

# St. Mary's News

304 E Cloud, Salina, KS 67401 785-827-4200  
www.stmarysalina.org



January 2023

## Upcoming

### January Events

January 14 - Used Uniform  
Sale 10am-1pm

January 16 - No School -  
Staff Development

January 25 - Chocolate Sales  
Begin

January 29 - February 4  
Catholic Schools Week

January 29 - Pack the Pews  
(attend any Mass at any of the 3 Parishes  
and be sure to wear your SMGS or SHHS  
uniform or spirit shirt)

January 30 - All School Mass  
SHHS & St. Mary's 10am

### From the Principal

***"Life is a journey and we are either moving  
towards the Lord or away from the Lord."***  
(Make it a goal to move towards God daily this year.)

Welcome Back Everyone! I hope all of you had an exciting Christmas and an opportunity to spend time with family and get closer to our Lord.

As I am coming off a wonderful break with my own family and having participated in all the Masses and celebrations of our faith, I have a renewed focus to get closer to our Lord this year. For me, Christmas is more than just reconnecting with family and friends. It's always a spiritual reconnection with God and a sense of getting back on track with our Lord. It's something I want to share with you....my school family.

So, from one family member to another, I want to challenge you this year. Instead of creating a new year's resolution list that includes many secular ideas (losing weight, getting organized, exercising more, etc. ). **I want to challenge each of you to get closer to Christ each day.** Yes....I know you can do this. Here are some ideas: thank God every morning when you wake up, commit to daily prayer, go to morning mass once a week, commit to reading scripture daily, go to adoration regularly, reading a good spiritual book, anything that draws you closer to God. If you do, I am confident that God will use this as an opportunity for good in your life. In return I will do the same and commit myself to bringing Christ to your children every day in school.

I look forward to experiencing the second half of the school year with you.

Vivat Jesus!

Mr. Tym Bonilla,  
Principal

Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way.

# PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher Conference will be February 15th from 6pm-8pm and February 16th from 9am-1pm & 4pm-8pm. We had such an amazing response to the online sign up that we will be doing conference scheduling the same way again.

Please watch for an email to sign up for conferences. If you are not able to make it during the available times, please email the teacher to make other arrangements.



Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and friends of St. Mary's who donated baked goods to our annual bake sale!!

Thank you to all the Volunteers and Home & School for making this possible.

## 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.

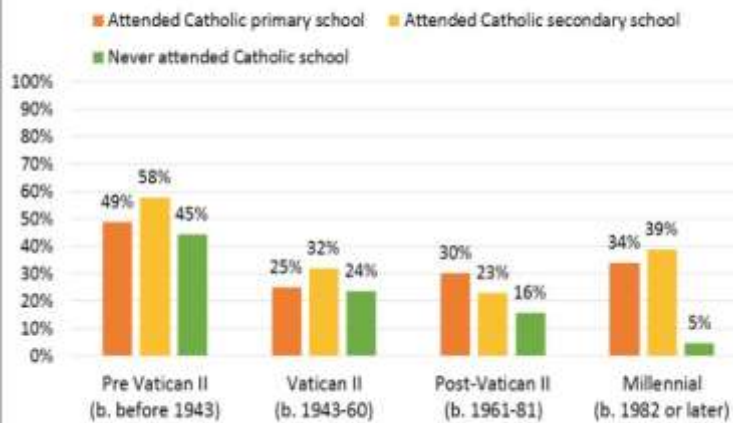
# a dozen reasons

## to choose Catholic Schools





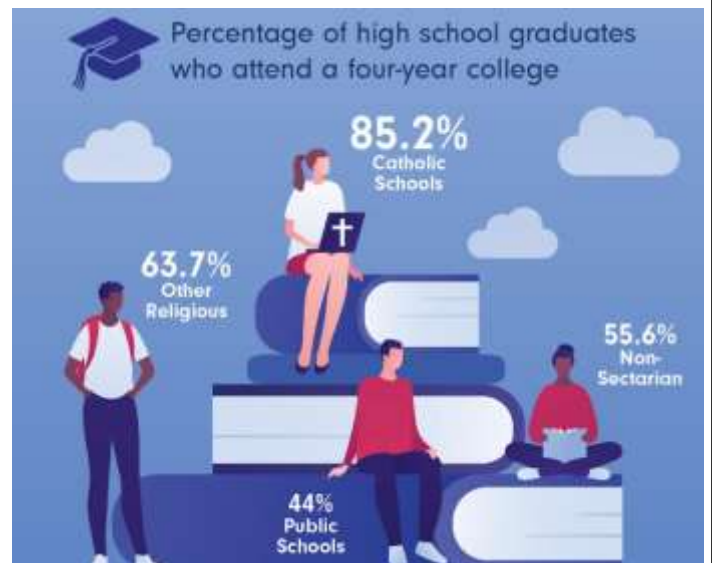
### Percentage of Adult Catholics Attending Mass Weekly or More Often by Generation and Catholic School Attendance



Source: Catholic New Media Use in the United States, 2012

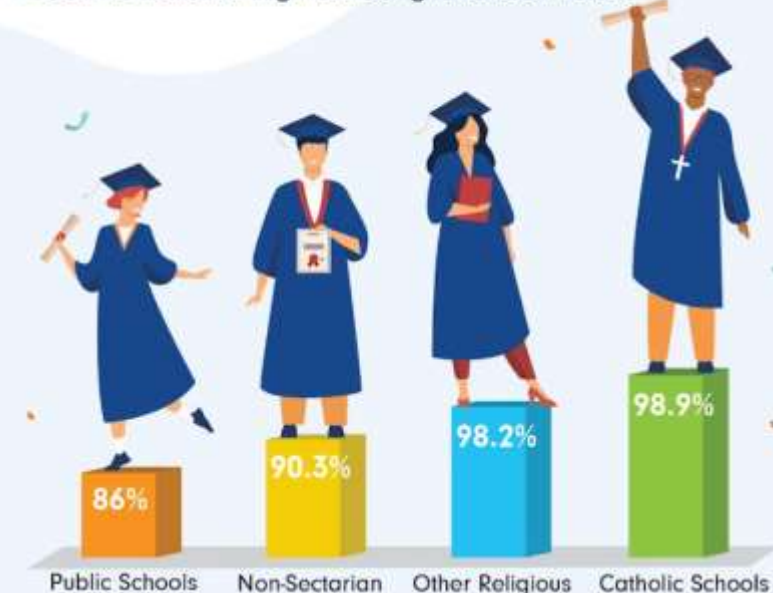


What do you ❤️ about your Catholic school?



### U.S. Graduation Rates

A look at national high school graduation rates.

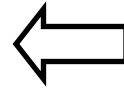


**Thank you** for your service, dedication and commitment to furthering the mission of our Catholic schools!

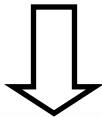
# Around the School



1st grade students in Mrs. Sager's class got a visit from the Grinch!! This was one of our Extravaganza items!!



Betsy Torres was the Jr. Manager for the Knights Girls Basketball team when they played Southeast of Saline. This was one of our Extravaganza items!!



4th grade put a symbol on our Jesse Tree during the month of December. Each week one student would read a scripture verse over the intercom for all students to reflect.



**Christmas is our favorite time  
of the year!**



# Epiphany Band Concert



5th & 6th grade band students performed for parents and guests on Thursday, Jan. 5th.

## "St. Mary's Prioritizes Social Emotional Training With Its Staff"

This school year we are placing focus on the well-being of our students. According to the CDC, mental health includes children's mental, emotional, and behavioral well-being. It affects how children think, feel, and act. It also plays a role in how children handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices. This year we have had a series of training related to mental health, trauma, and the neurodivergent learner. Through these training sessions we have also placed an emphasis on making sure our staff's needs are being met so that they are at their very best and feel supported in the classroom. In order to best meet the needs of our students and staff, our staff has participated in the following training:

### **The Neurodivergent Learner:**

This training presented teachers with information on the diverse learners that are in their classrooms along with how best to provide those students with equitable learning opportunities.

### **Youth Mental Health First Aid:**

This training was provided by Central Kansas Mental Health and provided teachers the knowledge and skills on identifying a mental health crisis and how to handle a mental health crisis within the school setting.

### **Recognizing Trauma in the School Setting:**

This trauma informed training provided insight into what trauma is and how it affects the brain. Our teachers learned that relationships and classroom environments have a strong impact on the learning and emotional success of our students.





## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK KICK-OFF

# Pack The Pews

January 29, 2023

Let's pack the pews with Sacred Heart & St. Mary's students! Attend any Sunday mass at any of our 3 Salina area Catholic churches and make sure to wear your school uniform or school shirt to showcase your Catholic school pride.





# Come celebrate with our School Community

**Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Breakfast at St. Mary's Grade School from**

**8:30am-12:30pm**

**Special Mass at 9:30am**

The theme of this year's celebration of Catholic Schools Week is – Catholic Schools – Faith. Excellence. Service. St. Mary's 3rd and 4th grade will be singing at this special Mass.

After Mass, families are invited to join us for breakfast. Breakfast burritos, yogurt parfaits, sweet breads, coffee and juice will be prepared by Catholic Daughters. Donations are very much appreciated.

The breakfast will be held at St. Mary's School Grade School

All Purpose Room.

We hope to see your there!!

Heavenly Father, Your light shines brightly in your children. You have inspired us to do good deeds in your name. Bless this school and all who work to make your will known in the world. We ask this in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

# Catholic Schools Week



## Special Dress Days and Activities

### **Sunday (Jan. 29)**

#### • **Pack The Pews (SHHS & SMGS)**

o The goal is to get as many of our students at all the Masses in Salina

Students should wear something with SHHS or SMGS on it. (or school uniforms!!)

### **Monday (Jan. 30)** Theme - **“Walk The Talk Day - Our Daily Walk with God”**

• *You can talk the talk, but can you walk the walk?*

• Students can wear their favorite Slippers or Crocs today. You can also wear crazy socks.

**Students must bring tennis shoes to wear for Mass and for recess.**

SHHS/SMGS All School Mass @ 10 am

### **Tuesday (Jan. 31)** Theme - **“Vocation/Calling Day - Flash Forward to the Future”**

• *We are always thinking toward the future and what God is calling us to do.*

Students can dress in the job or vocation they hear God calling them to do in adulthood.

### **Wednesday (Feb. 1)** Theme - **“Hats Off Day - Be Thankful”**

• *We thank God daily for the gifts God has given us.*

• Teachers will conduct a class activity. Students will write a note, letter, email to someone in their life that they are thankful for. Give someone a note of thanks for being an inspiration, support or just “being there”.

Students may wear hats after Mass.

### **Thursday (Feb. 2)** Theme - **“Throwback Thursday - Know Your Past And Be Proud”**

• *As Catholics we are aware and proud of our traditions. Our traditions help form us.*

• Dress up in your favorite decade. Be creative and dress up in that style.

• ***All-School Assembly (9:30 - 10:30) @ SHHS Gym***

o Mike Debus painting performance makes for an amazing, captivating, and inspiring experience that our students and families will not forget.

Parents and/or grandparents are welcome to join us.

### **Friday (Feb. 3)** Theme - **“Cozy Up Friday - A Day Of Rest”**

• *God calls us to keep the Sabbath holy by spending time with him and our families.*

Students will cozy up and spend time as a class with their school family by watching a movie together and eating a snack. **Students can bring a blanket and/or pillow on this**

**day.**





# January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> New Years Day	<b>2</b> No School	<b>3</b> No School Teacher In-service	<b>4</b> School Resumes	<b>5</b> 5th & 6th Band concert	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Used Uniform Sale 10-1
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> No School	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> K of C Free Throw Contest 3:30-6pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> School Council 5:30	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Chocolate Fundraiser begins	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Catholic Daughters Breakfast	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Catholic Schools Week</b>			

## News from Library Lane

3,716 checkouts for the first half of the school year! Now I know that not every student checks out a book each week and that some are checking out more than 1, but it does my heart good to see our collection getting used so well. Taking a closer look at the number is also an enjoyable insight into the minds of our young readers. I thought you might also like to hear a bit from our Top 20 Circulated Titles List for this year so here are a few fun facts that I learned from our checkout report:

### **The #1 Picture Book - Don't let the Pigeon Stay Up Late by Mo Willems**

Pigeon is one of my favorite picture book characters. A scoop of attitude, a huge helping of silly, and you've got a great character for readers young and old.

### **The #1 Fiction Book - Refugee by Alan Gratz**

Telling the story of three different refugees from three different events in history (Nazi Germany in 1939, Cuba in 1994, and Syria in 2015), Gratz weaves a powerful story of their journey and struggle.

### **The #1 Series - I Survived... (fill in the blank) by Lauren Tarshis**

An approachable take on historical fiction. Telling stories from the eyes of fictional characters set in real-world events and based on facts found through the author's research. A new lens to see events in history

### **The #1 Nonfiction Subject - Football**

Our students look right past the faded covers with heroes of yesteryear and are pleased as punch to find something from the sport they love. This section is getting an update with new materials, but even without them, it makes a strong showing in the Top 20.

I look forward to seeing what the second half looks like. If our current champions stay on the top of the shelf or if some new up-and-coming books take the top spots in 2023. We will just have to wait and keep on reading!



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# St. Mary's Messenger

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



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**