

ACTION ALERT

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Assembly Bill 4597 passed in the Assembly Budget Committee last Thursday. Now it is time to turn our attention to the bigger picture, and so, once again, we are asking for your help.

The two bills now need to be posted for a vote before the General Assembly. We would like to see this vote happen next Monday, December 17th, because after that, the legislators will be going home for the holidays and no further voting will take place until they return in January. The bill must be posted by the head of the two houses: Senate President Stephen Sweeney (SenSweeney@njleg.org) and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (AsmCoughlin@njleg.org). Please contact these two legislators by email.

Here are the scripts to be used in your emails:

Dear Senate President Sweeney:

Last week the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee voted unanimously in favor of S3080, which would provide additional security funding for nonpublic school students. I respectfully ask that you post this bill on to the agenda for the full Senate voting session on December 17th. Thank you in advance for your support of this very important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Dear Assemblyman Coughlin:

Last week the Assembly Budget Committee, voted in favor of bill A4597, which would provide additional security funding for nonpublic school students. I respectfully ask that you post this bill to the agenda for the full Assembly voting session on December 17th. Thank you in advance for your support of this very important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Thank you for your support. From various comments they have made, the legislators are commenting on the large numbers of phone calls and emails they have received. Keep up the good work. Thank you!

Christmas At St. Mary School

On Friday, December 21st (**12:15 Dismissal - NO Aftercare**) we are having Christmas celebrations in classrooms arranged by the teachers and room parents. Times are as follows:

K to 2nd - celebrations from 10:15 am to 11:15 am with pizza at 10:30 am

3rd to 5th - celebrations from 10:30 am to 11:30 am with pizza at 10:45 am

6th to 8th - celebrations from 10:45 am to 11:45 am with pizza at 11:00 am

STUDENTS MAY WEAR JEANS or SWEATPANTS WITH A CHRISTMAS COLORED OR THEMED SHIRT. (Clothes must be modest and appropriate for school).

Any early dismissals will have to be before 10:00 am. No other early dismissals will be permitted. All students staying for celebrations must dismiss by cars/walkers or bus at 12:15 pm.

HAVE A HOLLY, GEOMETRIC CHRISTMAS!

Last week St. Mary's sixth grade students constructed "Christmas Geome-trees". First, the students researched over thirty Geometric vocabulary words. They worked in small groups to construct a Christmas tree out of these words. These decorated trees will "circle" our "parallel" hallways providing "rays" of Christmas Spirit. We hope this will strike a "chord" in our students about the importance of Geometry. Don't be a "square" or "obtuse"; see our Christmas display for yourselves and "point" to the tree that you like the best.



Picture Information

Individual Pictures Absentee/Retakes

Individual absentee/retake pictures will be taken **TUESDAY, JANUARY 8TH**. For retakes, please be sure to return your original portraits with your student on Tuesday, January 8th. For absentee pictures, please make sure your child brings in order form with payment. If you need an order form for absentee pictures, please request one from your child's teacher. Students may wear appropriate casual clothing or their school uniform.

Class Pictures

Class pictures will be taken **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9TH**. All students should wear the official winter school uniform for class pictures. **NO NUT CARDS MAY BE USED ON THIS DAY**. If Wednesday is your child's usual gym day, please have your child wear the official winter school uniform and not their gym clothes. Order forms will be sent home in communication folders on **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2ND**.

Graduation Pictures

Eighth Grade graduation pictures will be taken on Thursday, January 17th. Eighth grade students should wear the official winter school uniform. **NO NUT CARDS MAY BE USED BY EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS ON THIS DAY**. You will **NOT** receive an order form ahead of time. You will receive proofs and you will be able to order what you choose from the proofs. The absentee/retake day for graduation pictures is Thursday, February 14th.



Reminder Parents/Guardians: The deadline is quickly approaching for tuition assistance application 12/31/18.

November 13, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

For your planning and convenience, FACTS Tuition Assistance application is now available for the 2019-2020 school year. There is a \$15 application fee which will need to be paid online before submitting the application.

All applications must be completed electronically at online.factsmgt.com/aid . You will come to the home page and then be able to log on using your username and password for your FACTS account. You will then see a link that will take you to the tuition assistance application. The 2017 tax returns will be used for your application. All required documentation must be submitted for the application to be processed. **Only completed applications will be considered.** It is the responsibility of the family to supply all necessary paperwork.

The deadline for applying for tuition assistance is December 31st. If you have any questions regarding FACTS Tuition Assistance procedures please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Patricia Mancuso
Principal



Grant & Aid Assessment

FACTS Management makes quality education affordable for families by assisting schools in awarding financial aid. We work with schools to create a custom application and collect financial data so schools can make accurate award decisions based on financial need.

After completing the online application, you will need to upload or fax all required supporting documentation. Uploaded documents must be in PDF format and the size of each document must be less than 20 MB. If you are unable to upload, fax the required documents to 866.315.9264. Please **DO NOT** use your mobile device to photo copy required documents due to problems with legibility.

The following supporting documents are required to complete the application process:

- **IRS Federal Income Tax Return**, including all supporting schedules (the year of the tax return depends on the tax requirements of your school). If applicant and co-applicant file separately, we require both tax returns for the same tax year.
- Copies of **all the current year W-2 Wage and Tax Statements** for both the applicant and co-applicant. **NOTE:** If you are applying before you have received all the current year W-2 Wage and Tax Statements, please submit them as soon as they become available.
- Copies of all supporting tax documents if you have business income/loss from any of the following:
 - Business** - send Schedule(s) and Form 4562 Depreciation and Amortization
 - Farm** - send Schedule(s) and Form 4562 Depreciation and Amortization
 - Rental Property** - send Schedule(s)
 - S-Corporation** - send Schedule(s), Form 1120S (5 pages), Schedule K-1 and Form 8825
 - Partnership** - send Schedule(s), Form 1065 (5 pages), Schedule K-1 and Form 8825
 - Estates and Trusts** - send Schedule(s), Form 1041 and Schedule K-1

***IMPORTANT: If you file a tax return but do not have W-2 wages because you are self-employed, you will be required to submit a copy of your current year Federal Form 1040 Tax Return.**

- Copies of all supporting documentation for **household Non-Taxable Income** such as: Social Security Income, Welfare, Child Support, Food Stamps, Workers' Compensation, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). If you do not file a tax return, you are required to provide documentation of all income received.

*All documentation received is imaged upon receipt and then destroyed.

You may login to your FACTS user account to review the status of your application. **Please allow 2 weeks processing time from the date you provided the supporting documents before inquiring further about receipt and/or status of the uploaded or faxed documents.** Application deadlines are set by the institution awarding the scholarships. If you are applying after the deadline, please contact your school to ensure that your application will be accepted.

*A non-refundable application fee may be required before your application will be submitted.

NOTE: Award decisions are made by the institution providing the scholarship, not FACTS.

For more information, visit FACTSmgt.com/grant-and-aid



Grades K & 1 Teams (Introduction to BB)

Practices are on Sundays 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Jan. 6th, 13th, & 20th and Feb. 3rd, 10th, & 17th

Ryan Storey will be the Coordinator/head Coach for the Program and help with practices/games with all 4 Asst. Coaches.

Team 1: Asst. Coach Val Vezza

Lucas Vezza

Brayden Storey

Richard Staskin

Mason Albohn

Jonathan Corbett, Jr.

Dylan Falconi

Team 2: Asst.Coach Bonnie Chezik

Maximilian Chezik

Elena Lutz

Eric Ouedraogo

Zac Lawrence

Carlo Badagliacco

Team 3: Asst. Coach Joe Dickerson

Joseph Dickerson

Colden Anderson

Chase Anderson

Ella Beltran

Caleb Fitzgerald

Team 4: Asst. Coach Jon Mojica

Caleb Mojica

Peyton Barr

Lucas Scheiblein

Adrian Barteld

Samuel Salib

Grades 2 & 3 Teams

Practices are on Sundays 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Jan. 6th, 13th, & 20th and Feb. 3rd, 10th, & 17th

Team 1: Coach Ed Totten

Landen Totten

A.J. Trampe`

Owen Eberhardt

Payton Foley

Alexander Cunanan

Amelia DePaul

Jason Morson

Team 2: Coach Wes Franks

Neven Franks

Madison DiScienza

Madelyn Bock

Jacob Falconi

Domenic Davi

William Asquith

Jonathan Trail

Team 3: Coach Chris Atkinson

Christian Atkinson

David Francis

Christopher Rice

Daniel Salamone

Nathan Russell

Adam Simon

Team 4: Coach Adam Opanowski

Riley Opanowski

Enzo DiCicco

Alaina McGee

Daniel Green

Jagger Raubertas

Enzo Aumendo

SMS Night at the Nutcracker!
Friday, December 14th at 7:00 PM
the Grand Theatre

Williamstown Ballet Theater is offering a special discount to the students of Saint Mary School!

Students pay ONLY \$10.00 for their tickets! (Regular price \$18.00.)

Adults : \$22.00

Seniors: \$18.00

Email ticket orders to williamstownballet@gmail.com

Call or text your ticket orders to 856-304-4294

Students, Wear your SMS Spirit wear to receive a FREE ticket for our Christmas Prize Basket or Giant Nutcracker! And you may attend the back stage meet and greet with our cast members!

Proceeds from raffle tickets go toward SMS

Instagram



A QUICK-GUIDE FOR PARENTS & TEENS

Connect**Safely**

➔ What is Instagram & why do teens love it?



Instagram is a social media app used to share photos, videos and messages. Whether it's through Stories, Feed, Live, IGTV or Direct, teens use Instagram to celebrate big milestones, share everyday moments, keep in touch with friends and family, build communities of support and meet others who share their passions and interests. It runs on the Apple iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch as well as Android phones and tablets.

Is there a minimum age for Instagram? ⬅

The minimum age is 13, in compliance with the U.S. Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. Instagram doesn't ask users to specify their age, and there are many younger children who use the service, often with their parents' permission. Instagram will delete underage accounts if they're notified and can't verify that the user is over 13.

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➔ What are the risks?



Though there's nothing inherently dangerous about Instagram, the main things parents worry about are typical of all social media: mean behavior among peers, inappropriate photos or videos that can hurt a teen's reputation or attract the wrong kind of attention, overuse, and of course, privacy. Parents are also concerned that people their kids don't know can reach out to them directly. Teens can learn to manage these risks, which is why we wrote this Quick-Guide and our longer Parent's Guide to Instagram (ConnectSafely.org/Instagram).

Are there tools to protect privacy & safety on Instagram? ⬅

Yes. Teens can start by making their account private so that only people they approve can see their photos, videos and posts. There are also tools to block people and report inappropriate posts. On page two of this guide you'll find tips on how your teen can increase their privacy, block bullies and harassers, and delete offensive comments and report other people's inappropriate posts.



Make the account private.

Young teens can (and should) make their accounts private by tapping on the profile button on the bottom right (icon of a person) and then the options button on iOS or the 3 vertical dots on Android. Scroll down to Private Account and move the slider to the right. The slider will turn blue once the account is private.

Block bullies & harassers.

Teens can block anyone who is bothering them, such as repeatedly tagging them in photos they don't like or sending them a lot of direct messages or trying to engage them in a creepy conversation. A person you block can't tag you, contact you directly or mention you in comments. To block a user, go to his or her profile, tap the three dots at the top right and select Block.

Report problematic posts.

You can report other people's inappropriate photos, videos, stories, or comments – or users who violate Instagram's community guidelines. Just click on the three dots next to the username, then Report. You can also report comments by swiping left on the comment you want to report and selecting why you think it's inappropriate.

Manage comments.

Teens control who can comment on their photos and videos. In the "Comment Controls" section of the app settings, they can choose to: allow comments from everyone, people they follow and those people's followers, just the people they follow, or their followers. Teens can also remove comments entirely from their posts. On iOS, swipe left on the comment to delete it. On Android, tap the comment and hold.

Track your time on Instagram.

Like adults, teens sometimes lose track of time so Instagram now has tools to help understand and manage the time you spend on the app. You can set daily reminders to get an alert when it's time for a break, you can mute notifications and there is also a feature to let you know you're "all caught up" on what your friends and communities have posted. You can access these controls by tapping "Our Activity." At the top, you'll see a dashboard showing your average time for that app on that device. Tap any bar to see your total time for that day.

Disappearing stories.

Instagram Stories aren't necessarily private, but they do disappear after 24 hours from public viewing unless you add them to highlights. Neither teens nor adults should ever post anything that is inappropriate, harmful or that can get you into trouble, but if you just want to post something silly that won't be part of your "permanent record," Stories might be your best option.

For More Information & Help

ConnectSafely has an in-depth Parent's Guide to Instagram at ConnectSafely.org/Instagram. Instagram also has its own Privacy and Safety Center at Help.Instagram.com, along with lots more advice on how to use the app.