



THE ST. MARK'S community cares

provisions for themselves.

When Hurricane Harvey reached Houston over the weekend, we worked quickly to confirm that all faculty and staff members were safe. Then we turned our eyes to our school families, and attempted to understand the impact that the storm was having on our community. Between August 25th and 28th, Harvey parked itself over Houston, dumping over 50 inches of rain on some parts of town.

As the clouds rolled away, the city rejoiced over the first beams of sunshine that had been seen in Houston in days. Houstonians did what Houstonians do best - we got to work. Within our community, we saw our families and staff helping one another by ripping drywall, packing boxes, moving possessions, doing laundry, bringing food, providing shelter, holding hands, and praying. We

established the St. Mark's Community Cares Facebook Group - a private space where school and church families could offer support and ask for help from their St. Mark's friends and neighbors.

We restarted our school year quickly after Labor Day so we could continue to be a second home to our students and a place that offers consistency and predictability in the lives of our families. In the words of Garhett Wagers, "This is what A Community Engaged looks like from your school. We are engaged in developing and sustaining an atmosphere that stewards our students' intellectual curiosity, faith, and passion for discovery, no matter the outside circumstances."

Shortly after our return to school, the Houston Astros made a run for the playoffs. The city rallied behind our baseball team, unified around the excitement of playing

Above (clockwise): Sofia Mercado, Mia Tribble, and Brooke Crabtree, all class of 2021, pose on Go Astros Day; Sarah Doan, Alex Ortiz, Madie Taylor, Annabeth Whittaker, Allison Artlip, '20, decorate Mrs. Anderson's classroom during advisory in Astros orange and blue; Heldner Roddy, Luke Carter, and Will Ramani, all Class of 2023, support the Houston Astros

at the division series, championship series, and eventually, the World Series. Here on campus, we held several Go Astros days, where students could wear their Astros gear to school to show support for our city and our team. When the Astros won the World Series on November 1, the city erupted into joyful celebration. On Friday, November 3, we live streamed the parade, providing popcorn for students as they watched the celebrations taking place downtown. The impact of winning the World Series was bigger than a sporting event to Houstonians this year; it was a tough battle to show the country our strength, resilience, and unity as a city.

While Hurricane Harvey's impact is still being felt by many in our city and in our St. Mark's family, we are proud to be a part of a community that cares for its members and offers support to those in need. This year, and every year, we are #HoustonStrong.