



## Saint Mary Interparochial School

### 21st Annual Walkathon

Friday, May 19, 2023

### *Shining our Light on Art, Music, and Language Programs*

We are excited for the 21st annual Saint Mary Walkathon on May 19, 2023! Below are answers to frequently asked questions about this essential fundraising campaign.

#### **What is the Walkathon?**

The Walkathon is an annual, multifaceted fundraising campaign that directly supports the arts programs at Saint Mary Interparochial School. Donations and sponsorships are collected by students and families between March and May of each year, culminating with a spirited and celebratory walk through the school's historic neighborhood.

This year's Walkathon will recognize the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations and celebrate the unveiling of a commissioned artwork at Saint Mary representing SDG17, Partnerships for the Goals, in collaboration with Global Philadelphia.

#### **Why does the Walkathon support arts programs? How do these programs make a difference in the lives of our children?**

Without the funds raised by this campaign, Saint Mary would either have to ***substantially curtail or eliminate*** art, music, and foreign language programs. A number of studies support the conclusion that students who participate in formal art and music education have higher academic achievement scores than students who do not benefit from this enrichment. Foreign language learners consistently outperform control groups in core subject areas on standardized tests - often significantly. Students that study the arts have increased motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork. Overall, arts education promotes creativity, social development, and self-worth.

#### **What makes the arts programs at Saint Mary an enriched learning experience?**

The arts programs at Saint Mary are led by accomplished and passionate educators in their specialty fields of art, language, and music education. By attending school events, viewing the artwork, and asking your children what they are learning, you will realize that the students at Saint Mary participate in exceptional arts enrichment programs. This contributes to a richer curriculum that gives our children a proven advantage over other students when applying to high schools.

#### **Who walks in the Walkathon?**

Along with faculty, staff, and parent volunteers, all students who receive at least one donation may participate in the Walkathon. Note that all donations are divided evenly among siblings. All participating students will receive a Walkathon shirt to wear for the event. Students who raise \$150 or more will be part of the Bend the Rules program. (See reverse for more information.)

### **What is the Walkathon fundraising goal and how will we reach that goal?**

This year, our goal is to raise \$45,000. There are several ways over the next few months that we, as a collective school community, can reach that goal, including:

- **Letters to Loved Ones (March):** The students will personalize letters to loved ones who may want to contribute to their education in the arts. The school will ask you for addresses and will send these letters directly to family and friends. This effort raises thousands of dollars each year and is an integral part of the Walkathon campaign.
- **Raffles (April):** The school community will have the chance to win several special prizes in April. Monetary donations toward the purchase of raffle tickets prize will count toward your students' \$150 goal.
- **Pledges (May):** Every student will be given a pledge sheet and online pledge link in early May. Ask friends and neighbors to make a pledge. \$5 here or \$10 there will add up!
- **Sponsorships (Ongoing):** There are multiple levels of giving in the form of sponsorships:
  - Presenting (\$1000+)
  - Cultural Champion (\$500+)
  - Arts for Hearts (\$250+)
  - Music to My Ears (\$150+)
  - Granate and Blanco (\$75+)

We encourage you to seek sponsorships from local businesses and organizations. Many companies will match charitable donations so check with your employer. Each level of giving includes special recognition, including an ad in the event book which is distributed to every family. Families often sponsor and place a "parent pride" ad in the book.

Simply, participation by all will yield great results!

### **How does "Bend the Rules" work?**

To encourage students to meet a fundraising goal of \$150, each student that reaches that amount will:

- Sign the "Bend the Rules" banner that hangs in the multipurpose room throughout the Spring
- Receive a 2023 Walkathon custom button
- Receive passes to bend up to three school rules such as relax the dress code; wear nail polish; homework pass; sport a wild hair color; and more!

Students with the highest fundraising totals will be eligible for additional prizes as well like Principal for the Day and Class Treat Day.

### **What counts toward a student's "Bend the Rules" total?**

All monetary pledges, sponsorships, and donations count toward the \$150 goal.

### **Who do I contact with questions?**

Email the co-chairs of the Walkathon, Matthew and Susan Koger, at [walkathon@saintmarys.us](mailto:walkathon@saintmarys.us).