside to rethink their lifestyles, times to examine their presence in society, and the contribution they make to its betterment.”*

Fr. Paul

### **Letter from our Principal**

Dear St. Mark's Families,

A gigantic thank you to everyone who supported our annual dinner auction - Bloom in Love. I truly appreciate the amount of time, talent, and treasure that goes into putting on this event. Our school depends greatly on the auction to meet the needs of our students and school.



### **Registration for the 24-25 School Year**

After several months of budget planning, Tuition & Salary Committee meetings, and Policy Committee meetings, we are ready to begin registration for next year! Please look for an email outlining the 24-25 Tuition & Fees, and a link from FACTS in your email. We honor the sacrifice you make to send your children to St. Mark's and are committed to being good financial stewards of our school.

### **Lenten Retreat**

This Wednesday (2/21) from 12:40 to 3:00 we will be participating in our annual Lenten retreat. Students will be praying the Stations of the Cross, creating special crafts, and filling compassion bags for those most vulnerable in our community. If you would like to volunteer in the gym to help monitor the assembly of the compassion bags and are current in safe environment training, we'd love your help.

Congratulations to Coach Ybarra and his BK wrestlers for winning the District 4A championship, the first in the school's history! He is sending 10 wrestlers to State next week! Congratulations to our former students Nick Seatz (6th), Parker Allumbaugh (3rd), and Connor Kelsch (3rd)!

Have a blessed 3-day weekend.

Peace,  
Donna Gordon

LOOK FOR THE LINK AT THE BOTTOM OF THE EMAIL THAT SAYS "VIEW ENTIRE MESSAGE" TO EXPAND THE EMAIL, OR **CLICK HERE** TO VIEW NEWSLETTER ON OUR WEBSITE.

## Student Spotlight



Logan has been invited to play with the 2024 Rush Select National Team this weekend, in the President's Day Tournament in Phoenix, Arizona. He will be teamed with top Rush players from around the country and compete against other club teams within the country. Good luck Logan!

## Lion Pride Recognition



# LionPRIDE

Practice  
MAKES  
Saints

	CLASSROOM	HALLWAYS	LUNCH ROOM	PLAYGROUND	BATHROOMS	CHURCH
<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>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>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>DISCIPLINESHIP</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 Reverent Actively Participate Be Involved Show Appreciation
<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

SAINT MARK'S  
-CATHOLIC SCHOOL-

**Congratulations to this week's winners:**

## Weekly Calendar

### Monday, February 19

President's Day - No School

### Wednesday, February 21

8:30 a.m. Student Body Mass presented by Mrs. Curtis' Kindergarten

12:45-3:00 p.m. Student Lenten Retreat

### Friday, February 23

\$1 Optional Spirit Day

Hallissey Basketball Tournament and Assembly

### Saturday, February 24

Hallissey Basketball Tournament

7:00 p.m. Mass Hosted by 7th & 8th grade at St. Mark's Church

8:00-10:00 p.m. Hallissey Dance in Donoghue Hall (for Hallissey players only)

### Sunday, February 25

Hallissey Basketball Tournament

## Upcoming Events

### Tuesday, February 27

10:00 a.m. K-5 Shakespeare Performance at Donoghue Hall

12:00-3:00 p.m. Adoration

### Wednesday, February 28

8:30 a.m. Student Body Mass presented by Mrs. Dressler's 4th grade

10:00 a.m. Class Photos in Mass Dress

Mr. Rossi's Birthday

### Thursday, February 29

Dinner Auction Free Dress Day for those who purchased on online auction

10:00 a.m. Grades 6-8 Shakespeare Performance at Donoghue Hall

## Home & School

There are still a few items available from the Dinner Auction:

- Student painted Teacups. \$25 Each. Please purchase on the auction website and pick up at school before Friday, February 16th. They are in the boxes under the tables. Please be mindful to not make a mess with the styrofoam and to not break remaining teacups.
- Free Dress Day is Thursday, February 29 for \$10 each student. This may also be purchased on the online auction.
- Online Auction Link - <https://stmarksschool.schoolauction.net/bloom/catalog>
- Fourth Grade made individual fish ornaments. \$15 Each. Please purchase on auction website and pick up at school before Friday, February 16th.
- Eighth Grade had a professional photographer take pictures of all students. \$50 Each. There are additional copies of the book that accompanied the 8th Grade class project. This book is the only way to obtain the professional pictures of the 8th

Grade class. Please purchase on auction website before Sunday, February 25th.  
Books will be delivered to the school before spring break.

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Registration for the Daddy–Daughter Dance is now open! Click here to sign up:  
<https://forms.gle/MX1znfDhNCTyBshe8>

Click here if you would like to volunteer for this event or bring items to help the night sparkle: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044BAEA92AABFC1-47870894-daddy#/>

# DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE- BEJEWELLED

WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024

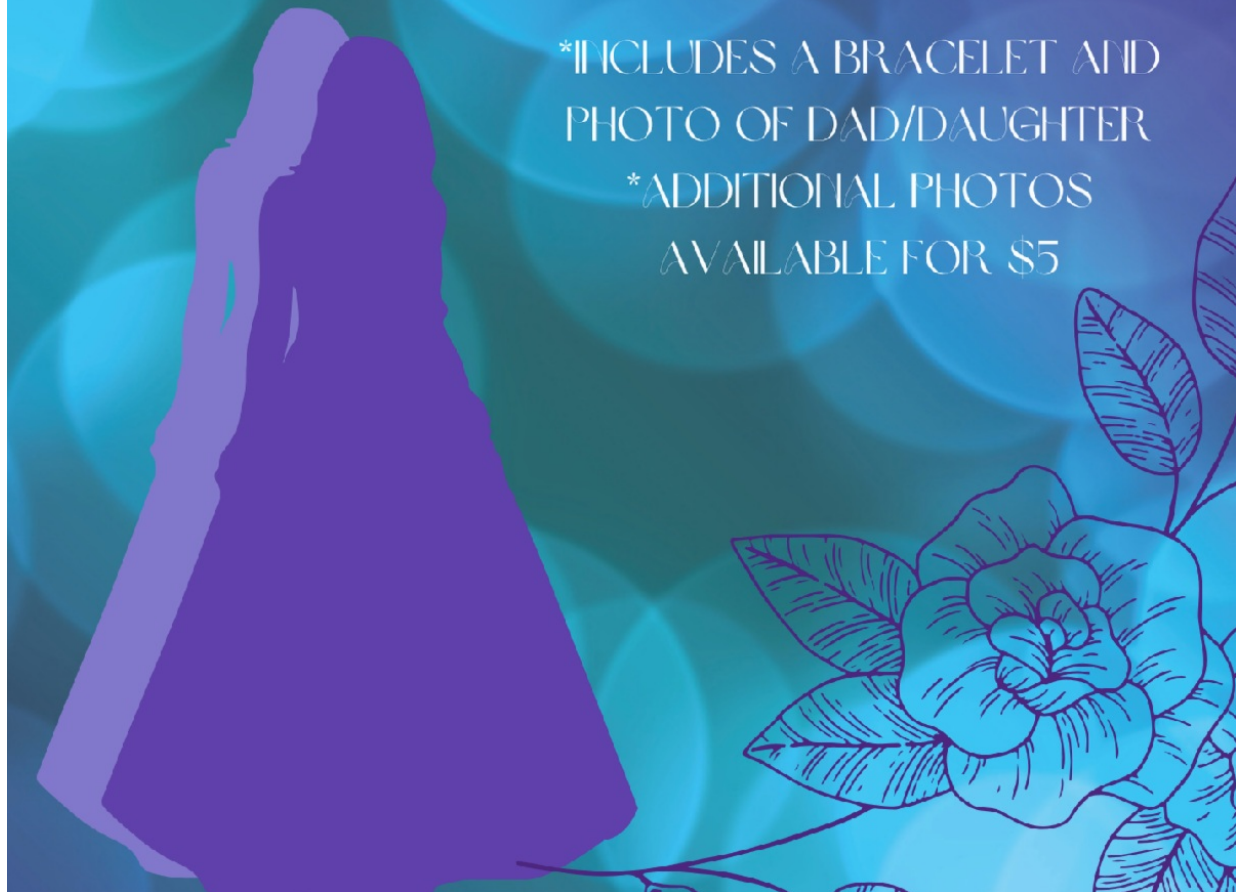
TIME: 6:30- 8:30PM

LOCATION: ST. MARK'S SCHOOL  
GYMNASIUM

COST: \$20 (DAD + DAUGHTER)  
\$5 ADDITIONAL DAUGHTER

\*INCLUDES A BRACELET AND  
PHOTO OF DAD/DAUGHTER

\*ADDITIONAL PHOTOS  
AVAILABLE FOR \$5



## Volunteer Opportunities

**Hallissey Basketball Tournament:** We are needing volunteer spaces filled at Holy Apostles and St. Ignatius. Any help would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Angela Calovich - [acalovich@bk.org](mailto:acalovich@bk.org)

Volunteer link: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1naiZpF-caNg1T0wBMVu3aVtI9-Tsm\\_I\\_e5fNfDgrEFY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1naiZpF-caNg1T0wBMVu3aVtI9-Tsm_I_e5fNfDgrEFY/edit?usp=sharing)

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Are you looking for a great opportunity to be part of the community outreach at St. Mark's and get volunteer hours? The **Grandparents Club** is looking for a new volunteer coordinator to take over starting next fall. The current coordinator, Trina Hauck, would like to have the new lead shadow through the end of this year if possible. The Grandparents Club puts out 3-4 newsletters a school year and hosts two receptions for grandparents. If you'd like to hear more about the position please contact Trina at [thauck@stmarksschoolboise.com](mailto:thauck@stmarksschoolboise.com) This is a great way to get to know people and connect with families.

## Lunch Room Volunteers

### NEXT WEEK'S LUNCH HELPERS

Tuesday (20)—Chavier, Bauer

Wednesday (21)—LaMott, Gorney, Binns, Berry

Thursday (22)—Anderson, Storli, Larrinaga

Friday (23)—Antonoplos, Paz, Gorney, Binns

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 10:45-12:45 to serve lunches and clean tables in the lunchroom. 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

### Upcoming Lenten Retreat Wednesday, February 21st 12:45-2:45 pm

Dear Families,

On Wednesday, February 21st, students will take part in an afternoon Lenten Retreat at the school. Part of the retreat will be making compassion bags to give to those in need. **Thank you for all the donations of items for the compassion bags.** Compassion bags will be donated to local shelters.

**If you would like to volunteer at the Lenten retreat, please contact Trina Hauck at [thauck@stmarksschoolboise.com](mailto:thauck@stmarksschoolboise.com). All volunteers need to have completed Safe Environment Training.**



**PICTURE DAY**

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Class Photo will be taken on Wednesday, February 28 after Student Body Mass

- Visit [parkerportraitsonline.com](http://parkerportraitsonline.com)
- Enter your code into the Access Key (paper with code sent home with each student in Friday Folder)
- Add picture to the cart and checkout
- All orders placed by Picture Day will be



Did you bring in the 2 reams of copy paper for each child that was requested in the yearly Supply List? We are very short of paper this year. If you didn't bring paper at the beginning of the school year, please send the reams to school next week.

Also, if you would like to donate a CASE OF PAPER, you are able to 1 Volunteer Hour. Please bring your donations to the School Office.

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### Summer School Option at BK for graduating 8th graders who have registered at BK

This summer Bishop Kelly will pilot offering in-person, credit bearing classes. In previous years, we have seen many students take these classes online to free up their schedules. These in-person offerings will help students who want to get credit fast and who prefer in-person classes. These offerings will also free up some students to take *other* online classes as we limit students to 6 possible online classes.

Our summer school session will run from June 3-14 for 6.5 hours a day, Monday through Friday. In this 2-week window, registered students will be able to take Speech, Health, or US History 1A.

Classes will cost \$250 plus the payment portal fee, and will be taught by Bishop Kelly instructors. Currently we have Mrs. Stauffer teaching Health, Mrs. Sternling teaching Speech, and Mrs. Allen teaching US History. Registration opens Feb. 16 to all in-coming students. These classes will require a minimum of 12 to run. They will max out at 24 and we will maintain a waiting list. Watch for the link as we expect these to fill fast!

[Click here to register](#)

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**For 8th grade parents:** Just a gentle reminder that the early bird deadline for BK is this Friday. After the 16th, the application fee will be \$225.00.

To apply click on this link: <https://www.bk.org/apply/>  
Questions or need assistance? Contact: Angela Calovich at [acalovich@bk.org](mailto:acalovich@bk.org)

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### *Congratulations to this week's Knights of the Week!*



**Elleyna Bishop, St. Mark's Graduate and BK Sophomore  
Generosity, Safe and Caring Place**

Elleyna is a very generous and caring individual, who allows others to feel comfortable enough to be themselves while working with others. She gives the gift of time, to allow others to form their own thoughts before sharing her own. I've witnessed her caring approach in the classroom as well as in the halls with her friends, peers, and teachers.



**Ben Boroff, St. Mark's Graduate and BK Senior  
Faith**

Ben is friendly, hard working, committed and faithful. He is genuine and kind and goes out of his way to be a light to others.





### Mr. Derek McCormick, St. Mark's Graduate and BK Teacher and Coach Safe and Caring Place, Academic Excellence, Community

- Mr. McCormick is nice to everyone in the class I am in, and is always there if you need to talk. He is also very funny.
- He is good at teaching. He is fun in class and he is interactive.
- He helped me so much in general.
- Mr. McCormick creates a fun learning environment and really cares for his students.
- He always makes class fun and enjoyable. He is always so helpful. He encourages us to do our best.
- He makes government fun and keeps the class always doing something productive.

## TVCS Events/Sports



[Click here](#) for the TVCS athletic schedule.

TVCS is offering tennis, golf, and track and field in the Spring of 2024. These sports are available to 6th through 8th grade students. Please use the following link to register. The registration form can also be found on the [TVCS Website](#) under the Registration tab.

### [Registration Form](#)

Practices will begin March 11th. I will share additional details concerning coaches, practice and game locations and schedules as they become available.

Please be sure to review the TVCS handbook as parents and with your children prior to the first practice. TVCS is placing a heavy emphasis on positive sportsmanship from parents, players, and coaches. Please be sure to read through the expectations in the handbook.

### [TVCS Handbook](#)

## Preschool Happenings



And just like that, it's time for Lent. These four Cubs made it through the Mass without wiping off all of their ashes. We are so blessed to be able to incorporate our faith into our program. Thanks be to God.



### [Church Connection](#)

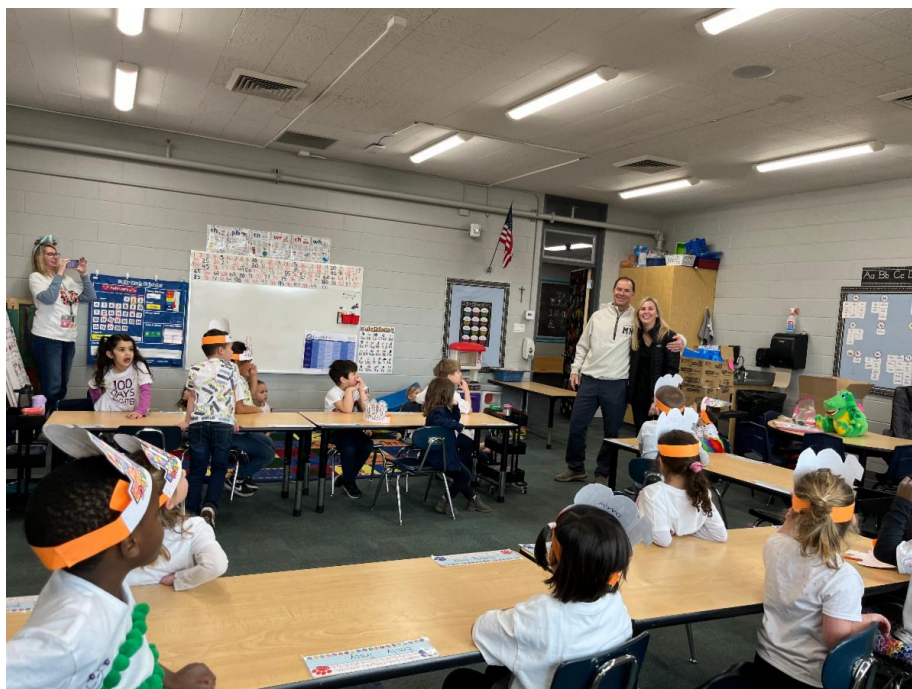
If you would like to receive the Parish Newsletter [text](#) BOISESTMARKSNEWS to 42828 to sign up **OR** [Click here](#) to sign up.



## February is *National Children's Dental Health Month*

Here are some tips for a healthy smile from The American Dental Association (ADA)

- \*Brush your teeth **twice a day** with fluoride
- \*Clean between your teeth daily
- \*Eat healthy foods and limit sugary beverages
- \*See your dentist **twice a year**



Thank you to Dr. Hitch Michelle, DDS and Dr. Tom Gudmestad, DDS, who gave a dental health presentation to our Kindergarteners and 1st graders last week. Dr. Hitch and Dr. Gudmestad,

who had 2 sons graduate from St. Mark's and BK, have been presenting to our students for many years.

*Through the St. Alphonsus School Health Program, Mrs. Bostenero, RN, BSN, is at St. Mark's on Mondays and Wednesdays, Mrs. Fuchs, RN, BSN, is at St. Mark's on Thursdays and Mrs. Placido, CNA, SASHP Assistant is here on Tuesdays.*

## Notes from the Counselor

Hello St. Mark's Families -

I know this has been mentioned before in Friday Facts and by Mrs. Gordon but I would like to highly encourage you to attend Bishop Kelly's One Night Parent Night this Tuesday, February 20th at 6:30. Officer Gomez and Dr. Gudmundsen will be presenting on the topics of social media and mental health. Both topics are very relevant for our students at St. Mark's - especially for our middle school students.

I have followed Officer Gomez on Facebook for quite some time and appreciate all his tips and insights into how to navigate social media as a parent to my four daughters. He is a wealth of information. I was also able to attend the presentation he gave to BK students a few weeks ago. He was very direct, open, and honest about what he has encountered with middle schoolers and teens in the schools and how students can be more social media responsible and aware.

I am excited to hear the presentation Officer Gomez delivers to parents and learn from Dr. Gudmundsen as to how to better help students cope with all the pressures going on in their lives. I hope to see some of you on Tuesday night!

Sarah Lynch  
St. Mark's School Counselor

<https://files.constantcontact.com/3685bfb1101/f1c67a38-4816-40da-a27e-b4788b79f056.pdf>

Sarah Lynch, St. Mark's School Counselor  
Joe Lipetzky Psy.D.

Dr. Joe Lipetzky, our school psychologist, is at St. Mark's on Monday and Friday mornings.  
Sarah Lynch, our school counselor, is at St. Mark's on Mondays, Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

St. Mark's School | 7503 W. Northview St., Boise, ID 83704

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