



September 24, 2021

Dear Old Mission School Parents,

Happy Autumn!

Our students are continuing to have great success in raising pledges for our Walkathon! Students have raised over \$44,000 already, so we are more than two-thirds of the way to our goal! We have had 140 out of our 299 students raise pledges so far, which is 46% of our student body. We would love to see 100% participation.

A BIG “thank you” to Caiden Marsalek, Joey Villa, and Micah Hoffman who have been doing a great job running our Falcon Games and getting our students motivated to go raise those pledges! The Falcon Games competition winners today in each bracket were as follows: first grade, fourth grade, 7B, and 8G. Congratulations!

Just in case you haven’t logged in to Pledgestar, here is the [link](#). Thank you in advance for helping support your school and bridge the gap between tuition and the cost to educate our students!

This Monday is a day off for students as teachers participate in a professional development day. The morning will focus on faith formation and catechetical training for teachers and the afternoon will be spent beginning committee work on our accreditation self-study. While the self-study includes an introduction, a chapter on the context of the school (profile, history, prior accreditation findings, etc.), and an action plan, the bulk of the work focuses on chapter three which reviews the quality of the school program in eight areas: Catholic Identity, Defining the School’s Purpose, Organization for Student Learning, Data Analysis and Action, Clearly Defined SLEs and Curriculum Standards, Instructional Methodology, Support for Student Spiritual, Personal, and Academic Growth, and Resource Management and Development. All areas are reviewed and discussed to evaluate to what extent they contribute to “High Achievement by All Students”. Teachers and staff each work on two committees for evaluation while all contribute input to the committees. We will also solicit representation of other shareholders in our evaluation process; some of that input will come through the surveys we send out.

While our Mission, Philosophy, and SLEs are published in several places, the Parent/Student Handbook is the most readily available. I’ve attached them for your review as part of the self-study process and in anticipation of a couple of additional forthcoming surveys. The faculty reviewed and made very slight adjustments to the Mission Statement in conjunction with our Graduate Profile development. I’ve attached the Graduate Profile poster as well which was developed with the SLEs in mind.

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.

One week from Monday we will celebrate one of our favorite traditions on the Feast of St. Francis, October 4th--Blessing of the Animals! Last year students brought photos or pictures to represent their animals/pets for the blessing. This year we are able to bring actual pets. Please note, all pets must be leashed or contained, and no hooved animals are allowed. MCP is generously allowing us to use their field and we must be respectful guests and pick up after our furry friends. All will be masked as this is typically a pretty large gathering. Parents must accompany and bring home pets immediately following the blessing. We will assemble at 8:15 on the MCP field and should finish by 8:30/8:40 or so. Once again, there is NO parking in the drop-off zone; rather park on surrounding streets not requiring permits or in the parking structure on Palm. This is a student and teacher favorite! We are so happy to be able to continue this celebration.

Speaking of St. Francis, thank you to our first-grade class for holding the St. Francis Towel Drive service project to benefit shelter pets. They have been collecting clean, gently used towels which will be donated in honor of St. Francis. The collection continues through next Friday, October 1st.

We have a few after school pick-up reminders. Please do not arrive early. If you do, please park a few blocks away and only pull up to school at your assigned pick-up time. Also please stay in your cars during pick-up. Finally, please pull forward once someone in front of you leaves. All of these will help ease the dismissal and student pick-up process.

Please support our Parent Club [September Dinner To Go](#) from Milestone Tavern. Tacos are on the menu! **All orders are due by TODAY- September 24th for a September 29th pick-up.**

Upcoming events:

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
Oct. 17-23	Character Counts Week
October 29	Walkathon

Have a great weekend.

-Shirley Gray