



September 10, 2021

Dear Old Mission School Parents,

We have had a great start to our Walkathon so far. Students have raised over \$17,000 already and sponsorships are also coming in well. The fifth-grade class is in the lead for pledges raised so far. You can track progress on Pledgestar; there is a link on our [website](#). It looks like I'd better shop for my uniforms! We had our first Falcon Games competition to get us motivated to keep raising those pledges. The winners in each bracket today were as follows: 2nd grade, 4th grade, 7G, 8B. Congratulations!

Last year students and sponsors raised over \$80,000, well in excess of our Walkathon goal. This year our goal is \$60,000. To meet that goal, we ask each student to raise \$200 in pledges before the event which will be held on October 29th. Be sure to enter your child's size for a Walkathon t-shirt on Pledgestar when you register. If our school raises \$50,000, the teachers will come in uniform while students receive a free dress day, and, if we reach the \$80,000 mark, I myself will dress in uniform for the entirety of trimester 2 (except on free dress days). Thank you in advance for helping support your school and bridge the gap between tuition and the cost to educate our students!

As we continue to do our best to provide an excellent education for our students, we have made a couple of changes to our schedule in middle school to maximize our instructional time. Students in sixth through eighth grades have block schedules on Wednesdays and Thursdays to provide longer classes for projects, experiments/labs, design builds, assessments, and other other instructional activities that aren't possible in a 40 minute period. We have also blocked the minimum days to ensure an hour of instruction and learning for each of the classes held on minimum days. This allows us to maximize that time and provides opportunities for deeper learning and assessments. Please be sure your child is present in class so they do not miss instruction and exams that will be difficult to make up.

STAR testing begins next week. While students are taking one reading and one math exam during our testing windows (fall, winter, and spring), we typically have a two-week window in which to administer these tests and any make-up tests for students who may be absent. Please encourage your children to do their very best as the data we collect on these tests helps inform our instruction toward greater learning for all students. We use the data to develop goals and strategies for each student's success.

Attached you will find the order form for our Parent Club-sponsored Pizza Mondays which begin September 20th. Please return the form and payment by next Thursday, September 16th. Thank you!

**Upcoming events:**

September 13-24	STAR Testing
September 27	Diocesan Prof. Dev. Day, no school
September 29	Mid-trimester 1
September 30	Picture Day
October 1	First Fri. Birthdays, Minimum Day dismissal
October 4	Feast of St. Francis, Blessing of the Animals



Have a great weekend.

-Shirley Gray

The Old Mission Catholic School community is dedicated to the development of socially responsible citizens who are spiritually enriched, academically empowered, and morally accountable for their actions.