



Middle School

Q & A

Here are some common questions for parents who are new to St. Marys Catholic Middle School

Q: Is there a summer reading program?

A: For the summer of 2025, there will be a grade 6-12 family reading program for students at ECCHS and SMCMS. Materials were distributed to current students prior to the end of the school year. Information on the program and a link to the summer reading website are in the weekly e-folders. Students transferring into ECCSS are not expected to participate in the summer reading program, but are welcome to join. Contact the office if you would like a copy of the book.

Q: Will the MS students be having some type of orientation?

A: There will be an Open School opportunity for parents and students to visit the school. The Beginning of the Year Open House for Middle School will be on Sunday, August 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. On the first day of school, all of the students will receive a thorough orientation of where everything is located in the MS/HS building. If parents have questions about their transition to middle school, they are welcome to contact Mr. Schneider over the summer at schneiderj@eccss.org

Q: When does school begin?

A: School will start for the 2025-26 school year on Thursday, August 21. The school day will begin at 7:40 a.m. with prayers and announcements. Bus riders will be dismissed at 2:22 p.m., all other students will be dismissed at 2:25 p.m.

Q: Where do MS students enter school in the morning?

A: MS students will enter using the center doors. Those doors serve as the central entry point for Middle and High School Students

Q: Where do students report on the first day?

A: Students should report to their homeroom on the first day. The student's homeroom assignment will be printed on the schedule they will receive on Information Night in August.

Q: If my child rides a St. Marys bus, how does that work?

If you have any other questions...please email them to schneiderj@eccss.org and I will try to respond to them prior to the start of the school year.

A: Bus students are typically transported to St. Marys Area High School, when they arrive there, they will transfer onto bus 88 or 97, which will bring them to SMCMS (busses are subject to change)

Q: Where do I pick up my child at the end of the day?

A: MS parents are asked to park in the cafeteria parking lot to pick up middle school students. Information on traffic alignment and patterns will be sent home in the back-to-school packet in August.

Q: Will MS students have lockers?

A: Yes, MS students will have lockers, students will receive their lockers and locks on the first day of school. Parents should not purchase a combination lock. Middle school students may purchase decorative or organization items for their lockers. Students frequently place additional shelves in their lockers, incoming students DO NOT NEED TO PURCHASE THESE SHELVES as we have an ample supply of shelves on hand.

Q: Do MS students need to purchase a lock for their locker?

A: No. Students must use the school issued lock they receive on the first day of school. Homeroom teachers will distribute the locks. Lockers must be kept locked at all times. If a student loses his/her lock, the student will need to replace the lock at a cost of \$5. If a child forgets his/her combination, the homeroom teacher will have that information.

Q: Should students keep valuables in their lockers or should students share their locker combination, even with my close friends?

A: The answer to both questions is NO. Valuables should not be left unattended in student lockers. Combinations to lockers should not be shared with anyone....that often leads to locks being taken or items inside lockers being moved or stolen. Remember many areas of the school are used evenings and weekends.

Q: Can Middle School students carry backpacks/book bags?

A: Middle School students are permitted to carry backpacks during the school day. Students are also permitted to go to their lockers between classes, so they can exchange books. The best choice for a student is to plan on stopping at his/her locker to exchange books every 2 or 3 class periods. Also good times to exchange books would be during study hall or before or after lunch.

Q: If my child has Phys. Ed. that day, does he/she wear gym clothes to school?

A: That depends.....If the student has Phys. Ed. first period in the morning, they may wear their gym clothes to school then change into their school uniform following class. If they have

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Phys. Ed. later in the day, they must wear their school uniform and change into their gym uniform when they have class.

Q: What is the school's policy concerning cell phones and smart watches.

A: Students may have cell phones, but they must be turned off from the start of the school day; 7:40 a.m. - until the end of the school day, 2:25 p.m. Smart watches may be used as long as the student's cell phone is turned off, which disables the connection to the phone.

Q: Is my child going to receive a weekly folder in middle school?

A: Yes. We are going to make every effort to send home information via E-folder only. The only items we will send home via paper folders are those that cannot be sent home electronically. When that happens, there will be a note in the E-folder instructing you to check for paper folder items. As in the past, the paper folder must be sent back into school. You will receive an email reminder each week with a link to the E-folder.

Q: Will I be able to access my child's grades online?

A: Yes, parents will have access to their child's grades. Current ECCSS parents can continue to use their same login information. Parents new to ECCSS will receive information on how to activate their Plus Portals account at the beginning of the new school year.

Q: Do the middle and high school students have much interaction?

A: The interaction between the middle and high school students is very limited within the context of the school day. In addition to using different parts of the building, the middle school runs its own class schedule, has its own restrooms and locker rooms, and eats lunch at a different time than the high school students. The library is a shared area, but all other academic spaces are separate. The main office is also shared between the two schools.

Q: Will my child be in class with the same students all day? Will they just have the 6th grade teachers?

A: No and No. Homerooms in the middle school serve as "home-base" for the students at the beginning and end of day and at other times. Students will be mixed with other sixth grade students in their classes. Students will have several different teachers throughout the day, not just those teachers who have 6th grade homerooms.