

The background features several decorative elements: a light blue circle at the top left, a dark blue circle at the top right, a small light blue circle at the top right, a dark blue circle on the right side, a light blue arc on the right side, a dark blue arc on the right side, a light blue circle at the bottom left, a dark blue circle at the bottom left, a dark blue circle at the bottom right, and a light blue arc at the bottom left.

St. Monica

Back to School Guide

2023-24



stmonicaschool.org

Welcome

Dear St. Monica Families,

Welcome St. Monica Bearcats to the 2023-24 school year! This is going to be an amazing year. I am excited to meet the students and hear all about their summer adventures. I am also looking forward to working with the amazing faculty and staff at St. Monica Catholic School.

It is an honor to serve as the principal. It is also a great privilege to be a part of a community where parents, teachers, and students care for each other and strive to build positive relationships. The entire St. Monica community is committed to providing the best educational experience possible for your child. I know St. Monica has a faculty and staff that is dedicated to helping every child grow and succeed academically, socially, and spiritually- working together to form saints and scholars.

This is going to be a wonderful year, filled with lots of new excitement. I encourage all of you to make the most of the many different opportunities and resources that St. Monica has to offer. At St. Monica, we believe in the power of education to change students' lives. I am committed to working with the students, teachers, and parents. I encourage parents to keep open lines of communication with all of us at St. Monica Catholic School. We know that education is a partnership and by working together, we can ensure the success and well-being of our students.

God Bless and Go Bearcats!

Stephanie Garza, Principal



**ST. MONICA
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

UNITED IN FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE...
SIEMPRE ADELANTE-ALWAYS FORWARD
LEARN BELIEVE SERVE ACHIEVE

Dates to Remember

Fri., Aug. 11th

New Family Orientation*

Pre-K: 9 AM - Family Center

K-8: 10 AM - Family Center

***Parents and students attend**

Meet the Teacher***

12-2 PM: Classrooms

****6th-8th Chromebook pick up**

Back to School Nights

Mark your calendars for our Back to School Nights to learn more about the upcoming school year.

These nights are for parents only.

Mon., Aug. 14th

8AM Welcome Back Mass

After Mass Coffee - Family Center

Sat., Aug. 19th

Back to School Picnic

6-9 PM - Dave Gross Field

Mon., Aug. 21st

Pre-K3 - DK

6:30 PM-8 PM

Tues., Aug. 22nd

Kinder - 2nd Grade

6:30 PM-8 PM

First All School Mass

Tues., Aug. 15th

Grades K-8th

9:45 AM

Wed., Aug. 23rd

3rd - 5th Grade

6:30 PM-8 PM

Weekly Mass Begins

Mon., Aug. 21st

Grades K-2nd

8 AM

Thurs., Aug. 24th

6th - 8th Grade

6:30 PM-9 PM

Tues., Aug. 22nd

Grades 3rd-5th

8 AM

Fall School Pictures*

Wed., Aug. 23rd

4th - 8th Grade

Fri., Aug. 25th

Grades 6th-8th

8 AM

Thurs., Aug. 24th

Pre-K - 3rd Grade

***Students are required to wear uniforms for Fall pictures**



General Information

School Hours

Pre-K

7:50 AM – 2:45 PM

Kindergarten-4th

7:50 AM – 3:05 PM

5th-8th

7:50 AM – 3:25 PM

Early Dismissal

Pre-K

11:45 AM

Lower School* (K-4th)

12:05 PM

Upper School* (5th-8th)

12:25 PM

*No lunch is served for
K-8th grade students

Lunch Program K-8

Students have the option to bring their lunch or purchase lunch from our food service vendor, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. Please [click here](#) to get more information about our lunch program.

Late Arrival

Procedures

Tardies will be marked for students that arrive after 7:50 AM. Gates will close at 7:50 AM. For Pre-K-8 if you arrive after 7:50 AM, your student will need to enter through McManus. For the safety of our students, please do not drop them off behind McManus after the gates are closed.

Early Release Procedures

All early release notes should be emailed to

attendance@stmonicaschool.org

and the student's homeroom teacher. K-8 students must be picked up before 2:30 PM in McManus. Pre-K students must be picked up before 2 PM in McManus.

Absence Notification

Regular attendance is an important component to the success of your child's school learning experience. Absences must be reported by email to attendance@stmonicaschool.org on or before 8:45 AM.

School Clinic Info

Patricia Rodriguez R.N., - prodriguez@stmonicaschool.org

The clinic is located in C-wing near the playground.

Services provided by the clinic include first aid, managing medical emergencies, administration of prescribed medication, and monitoring ill students until a parent arrives to pick them up.

All forms can be found under the "Parents" tab and downloaded from the school website.

- Asthma Action Plan or Allergy Action Plan: If your child has Asthma or a severe Allergy (food, insects, etc.) an Asthma or Allergy Action Plan must be completed by your physician and submitted to the clinic along with the prescribed medication and the Medication Request Form.
- The Diocese of Dallas Health History
- Immunization Requirements for the current school year. The immunization record provided by your physician is an acceptable substitute. As required by the Texas Department of Health, immunizations must be current for your child to attend class.
- Documenting History of Illness: Varicella (Chickenpox) this form should be submitted only if your child had Chickenpox disease.
- Medication Permit Form – This form is to be submitted if your child will be taking a prescription medication at school. This form requires both parent and physician signatures.

We can administer Over the Counter (OTC) Medications (Advil, Tylenol, etc.). The permission form is not available online. Contact the Nurse if you need a copy of the form. OTC medication must be in the original container. Please send the smallest bottle available, storage space in the clinic is limited.

Please see handbook for additional information.

General Information

After School Care Program

St. Monica offers an optional After School Care Program on days when school is in session except for the last day of school. The After School Care Program is offered at an additional cost to students who are registered in St. Monica After School Care Program for Pre-K through 8th grades. Drop-in care is not available and families must register each student that will be using the program. There is a \$25 registration fee per student. The program coordinator is on-site and available to staff, children, and parents. [Click Here to Learn More](#)

Questions? Lisa Bell, After School Care Program Coordinator
lbell@stmonicaschool.org

Steffany Montpas, After School Care Program Billing
smontpas@stmonicaschool.org

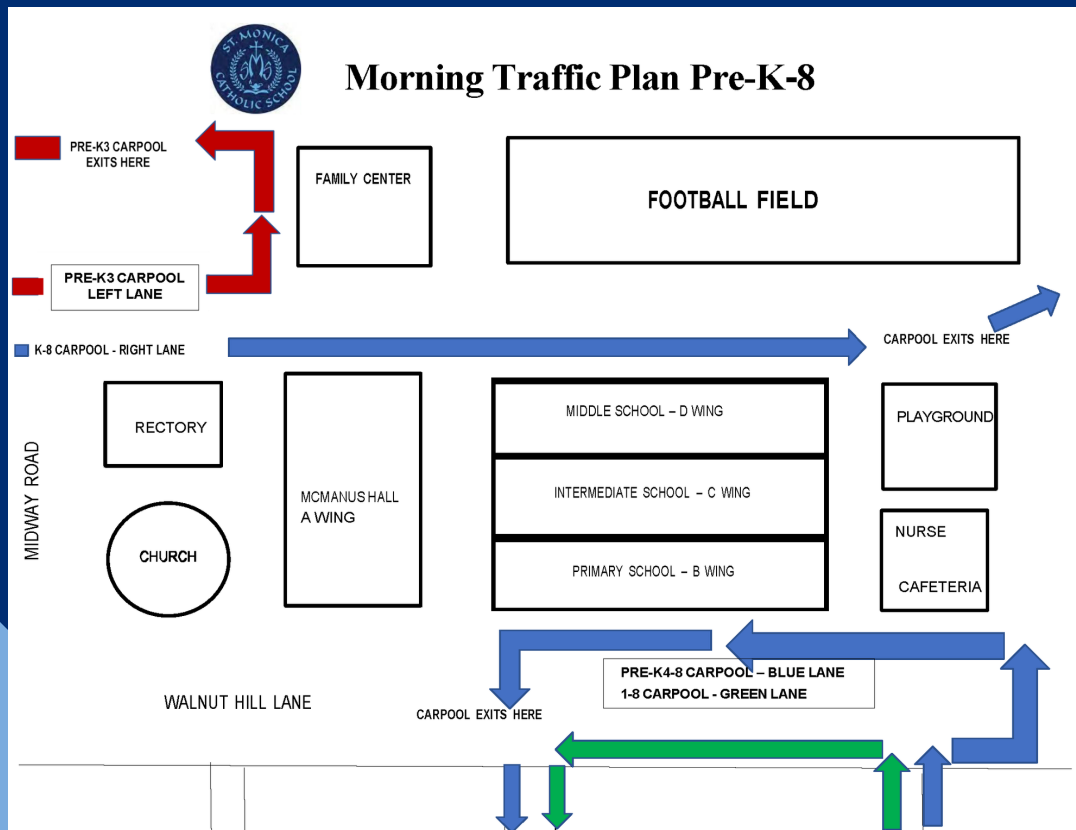
Safe Environment

In compliance with our Diocese, St. Monica has a comprehensive Safe Environment Plan in place for our volunteers. In order to volunteer, you are required to be Safe Environment cleared. More information about our Safe Environment Program can be found [here](#). If you are a new family to St. Monica, please make sure to visit the Parents tab on the school website. The process for new families takes a little longer and should be started before school begins. Safe Environment badges must be worn on school premises at all times. Please know that for the safety of our students this policy is strictly enforced. All Safe Environment badges from the previous school year expire on August 31st.

Questions?? safeenvironment@stmonicachurch.org



Carpool



Early Arrival Times*:

Pre-K: 7:00-7:30 AM

K-8: 7:00-7:30 AM

**Pre-K3 must be walked into the Family Center*

**Pre-K4 & DK must be walked into Mrs. Krause's room through McManus*

**K-8 will wait in the cafeteria until they are dismissed to classrooms*

Morning Carpool:

Arrival Times:

Pre-K4 & DK: ONLY use the Walnut Hill Entrance

Grades K - 8th use the Walnut Hill Lane or Midway Entrance

K-8: 7:30-7:50 AM

PK: 7:30-7:50 AM

Pre-K3 use the Midway Road Entrance Form One Line (*stay to the left*). Pull up to Double Doors (*facing Midway*)

Afternoon Carpool:

Grades K- 8th:

Last Name A-L (use the Midway entrance, form 2 lines, & line closest to the school)

Last Name M-Z (use the Midway entrance, form 2 lines, & line closest to the field)

***Siblings will dismiss at the specified time for their oldest sibling.**

Pre-K will dismiss from the east side of the Family Center for afternoon dismissal.

Early Dismissal Times:

Pre-K: 11:45 AM

K-4: 12:05 PM*

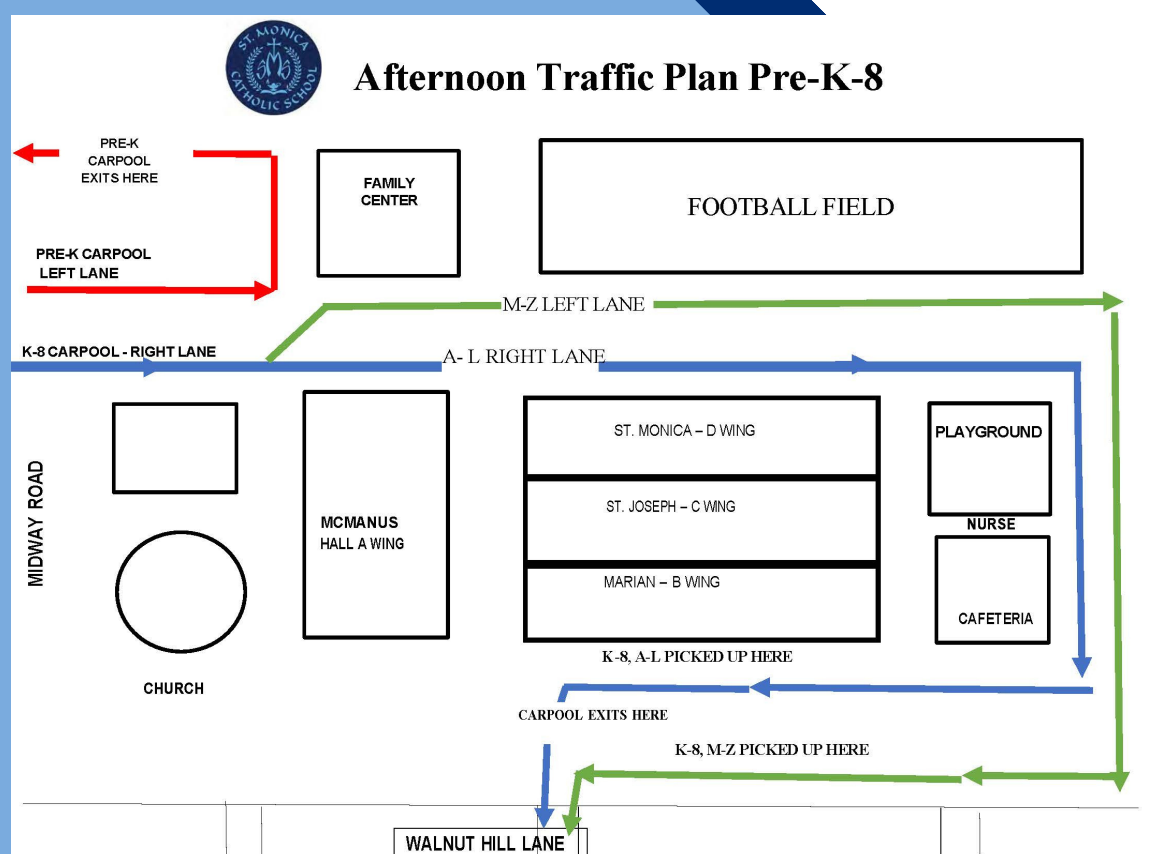
5-8: 12:25 PM*

Regular Dismissal Times:

Pre-K: 2:45 PM

K-4: 3:05 PM*

5-8: 3:25 PM*



Communications

Be In The Know...

FACTS

St. Monica utilizes FACTS/Family Portal to communicate to you about your student. In FACTS/Family Portal you can:

- Access and update the school-wide directory
- See your school tuition/fee account information
- Check your student's grades

Bearcat Byte

On Fridays, you will receive the school's weekly e-newsletter called "Bearcat Byte" and the Archived Bearcat Bytes can be found under "Quicklinks" on the school website.

Emails

You may receive email reminders from your teachers & homeroom parents for volunteer opportunities, upcoming events, or changes in already scheduled events. Please check your email regularly & keep your contact information in the FACTS/Family Portal up to date.

Parent Alert

Our Parent Alert system sends text messages directly to your phone. Parent Alert is for emergency purposes, including severe weather alerts, changes in carpool, or any urgent communications.

We're Social – Follow Us



[@stmonicacatholicschool](#)



[@stmonicaschooldallas](#)



[@stmonicabearcat](#)



[@stmonicacatholicschooldallas](#)

Need More Information??

Catherine Hull
Director of Communications
chull@stmonicaschool.org
214-351-5688 Ext. 5174


Sally Wengierski
Manager of Tuition & Budget
swengierski@stmonicaschool.org
214-351-5688 Ext. 5178

Calendars

Perpetual Calendar

[Click here for Perpetual Calendar](#)

School St. Monica Catholic School
Angeline Trudell
CSO Approval *Veronica Mayo*



2023-2024

JULY 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

AUGUST 2023

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SEPTEMBER 2023

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

OCTOBER 2023

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29	30	31				

NOVEMBER 2023

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DECEMBER 2023

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JANUARY 2024

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FEBRUARY 2024

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25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH 2024

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31						

APRIL 2024

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MAY 2024

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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JUNE 2024

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22

Calendar Key

Faculty In-Service Day	Start of Quarter
First Day of Instruction	Early Dismissal In-service Afternoon
Other (define)	Holiday/No Class
Inclement Weather Day	Last Day of Instruction

August
August 7-10 Faculty Inservice week
August 9 Back to School Kick-Off & Educator Commissioning
August 14 1st Day of Instruction
September
September 4 Labor Day Holiday
September 11-15 Virtus Lessons 7-8
September 29 Early Dismissal Fair
October
October 9-13 Standardized Testing
October 13 Early Dismissal
October 16 Start of Quarter 2
October 19 Early Dismissal
October 19 Parent Conferences
October 20 No School Parent Conferences
November
November 20-23 Thanksgiving Holiday
December
December 21- January 3 Christmas Holiday
January
January 4-5 Faculty Inservice
January 15 MLK Day Martin
January 16 Quarter 3 Begins
February
February 19 Parent Conference day
March
March 11-15 Spring Break
March 25 Quarter 4 Begins
March 28-29 Easter Break
March 31 Easter Sunday
April
April 1 Easter Break
May
May 24 Graduation
May 27 Memorial Day
May 31 Last Day of Instruction
June
June 3 Faculty Inservice Day

...xx... In the event of inclement weather, our school will implement e-learning protocols.

Total Number of Instructional Days 180

Total Number of In-service Days 10

Mass Times**
for Students
Mondays @ 8 AM*
Kinder-2nd grade
Tuesdays @ 8 AM
3rd-5th grade
Fridays @ 8AM
6th-8th grade
All School Masses
will be listed on the
School Calendar
* Pre-K will attend on
Mondays later in the year.

** Any changes to the Mass
schedule will be noted on the
school calendar or in the
Bearcat Byte.

Events Calendar

Our Google Calendar can be found on the home page of
stmonicaschool.org
[Click here](#) for the link to subscribe to our calendar.

Calendar

Today

< > August 2023

🔍 ? ⚙️ Month

SUN 30	MON 31	TUE Aug 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Meet the Teacher New Family Orientation	12
13	14 First Day of School	15 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin I	16	17	18	19 Back to School Picnic
20	21 6:30pm Preschool Back to School Nig	22 6:30pm K-2nd Back to School Night	23 4th-8th Grade Fall School Pictures 6:30pm 3rd-5th Back to School Night	24 Pre-K - 3rd Grade Fall School Pictures 6:30pm 6th-8th Back to School Night	25	26
27 Feast of St. Monica	28	29	30	31	Sep 1	2

Bearcat Athletics

Daniel Neves, Athletic Director-dneves@stmonicaschool.org

St. Monica competes in the Dallas Parochial League (*DPL*) with 29 other Catholic Middle Schools in DFW and participates in athletics throughout the calendar school year for those students in 5th-8th Grades.

Students in 5-8 grades who would like to participate in athletics at SMS need to do the following:

- 1. Register for your sport and pay the fee on the [SMS Athletics page](#).
- 2. Complete the [Athletic Physical Form](#).
- 3. Pass all classes in order to participate in athletics per SMS and DPL policies.

St. Monica Sports

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Football
- Futsal
- Golf
- Soccer
- Softball
- Track & Field
- Volleyball

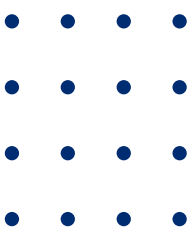
VOLUNTEERS??

Just a reminder volunteers are needed for every home game. This includes basketball, football, futsal, and volleyball. Want to help out?
dneves@stmonicschool.org



Want to Coach??

It is mandatory for coaches to attend the DPL sponsored “[Play Like a Champion](#)” workshop before they are permitted to coach. To sign-up for the coaching workshop you must email Daniel Neves, SMS Athletic Director.



Parent Involvement

Community

St. Monica is blessed to have a very active parent community. We have two organizations for parents and all you have to do is show up and participate. For families new to our community, volunteering with these organizations will really give you a sense of what St. Monica is all about.

Parent Teacher Organization

The PTO is committed to providing programs carefully coordinated in a close partnership with the school and our over 400 parent and community volunteers. To learn more go to the [PTO Website](#). All parents & staff at St. Monica Catholic School, are members. Meetings are usually on the 1st Thursday of every month (*Sept.-May*) in the Family Center Upper Lounge.

Dads' Club

Each year St. Monica Dads' Club leads the charge for fundraising, sweat equity, and many other events that support the community and school. To learn more go to the [Dads' Club Website](#). If you're a dad, you're in the club. Meetings are usually held on the 2nd Thursday of every month (*Aug.-May*) at SparkmanClubhouse.

Want to Volunteer?

The PTO and Dads' Club are always looking for moms and dads to serve as committee chairs or help out with committees.



Michelle Delaurier
PTO President
colad@me.com



Jeremy Roden
Dads' Club
President
jeremy@rodenguitars.com

Dates to Remember

Thurs., Aug. 17th
1st Dads' Club Meeting

Sat., Aug. 19th
Back to School Picnic

Thurs., Sept. 7th
1st PTO Meeting

Sun., Oct. 1st
Spaghetti Dinner

Sat., Oct. 14th
Autumnfest

Thurs., Nov. 30th
Christmas Market

Spring 2024
Dads' Club Gala