



Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Friends, and Guardians,
Peace. Weekly newsletters will be emailed each week to parents as well as posted to our school website. Monthly calendars and other important information will also be posted to our school website. Please check the website often as our most up to date information can be found there and translated into any language you need. Please ensure we have updated information in MSP as the email listed there is the email to which we will send pertinent information each week. If you do not have internet access, please call the office at 215-744-0444, and we will be sure to send home paper copies with your youngest or only child. We look forward to a great school year and welcoming your children in just a few short days. Please let us know if you have any questions in the meantime.



God Bless each of you,

Mr. Grill
Principal

Please be sure to visit our school website at:
<https://stmartinof toursphila.independencemissionschools.org/>

Here, you will find copies of our school handbook, weekly newsletters, staff lists with emails, monthly, and yearly calendars as well as many other important documents and information.



- Please click [HERE](#) to access the Student Handbook.
- Please click [HERE](#) to access school calendars.
- Please click [HERE](#) for information on CARES.
- Please click [HERE](#) for important Summer Information.

First Days of School Reminders:

NEW Students (grades 1-8) only report September 4th for a ½ day. ALL students (1-8) report September 5th for a ½ day. ALL students (1-8) report Thursday for a FULL day.

Welcome Ms. Nobles and Miss Duca!

We are excited to welcome Ms. Jennifer Nobles as our new Assistant Principal. Please see below for some information about Ms. Nobles:

Jennifer Nobles has spent over ten years working in Catholic education as both a teacher and administrator. As a teacher, she led English classrooms at untracked, honors, and Advanced Placement levels, differentiating instruction for the needs of her students in both reading and writing. As an administrator, she redesigned the school schedule to allow for better use of instructional time and increased teacher collaborative time. She also focused on improving the school community through the development of clubs, summer enrichment camps, summer service trips, and opportunities for alumnae engagement.

Jennifer believes that the best classrooms are ones in which students are encouraged to be critical, curious, and creative. She sees SMT as a school that values the whole child, where a student's personal development is just as important as his or her academic success. She is also proud of the way that the diversity of SMT strengthens the community.

Jennifer earned her Instructional II teaching certificate in English 7-12. She also has a Masters in English Literature and is currently pursuing a Master of Liberal Arts with a concentration in Diversity and Inclusivity from University of Pennsylvania.

We also welcome Miss Maria Duca as our new PreK4 teacher. Please see below for a message from Miss Duca:

My name is Maria Duca. I was born and raised in South Philadelphia. I am so excited to be teaching Pre-K 4 this year at St. Martin of Tours! I am a graduate of Temple University with a dual degree in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. In addition to teaching, I have also worked with children in other jobs. Throughout my summers in college, I was a camp counselor with the Philadelphia Department of Recreation, a teacher's assistant at a daycare center, and a camp leader at the Academy of Natural Sciences. When I'm not teaching, I love to visit the shore, watch my favorite Philly teams play, and spend time with my family and friends. I'm looking forward to a great year!

REPEAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

School Day Starting Hours

School doors will not open for students until 7:40AM each morning. Students arriving before 7:40AM will not be permitted in the school building unless paying for, and attending, morning CARES (which begins at 7AM). Breakfast is served from 7:40-7:55 each morning. If you would like your child to receive breakfast, he/she needs to arrive before 7:50AM to have enough time to eat and be ready before the first bell rings. Any student arriving after 7:55AM will be considered late.

Pretzels

Grades PK-8 If you would like your child/ren to receive a pretzel, simply put the money in an envelope with your child's name and grade on the envelope labeled pretzels, return it to their homeroom teacher on time, and they will receive a pretzel.



Bussing

Bus routes are being finalized as we speak. You will hear from Sue Kedra about your child's route. Please be mindful that this is a process and takes some time. The School District of Philadelphia is very large and they have lots to figure out. This is a process so please be patient we this is all figured out on our end.

Car Line:

The Morning Drop Off Procedure for Grades 1 to 8 begins on Wednesday, September 5, Kindergarten & PreK on Monday, September 10. The procedure is as follows:

Cars enter the parking lot through the lane closest to the school building. Teachers and students help children out of the car. **Parents, please do NOT exit your cars. It is important that we keep the car line moving.** We will help the younger children get to their destinations. Cars exit the parking lot via the middle lane and turn right onto Loretto Avenue. Please do not go left because it backs up traffic in the parking lot as well as on Loretto Avenue. Please help us to keep everyone safe, especially the children. A more detailed document showing this can be found [HERE](#).

Attendance Matters:

Students **must be in the school doors by 7:55AM**. Any student not in school by 7:55AM will be marked late. Next steps will be issued to parents to students who are frequently late for school. It is vital that students are in school to receive their instruction during the entire school day. Therefore, **no students will be permitted to be picked up from school after 2:00PM without a doctor's note**. Frequent early

pick-ups will be tracked and parents will be notified of next steps if needed. **Students should only be picked up early from school for unavoidable emergencies.**

Healthy Snacks:



Only healthy snacks are permitted in school for students. Due to allergies and high sugar intake, no cupcakes, brownies, cakes, etc. are permitted to be sent into school. This also includes birthdays. Any unhealthy snacks will be sent back home with students and not distributed.

**School Tuition is due the 15th of each month!
Please ensure your payments are on time!**

Quote of the Week:
Peace begins with a smile.
-Mother Teresa

Student Safety:

The safety of our students and staff is utmost priority. Please ensure that you **bring proper photo identification when entering our school building**. All visitors will be asked for photo ID as well as parents/guardians who are picking up children from school. All visitors and parents will be asked to sign in when entering SMT. Please also remove sunglasses and hats when buzzing in at the main doors before entry. Please also ensure your emergency contact form includes all the latest information. No students will be released to an adult who is not on the emergency contact list. We will need permission from the parent/guardian for any child leaving who is not being picked up by a named emergency contact

A Glimpse at the Days Ahead



September

9/4 - School Opens- New students only; 12pm dismissal PK & K Parent Conferences (AM)

9/5-School Opens- ALL students; 12pm dismissal PK and K Parent Conferences (AM)

9/6- First FULL Day of School 1st-8th Gr.;PK & K Open House 8-11AM

9/7- PK & Kindergarten Begin 8:15- 12pm; FULL DAY 1st-8th Gr. Music Demo Gr. 2-8 @ 9 & 10AM

9/10 -PreK and K FULL Days Begin; Breakfast and Hot Lunch Begin; CARES begins PK-8

9/14 - Back to School Mass @ 8:30AM

9/15 - Villanova Day of Service at SMT; Tuition due

9/19 - Back to School Night 1st-8th Grade 6:-8PM

9/25 - School Pictures

9/26 - Pretzel Money for October due \$11.50 (send in an envelope with child's name & room #)

9/28 - Faculty/Staff PD 12pm Dismissal

Click [HERE](#) for September calendar.