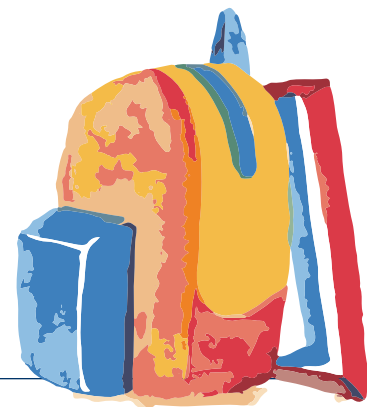


Admission

A virtual open house event allowed prospective families and students to learn more about the mission and vision of the School from members of the Leadership Team and our 8th Grade Ambassadors. By having the event virtually and recording it, families who may be making mid-year moves or are late to the admission process can still experience Open House! Similarly, this fall we hosted a virtual event for each division for prospective families. Faculty members from each grade were able to share their education philosophy and answer curriculum questions. In place of the traditional on-campus tour, families were invited to engage in one-on-one and small group virtual meetings hosted by the Admission Team and participate in a series of large group events led by our 8th Grade Ambassadors. While our Admission Team is excited to resume on-campus activities once it is safe to do so, virtual meetings will remain a part of our future opportunities for prospective family engagement!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 SPELLING BEE CONTESTANTS:

- 3RD GRADE: *Tyler Jensen-Roman and Jason Yu*
4TH GRADE: *Gabriel Flores and Lauren Herr*
5TH GRADE: *Ryan Gudimetla and Krish Saxena*
6TH GRADE: *Nora Lemke and Teo Nelson*
7TH GRADE: *Elle Mitchell and Ben Vizel*
8TH GRADE: *Luke Holmes and Adriana Winkelmayr*

Kindergarten 100 Day Style Show

The Kindergarten 100 Day Style Show is a fun tradition that encourages students to build numeracy skills and display their own personal style! Kindergarteners decorate shirts with 100 items and then take to the catwalk to show their creation. This trademark Kindergarten event was re-imagined this year to take place safely, while still maintaining its pizzazz and flair. On our 100th day of school, Thursday, February 11, our Kindergarten teachers created a morning to remember, which was streamed so parents could watch from home. Our Pre-K students made up the audience, cheering and admiring the hard work of their older peers, while dreaming of next year. We are proud of our Kindergarten students and teachers for demonstrating our Portrait of a Graduate as they think creatively and seek opportunities to innovate.



Spelling Bee

The St. Mark's Virtual Spelling Bee took place on Friday, January 8, with twelve contestants from 3rd through 8th grade. While we normally pack the gym with our student body and parents to cheer on our spellers, this year we were able to broadcast the event and stream it in classrooms and homes. We also were able to allow some of our spellers to participate from home! 6th Grade Language Arts Teacher, Samantha Smith, worked closely with our technology department, our judges, Heather Williams and Matt Burgy, and our moderator, Christine Anderson, to imagine and produce a successful event!



Ultimately, Ryan Gudimetla, '24, was the champion, correctly spelling "squelch" in the 19th round, and Tyler Jensen-Roman, '26, came in second place. Ryan now advances to the Harris County Private Schools Regional Spelling Bee.



Focus on Feelings

In the fall, our 2nd grade team knew that giving our students the opportunity to understand their own emotions would be particularly helpful this year. Teacher Charlotte Wallin returned to St. Mark's after teaching at a Montessori school in Boston, and she brought with her several components of social-emotional learning. Our 2nd graders are learning to talk about how they are feeling each day, and recognizing that any feeling they may have is acceptable. Students work with a Mood Meter, which is a four quadrant chart showing combinations of energy and pleasantness levels. If a student is feeling too energetic, they're encouraged to visit the "Take a Break Spot" in the classroom, which includes yoga cards and a two minute timer. Or they can head out in the hallway to complete some movement activities that help bring down their energy levels. Fundamentally, our 2nd grade team is working to show our students how their moods and feelings can impact their ability to learn and grow.

