



Senior Book Class of 2021

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Principal's Message

Dear Class of 2021 and Senior Parents,

It is with prayers and great pride that I congratulate all of you in reaching this milestone of your final year in high school. Your senior year will be one of joy and hard-work as you prepare to move on to college from your home here at SMCHS. The senior activities will bring joy and community and your college application process will bring some challenges. Remember what St. Francis de Sales tells us: "To be who you are and be that well." Follow your own path and do not limit your personal definition of what success can mean for you in your future. As you move toward your graduation, I have a prayer for each of you. That you know and feel that the love of Christ will guide and carry you along this path of discernment for your future, both the highs and the lows. As your new principal, I look forward to all the activities, performances, athletic events, academic accomplishments and Catholic celebrations of the year.

Your senior year will be special. This booklet is designed to help you navigate all of the activities, events and responsibilities of the year. Thankfully, the Activities Department has compiled this for you to make this year more manageable. I hope that you will value it and read it through, so you can fully enjoy all that SMCHS has to offer during your senior year.

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque can guide you to "go courageously to God, along the way He has traced out for you, steadfastly embracing the means He offers you." As you travel along the road of this year, remember the love of Christ is with you.

Caritas Christi,
Cheri L. Wood
Cheri L. Wood
Principal

Vice President of Activities and Security Message

Dear Parents and Graduating Seniors,

As seniors begin and eventually wind down their final year of high school, there are a number of activities and events that make it exciting. The material in this book has been strategically assembled to help you maximize your senior year with minimal confusion and frustration. Please take the time to read, discuss and reference this resource during the year. Another resource you should bookmark is the official SMCHS Class of 2021 webpage located at www.smhs.org/seniorinfo. On this section of the website you will find organized and detailed up-to-date information, “frequently asked questions” and more regarding all pertinent senior activities/events.

Over the years we have worked with students, parents, faculty and staff to make the seniors’ final year a great one. This has a greater chance of happening if you get involved and through that involvement show a spirit full of enthusiasm, respect and love. It is our hope that this year will be a wonderful experience for all of us.

As you, the student, reach the end of your senior year, you will begin to realize how quickly time has passed. Soon, you will leave SMCHS to continue your education, embark on new adventures and hopefully apply all that you’ve been taught about community and love. Please know that we wish you the best of luck and our prayers are with you this year and forever.

Sincerely,

Sammer Darwazeh

Sammer Darwazeh

Vice President of Activities and Security

Alcohol/Drugs

As you look forward to the many events during the senior year, and particularly the graduation events at the end of the year, please remember the school rules concerning the use of alcohol/drugs **before, during or after** any school function are still in effect and will be strictly enforced. It is definitely the wrong time to gamble with your privilege to participate in graduation ceremonies with the rest of your class.

We also remind parents that the serving of alcoholic beverages (even a glass of champagne for a toast) to minor children is contrary to the philosophy of the school and is against civil law. Your cooperation in this regard will be appreciated.

Alumni Association

When you graduate from SMCHS you will join the ranks of a truly successful group of individuals. In addition to this great accomplishment, you will become a member of the Eagle Alumni Association. Be sure to update your mailing address and email address with the Alumni Office so that you will receive information regarding class reunions and the many alumni events. The Alumni Office can be contacted by phone at (949) 766-6000, ext. 1530 or emailed at alumni@smhs.org.

Awards Night

This special night is to celebrate graduating seniors obtaining honors received from Santa Margarita and honors and scholarships received from colleges and universities. Parents are urged to attend. Invitations will be sent out by Counseling to students receiving awards, but all are welcome.

Please remember to update scholarships and awards on Naviance throughout the admissions cycle. We will need your final list for award recognition by April 30. Please refer to your invitation as well as page 35 of the Parent Student Handbook for guidelines on Dress Code for this special event.

Baccalaureate Mass

The celebration of graduation from a Catholic high school is most specifically centered on Christ, and the Baccalaureate ceremony, religious in nature, finds its highest expression in union with Our Lord in the Mass. It is at this mass that we come together as a community to celebrate and pray for our graduates as they continue their journey

Admission to Baccalaureate Mass is not ticketed and will be open to families, guests and friends. Each senior will receive a Graduation Packet (consisting of a Senior Time line, directions to all events during Graduation week and 8 Graduation tickets).

Please refer to the Parent Student Handbook for guidelines on Dress Code for this special event. Please refer to the Baccalaureate Mass webpage (www.smhs.org/baccalaureatemass) for more details and up-to-date information regarding this event. Specific questions may be directed about this event may be directed to the *Director of Campus Ministry*, Patrick Visconti at viscontip@smhs.org.

Campus Store

Textbook buyback will take place during at the end of May if applicable and permitted by publisher. Specific dates and times will be announced in the Eagle Update several weeks before the buyback dates. Please look for details in May.

California Scholarship Federation (CSF)

CSF Life Members will wear a gold cord and medallion at graduation and a CSF Gold Honor Seal will be affixed to their diplomas. Life Membership is awarded to students who have qualified for membership during four semesters (grades from freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior years) with at least one semester of membership during senior year.

Accordingly, seniors should apply using their grades from the fall semester of their senior year. If a senior does not meet the life membership requirements after the fall semester of his or her senior year, his or her spring semester grades may be considered. Seniors who need their eighth semester grades to qualify for life membership may not receive the gold cord for the graduation ceremony unless they take the initiative to bring the CSF advisor their unofficial transcript that includes their eighth semester grades (available two days before graduation in the counseling office) and make arrangements to pick up the gold cord prior to the day of the ceremony. Printouts from Aeries will not be accepted as these are not necessarily students' report card grades. Grades from freshman year may be used to qualify for CSF membership, but they do not count towards life membership. All membership records are available on the California Scholarship Federation section of the school website.

For further questions, contact CSF Advisor Ms. Candice Tupajic (tupajicc@smhs.org).

Caps and Gowns

The cost of the cap, gown and tassel is covered in the Graduation fee. Please be sure to fill out the appropriate box on the order form, clearly stating your height, weight and name so your cap and gown will be delivered accurately and on time. Jostens will be visiting Religion classes during the fall to distribute paperwork.

Caps, gowns and tassels are issued to seniors Graduation Practice. These are issued only to those who have met all academic requirements, are in good standing with the Discipline Office and are cleared of any financial obligations with the Business Office. Caps, gowns and tassels become the property of the graduate and do not need to be returned. Please visit the [Graduation Announcements & Class Rings webpage](#) for more information.

The Lumen Christi Service Project, Junior and Senior Year

The Christian service program at SMCHS provides an opportunity for students to encounter Jesus in the most vulnerable members of society. Through the service program, students have the opportunity to explore how God calls us personally bring light (*Lumen Christi*) into the world.

- **The Lumen Christi Project:** During junior and senior years, students serve with any non-profit whose outreach is direct (face-to-face) work with the vulnerable and marginalized. This includes serving people with disabilities, animals and the environment, people suffering economic and social poverty, and people who need companionship in their faith journey
- The Lumen Christi Project requires 20 hours of direct service and a final reflection for both the junior and the senior year. There are no “roll-over” hours from junior year to senior year.
- All service hours, whether for the Lumen Christi project or extracurricular, must provide **direct (face-to-face) contact** with those being served over a sustained amount of time. **All agencies need to be nonprofit, except for hospitals or eldercare facilities.**
- Students use MobileServe as the online system to enter and verify all hours, both for their required hours and hours done above the requirement.
- Students do not receive letter grades for their Lumen Christi project. Rather, completion of the project (hours and paper) **is a graduation requirement. If a student does not complete their Lumen Christi project, he/she will not receive his/her diploma.**

Please contact Ms. Caitlin Stutzke (stutzkec@smhs.org) or if you have questions about Christian service!

Class Reunions

The first reunion for the Class of 2021 will be held in the summer of 2031. Typically, the Senior Class President forms a committee to plan the reunion with help from the Alumni Relations Office. Official reunions are traditionally held every ten years.

Remember to notify the SMCHS Alumni Relations Office whenever your address changes so you will be notified of reunion dates and other alumni events. You may contact the Alumni Relations Office by phone at (949) 766-6000 Ext. 1530 or by email at alumni@smhs.org.

Stay connected and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/smchs, on Instagram at www.instagram.com/santamargaritaeagles or on Twitter @SMCHSEagles.

College Admissions

The senior year can be a whirlwind with all the college application deadlines. Know that the counseling staff is here to help and assist you during this process. Below are some important dates.

- Early Action/Decision – complete electronically in Naviance all transcript requests and turn in any necessary Counselor and/or Teacher LOR requests to your counselor/teacher by **Friday, September 4th**
- December Deadline – **Monday, October 5th**
- January/February Deadline – **Friday, November 6th**

Contact your counselor with any questions along the way.

Diplomas

Diplomas are issued to all graduating seniors who have successfully met all academic, service, financial and citizenship requirements. Diplomas will be mailed home after Graduation.

Grad Night

Grad Night 2021 is an all-night party, organized by the Activities office and senior class parents to ensure a safe, drug and alcohol-free graduation celebration.

Please visit the [Grad Night webpage](#) for more details and up-to-date information regarding this event, including ticket prices.

The National Commission against Drunk Driving has reported that drinking is the number one killer of teenagers. However, new campaigns to stop underage drinking by party-prone teens, such as Grad Night, have positively affected these statistics. SMCHS believes that our parents can offer graduates a graduation celebration that they will love, in a safe, drug and alcohol free atmosphere.

In an effort to ensure a safe, drug and alcohol-free celebration, students are not allowed to bring food, drinks, book bags or large purses to this event.

Graduation

Admission is by ticket only. Children 2 years and younger who will be lap-sitting will not need a ticket for admission. **Please note that a Graduation Announcement is not a valid ticket for admission.** Each senior will receive a Graduation Packet (consisting of a Senior Timeline, directions to all events during graduation week, 8 Graduation tickets, etc.).

Dress Code:

- Gentlemen should wear their cap and gown and dress shoes, dress slacks, dress shirt and a tie.
- Ladies should wear their cap and gown and nice dressy outfits.
- Corsages, leis or boutonniere may not be worn during the graduation ceremony
- All students wear the medallion they received at the Baccalaureate Mass. NHS, CSF, IB students may also wear their hoods and cords.

Please visit the [Graduation webpage](#) for more details regarding this event.

Graduation Announcements

Graduation announcements are often used by families to “announce” their student’s upcoming Graduation. These items may be ordered directly from Jostens. Orders will be collected during lunch on days Jostens visits, which will be communicated in students’ daily announcements and the weekly Eagle Update that is sent to parents via email. Each student will receive 25 announcements as part of their paid Graduation fee. If you would like to order additional announcements you may purchase them through the Jostens website. Orders may also be placed online through the SMCHS store on the Jostens website. Announcements will be distributed to seniors during lunch around March 2021. It is suggested that they be mailed to family and friends three weeks prior to graduation.

***Please note that a Graduation Announcement is not a valid ticket for admission for Graduation.**

Graduation Fee

Each graduating Senior will be assessed a Graduation Fee of \$300. The fee was added to the FACTS tuition account at time of registration and is due by August 31st. If not paid by August 31st, an additional \$50 late fee will be imposed for each month that remains unpaid. The Graduation Fee covers the expenses of the graduation ceremony, Baccalaureate Mass, yearbook signing luncheon, cap and gown, 25 announcements, etc. The fee is nonrefundable and does not cover Grad Night.

Please visit [the Graduation page](#) for more information about Graduation.

The Graduation fee **does not** include the cost of the Talon yearbook, Senior Tributes or Grad Night.

Graduation Policy

In order to receive a diploma from Santa Margarita Catholic High School, a student must:

- Have successfully completed a minimum of 270 credits of coursework.
- Completed 20 credits of Religion at Santa Margarita if a transfer student.
- Have no un-remediated grades of “F” on his or her transcript.
- Have a cumulative academic GPA of 2.0 or better.
- Be in good standing with the Attendance and Discipline Office.
- Have no outstanding financial obligations with the Business Office.
- Have completed all Christian Service obligations.

A senior who has the misfortune of receiving a grade of “F” on his or her transcript will not receive a diploma from Santa Margarita Catholic High School until the “F” has been remediated. In order for this student to participate in graduation exercises he or she must:

- Have a cumulative academic GPA of 2.0 or better.
- Not have more than 2 “F” grades on the transcript.
- Be in good standing with the Attendance and Discipline Office.
- Have no outstanding financial obligations with the Business Office.

All incomplete work must be turned in by the 80% posting date in order for this work to be calculated into final grades. Any senior who is enrolled in a non-Santa Margarita online class needed to meet graduation requirements must have all work and the final exam completed by May 1st with the official transcript received by the counselor no later than May 10th. Any student who has a “School Hold” on his or her diploma will not receive the diploma until the hold is removed. Students who have a “School Hold” on their diploma because of incomplete graduation requirements must have those deficiencies completed by August 31st of the graduation year. If applicable, a transcript from the community college or university must be submitted to Santa Margarita for the completed work. The date of graduation on the transcript will reflect the year the graduation requirements have been met if not done by Aug 31st of their graduation year.

Graduation Practice

All seniors **must** attend a mandatory graduation practice. You will receive your caps and gowns at this practice. Any student absent from graduation practice will not be allowed to attend the graduation ceremony.

Kairos Retreats

The Kairos retreat program is about spending time with God at His invitation and being open to experience His presence. It can transform your outlook and experience of life as you know it. Seniors attend this four day retreat to experience a compassionate and loving community, intense prayer, and interior reflection.

Kairos is ultimately an experience of living in a rare and unique kind of Christian fellowship, similar to that of the early church community. Because of the unique nature of Kairos the retreat fills up very fast. It is good to apply ahead of time to ensure there will be a spot on the roster. Kairos is held at the Whispering Winds Catholic Conference Center located in Julian, CA. Students pack a sleeping bag, pillow, clothes and a few personal items. The rest is taken care of by the Kairos Leadership Team.

Everyone on retreat will get the opportunity to share their own unique life experiences. Shared prayer and group discussions are a major focus every day. While the format of the retreat is shaped around Catholic Tradition, Kairos is open to students from all religious backgrounds. Kairos is not based upon religious dogma, but on a process of personal discovery, in which each student is encouraged to find and engage his/her own sense of spirituality and moral accountability.

Students that attend are also invited to become a retreat leader after their first Kairos retreat. This is another great way to “give back” and to inspire others to live out their faith in God and in others.

It is our hope that your support and encouragement will direct your son or daughter to consider making a Kairos retreat this year. For more information, visit www.smhs.org/kairos.

Questions about these events may be directed to the Assistant Director of Campus Ministry – Retreats, Mr. Francis Cabildo at cabildof@smhs.org or his Assistant Coordinator, Mr. Gerardo Butalid at butalidg@smhs.org

National Honor Society (NHS)

Membership in National Honor Society is offered to students in 11th and 12th grades and is based on academic standing, character, consistent and ongoing service to school and/or community, and demonstrated leadership both in and out of the classroom. The honor of membership is offered to outstanding students by the NHS Faculty Council. NHS members provide regular tutoring to their Santa Margarita peers, and are distinguished by the official NHS blue stole worn at graduation. Please review the strict standards for membership and application guidelines on our website under Academics on the SM homepage. For further questions, contact the NHS advisors, Mr. Mark Van Ness: vannessm@smhs.org and Mrs. Coleen Barry: barryc@smhs.org.

Non-Uniform Dress

Seniors are allowed to wear school-appropriate, non-uniform dress (pants and shorts must have at least a 6" inseam) on the following dates:

August 28
September 25
October 30
November 20
December 11
January 29
February 26
March 26
April 30
May 14

Prom

Please visit the Prom webpage at www.smhs.org/campus-life/dances for more information.

Selective Service Registration

All men must register with the Selective Service within 30 days of their eighteenth birthday. Registration is a way our government keeps a list of names of men from which to draw in case of a national emergency requiring rapid expansion of our Armed Forces. By registering all young men, the Selective Service ensures that a future draft will be fair and equitable. Most men turning 18 can register by mail, if they receive a Selective Service form in the mail. Forms are also available at any U.S. post office, and you can now register on-line at www.sss.gov. The form asks for the young man's full name, address, date of birth, telephone number, and Social Security number (if he has one). On the form that is sent in, his signature is also required.

Senior Cruise

This event is only open to SMCHS seniors and takes place in the Newport Harbor. Dinner, dancing, pictures and parking are included in the ticket price. Please visit the [Senior Cruise webpage](#) at for more details.

Senior Trips

SMCHS does not sponsor a senior trip. Information you may receive from travel agencies is not sanctioned by our school. Nor do we allow other agencies to advertise such trips on our campus.

A number of travel agencies offer trips without formal supervision. Parents considering such trips should carefully review the material you have received. If you read the fine print in the brochures you may find that the tour companies' "chaperones" are only there to make sure student accommodations and travel arrangements are met. As a result, students are placed in an environment where they are not safe. Sometimes, trip activities organized by the tour operator are held in bars, clubs or near a place where alcohol is made readily available. The environment created by these parties and the availability of unlimited alcohol is dangerous and potentially catastrophic.

Senior Tablet Purchase

How much will it cost to purchase the Lenovo Yoga?

The purchase price will be announced in March 2021. This purchased device cannot be used by any current or future SMCHS student as it will no longer be under warranty or include any of the necessary school software.

What will be available to the student on the device?

The device will be returned to factory settings. Students will have access to the Microsoft Office Suite and their Office 365 accounts until September 30th, 2021. The suite includes OneNote, Word, PowerPoint, and Excel as well as access to OneDrive and all saved files. Students can then link their Microsoft account and reinstall any apps/games they have purchased.

How will the purchase program work?

- If you plan on buying the tablet, please complete the purchase process. You will need a copy of your confirmation when you return your device for servicing.
- All graduating students must return their tablet to the Tech Service Center during the final week of school.
- The Tech Service Center will then restore your student's device to its original factory settings while maintaining Office 365 access, which includes Word, Power Point, OneNote, etc. By returning your device to the Tech Service Center, you agree that you have backed up all your files to your Office 365 account. SMCHS is not responsible for any data lost while restoring the device to factory settings.
- Devices will be available for pick up from the Tech Service Center.

What if I don't want to purchase the tablet?

All seniors who choose to not purchase their tablet must return it to the Tech Service Center during the last week of school. ***Students will not be allowed to walk in commencement exercises if the device is not returned.*** There is no charge for returning the tablet to SMCHS if there are no other issues, damage, etc.

Tuition

Tuition must be paid in full by April 30, 2021 in order to be able to participate in any graduation activities.

Voter Registration

The Activities Office offers voter registration forms to any interested student. You may register to vote at any time throughout the year. However, you must be registered to vote at least 29 days prior to an election to vote in that election. You can also register online at: www.ocvote.com

You are eligible to register to vote if:

- You are or will be at least 18 years of age on or before the day of the next election, and
- You are a citizen of the United States, and
- You are a resident of California, and
- You are not in prison or on parole for a felony conviction.

Senior Class Panorama & Yearbook Luncheon

All seniors are invited to attend the Senior Class Panorama & Yearbook Luncheon from. Seniors should wear their college sweatshirt for a special senior panorama picture to be taken before the catered lunch buffet is served. The cost of this event is included in the Graduation Fee. Alumni Association information will also be available. Please Note: Students must purchase their own yearbooks.

Talon Yearbook

The procedure for purchasing a yearbook will be the same as the last few years. A yearbook will be ordered for every student who does not opt out by **October 9th, 2020**. The charge (\$100) will be added to your tuition account after the opt out date of October 9th, 2020. An email will be coming in the beginning months of school with directions on how to opt out.

Senior Tributes

SMCHS parents may order a Tribute for their child through the company, Tribute Ads; a full service online production company that offers various sizes, templates, and colors to create your student's Senior Tribute. They will simplify your creation process; however, you still have the option to create a tribute of your own design.

The yearbook staff at SMCHS will not accept payment or tributes. All submissions and payments of Senior Tributes will be done through the Tribute Ads website, www.tributeads.com.

While you create your tribute, please remember our school charism: **“Caritas Christi”** as you select photos and messages. No tongue rings, tattoos, hand gestures of any kind, (including the peace sign), containers resembling alcohol, and no suggestive photos or nude baby photos.

The school still reserves the right to proof/edit all tributes and photos before final publishing submission.

Senior Yearbook Ad Sizes

- Full Page..... 8 1/2 x 11
- Half Page..... 8 1/2 x 5 1/2
- Quarter Page..... 4 1/4 x 5 1/2

Early Bird Prices until October 12, 2020 at 10:00 pm

- Full Page..... \$400.00
- Half Page..... \$260.00
- Quarter Page..... \$185.00

Regular Prices October 13, 2020- November 16, 2020 at 10:00 pm

- Full Page..... \$500.00
- Half Page..... \$355.00
- Quarter Page..... \$235.00

Late Prices November 17, 2020 – December 14, 2020 at 10:00 pm

- Full Page..... \$600.00
- Half Page..... \$400.00
- Quarter Page..... \$300.00

Please **be mindful of the turn in dates**. If Tributes come in after the designated time, the rate **must** increase. After December 14th at 10:00 pm, no Senior Tributes will be accepted.

For questions and assistance in creating your tribute, you may contact Tribute Ads:

Website: www.tributeads.com

Email: help@tributeads.com

Phone: 843-818-3153