

St. Michael Swords News

January 12, 2023

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*to be friendly, respectful, responsible
and Christ-like*

TCCB-ED Accreditation

As I mentioned last week, the visiting team will arrive in the late afternoon on February 7th and will give a brief final report on February 10th after dismissal. You will see the team members on campus from early morning until late afternoon. They will observe our daily operations and concentrate on five domains.

One domain they will examine is **Plant and Facilities**. This Standard reads: **The physical plant/facilities and safety practices of the school promote a safe environment conducive to student learning.** The elements of this standard are that the facilities and indoor/outdoor areas of the school are designed for their function, the school maintains a safe environment, and that the school community is informed and aware of safety practices. (This would include the fire, tornado, and lockdown drills we have.) We appreciate your cooperation this year as we have implemented new safety measures including the barricades and locked gate by the white building. Those parents who drop off and pick up at the white building, please remember to go out through that gate and not back on North Street where the junior high drivers are exiting. We are in the process of getting additional security doors and cameras and other measures to keep all of us safe.

Please remember that we will be cleaning both inside and outside each of the school buildings and family center this Saturday, January 14th and on Saturday, January 21st, if necessary. Bring dust rags, buckets, rakes, brooms, clippers, etc., whatever you think we might need. The cleanup will last from 9:00 until 1:00 both days. Students may count this towards their service hours.

Another domain the team will examine is **Catholic Identity**. This Standard reads: **The Catholic school is a unique environment which has as its primary purpose the continued formation of the Christian person. The mission and beliefs of the school shall reflect the integration of Catholic faith and Gospel values and promote a community of believers and learners. Members of the school are a community and are called to unite in prayer, to proclaim the Gospel message, and to serve others.** The elements of this domain include our mission statement, relationship with the pastor, parish, and community, opportunities for prayer, liturgy, spiritual formation, and service, and the support of the faculty and staff for the mission of the school. We appreciate the support of those of you who are able to join us for our weekly mass and/or monthly rosaries.

***Classes will not be held on Monday,
January 16th in honor of the
Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.
Please pray for the teachers on Monday
as they will participate in
a spiritual retreat.***

***Catholic Life Sweepstakes tickets are due
tomorrow! We need to get them sent to San
Antonio so we must have them tomorrow!***

***If you need more Chicken Strip Dinner tickets,
please contact the school office or Amy Brandt.
There are still a few spaces left to be filled
for this fund-raiser.***

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week 2023 begins on January 28, 2023 and ends on February 4th. More information will be sent home next week. For now, save the following dates:

Saturday, January 28th - Mass at 5:30 with Open House to follow. All students and families will be involved in the mass.

Sunday, January 29th - HSA Annual Chicken Strip Dinner begins at 10:30. Be sure to sign up to help work this service event.

Tuesday, January 31st - Many Gifts, One Nation annual twenty-four hour fund drive begins. Potluck Supper for all school families begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by a fun family event.

Look for permission slips and sign-up forms early next week. The family project will be sent either today or tomorrow.

That Man is You

That Man is You is starting its spring semester on Friday, January 20th from 6:00 – 7:30 a.m. Breakfast is included. The gathering takes place at the Schulenburg Hall with a special Lenten program included. For information or to register, call or text Mark Hudec at 713-854-1335.

Altar Servers

Thank you to the eighth graders for teaching the third graders about all the various aspects of being an altar server. Beginning this Friday, one third grader will join the list of servers for our Friday masses.

Altar servers this Friday are: Trey Silcox, Dayson Mace, Olivia Elstner, and Patrick Baggerly.

Please check your schedules for the list of servers for the weekend masses.

The Vocation crosses were with the Anders and the Hillje families this past week. On Friday, they will be sent home with the Bittner and the Jahn families.

SMCS Sports

Our SMCS basketball teams will host Nazareth Academy in our gym this evening. The first game begins at 5:00.

Next Tuesday, January 17th is \$1 dress day. Donate \$1 to the Orline Maer Scholarship Fund and you will not have to wear your school uniform that day.

Art After School begins next Tuesday, January 17th. Chess and PSIA continues next week.

Safe Environment Training

The final Safe Environment training of the 2022 – 2023 school year is on Tuesday, January 24th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Please remember that you must have this training if you want to chaperone or accompany any of your child's field trips. Call the school office to register. The training lasts about 90 minutes.

Sacred Heart Academic Fair

Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hallettsville is hosting their annual Academic Fair on February 9th from 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Students may participate in this Academic Fair whether or not they are able to participate in PSIA.

Contests at the Academic Fair include Creative Writing for grades 1 and 2 and Ready Writing for grades 5-8. (These contests are conducted here at school. All students will write according to the prompt given and the teachers will select the top three entries to send in to Sacred Heart.) There is also Written Spelling for grades 2-8, Written Math for grades 2-8, and Religion, Number Sense, Science, Social Studies, and Dictionary Skills for grades 5-8.

Please complete the form attached and return it by Thursday, January 19th.

See you all this Saturday!