

January 10, 2020

Dear St. Helena Families:

Welcome to 2020! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a relaxing break with family and friends. With the start of the new year, we are adding a new way to communicate with our students & families via an updated Newsletter on our school's webpage. At least for the first few weeks, we will also be emailing a PDF version to parent emails. Please check the website for all the latest news and upcoming events.

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions!

Ellen Rian, Ed.S
Principal

Announcements

Award-Winning School

We are excited to announce that St. Helena was named a **"changing-the-odds"** school by the Great Minnesota Schools organization. St. Helena will be recognized in the 4th edition of Minneapolis School Finder, a tool to empower parents from underserved neighborhoods with information on our city's schools meant "to shine a light on schools that are doing well by students of all races, means, and origins."

In the notification, the CEO Jen Stern wrote: "Each year, we identify the schools where students from a low-income background are academically outperforming the Minneapolis Public Schools average (for all students) – and your school is among the 25 schools to do so."

We are very proud of our students and all who helped them and our school achieve this recognition.

Check the Backpack

On Monday, we will be sending home a folder full of news about events coming up. Please look for it and return the necessary items to your child's teacher.

Survey

The school and parish are conducting a survey beginning this weekend. It is just a few questions and pertains to our advancement & development work. Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

There is a link to the survey on the school's website, but if you prefer a paper copy can be provided.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week begins at Mass on Sunday, January 26th. ALL students are invited to attend and dress-down-day passes will be handed out to those students in uniform. If you would like to participate in Mass, please contact Mr. Ruble at ruble@sainthelenaschool.us A full schedule of events will be published on Monday. We have a fun week planned!

Community Reminders

Student Wellness

It is officially flu season. The flu is a respiratory disease caused by a virus that attacks the nose, throat, and lungs. It is not the same as the "stomach flu." We'd like to remind you if your student has a fever of 100 degrees or more with a cough or sore throat, please keep your student home and tell the school office about these symptoms. Your student should stay home until fever-free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication).

Winter Weather Attire

Students are outside for recess daily. If the wind-chill temperature is below zero, or if the weather is inclement (rain/lightning), students may remain indoors for this recess. Please dress your child appropriately to be outdoors every day (coat, hat, gloves, snow pants, etc.). Also, please make sure students' items are labeled.

Weather-Related School Closing Information

Just a reminder that the policy regarding school closure has changed and we now follow MPS. On snowy or frigid days listen to any local radio or television stations for information about school closings.

If Minneapolis Public Schools are closed, then St. Helena Catholic School will also be closed. You may or may not see a separate notice for St. Helena.

Uniform

Please remember that leggings for female students are to be navy blue only. Students need to be wearing shoes during the day, boots are not standard footwear.

Carline Pick-up

Student pick-up in the afternoon goes much smoother for all involved if parents stay in their cars, move all the way forward as possible. Thank you for your cooperation!

Upcoming Events

January 2020

13th: Volunteer Network Meeting 6:30 P.M.

17th: No School - Teacher Workshop

20th: No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

21st: TADS Help Session at School from 3:45 - 6:00 P.M.

24th: Middle School Science Fair

End of Second Quarter

27th: Coffee With The Principal 8:45 - 9:45 A.M.

Special Visitors' Day Mass 10:00 A.M.

31st: (K - 8) Feed My Starving Children Field Trip

February 2020

4th - 6th, and 10th, 12th - 14th: MAP Testing

10th: Volunteer Network Meeting 6:30 P.M.