

April 22, 2019
Easter Monday

Dear Parents of St. Mary's School,

We are proud of our school community—sustained by faith, growing in knowledge, and infused with love. We've been here for 90 years and we're looking forward to the next 90.

To help us do so, next year we're implementing **School Family Hours** for all families. To help respond to the financial needs of the school, to care for practical concerns, and to build up the community, ten hours will be asked per family.

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions:

When does the practice of School Family Hours start?

We'll be following the academic/fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). So, tracking the hours will officially begin July 1, 2019.

Why this year?

While the practice has been discussed for a few years, this year the plan was presented to all the Parish, Finance, and Education Councils as well of the PTO members.

We have multiple kids in school. Do we have to do more hours?

The rule is ten hours per family. (We sure don't penalize people for having more kids!) And any family member can contribute to the hours.

We're not able to give any hours. Is there a buyout option?

There is. For \$500 (\$50/hour) the School Family Hours can be covered entirely (or partially per hour). So, if you plan to complete the ten hours, record five hours, and then in the Spring decide it is too much; you can opt for a \$250 buyout. Of course, we hope to see you around either way!

How will hours be tracked?

Coordinators for each event/program are being tasked with recording hours.

How will we be notified/reminded?

Most of our parents receive a monthly statement from FACTS. There will be a line added to the statement with the hours (or money) owed. If you pay for the whole year upfront, you don't get a monthly statement. We're still coming up for a plan in these cases.

Why only ten hours?

Great question! We know that many of you are already putting in many more than ten hours. Thank you for that! But one hour per month seems like a good guide to get everyone involved in our great school.

Is this something unique to SMS?

We'd like to say we created the idea, but many schools and even clubs are using similar models.

How come I'm only hearing about this now?

The idea stemmed from the PTO and meetings of the Councils (Parish, Finance, and Education).

School leadership feels that it is a practical way to address the real needs of our school now and in the future. We'll be happy to discuss it more on May 1st. (Please see below.) Reminder: All are welcome at any of our PTO meetings.

I have a crazy schedule. Is there a way I can do School Family Hours from home?

Absolutely. Although we love building community here at the school, the Lord doesn't ask the impossible, and neither do we. There are several tasks that can be done off site.

What jobs count towards School Family Hours?

Classroom parent	Family Night Lead	Matching Fund Lead
Office Assistant (3)	Recruitment Lead	Library Assistant
Advancement Director	Media Content Generator	Chicken BBQ Lead & Assistants
Volunteer Coordinator	Social Media Coordinator	St. Patrick's Day Dinner Lead
Marketing Director	Website Coordinator	Alumni Giving Day Lead
PTO Secretary	Expos Lead & Assistants (2)	Pancake Breakfast Lead
Programming Lead & Assistant	Appeal Lead & Assistants (2)	Facilities Projects (3)
Gala Lead & Assistants (7)	Golf Tournament Lead & (3)	Easter Chocolate Lead
Rummage Sale Lead & (5)	Trivia Night Lead	Tractor Raffle
Grants Lead	Parent Social Lead	Painting Party Lead
Vendor Fair Lead	Donor Relations	<i>And more...</i>

There will be a PTO Meeting on **Wednesday, May 1 at 6:45**. Please join us. The School Family Hours will be one of many things discussed. Childcare will be provided.

In Christ our Hope,

Rev. Bryan D. Stitt
Pastor

Mrs. Michele Meyers
Principal