

St. Mary's School

Morning Memo – Week of May 14, 2018



1. Follow us on Twitter: @stmarys_mh, Instagram , and Facebook
2. Open registration is on now. We are still accepting applications for spots in all programs including the Fine Arts Academy. If you know anyone who is looking for a school for their child for next year, encourage them to call the school and arrange to meet with administration. We accept both Catholic and non-Catholic students.
3. Last Friday, St. Mary's Students and staff were treated to a fantastic musical put on by MMHS, "Back to the 80's." It was absolutely fantastic! Congratulations to the crew at McCoy who were responsible for this very entertaining production, especially St. Mary's Alumni who "did us proud." Well done!
4. Upcoming Events
 - Monday –Assembly
 - Tuesday- Cos Club – second half of lunch
 - Grade 9 Immunizations
 - Homework Club 3:30 to 4:30
 - Golf Combined Event at Paradise Valley golf Club
 - Wednesday – Friday's Schedule
 - Pizza (\$3) and FA Yogurt (\$2) Sales
 - Thursday – Grade 9Rus at Party program
 - Friday – No School for students
 - Monday, May 21 – No School – Victoria Day Holiday
 - Tuesday May 22 – grade 7 regular - field trip
5. Congratulations to all students and staff who participated in our "Word of the Week" program last week. We will continue this week. Staff and students are encouraged to be "caught" using the word of the week. If this happens they will be given an entry form for a draw to be completed on Friday mornings during announcements (Staff draw will occur monthly).
 - Student word – jaunty (adj) – carefree; jolly
 - Staff word – perfidious (adj) – deceitful and untrustworthy
6. This week's article reminds us of the importance of sticking to research based, tried tested and true teaching methods for best results. Enjoy....

Mike Schmoker on “Whims, Fads, Opportunism, and Ideology”

In this article in *Education Week*, author/consultant Mike Schmoker says that when he donated a kidney to his sister, her doctors didn't experiment with the latest anti-rejection medicines. They gave her the best, evidence-based medicine available, and that saved her life. Schmoker believes that K-12 educators are too much in the thrall of fads that don't have a proven track record. “I'm not against small-scale educational experimentation, where new methods are tested, refined, and proved before they are widely implemented,” he says. “But I'm against our inordinate obsession with what's new at the expense of what works...” He names some popular but unproven initiatives: differentiated instruction, personalized learning, standards-based grading, the flipped classroom, student-centered learning spaces, teaching with mobile apps, gamification, “genius hours,” and Smartboard training.

So what *does* work? Which programs deserve schools' and districts' valuable and scarce resources? Schmoker names several with strong research evidence:

- Teachers constantly monitoring, checking for understanding, and making adjustments in real time, informed by feedback.
- Significantly more time spent reading and writing in subject-area classes, which boosts students' content knowledge, intellectual capacity, and academic achievement.
- A schoolwide focus on traditional instruction in reading, public speaking, and writing in every discipline (implemented with great success in New Dorp High School in New York City).
- A coherent curriculum – teacher teams mapping out exactly what will be taught in each year, course, and grading period, supported by effective instructional materials and assessments.

“Perhaps the most promising fact about the best-evidence-based practices is that they are currently the least implemented,” says Schmoker. “Because of that, their use would have a swift and substantial impact in thousands of schools and on millions of students... We have a pretty stark choice: We can either implement the best we know or continue to treat students and teachers like lab rats. It's time for education to make the leap to a more authentic professionalism – by giving innovation its due, but never letting it supplant or precede those practices that would produce ‘stunningly powerful consequences’ [Michael Fullan] in our schools and the lives of students.”

“Why I'm Against Innovation in Education” by Mike Schmoker in *Education Week*, May 2, 2018 (Vol. 37, #29, p. 18-19), <https://bit.ly/2KHobjl>; Schmoker can be reached at schmoker@futureone.com.

Important Dates 2017-2018

May

14	Assembly – Marian Celebration
15	Gr. 9 Immunizations
16	Friday's Schedule
16	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
17	PARTY Program- 9 Rus
18	PD Day
21	No School
22	Grade 7 Reg. Field trip to Elkwater
23	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
25	Disney Day
25	Grade 9 Practice Math PAT- period 1-3
25	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
28	Assembly
31	World No Tobacco Day

June

1	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
4	Parent Council Meeting 6:30 PM in the Library
5	Social 9 Field test 9:00 to 11:18
6	English Language Arts Part B Field Test 9:00 11:18
6	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
7	Friday's Schedule
7	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
7	St. Mary's Dance 6:00-9:30 PM
8	PD Day
11	Assembly
11	Rehearsal for the Spring Show
12	Spring Show at the College
13	School Mass 10:00 AM – Holy Family Parish
15	Neon/80's Day
15	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
17	Father's Day
20	Grade 9 French Language Arts Achievement Part B Exam
20	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
21	Year End Picnic (tentative)
22	Grade 9 Farewell
25	Grade 9 Social Achievement Exam
26	Grade 9 English Language Arts Achievement Part B Exam
26	Grade 6 Orientation 1:00 pm
27	Grade 9 Math Achievement Exam
28	Grade 9 Science Achievement Exam
29	Last Day for Teachers