



12 August 2024

Monthly Newsletter



Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year!

The 2024-2025 school year has arrived, and I want to extend a warm welcome to our new students as well as a heartfelt welcome back to our returning families. Thank you for your continued support of St. Mark's.

We have so much in store for this school year! Over the summer, we rolled out our new Student Information System, Gradelink. We are excited to implement Gradelink, which will allow parents to access their child's attendance, assignments, and grades throughout the year.

I am also thrilled to introduce our new staff members and encourage you to join me in welcoming them to our SMCA community. You can learn more about them on page 3 of this newsletter.

Additionally, we are adopting a new math series this school year, GOMath, which emphasizes understanding computation fluency and real life applications.

We will be hosting a New Student Orientation on Tuesday, September 3rd from 9 to 10 a.m. We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday, September 4th for a half day (12:50 dismissal).

Thank you for being a vital part of our community!

Joyfully in Christ,

Mrs. Janette Canfield

In this edition....

Letter from the Principal

Mark Your Calendar!

School Uniforms

Food Service

Gradelink

Staff Profile Highlights

Theme of the month: New Beginnings

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. Isaiah 43:2



St. Mark Christian Academy is excited to implement *Gradelink*, our new Student Information System (SIS). *Gradelink* will allow parents to access their child's attendance, assignments, and grades throughout the school year. As a result, *Gradelink* will replace Procure for the above-mentioned applications effective September 1, 2024.

To re-enroll your child in Gradelink, please complete this process on your computer (not a mobile device) by Sunday, August 25.

Please note that Procure will continue to be used for billing.



The SMCA Parent School Organization is so important to the vitality of SMCA.

Our "PTO" aims to provide social and fundraising programs that benefit and support the students and the school.

The PTO Board is composed of volunteer parents, committed to the mission of St. Mark Christian Academy.

We are currently seeking parent volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact: nicole.ojeil@icloud.com

The logo for French Toast, featuring the words "FRENCH TOAST" in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.

FRENCH TOAST®

School Uniforms

French Toast, our St. Mark Christian Academy uniform provider, is holding a sale for Back to School. As our students grow, this would be a great time to purchase new apparel.

Reminder, all students Kindergarten and up are required to wear uniforms. This policy can be found in the Student/Parent Handbook.

<https://www.frenchtoast.com>
School Code: QS61MWU



Food Service

Our September 2024 Menu is now out. Please see our website to download a copy of it.

A new change this year:
There will be two menus this year.

Pre-K classes will be offered a menu with smaller portion sizes. We saw a lot of food waste with our younger students.

Remember: Classroom snacks are to be healthy options for students. Please refrain from sweets, cookies, candy, dessert type snacks.

Welcome our new SMCA staff!



Agnes Rudzewicz

Ms. Rudzewicz will be joining us at St. Mark's Christian Academy as our new 1st grade teacher! With more than 10 years of experience in the educational field, she is eager to inspire and teach our beautiful 1st graders. Please join us in warmly welcoming her to our family.



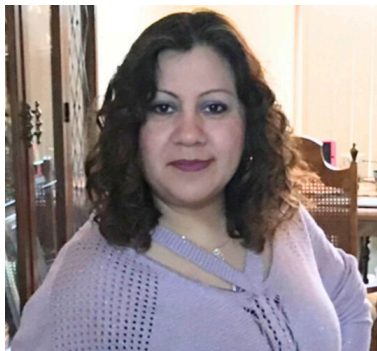
Christel Contrera

Mrs. Contrera is teaching our Physical Education classes this year! She is dedicated to teaching and improving our students' growth in activities, as well as as individuals. With more than 10 years of Physical Education experience, Mrs. Contrera will surely get our students moving. Please join us in welcoming her to our family!



Jessica Silva

Mrs. Silva will be teaching our newest grade level, 4th grade! With an educational background spanning various grade levels, she is going to be a great addition to our SMCA family. Her passion and skills for education will be wonderful assets to our school. Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Silva!



Karina Mercado

Mrs. Mercado will be joining us as our 3rd grade teacher. With 15 years of experience in education, Mrs. Mercado has worked with multiple grade levels. She will be a wonderful, dedicated teacher to our 3rd graders and is very excited to meet our students! Join us in welcoming Mrs. Mercado to our SMCA family!



Lisa Lahr

Mrs. Lahr will be a wonderful addition to our Instructional Assistant staff. With over 20 years of teaching and educational background, Ms. Lahr will guide our SMCA students and assist our teaching staff. She is excited to welcome our students and we welcome her to our SMCA family!



Tracie Perez

As a devoted professional with more than ten years administrative experience and twenty-five years in education, Ms. Perez will be our new Vice-Principal here at SMCA. She will be an amazing addition to our school and Administrative Team! Please join us in welcoming her!

SMCA Staff

Father Mark Hanna, Pastor
Janette Caulfield, Principal
Tracie Perez, Vice Principal
Laura Knaster, Dir. of Special Projects
Amber Luberto, Administrative Assistant
Mary Bolous, Lunch Room Supervisor

Minerva Issac, Pre-K3 Teacher
Christina Salib, Pre-K 4 Teacher
Poonam Gupta, Kindergarten Teacher
Agnes Rudzewicz, 1st Grade Teacher
Bridget Fry, 2nd Grade Teacher
Karina Mercado, 3rd Grade Teacher
Jessica Silva, 4th Grade Teacher

Neven Shawky, Instructional Assistant
Merritt Eskander, Instructional Assistant
Lisa Lahr, Instructional Assistant

Sister Verena Saint John the Beloved, Religion Teacher
Dina Abdelmalek, Art Teacher
Helana Ibrahim, Music Teacher
Christel Contrera, Physical Education Teacher



Mark your Calendar!

Sept. 2 Labor Day **No School**

Sept. 3 New Student

Orientation: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Sept. 4 1st Day of School

12:50 Dismissal **NO**

AFTERCARE

Sept. 4 Full Day: Aftercare Begins

Sept. 23 School Picture Day

Sept. 26 Back to School Night



Thank you for reading!



SAINT MARK
COPTIC CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

80 DAVID STREET, SOUTH RIVER, NJ 08882
