

St. Michael Swords News

January 5, 2023

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

TCCB ED Accreditation Visit

Catholic Schools in the state of Texas are accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department (TCCB-ED). As part of this accreditation, schools are visited every seven years by a visiting team. The team consists of an administrator from outside our diocese, an administrator from within our diocese, and two teachers from our diocese. The SMCS faculty, staff, School Advisory Council, and I have been preparing for this visit since last April. A Self-Study has been completed and the team will come this February to verify its contents.

There are five domains in the self-study: (1) Catholic Identity, (2) Governance, Administration, and Management, (3) Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, (4) Student Services and Activities, and (5) Plant and Facilities. In the next few weeks, I will tell you more about each of these domains.

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 these five domains. They will talk to staff, students, Advisory Council members, and parents. They will complete a final report that verifies our findings in our self-study. The team does not set the accreditation status. The TCCB-ED makes this determination in May after reviewing our self-study and the team's report.

As we are gathering supporting data to verify our self-study, all that remains is to spiffy-up our school buildings and yard to present SMCS in the best possible light. We will hold two workdays in the next few weeks for additional cleaning, dusting, etc. inside the buildings, and to rake, sweep, etc. outside the buildings (weather-permitting). These workdays will be held on **January 14th** and **January 21st** from **9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** Come when you can. Please bring cleaning rags, buckets, brooms, rakes, blowers, etc. to help with our clean-up. Students may count this as their Religion service hours if they work.

HSA Corner 1/4/23

Catholic Life tickets - the final deadline to turn in all tickets is next Friday, January 13. Each ticket sale has to be recorded, so if you can turn in any sold tickets prior to the deadline it would be much appreciated!

Chicken Strip Dinner – tickets go out today. Contact Amy Brandt at 979-732-7624 if you need additional tickets. You will receive \$6 selling credit for each ticket sold. Sign-up genius for working shifts go out on Monday. Please note, this is a service project for our school and no working points will be credited, but all families are asked to work shifts.

Attached you will also find a summary of our fundraisers for the fall, as well as our spring events schedule. Please save this form for future reference on events happening this spring and selling/working opportunities.

PSIA Practice Schedule

PSIA practice begins on Monday, January 9th.

Monday – Calculator 6, 7, 8 (3:30 – 4:15)
Dictionary Skills (3:30 – 4:15)

Tuesday – Math 2,3 (3:30 – 4:00) Number Sense 2,3 (3:30 – 4:00)
Number Sense 6,7,8 (7:00 – 7:30 a.m.)
On Site Drawing (7:15 – 7:45 a.m.) Spelling 5, 6, 7, 8 (3:30 – 4:00)
Storytelling 1, 2, 3 (3:30 – 4:00)

Wednesday – Map, Graphs, & Charts 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 (7:15 – 7:45 a.m.)
Math 4, 5 (3:30 – 4:00) Math 6,7,8 (7:00 – 7:30 a.m.)
Number Sense 4, 5 (3:30 – 4:00) Poetry 5, 6, 7, 8 (3:30 – 4:00)
Spelling 2, 3, 4 (3:30 – 4:00)

Thursday – Listening Skills 4, 5,6,7,8 (3:30 – 4:00)
Science (3:25 – 4:00) Information Skills (3:25 – 4:00)

January Birthdays

Happy birthday to those celebrating birthdays in January:

9 – Mrs. Denise Delgado
18 – Gage Kainer
20 – Isabelle Prichard – Jones
23 – Hadley Brandt
24 – Justin Ohnheiser
25 – Sarah Jane Berger
25 – Hadley Wick
30 – Kelsey Wied

Classes will not be held on Monday, January 16th. Please pray for the faculty as they will participate in a faculty spiritual retreat that day.

Altar Servers

Altar servers on Friday, January 7th are Hunter Shupak, Cullen Marek, and Emily Wied.

Please check your schedule for servers for this weekends masses.

Heifer International Service Project

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to our Heifer International Christmas Service Project. Each class has chosen an animal to help purchase for families who will start their own businesses and raise incomes for their own families rather than relying on others to feed them.

The classes and amounts earned are:

Pre-K 3 has collected \$45 towards a flock of chicks that costs \$20.

Pre-K 4 has collected \$51.60 towards a cow (\$50).

Kinder has collected \$32 towards a pig (\$10).

First grade has collected \$40 towards a flock of chicks (\$20).

Second grade has collected \$62.25 towards a heifer (\$50) and a pig (\$10).

Third grade has collected \$55 towards an alpaca (\$20) and a flock of chicks (\$20).

Fourth grade has collected \$43.25 towards a heifer (\$50).

Fifth grade has collected \$20 towards a goat (\$10).

Sixth grade has collected \$50 towards two or more flocks of chicks (\$20 each).

Seventh grade has collected \$25 towards two flocks of chicks (\$20).

Eighth grade has collected \$41 towards a Hope Basket (\$50) and a heifer (\$50).

The staff who do not have a homeroom have collected \$73 towards a bee hive (\$30).

The final deadline for donations is Monday, January 9th.

SMCS Sports

The SMCs Boys “A” team is traveling to El Campo this Saturday for the St. Philip Basketball Tournament. Good luck, Swords!

Our next home basketball game is next Wednesday, January 11th against Nazareth Academy. The games begin at 5:00.

Please see the attached information for the KC Free Throw Tournament which will be held on January 24th.

Lost and Found

If your child is missing a jacket, chances are it's in our Lost and Found box. Several have been here a while and students are not claiming them. Let us know if your child is missing something.

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.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our Christmas drive-thru extra special this year. Thanks especially to Brittney Herzik and Julia Hollek for their creativity, design, inspiration, and hard work.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to our Christmas pageant this year. Thank you especially to the students for performing wonderfully!

Thank you also to everyone who brought treats for the teachers before the Christmas break! We appreciate you thinking of us!

Report cards are going home today! Please sign them and have your child return them tomorrow.

Friday, January 6th, is an early dismissal day for our monthly faculty meeting. There is no after-school care on Friday.