



## Walk-a-Thon FAQ's

If you have not visited the Walk-A-Thon (WAT) website yet, it is a great place to learn about the WAT. Click [here](#) for the WAT website.

If you are new to St. Michael or want a refresher on the details of the WAT, below are some frequently asked questions and answers to them.

### **What is the Walk-A-Thon (WAT)?**

The Walk-a-thon is our most important fundraiser of the year. 100% of all donations go directly to PTO to support the school. Students ask friends and family members to support them and St. Michael School with monetary donations for walking laps during the WAT.

### **When is the Walk-A-Thon?**

It is held on a Friday in mid to late September at Sharon Woods. The loop the students walk is near the Buckeye Shelter.

### **What happens in the weeks leading up to the WAT?**

Spirit week is the week of the WAT. Each day there are fun activities for the students to help get them excited about the WAT. They can participate in events where they can win individual prizes as well as classroom or grade prizes. Students can also win prizes in the Fundraising raffle. Click [here](#) to learn more about the fun events planned for students.

### **What are the raised funds used for?**

PTO plays a vital role in the overall success of the school. Funds raised at the PTO sponsored fundraisers help with subsidizing the costs of student materials, new technology equipment for students, to sponsor educational activities, field trips, fun events for students at school like ice cream socials, and luncheons for teachers/staff, etc.

### **How do I make a donation?**

Individual or Business Sponsor donations can be made online by clicking [here](#).

### **How do I share the donation information with friends and family?**

You can direct family, friends, and business sponsors to the WAT website [Bit.ly/watsms](https://bit.ly/watsms)

### **Who participates in the Walk-A-Thon?**

All students grades K-8, faculty, and staff at St. Michael School. Family members can also join their child for some of all of the day during the WAT.

### **Can I volunteer for the Walk-A-Thon?**

Yes. All volunteers interacting with students during events or at school during the school day must be registered and current in SafeParish.

### **What is SafeParish and how do I get registered?**

SafeParish is the child protection training that all volunteers have to complete and remain current in order to volunteer at the school and for school events.

**What can I volunteer to help with?**

There are a lot of volunteer opportunities, such as, providing items like coolers with ice, drinks, blankets for the students to sit on during lunch, and tents for the lap counter stations or sunny grade stations. Other volunteer opportunities are chaperone walkers to and from school, crossing guards at Sharon Woods, snack helpers, lunch helpers, lap counters. Each grade's Homeroom WAT Coordinator will send out a Sign Up Genius with all of the volunteer opportunities. (Typically a few weeks before the WAT).

**Where do volunteers go when they get to Sharon Woods on WAT day?**

ALL volunteers should check in at WAT HQ at the Buckeye Shelter when they arrive at the park and pick up their lanyard.

**How do I order LaRosa's Pizza for lunch for my child on the day of the WAT?**

You can order pizza online for you and/or your child if you would like to eat with them. Click [here](#) to order Pizza and WAT T-shirts.

**What if my child doesn't want to eat LaRosas pizza?**

You can send a packed lunch to school with your child or you can bring lunch to your child at the WAT. Lunch is from 11:00-12:15.

**What do the students wear for the WAT?**

Students should wear their WAT T-shirts if you purchased one. If not, they can wear any St. Michael school spirit T-shirts with comfortable shorts and comfortable tennis shoes for walking.

**How do I get a WAT T-shirt for my child or other family members?**

T-shirts can be ordered online this year using the WAT website. Click [here](#) to order pizza and WAT T-shirts.

**Where do we take items we signed up to bring?**

All items are to be delivered to Sharon Woods Buckeye Shelter the morning of the WAT. Coolers with ice and drinks, tents and blankets must be labeled with the "Family Name and Grade" and are to be dropped off at the appropriate grade station. (Signs are posted to help you locate the grade stations) Tents for lap counter stations and those helping to decorate lap counting stations will go to the appropriate grade lap counting station. (Stop by the Buckeye Shelter for assistance to locate your grade if you are not able to see the grade sign i.e. 5th Grade) These are mostly up on top of the loop)

**How/where do I pick up the items I dropped off?**

All items, coolers, blankets, tents, etc need to be picked up at Sharon Woods by 3:00 p.m.. They will be located where you dropped them off. (the grade lunch or lap counting areas)

**Can I come eat lunch, walk laps with my child, or spend the day with my child?**

Yes, we encourage parents to volunteer and/or come and join their child for lunch, a few hours, or the whole day.

**Can I bring my younger children who are not students at St. Michael with me when I visit my child at the WAT?**

Yes, you can bring your non-student children with you if you are joining your child for lunch, for a lap or two or the whole day.

**Is there a bathroom to use during the WAT?**

Yes, there is a restroom for the kids to use across from the Buckeye Shelter or AKA "WAT HQ".

### **How do students get to Sharon Woods?**

Students walk over to Sharon Woods after Mass on Friday morning. They walk with their teachers, other students, and 2 parent volunteers. The path they walk is down Oak street, across Cornell Road, and down Burke Street to the end where the path to Sharon Woods begins. Sharonville Police Department has crossing duty at Cornell to help the students cross the road safely on their way to and from Sharon Woods.

### **Is the path to Sharon Woods from the school safe?**

The WAT Site Coordinator team works with the Park's staff to have the paths the kids will walk to and from school as well as the WAT loop cleared of debris, cut, and safe for the students on the day of the WAT.

### **Will my child have enough to drink during the WAT?**

Yes. There will be coolers with ice and water and sports drinks for the children to get throughout the day. Students will be given popsicles when they return to the school as well.

### **Who will be watching my child as they walk the laps?**

Lap counting stations are located all around the WAT loop. SafeParish Compliant volunteers are at each lap counting station. The teachers walk with the students enjoying the day as much as the kids do. PTO and the WAT committee members are present and walking the loop as well ensuring the path is safe and the kids are safe and having a fun day. It is encouraged for the students to walk with a buddy(s) and most do.

### **What if my child gets hurt during the WAT?**

There will be a First Aid station. Registered Nurse volunteers will be at the station to provide first aid to students in need.

### **When do the students return to school?**

Kindergarten returns after lunch and the older students return by 2:30pm to prepare for dismissal.

### **Can I take my child with me when I leave Sharon Woods?**

No, ALL students must return to school and can be picked up from there early or at regular dismissal time. You will need to inform your child's teacher if you intend to pick your child up before regular dismissal time the day of the WAT.

### **What does the WAT day look like for the kids?**

- Students attend Friday Mass in the morning
- After mass concludes the students will be dismissed by grades and walk with their teachers, classmates and chaperones to Sharon Woods. (older kids leave first)
- They have their picture taken as a class/grade when they cross the bridge
- They walk to their class station then are released to begin walking the WAT loop.
- Students stop by their grades lap counting station after each lap and have their lap marked down by a volunteer. Volunteers decorate the lap counting stations in the WAT Theme and make it fun for the kids.
- An individually packaged snack is handed out at the snack station if kids need one in the morning.
- Drinks are provided throughout the WAT.
- Lunch is LaRosas pizza and is delivered to the park. Kids who do not eat pizza will bring a packed lunch. The kids eat between 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.. The kids return to their grade lunch area

with picnic tables and blankets for them to rest, eat their lunch, and visit with friends in the shade. Lunch helper volunteers help provide hand sanitizer to students and pass out the pizza.

- Once lunch is over the kids can resume walking.
- Kindergarten classes return to the school after lunch.
- Another snack is available in the afternoon.
- Students begin leaving to return to school around 1:30 p.m. and are usually back by 2:30 p.m..
- Students will be given popsicles when they return to school.

#### **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?**

If you have additional questions, please visit the Walk-A-Thon website [Bit.ly/watsms](https://bit.ly/watsms) or reach out to the WAT Coordinators at [watcoordinators@gmail.com](mailto:watcoordinators@gmail.com) or PTO at [stmichaelpto@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelpto@gmail.com).