



Saint Mary Interparochial School

21st Annual Walkathon

Friday, May 19, 2023

Shining our Light on Art, Music, and Language Programs

February 16, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited for the 21st annual Walkathon on May 19th! This annual fundraising campaign supports arts enrichment programs, and our goal this year is \$45,000. 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.

After several years of modifications and restrictions, our Walkathon will return to launching from Old St. Joseph's Church. Students will walk in groups as follows: Kindergarten and 7th; 1st and 8th; 2nd, 3rd and 4th; 5th and 6th. We will walk a traditional 1-to-2 mile route that celebrates our school's many partnerships, including those with Old Saint Joseph's, the National Park Service, SEPTA, and Thomas Jefferson University. When we return to the school, we'll gather for the unveiling of our artwork with another partner, Global Philadelphia.

There are many ways to support the Walkathon, and we have outlined them in the attached FAQs. At least **one donation** must be allocated toward a student in order for them to participate in the Walkathon. **All students who are eligible to participate in the Walkathon will receive an event shirt.** Students who reach their fundraising goal of \$150 or more will be part of the "Bend the Rules" program this spring.

The 2023 Walkathon will support the foundational arts programs that support our students on their journeys to becoming passionate, confident, Christ-centered leaders of the 21st century. Students that have the benefit of an arts education have increased motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork. They score significantly better on standardized tests and have stronger skills in math and reading. Overall, arts education promotes creativity, social development, and self-worth.

Please support and encourage our students throughout the next few months. Let them know why it is so important to fund the arts programs and motivate them to find ways to contribute. The campaign is designed so that all students have a chance to reach their \$150 goal.

If you have any questions, please visit www.saintmarys.us/support/walkathon or e-mail the Walkathon co-chairs, Matthew and Susan Koger, Parents Class of 2025, at walkathon@saintmarys.us.

Thank you for your support of the students of Saint Mary!

Many blessings,

Jayda Pugliese, M.Ed, Ed.D.(c)
Principal