



# ST. MARY'S DOMINICAN HIGH SCHOOL

Office of the Principal

*"You have been told . . . what the Lord requires of you:  
Only to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk  
humbly with your God."  
Micah 6:8*

July 2023

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the entire St. Mary's Dominican High School community, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year! We happily anticipate the arrival of members of the classes of 2027 and 2028, and we are eager to continue our work with our students who have already embraced the Dominican tradition of prayer, study, community, and service. Special greetings to our parents as we enter into a year of new friends and partnerships filled with opportunities designed especially for you as you share in your daughter's high school educational experiences.

As you plan for the coming school year, this letter will provide you with information that will be helpful in preparing to return to school in August.

## Daily Schedule

Please pay special attention to the new daily schedule for the 2023-2024 school year. The first bell will ring at 7:50 a.m. Students will be allowed to enter St. Mary's Hall at 7:15 a.m. Those arriving to school before this time should wait in Alumnae Hall or the Dining Hall. Conference Period will be from 3:10 p.m. to 3:20 p.m., and students are expected to use Conference Period regularly, especially when requested by their teachers. To better accommodate faculty, department, and other meetings, designated days will be Early Dismissal days for students. Conference Period will be held on Early Dismissal days from 2:10 p.m. to 2:20 p.m. The library will remain open on most Early Dismissal days.

## Communication

St. Mary's Dominican High School uses *Rediker's PlusPortals* as a communication tool for parents, students, administration, and teachers for academics and attendance. The Parent *PlusPortal* allows parents to view a student's grades, the school calendar, class level and club information, school notifications, the staff directory, and general news. The username and password will remain the same for parents of returning students. Incoming parents will be given access to *PlusPortals* by July 20, via email. New students who did not attend the Walking on Walmsley program will receive information regarding access to Student *PlusPortal*, the school network, Microsoft 365, and DHS email during orientation in August. Details for communication protocols are outlined in the 2023-2024 *Student/Parent Handbook*.

All future communications will come through *PlusPortals*, email, and/or our *APNotify* system. Messages sent through *APNotify* will be via voice messages, email, and text message to the parents' cell phone numbers and current email addresses on file in the school's database.

As a requirement for registration for **all students**, parents must verify information currently on file in the school's database. You were emailed a form listing your address, home phone and/or cell phone number(s), email address(es), emergency contact, and parent information. **This form was due in June. If you have not completed this form, please do so. Once again, this verification must be completed in order for a student to be allowed to complete registration in August.** Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to these details.

### **Gayle and Tom Benson Science and Technology Complex**

The Erminia Wadsworth/Azby Fund Technology Center, located in the Gayle and Tom Benson Science and Technology Complex, is available to students Monday through Friday, from 7:15 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The Technology Center will be open after school on early dismissal days until 3:30 p.m.

### **Math and English Learning Center**

The Math and English Learning Center is open Monday through Thursday from 7:15 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. and on Fridays from 7:15 a.m. until 3:10 p.m. Teachers are present to assist students during these times.

### **2023-2024 Student/Parent Handbook**

Once again, the Student/Parent Handbook will be communicated electronically. Prior to the start of school, we ask students and parents to carefully read and give special attention to the sections on Academics, Grading, Honor Graduate Requirements, Service Hours, Make-Up Test Policy, Counseling Department, Daily Schedules, Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), Communication, and Uniforms. Students will receive a hardcopy of the handbook when school begins.

### **Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)**

All students are required to bring a personal computing device to campus daily for the 2023-2024 school year. The Dominican Technology and Telecommunications policy is included at the back of the DHS 2023-2024 Student/Parent Handbook. Both you and your daughter are asked to review the policy and sign the AUP Student/Parent Consent Form indicating that you have read, understand, and will follow the policy.

The AUP form, the Student/Parent Handbook form, and the Covid Waiver form found in the summer communication, must be downloaded, signed, and returned on registration day. **Students and parents must sign all three (3) forms in order for the student to be able to register in August.**

### **Textbooks**

As communicated earlier, textbooks will be purchased online through MBS Direct. The online bookstore opened July 6. You may access MBS using the link on the Dominican website. The link may also be found on Plus Portals. You may also order by telephone if you prefer this option.

### **School Supply Lists**

For your convenience, we have posted the school supply lists on our website, *PlusPortals*, and the Dominican Community Teams page. The supply lists are arranged by academic departments. Please refer to your daughter's schedule for the appropriate supplies needed. It is not necessary to bring the supplies the first day of school. Classroom teachers will give a due date when the supplies are needed.

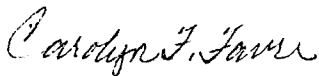
### **Mandatory Meetings**

There will be a mandatory meeting for parents of eighth graders, new ninth graders, and transfer students on Saturday, August 19, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sr. Ambrose Reggio Gym. This meeting will provide important information for you as your daughter transitions into Dominican. Additionally, there will be a mandatory meeting for parents of seniors on Wednesday, August 23, at 6:00 p.m. Important valuable information will be shared with you by the senior college advisor and the counseling department. These meetings are for parents only.

As we prepare to begin our work together this school year, I invite you to reflect on the ways in which you might become involved in our school community. Parents who are interested in volunteering in the Black and White Shop can contact Mrs. Jessica Dupepe at 504-518-5052. If you would like to commit to a regular prayer time on our campus, please contact our Office of Dominican Catholic Identity at 504-518-5001. The Dads Club participates in many events throughout the school year, and they always welcome new members. More information regarding joining the Dads Club is forthcoming.

On behalf of Dr. Cynthia Thomas, President of St. Mary's Dominican High School, the Leadership Team, Administration, faculty, and staff, welcome again to the 2023-2024 school year! Enjoy the remainder of the summer and know that you and your family are always in our prayers.

Sincerely,



Carolyn F. Favre, M.Ed.  
Principal

Attachments:

2023-2024 Student/Parent Handbook Form  
2023-2024 AUP Form  
2023-2024 Covid Waiver Form  
Registration and Orientation Information Sheet  
Counseling Department Letter  
Copy of Schedules

SENIORS ONLY

College Counseling Letter  
Transcript Information  
TOPS Information  
Diploma Name Slip