



KidMail

January 17, 2024

Dear MGC Family,

What a crazy week so far! I think the deep freeze is here to stay this week. When the wind chills drop below zero, we send kids inside in the morning, and keep them in for recess. We know it's not ideal, but safety is important to us. However, please make sure you are sending the children to school dressed properly with boots, hats, mittens, winter coats, and scarves.

In the coming weeks we are preparing to kick off our Catholic Schools Week with an Open House event on Sunday, January 28, 2024 from 11:00-2:00 p.m. We are inviting alumni, current families, and prospective families to tour and meet our staff and experience the MAGIC! We hope to see you there! Also, a flier will be coming home soon detailing all the fun activities and dress days for Catholic Schools Week. It's truly a time to make MGC memories! Also, please be on the lookout for our Mardi Gras information coming soon.

As we inch toward February, we will begin also looking forward to next year. It is a time of tough decisions. I am seeing many students in the upper grades who are not performing in reading and math on grade level. I encourage you to check your child's grades on PowerSchool and to reach out to teachers if you have questions. If students have not made reasonable and measurable progress, we may be having conversations about summer school, and grade retention. Excessive absences and tardies or leaving early, could also result in grade retention. Here at MGC, having high standards and expectations is part of what has contributed to our 98 years of excellence. We cannot push students forward to a higher level, if they have shown no mastery of skills present at grade level-especially reading and in math. For example, a child who is in the 6th grade, but still testing at 3rd grade level, with no progress or effort, or poor attendance, may be asked to repeat a grade. As students move through the levels, the math and reading only grow more complex. As we prepare students for their futures and their careers, they need to be able to have comparable skills. Parents, you play an important role in your child's education. Unfortunately, video games and watching Tik-Tok videos instead of reading and doing their homework, will not lead them to success. Students in grades 2-8th grade should be completing nightly homework including reading their AR books. As I always say, it truly takes a village to raise a successful child. Support at home is critical to that success.

Thank you for all of your continued support at home! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out at (414) 442-7600 extension 119 or at johnston@mgcparish.org.

In Faith,
Rachel Johnston
Principal

Dates of Importance

Jan. 28-Feb 3 Catholic Schools Week
Feb. 5 100th Day of School
Feb. 7 8th grade pictures, new students and retakes
Feb. 9 No school In-service
Feb. 13 Mardi Gras & Valentine celebrations
Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday
Feb. 16 11:30 Dismissal, Conferences
Feb. 19 No school In-service
Feb. 21 Wear Be Kind shirt and uniform bottoms



Open House

Mark your calendar! Save the date! MGC Open House is on Sunday, January 28 from 11 -2. All are welcome, current families, prospective families, and alumni. Come and meet the staff, tour the school, visit the classrooms and view the MGC memorabilia covering 98+ years.

Athletics

Thank you to all who came to show support at MGC's games the weekend of the 6th.

A couple of gentle reminders: students who owe money for Athletics will be disqualified for joining teams next year and 8th graders will have diplomas withheld if these fees are not paid. Also, as we host many games this year, we ask that we always remember to be respectful to visiting teams. Families and students who taunt, name call or heckle will be asked to leave. Winning the game is nice, but it is also about teamwork and sportsmanship. If issues with displaying inappropriate or rude behavior towards coaches, referees, members of the Athletics board, or visiting teams continue, MGC will suspend games for this year. There is no game so serious that MGC would condone poor behavior or sportsmanship. MGC would love to continue to offer these opportunities for our children, but we must do things the Christian way. Your consideration of this matter is appreciated. The schedule of games can be found on our website. <https://www.mgcparrish.org/basketball>. GO MaGiC!

ECP

Parents, just a reminder that any hours not covered through the Wisconsin Shares Program will leave you with a balance. Those of you with outstanding balances, will receive a letter soon. These will have to be paid off or you will need to commit in writing to a payment plan as your care will be suspended in February. Funds for ECP go to pay qualified employees, cleaning services, providing nutritious snacks, and enrichment activities. Please contact Mrs. Johnston if you have questions or concerns.

Picture Day

February 7, graduation pictures for the 8th grade will be taken at school. Any new students or those who want re-takes should also be prepared for their pictures to be taken this day.



Thank you, Thank you, Thank you

A huge shout out goes out to Adolfo Delgado and his crew for the beautiful job that was done to update the boys' locker room.



Birthday Club



Celebrate your child's birthday the MGC way! For \$20.00 you get all that is in the picture and their name on the sign outside the school.

https://uploads.weconnect.com/mce/e411a490148911bb6ee16beaa6f794a437b3bc9d/School/MKE%20Fall%20Science%20Party%20FLYER_22.pdf

COVID/FLU/RSV Season

As we move forward into the winter season, we also prepare for upticks in COVID and Flu. Multiple news sources have reported that lung infections and RSV are quickly on the rise causing children to be quite ill. As we strive to remain safe and healthy, here a few important MGC protocols and policies to review:

- Students who are sent home sick with vomiting or fever are not to return to school for 24 hours and symptoms have subsided
- If your child has been exposed to COVID, we ask that you test as soon as possible.
 - A. If your child has been exposed, but tests negative for COVID, we asked that they mask for 5 days
 - B. If your child has tested positive for COVID, please report to the school. The student is to be out of school for 5 days. Student may return after 5 days if symptom free, and is required to wear a mask for 5 days

Your compliance and cooperation is greatly appreciated. It takes all of our efforts to mitigate these viruses that can seriously affect student and staff attendance compelling us to deliver instruction virtually. We can all agree that being physically in school, learning and being part of the community is our collective goal and responsibility. You are encouraged to keep up with COVID and FLU vaccines/boosters, and to use testing as a resource when you have knowingly been exposed to COVID or are experiencing symptoms. Let's pray for a calm season.

RESOURCES:

[Health Department](#)

[CDC/RSV information](#)

It's Cold Outside – and it will get even colder!

Please remember that we do take the children outside for recess during winter. If the temperature/wind chill is at or above zero, we go outside. It is important that every MGC student come to school every day prepared for recess. This includes a winter coat, hat, mittens/gloves, scarves, snowpants, and boots. Children who do not have snow pants and boots are not allowed to play in the snow. Please do not put your child in that situation!



Like us on Facebook and Instagram



We hope you will “like and follow” us on Facebook! We post MGC School news, pictures, updates and more on the page so be sure to “follow” us.

<https://www.facebook.com/MGCMilwaukeeWI>

On Instagram we are @mgcparish

Weather Regulations



closed.

When there is a question of whether the school will be opening for the day because of extreme weather conditions, Archdiocesan regulations require that the school follow the Milwaukee Public School system. **The decision not to open is usually made before 6:00 AM on the day in question and is announced on local radio and TV stations. If the announcement is made that MPS schools are closed due to inclement weather, MGC will also be**

Whenever the school is closed due to inclement weather, ECP and the parish offices are also closed. However, if MPS is not in session, or for some reason fails to close, an independent decision will be made for MGC. This decision will be made by Mrs. Johnston and Fr. Reed. The announcement will be made on local television and radio stations. Additionally, if MGC closes independently of MPS, an e-mail and text will be sent and local TV/radio stations will be informed.

MGC will not close early due to inclement weather. However, parents are welcome to come to school and pick up their children if they deem that to be in their family's best interest.

If MPS closes early or fails to open due to staffing concerns, that will not affect MGC.

MGC's Website

Have you checked-out MGC's website (www.mgcparish.org)? If not, please do so. You'll find a great deal of information about our church and school. The hot lunch menu is posted there so you don't have to worry about losing yours. Current and past editions of KidMail are also posted there. There are also many great student resources available through the library page. Don't miss this great resource!

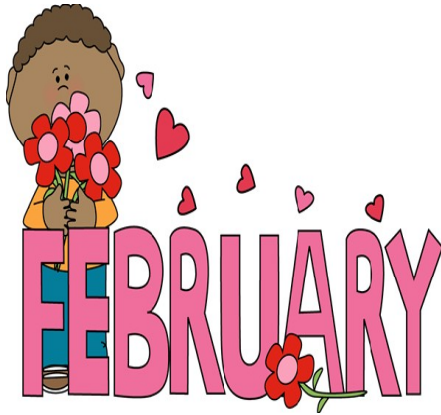


MGC School Calendar 2023-2024

ALL students are expected to arrive on time and to be picked up on time.
Students may start arriving at 7:35 AM



28 – Feb 3 - Catholic Schools Week



1 – 3 - Catholic Schools Week
5 - 100th Day of school
7 – Graduation pictures, new students, and retakes
9 - No school, In-service
13 - Mardi Gras
13 - School Committee Meeting
14 - Ash Wednesday
16 - 11:30 Dismissal, Conferences
19 - No School, In-service
21 - Wear Be Kind shirt and uniform bottoms

Full calendar may be found on the School News page

<https://www.mgcparrish.org/school-news>

Parents/guardians are encouraged to check KidMail each Wednesday for regular updates.

MGC's Extended Care Program is fully licensed. Children must be registered with all completed paperwork turned in. ECP is open on school days and for summer camp, but children must be pre-registered. Parents/guardians are responsible for all ECP fees; failure to pay may result in dismissal from the program.

*Mother of Good Counsel Catholic School is an inclusive urban community committed to:
serving, learning, loving, and living lives of integrity as Christ did.*