



## The History of St. Mary's Grade School

The history of St. Mary's Parish began in 1954 with the acquisition of 29 acres of land in southeast Salina at a cost of \$35,000. A Real Estate Committee, which was appointed by Msgr. John A Duskie, of the Sacred Heart Cathedral, selected the John Vanier property on East Cloud Street as a suitable site for Catholic School expansion. The members of this committee were E.R. Dandurand, Adolph Mentgen, Joe Easterday, Dr. Max Lake, and Frank Barbee. This location was authorized by Bishop Frank A Thill with an immediate goal...The erection of the first unit of St. Mary's Grade School.

The school was built at a cost of \$225,000 and was opened in the fall of 1955 with 225 students, 5 classrooms, and 5 teachers. Sister Myra Joseph was the first Principal of the grade school. The other teachers who were first to teach at St.

**Mary's were the following: Sister M. Claude, Sister Charles Marie, Sister Stella Marie, and Mrs. Ellen Davis.** Students in grades first through sixth were enrolled, and students in grades seventh and eighth were enrolled at the Sacred Heart Cathedral Grade School.

The Bishop's Educational and Development Campaign for the development and expansion of our Salina Catholic educational system was launched in the fall of 1958. The combined efforts of the Catholic people of Salina were directed to the common burden, and the initial campaign was a real success. Pledges totaling more than \$500,000 were submitted. As was **promised during the campaign, steps were immediately undertaken to expand St. Mary's Grade School, and in the summer of 1959** four additional classrooms were added at the cost of \$63,000. J.S. Frank Construction Company built both units of the grade school.



## Iowa Test of Basic Skills (Individual results will be shared at conferences in February)

### Composite Score Average

#### by Grade Equivalent

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Gr K	K.7	K.8	K.8	
Gr. 1	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9
Gr. 2	2.8	2.5	2.9	2.2
Gr. 3	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.3
Gr. 4	5.7	5.0	5.3	4.9
Gr. 5	6.4	5.8	5.9	5.7
Gr. 6	7.6	7.6	6.7	7.3

### Composite Score

(Percentage of students scoring average or higher)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Gr K	92%	99%	95%	
Gr. 1	86%	96%	93%	96%
Gr. 2	88%	73%	94%	79%
Gr. 3	97%	78%	77%	97%
Gr. 4	96%	90%	94%	92%
Gr. 5	91%	86%	82%	93%
Gr. 6	95%	92%	79%	93%

### Subject Areas by Grade Equivalents

	Reading				Math				Lang. Arts				Science			
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020
Gr. 1	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.1	1.9	1.7				
Gr. 2	2.9	2.4	3.0	2.3	2.6	2.6	3.0	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.8	2.2	2.9	2.6	2.9	2.2
Gr. 3	3.7	3.7	3.2	3.3	4.0	3.8	3.3	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.9	3.9	3.6	3.4
Gr. 4	5.5	5.1	5.0	4.9	5.5	4.7	5.4	4.7	6.0	5.2	5.5	5.2	5.6	5.2	5.0	4.9
Gr. 5	6.5	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.4	6.7	5.9	6.0	5.7	6.0	5.9	6.0	6.1
Gr. 6	7.4	7.1	5.7	6.7	7.8	7.6	6.3	6.9	8.0	8.1	6.4	7.3	7.7	7.3	7.4	8.0

### Social Studies

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Gr. 1				
Gr. 2	3.0	2.4	3.0	2.2
Gr. 3	4.1	3.6	3.5	3.3
Gr. 4	6.0	5.1	5.0	4.9
Gr. 5	6.8	5.7	5.7	6.1
Gr. 6	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.2

## ST. MARY'S ENDOWMENT FUND

In 1986 an educational endowment was set up for St. Mary's School. The purpose of St. Mary's Grade School Endowment Fund is to invest funds in which the proceeds of those investments go to support the ministry of St. Mary's School. Funds are invested with financial institutions. Today the total amount of funds invested is close to \$1.1 million. A separate endowment advisory board oversees the investment and recommends disbursements. Information about the endowment will be sent out later this month.

Drink water instead of sugary drinks:

Cut calories by drinking water or unsweetened beverages. Soda, energy drinks, and sports drinks are a major source of added sugar, and calories, in American diets.

After School Pickup

**We really do appreciate everyone's cooperation in** picking up their children at dismissal. With weather getting colder it is very important that students not be left waiting. In case of snow, please drive carefully. Snow banks sometimes leave single lanes to exit the parking lots.



# United in Christ, Body, Mind and Spirit

## What Are the Primary Reasons Parents Enroll at St. Mary's Grade School?

Recently we sent Cognia surveys to families asking why parents send their students to St. Mary's Grade School. According to the results of the survey, one can infer that parents want their children to receive the best education possible so their child will have a better chance of success as adults. Sixty-five percent of families responded to the survey.

Some of the primary reasons parents send their children to St. Mary's School include:

- Class size
- School reputation
- Catholic Identity (school mission)
- Teacher Staff Competence
- Personal Experience



### What Are Some Benefits a Child Can Receive from St. Mary's Grade School?

#### *Academic Excellence*

A Catholic education can provide students with a solid academic foundation. Students study mathematics, social studies, English, science, foreign language, art, and religion. In the Cognia survey, 98% of parents at SMGS agreed with this statement; "the school provides a good balance between academics and religious teaching and the staff responds to the needs of my child(ren)". Parents view staff as partners in the education of their child(ren), (99%). The staff responds to the needs of my children (98%).

According to research, students who consistently attend school do best academically. St. Mary's Grade School has a 97% average daily attendance, according to the Kansas State Department of Education.

#### *Catholic Faith and Values*

Catholic education teaches students core values to help them mature into Christ-like people. Students learn self-discipline, how to accept responsibility for their actions, and how to make good decisions based on the tenets of their faith. They also learn about commitment, respect of others, and service. According to the parent survey, 94% of the respondents agreed with the statement that children are learning a need for community service, while 95% agree the gospel message is evident in all areas of learning.

#### *Healthy Social Relationships and a Sense of Community*

When children go to a Catholic school, they develop a strong bond with their fellow students, their school, their church, and their home to create a strong sense of community. An overwhelming number of parents (98%) agreed with the statement that a good community spirit exists within the school. At St. Mary's School children treat each other respectfully (95%).

## TAX INFORMATION

If your child is enrolled at Love 'n Learn Day Care, St. Mary's Pre K Program, or St. Mary's Extended Care Program, you may qualify for a tax credit. Please consult your tax accountant. If you qualify, you will need the school's Federal ID Number. We will be glad to provide the information if you make such a request in writing. Please allow a couple days for processing. **We will not give the information over the phone.**



# Around the School



Top Picture: Congratulations to 2nd grade on receiving their First Reconciliation!

Bottom Pictures: Students collected goods to be delivered to nursing homes in Salina. This was our Advent Project for the year.

# Ten Reasons Why Catholic Schools Matter



## 1. A Faith View of the World

Catholic school students are taught a faith view of the world, there is no such thing as a secular subject, as all learning helps to develop and bring to full bloom that image of God that is in each person.

## 2. Immersion in the Paschal Mystery

Our lives are a series of small and not so small dyings and risings. In union with the Paschal Mystery, we realize that there is redemptive power in suffering, and in the power of the cross.

## 3. The Value of Relationships

**Catholic school students learn to experience God's grace and presence in their lives** through their relationships with family, friends and teachers. We are made for Community.

## 4. A Holistic View of Scripture

Catholic school students are given the opportunity to explore the beauty and richness of Sacred Scripture seen through the lens of faith and lived out in daily practice. They learn to apply Scripture to their own lives as a tool for prayer and the true guide for virtuous living.

## 5. Civic Engagement

In recent research, it has been reported that private school graduates are significantly more likely to actively participate in civic activities..

## 6. Service for the Common Good

Catholic schools promote service as an essential component of their curriculum. Many Catholic schools have service programs from pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade.

## 7. Discipline as a Faith Expectation

Catholic schools promote self-discipline through clarity of moral vision that is based on the Gospel. Students are challenged to be Christ-like in work and action.

## 8. The Centrality of Arts, Ritual, Drama, Music to the Life of Faith

Through Catholic education, students are exposed to the richness of the religious tradition. Music, Art, Literature, Drama and Ritual are rooted in the rich history of the Church.

## 9. The Fullness of the Catholic Identity at the Heart of the Church

Catholic education has always been at the heart of the Catholic mission. Catholic education, and the students who are the product of it, have been called the “**greatest work of the Church**”.

## 10. Personal Excellence as a Spiritual Goal

**Catholic school students learn that excellence is a response to God's blessings. Students** learn so as to help others, and make a difference in the world around them.



# ST. MARY'S EXTRAVAGANZA

Bidding begins **Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>** through  
**Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>**



Online Auction Website - [www.hansenonlineauction.com](http://www.hansenonlineauction.com)

- On **Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>** our online auction will be open for viewing and bidding, follow the steps below to start the simple process.
- Go to the above website, benefit auctions **Click on** St. Mary's EXTRAVAGANZA, **click** "Register for online bidding and view online catalogue of items"

*Every bidder needs an account. You will be asked to enter a credit card number (to eliminate scammers) BUT you will not have to use it to pay for your account balance.*

- Click on the first item, click "**bid**", then you will be prompted to register, click "**register here**"
- Complete the prompts, basic demographic information, account passwords
- Fill in credit card info (ONLY used to build account), will not be charged.
- Be sure to **click the box** ☐, to confirm you agree to the terms.
- Submit your registration and have fun bidding!!
- Lots begin to soft close on Saturday, January 23 at 7:00pm
- Items need to be picked up on Sunday, January 24 between 11am – 2pm in the St. Mary's APR. We are encouraging CASH and CHECK for payments. Credit Cards are an option, but the school will be assessed a fee per CC transaction.
- Itemless Item (see backside of this sheet) donations will be accepted at the time of closing out your account.

**SPREAD THE WORD...**use the on-line auction website and share it with grandparents, relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. (FAR and NEAR) and make this EVENT the most successful yet.



**Thank you for your support!!**

# EXTRAVAGANZA - Itemless Item

## Boys and girls bathroom remodel

In the main hallway, original bathrooms (built 65+ years ago) will be getting much needed attention...quotes and more detail will be available soon, ideas/wish list explained below:

- **Replace existing fixtures (sinks, toilets, urinals, stalls, etc). Currently, we have obsolete plumbing parts and a stall in each restroom that is non-repairable.**
- **Boys and girls will each have a handicap accessible stall.**
- **Toilets and sinks will include an updated automatic flush/water system for water savings and sanitation.**
- **New ventilation and sanitary system.**
- **New tile will be installed on the floor and walls.**



Pictures are only examples, detailed information will be available soon.

# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

January 2021

St. Marys School



## Thoughtful Moments

### Pope Emeritus on joy

"The Holy Spirit gives us joy. And he is joy. Joy is the gift in which all the other gifts are included. It is the expression of happiness, of being in harmony with ourselves, that which can only come from being in harmony with God and with his creation." (Pope Benedict XVI)

### Kindness

In today's world, sharing kindness can make a difference. Remember how good it felt the last time someone showed you an unexpected favor? Look for ways to be kind, even when it's unexpected. It can be something simple, like holding the door for the person behind you or offering prayers for those who need them.

*"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).*



## Five family New Year resolutions

New Year's resolutions can be useful ways to improve family life. When reflecting on the past year, improvements or goals may suggest themselves. It's important to set realistic, measurable, and reasonable resolutions the entire family can embrace. Consider these ideas:

**Increase family time.** Even when we work from home, it can be difficult to find regular time to be together. Resolve to add family time to your week. Vary the activities, but not the company. Pick a convenient schedule – Friday, after dinner, for example – write it on the calendar, and don't let anything interfere.

**Get more sleep.** Getting enough sleep is critical for health, happiness, and

peace. Set a mandatory lights-out time for the entire family – parents, too.

**Exercise together.** The best way to teach healthy habits is to model them. Make more time for family bike rides, walks around your neighborhood, hikes in nature.

**Unplug.** Resolve to put down all devices at mealtime and during family time. Many schools are using computers to deliver instruction. Workplaces have become virtual.

Taking a break from screens to hold in-person conversations during the day can be a refreshing break.

**Worry less.** Resolve to avoid worrying about what may or may not happen. Add prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Scripture reading, daily Mass to your family time to teach children to rely on God.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, he began with "hallowed be thy name." But God doesn't need our praise; he knows he is perfect. We praise God because he loves us and

## Why do we praise God?



because he is good. In fact, when we realize the gratitude and praise that we owe God, we want to give him what he is due. "It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to thy name, O Most High" (Psalm 92:1).



## Support children through difficult times

As the pandemic continues throughout the country, it can be challenging to reassure children that all is well. Try these tips to calm fears and manage stress.

**Keep routines in place.** Even if you're at home all day, sticking to a regular schedule is key. Try to make sure youngsters have some structure, like getting up, eating and going to bed around the same time every day. Have children dressed, breakfasted, and ready for class at the usual hour. Youngsters benefit from knowing what to expect and when.

**Add variety.** In the evenings, play a board game, put together a puzzle, bake desserts, take turns reading a new

book aloud.

**Share your confidence in God's care.** During family prayer, teach children to commit concerns to God. Together, read Bible stories that demonstrate how others have relied on God's care. Joseph's confidence that God would deliver him from evil, Abraham's faith that God would give him and Sarah a son, the Israelites' reliance on God to deliver them from slavery.



### Scripture LESSON

#### Mark 1:21-28, More than just a teacher

In this Gospel reading, we read that Jesus entered the synagogue at Capernaum with his apostles to teach. Most teachers would draw from the writings of other scholars for authority, and would begin, "Thus says the Lord..." but Jesus said, "I tell you..." As God, he already knew what the Scriptures meant without leaning on someone else's teaching.

Jesus taught as one who had the authority of God and that astonished his listeners. Even the unclean spirits who were torturing a man at the synagogue recognized Jesus as "the

Holy One of Israel." Clearly, this was no ordinary teacher!

Jesus showed his authority again when he performed an exorcism on the man. The unclean spirits had no choice but to obey him when he commanded them to depart, despite their reluctance.

**What can a parent do?** Jesus shows us that

God's power and love are greater than any evil. Teach children that they can talk to Jesus about anything that happens, good or bad. At the same time, stress that Jesus is God and deserves to be worshipped and obeyed.



### Feasts & Celebrations

**Jan. 3 – Epiphany of Our Lord (1st Century).** Epiphany is Greek for manifestation. When they honored the infant Jesus with gold, frankincense and myrrh, the three wise men bore witness to the fulfillment of God's promise of a savior.

**Jan. 10 – Baptism of the Lord (1st Century).** Jesus began his public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. Jesus was free of sin, but he allowed himself to be baptized in order to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). By his baptism, Jesus declared his willingness to fulfill God's

saving plan. It is also at this time when God revealed Jesus as his "beloved Son" (Matthew 3:17).

**Jan. 17 – St. Anthony of Egypt (356).** Born to a rich family around 250 A.D. in Egypt, St. Anthony gave up his riches to live a life of simplicity in the desert. Eventually, other monks seeking the same lifestyle followed him into the desert and he founded a community of hermits. He is the founder of monasticism.



### Parent TALK

I stopped making New Year's resolutions a few years ago. I had trouble remembering to exercise daily or clean house weekly. Finally, frustrated and dissatisfied, I decided to do something different. I resolved to find one small way to serve. During the pandemic, the Knights of Columbus have

continued to put notices in the parish bulletin asking for donations for their soup kitchen, and volunteers to cook meals. My husband and I decided to help out, and make it a family affair.

Now, once a month on a Wednesday afternoon, my daughters and I spend a few hours cooking and boxing up meals for our hungry neighbors. My youngest daughter, mask in place, plays "hostess" and welcomes people. Her older sister hands out Styrofoam containers with meals. It is a small contribution, but for the people we serve, it is an act of love. Finally, a resolution I can keep!

#### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
Success Publishing & Media, LLC  
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™  
(540) 662-7844 (540) 662-7847 fax  
www.partnersinfaith.com  
(Unless noted, Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and New American Bible (Rev.))

© Copyright 2021 Success Publishing & Media, LLC

## **Assessment Program at St. Mary's School**

**St. Mary's Grade School follows a traditional curriculum. The basic core subjects** of Religion, Math, and Language Arts are integrated with Science, Social Studies, and Data Analysis.

**In today's educational conversations, there is a great emphasis on "academic growth" and preparing students for the next level.**

**For over 40 years, St. Mary's Grade School has been committed to monitoring academic growth in Grades K-6.** Data collected from assessments are for both short and long term academic progress of individual students. The staff utilizes several tools to observe and analyze student advancement.

ACRE (Assessment of Catholic Religious Education) helps schools evaluate faith, knowledge, and attitudes of Catholic School students. This is administered in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades.

Acadience Reading which is individually administered, measures acquisition of early literacy skills in K-6. Acadience Math is a brief evaluation of numeracy, computation, and problem solving skills in K-6. These two assessments are done three times a year.

ITBS (Iowa Tests of Basic Skills) is a national standardized assessment and is more comprehensive across the curriculum including Phonics, Reading, Math, Language (Spelling/Capitalization/Punctuation), Science (Life and Physical), and Social Studies (History, Economics and Civics). Results of the ITBS are shared with parents at mid-year conferences. **At the same time, individual student's academic growth from year to year is also reviewed and shared.** Starting in 2017, The ITBS will also provide predictive scores for ACT starting in Grade 6.

Kansas Assessments are summative assessments used to measure student knowledge based on the Kansas College Standards. Summative assessments are given towards the end of the year and can aid in reviewing curriculum and infrastructure.

# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Years Day	2
3	4 School Resumes	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Used Uniform Sale 10-1
17	18 Online Extravaganza goes Live!!	19	20	21	22 No School	23 SMGS Online Extravaganza
24 Extravaganza item pick up	25 School Council 5:30	26	27 Chocolate Fundraiser begins	28	29	30
31	Catholic Schools Week					

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week will be Jan. 31st thru Feb. 6th. Activities will look different this year, but we hope to make it fun for our students while still following all COVID regulations. More information will come out in the weekly Red Folders.



SMGS was able to purchase a new warmer for the kitchen. This will help the kitchen when preparing meals in the morning and also when serving summer meals.



*Celebrating 65 years of Catholic Education*

---

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Salina, KS  
Permit No. 189

---



*"Honoring Tradition, Embracing the Future"*

*Love of Learning*



*Learning of Love*

*United In Christ - Body, Mind and Spirit*

## St. Mary's Messenger

St. Mary's School  
304 E. Cloud  
Salina, KS 67401



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED