

SMRS 11th ANNUAL GALA AUCTION

MARCH 25, 2023

Dear SMRS Families,

St. Margaret Regional School's second largest fundraiser is our Annual Gala Auction. Last year's event raised over \$71,800 to benefit our students. Over the years, our Gala Auction has funded many campus enhancements and technology upgrades including Interactive Promethean Boards for Grades 6-7-8 and Advanced Math, iPads, SMART boards, laptops, and network improvements. We were able to replace our original tiled gym floor with a professional athletic floor to protect our athletes. A secured lobby area with shatter-proof glass was installed. We have been able to provide our classrooms with individualized air conditioners and secure windows. We have upgraded our student bathrooms with touchless feature bathrooms and new tile floors. Auction funds have also supplied a playground for our PS3 & PK4 program.

This year, we are proud to be celebrating 60 years of excellence in Catholic education in the Franciscan Tradition. The generosity you offer allows us to continue providing a strong educational program, as well as a safe and updated environment for our students. While educating children is at the core of Saint Margaret Regional School, it is the community of teachers, families and friends that truly help make a difference.

We ask you to consider joining us at this year's Gala Auction to support this very important fundraiser for our school. The strength of our fundraising is our negotiating tool to keep tuition increases as low as possible for **ALL** to afford a Catholic education for their family.

Please read the following FAQs for a detailed explanation of our event.

WHAT IS THE GALA AUCTION?

What is the auction? The auction has been a tradition at SMRS for the past 11 years. This event has raised \$578,091 as a SMRS fundraiser over the course of these many years. Last year's event alone raised over \$71,868. **This event is our second largest fundraiser.**

What would I expect to encounter at the auction? The event includes both a Silent and Live Auction. Silent Auction items range in value from \$25-\$500 and are a mix of individual items and themed baskets. Live Auction items are larger packages valuing at \$1,000 +. These items are typically experiences or trips of some kind.

What is a Silent Auction? Our Silent Auction event runs from 6:30pm to 7:45pm the night of the auction. All bidding is conducted electronically on Text2Bid. This is a free app that can be used on your smartphone. You will be provided a "short code" to access Text2Bid when you arrive at the event. This app allows you to bid, cancel bids, and set up auto bid to the designated top price you are willing to bid. You will receive an alert when you have been outbid with an option to up bid. Text2Bid is available to any guest who has purchased a ticket to attend our event. You will be able to take home the items you have won that night.

What is a Live Auction? Our Live Auction event runs from 8:15pm until roughly about 10pm the night of the auction. Dave Goldstein, The Tastefully Hilarious Comedian/Auctioneer from New York City will be joining us again to conduct our Live Auction bidding. Guests will be assigned a bid card to use for bidding.

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How do I purchase a ticket/reserve a table? Tickets are \$75 per persons and can be purchased via the following link <https://secure.maestroweb.com/default.aspx?OrgID=1094> with a **credit or debit card only**. **The last day to purchase your ticket is March 20, 2023**. A standard ticket will provide admission to our Silent and Live Auctions, Terrace Room cocktail hour and dinner in the ballroom. Tables seat 8 guests. You will be asked to make a notation of your seating preference on the reservations page during your ticket purchase session.

What is included in the cost of the ticket? Artisan cheeses and Italian meats are provided as part of the cocktail hour to all guests beginning at 6:30pm. Wine and beer are available at the bar as part of your ticket price. (Cocktails may be purchased at the cost of guests.) We respectfully ask that all guests drink responsibly. An elegant four-course meal is also included in the price of your ticket. When you purchase your ticket, you may select your entrée. Vegetarian and Gluten Free entrées are available upon request to your server. Please inform your server of any other food allergies.

What is the VIP Wine Cellar Experience? 6:00-6:30pm ONLY - This event is open to a **limited** number of guests on a first come, first serve basis. This experience is an additional cost of \$25 per person. You will be granted access to Auletto's beautiful wine cellar to enjoy various wine tastings. Tastings poured by the bartender will be "short pours", as it is only a wine tasting event. You will be able to sample various wines from Napa Valley, California. Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, as well as Artisan cheeses and Italian meats will be available for your enjoyment. This is an experience not to be missed!

What are acceptable forms of payment for the Gala Auction? Credit Card/Debit Card transactions only. Cash or Check are unable to be accepted. Upon arrival at the auction, each guest is **required** to register a credit/debit card for purchases during the event. Purchases may include items from Silent Auction, Live Auction, or the Wine Cork Pull.

What is the Fund-a-Need? Fund-a-Need is a portion of the Live Auction where a presentation is made regarding a special project planned for the enhancement of our school and educational programs. After the presentation, our auctioneer will conduct bidding to help fund the project in increments of \$5, 000, \$2,500, \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100, and \$50. Our goal is to raise \$35,000 during the Fund-a-Need bidding to be earmarked for that specific project. Last year's Fund-a-Need bidding raised \$42, 250 to purchase seven new interactive Promethean Boards for our Middle School and Advanced Math Classrooms. This year's Fund-a-Need will provide Promethean Boards to Grades 3, 4 and 5 as well as the Computer Lab. Please consider being a "SAINT" for education by giving a gift to our Fund-a-Need project. **IF you are unable to attend our Gala Auction event, you are still able to make a donation toward our Fund-a-Need project via our Auction Website:** <https://secure.maestroweb.com/default.aspx?OrgID=1094>

What is the appropriate attire for this event? Our Gala Auction has a tradition of being a very special and classy event. Cocktail attire is requested. Black tie attire is optional.

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How does SMRS benefit from our donated items? The item(s) you donated via the Sign-up Genius or Amazon Registry are a great help to our event. Your items will be part of our Silent and Live auctions as stand-alone items or may have been included in a themed basket. Your generosity enables us to raise money on each item at auction. All money raised directly benefits the students at St. Margaret Regional School. The full value of the item(s) you donated will be applied to your Family Fundraising Goal.

How can I help a teacher attend the Gala Auction? SMRS teachers go above and beyond to support our students. As a thank you, all full-time faculty members receive a complimentary ticket to the auction. You can help thank our teachers for all they do by sponsoring a teacher's ticket. On the reservations page, there is an option to sponsor a ticket for a teacher. Please consider giving a donation to help our teachers attend this event.

Gala Auction Website: <https://secure.maestroweb.com/default.aspx?OrgID=1094>