



Principal Post #18: A Message from Dr. Kozlowski
January 8, 2025

“Give thanks with a grateful heart.” I Thessalonians 5:18

Happy New Year and welcome to winter! While we are eager to get our students and faculty back into the rhythm of the school year, we know that winter weather can not always be avoided. Remember that St. Stephen does follow BCPS for inclement weather closures and as of today, we have used two out of our three inclement weather closure days. If we were to be closed for inclement weather on days 4 and 5, students would have asynchronous work to complete from home. If this happens, please know that we will provide more information to families. This schedule is a mandate from the Archdiocese of Baltimore Catholic Schools.

Thank you for the 138 responses to the uniform survey in December. We will be sharing the results with Flynn & OHara when we meet with them this week. The results include: 64% said “yes” to the high neck plaid jumper for ES girls, 84% preferred the plaid skirt with elastic band for MS girls, and 65% said “no” to the white polo shirt for MS girls and boys. We will be finalizing the uniform requirements for the 25/26 school year with Flynn & O’Hara so their website and store can be updated. Remember that this will be a two year roll-out process and all finalized and confirmed uniform information will be shared by the end of January with the school community.

Tomorrow, we will kick-off the World’s Finest Chocolate Sale, which will run through January 31, 2025. All proceeds will go directly towards the purchase of Chromebooks and Chromebook bags for our school. Last year, we were able to purchase 60 Chromebooks and accompanying licensing with the \$19,400 from the chocolate sale. Each device costs about \$320. An email communication with details will be sent tomorrow. Thank you in advance for your support.

Finally as noted in a communication on Tuesday evening, due to the wind and cold temperatures, all students can wear their SSS PE uniforms the rest of this week. Stay warm and safe as we finish our week together!

Grace and peace,
Dr. Marianne Kozlowski

Additional Information:

Ravens Add-On

With the Ravens in the play-offs this weekend, on Friday, January 10, 2025, all students can wear their SSS PE sweatpants along with a Ravens shirt/sweatshirt/jersey. No additional accessories and there is no cost for participation.

Middle School Dance

We are pleased to announce that on Friday, January 10, 2025, we will be hosting a winter middle school dance/activity night for St. Stephen School students in grades 6-8 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. The cost is \$10 and [HERE](#) is a copy of the permission slip. We are using the same DJ as the fall dance/activity night. If a parent of a middle school student, who is VIRTUS trained, would like to serve as a chaperone, please email Miss Judy. If you have any additional questions about this event, please contact Mrs. Kozlowski.

Winter MAP Testing

Students in grades 2-8 will take the required winter MAP testing on January 14, 15 and 16 from 8:30-10:00 am. We ask that students be on time at morning arrival on these days and please do your best to not schedule any doctor appointments. Your child should be sure to eat breakfast on these days as well. All MAP testing is done electronically on Chromebooks and results will be shared with families at the end of January. While there is nothing that your child can do to prepare, please encourage them to take this seriously and try their best. MAP measures growth and their scores will be compared to the scores they earned in the fall. Winter MAP results are also used as one criteria point for Knott Scholarships.

8th Grade Composite Pictures

Lifetouch will be on campus after MAP testing on January 15, 2025 to take the composite pictures for the Class of 2025. 8th graders should bring their SSS PE uniform to change into at the conclusion of the pictures, as well as hangers for their "picture clothes." Below are the dress code expectations for the composite photographs:

Gentlemen:

1. Must wear dress shirt, tie, dress pants, sport coat or suit, and belt. If a student does not have a suit jacket or sport coat, he may make arrangements to borrow one from another student for the photograph. Students may wear sneakers. Hair must be cut and groomed according to the student handbook. The coloring or dying of hair is prohibited.

Ladies:

1. Must wear a dress or skirt that is appropriate in length (must touch the top of the knee cap), dress pants (no jeans), or a blouse/top. Low-cut, sleeveless, cut-out shoulders, or tank-top type dresses or blouses are not permitted. If leggings are worn, the top must be longer in the back. Sweaters may be worn. Students may wear sneakers.
2. Hair must be groomed neatly, only one pair of earrings is permitted, and makeup should be kept to a minimum. The coloring or dying of hair is prohibited.

January 17: Feast Day of St. Sebastian

Students can wear SSS PE sweatpants along with an athletic/sports team shirt/sweatshirt/jersey to celebrate the patron saint of athletes and sports. No additional accessories. There is no cost to participate, but if you would prefer to not participate, students should wear their regular Friday uniform.

January 17: Family nominations for Teacher of Year due. Please see the communication from January 3 for more information.

Interims for Trimester 2

The half-way point for trimester 2 is on Friday, January 17, 2025. We will send interims to families on Wednesday, January 22, 2025

January 20: No school due to MLK Jr. holiday

SAVE THE DATE: Catholic Schools Week 2025

Catholic Schools Week is being celebrated the week of January 26, 2025. A detailed information sheet of the various activities, events and special uniform days will be sent to all families on January 21. We look forward to sharing our theme for the week with all of you as we celebrate and recognize the special gift that is Catholic education.

Middle School Volunteer Hours Recording Form

This link is being shared again with middle school students and families as many 6th, 7th and 8th graders completed service hours during the holiday season.

<https://forms.gle/oUGVZpE3gMRHL27J9>

In Our Community:

Last Call for Registration for KC Dance & Fitness

Please see the attached flyer for the two dance classes being offered after school on Mondays and Wednesdays.