

# St. Mary Catholic School and Preschool



**Parent – Student Handbook  
2018-2019**

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# St. Mary Catholic School 2018-19

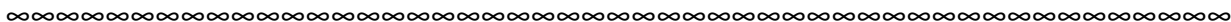
Welcome to St. Mary Catholic School! I am thrilled and blessed to be able to share this school year with you.

It is an honor that you have chosen St. Mary's to nurture and educate your child, academically, physically, emotionally and spiritually. We are committed to working collaboratively with families to do all that we can to help your child reach their full potential. Our goal is to meet each student where he/she is and create an individual plan that will allow him/her to reach his or her full potential. This is possible because we have such a dedicated, dynamic, and faith-filled staff of professionals who are eager to work with you to educate your child.

I invite all families to be involved with their child's education, both at home and here at St. Mary's. I am truly grateful for all you do and will do to work with us along the way. Together, we will provide the best Catholic education possible, as we are Believing and Achieving at St. Mary Catholic School.

I look forward to working with each of you over the course of the year.

Yours in Education,  
Janna Stonebraker  
*Principal*



On behalf of the whole community of St. Mary Parish, welcome to St. Mary Catholic School.

We at St Mary Catholic School and Parish strive to create a safe, secure, and sound environment for the development of the whole person – body, mind, and soul. We are joy filled to help our children recognize the hand of God in every area of learning. We are proud to provide an educational environment that places Christ at the center of all we do, just as Christ is to be the center of our whole lives.

You, the parents and guardians, are truly your children's first and most important teachers, especially in what it means to be people of faith. Thank you for entrusting us to aid in the vital work of raising your children, not only to be productive members of society, but also to be holy children of God. This important work is done best when we work together. We will be praying for you, please pray for us as well.

To help foster this holy space of Christian learning, we have established the following rules and guidelines. Together, may we raise up children that know, love, and serve our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Rev. James Brockmeier  
St Mary Catholic Parish – Administrator

# St. Mary Catholic School and Preschool

## 2018-2019

### Academic Year Calendar

**August 18**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**September 18**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

**October 18**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**November 18**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**December 18**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**January 19**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**February 19**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

**March 19**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**April 19**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**May 19**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**June 19**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

**July 19**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August  
6&7 Teacher Inservice  
8 First Student Day

September  
3 Labor Day- No School

October  
22-26- Fall Break

November  
21-23 Thanksgiving Break

December  
24-31 Christmas Break

January  
1-3 Christmas Break  
4 Teacher Work Day  
7 Second Semester Begins-Students Return

February  
15 Teacher In-Service Day- No Students  
18 No School/Make-Up Day

March  
25-29 Spring Break

April  
19 No School/Make-Up Day

May  
23 Last Student Day  
24 Teacher Records Day



PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS CALENDAR IS DUPLICATED FROM THE RUSH COUNTY SCHOOLS.  
June 2nd graduation refers to RUSHVILLE CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL's graduation.

## PHILOSOPHY

St. Mary Catholic School is dedicated to the Christian Catholic education of children. We follow the teachings of Christ and the policies of the Indianapolis Archdiocese under the direction of the Pastor, the Principal, and staff. We focus our efforts on the personal growth and development of young people spiritually, socially, and academically.

To make this philosophy a reality, our school depends to a great extent on the family, which must be the prime agent of these same Christian values and teachings.

## ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

**St. Mary Catholic School and Preschool's mission is to provide a safe, Christ-centered learning environment, in which each child is encouraged to grow to his or her fullest potential academically, spiritually, and physically.**

## STAFF

Preschool – Mrs. Amaranta Kemple,  
Kindergarten – Miss Jill Kuntz, Mrs. Jeanine Yager  
First Grade – Mrs. Emily Weigel  
Second Grade – Mrs. Melissa Cull  
Third Grade – Mrs. Heather Sherman  
Fourth Grade – Mrs. Michelle Means  
Fifth Grade – Mrs. Misty Blankman (5/6 Social Studies, Math, and Religion)  
Sixth Grade – (5/6 English, Science)  
Physical Education – Mrs. Jennifer Hay  
Art – Mrs. Jennifer Hay  
Music –  
Office Manager – Mrs. Ashley Busald  
Cafeteria Manger – Miss Rose Love  
Custodian – Mrs. Jessie Farley  
Library Coordinators – Mrs. Misty Lee, Mrs. Jennifer Snow, Mrs. Heather Groce  
Special Education Teacher – Kristina Spaeth  
RTI Teacher – Kristina Spaeth  
Principal – Mrs. Janna Stonebraker  
Pastor – Fr. James Brockmeier

Join with Mrs. Stonebraker and the entire staff to promote our theme for the 2018-2019 school year: **Sowing Sainly Seeds**

## St. Mary Handbook

### ACADEMIC TESTING/RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RTI)

Parents wishing to have a child evaluated for speech, psychological, social-emotional or academic performance should discuss this option with your child's teacher. All testing follows the Rush County Schools' "Response to Intervention" process, which includes a leveled procedure. This RTI process is available for your perusal in the school office as well as with your child's teacher.

### ACCREDITATION

St. Mary Catholic School is fully accredited and certified by the Indiana State Department of Education as a Freeway School. St. Mary Catholic School is also accredited through AdvandEd . Our Preschool is also fully accredited.

### ADMISSION AND WAIT LIST POLICY STATEMENT

In order to ensure an orderly and equitable admission for children to St. Mary Catholic School (hereinafter referenced as the "School"), this policy and procedure is adopted and shall be periodically revised to allow for improvement based on the changing needs of parish membership, demographic trends and/or other pertinent factors. Once recommended by the Board of Education and ratified by the Pastor, revisions of this policy shall supersede any prior admission policy of the School.

#### **A. Primary Goal - Catholic Education**

The primary goal of the School is to provide a Catholic education to the children in accordance with the mission statement of the School, archdiocesan policies, curriculum and guidelines. Therefore, all students, once admitted, are required to participate in religion classes and liturgies and otherwise conform to the religious expectations of the School. The School respects the personal conscience of individual students and their families. This freedom is recognized by the Catholic Church. However, as a Catholic school it cannot relinquish its own freedom to proclaim the Gospel and to offer a formation based on the teachings of the Catholic faith and the values found in Christian education. Students are expected to participate in religious instruction and Catholic formation, including Catholic Christian service, offered at the school except those that are intended only for Catholics (e.g., reception of the sacraments).

#### **B. Accommodation of Students with Special Needs**

The School strives to accommodate students with physical, emotional, social, or learning challenges. However, families must fully disclose the nature and known extent of such challenges at the time of registration. The School has limited resources to meet certain challenges and may recommend educational alternatives that may better serve the needs of some students.

#### **C. Parishioner Status**

Regular attendance at Mass and faithful and consistent stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure (financial support) to the Parish will be expected by Catholic families of students attending or wishing to attend the School. All School families will participate in a registration process that will help establish each family's gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure. Families meeting these criteria will be deemed "participating parishioners" for purposes of determining the rate of tuition. All other families will be considered "non-participating" for purposes of tuition. Adjustments to tuition amounts will be reviewed periodically based on your obligations and responsibilities.

#### **D. Financial Aid and Responsibility**

It is a goal of the School and Parish to provide financial support to economically disadvantaged families to the fullest extent possible. However, all School families must assume responsibility for paying the agreed-upon tuition charges in full and on time as prescribed by the School and arranged through F.A.C.T.S, our tuition management service. All Families are expected to participate in volunteer hours to the school. If volunteer hours are not satisfied, the family may have to offset the subsidy given by the parish.

**E. Agree to Abide by the School Rules**

Upon admission all parents and students agree to abide by the policies and rules of the School as specified in this School Handbook.

Additionally, the School reserves the right to make definite decisions concerning whether the wearing or possession of any item is to be considered a violation of School policy.

**F. Non-Discrimination**

The Board of Education, Administration and Pastor establish policies for admission of Catholic and non-Catholic students in alignment with archdiocesan policies. Catholic Schools administered under the authority of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis comply with those constitutional and statutory provisions as may be specifically applicable to the schools which prohibit discrimination of their educational, personnel, admissions, financial aid, athletic and other school administered programs. This policy does not conflict with the priority given to Catholics for admission as students. This policy also does not preclude the ability of the school to undertake and/or enforce appropriate actions with respect to students who publicly advocate any practices or doctrines which are inconsistent with the religious tenets of the Catholic faith. Catholic schools have not been, nor shall they become, havens for those wishing to avoid social problems confronting them in the public sector.

**ADMISSION SELECTION PROCEDURES**

Beginning with the spring registration date each year, without exception, students registering for preschool who are at age 3 or 4; or for kindergarten, who are age 5 by August 1 of the school year for which they are registering, will be eligible for consideration for admission. For grades 1 through 6, students will be eligible for consideration for admission based on proof of successful completion of the previous grade. Eligible students will be selected and placed in the School based on the maximum capacity of classrooms as set by the Board of Education according to the following categories in order of preference:

1. Current students of the School.
2. Catholic children of participating parishioners (as defined in C above) who are siblings of students attending the School in the current school year.
3. Catholic children of participating parishioners who are siblings of a graduate of the School.
4. Catholic children of participating parishioners.
5. Catholic children of non-participating parishioners who are siblings of students attending the School in the current school year.
6. Catholic children of non-participating parishioners who are siblings of a graduate of the School.
7. Catholic children of non-participating parishioners.
8. Non-parishioner Catholic children.
9. Non-Catholic children.

Within categories numbered 1 through 4 previously, priority will be given according to the parish registration date of any family deemed to be a "participating parishioner" (See Section C of previous section).

Within categories numbered 5 through 9 above, priority will be given according to the date of the School admission application.

Each year's incoming student class will be selected soon after the registration/pre-registration process is closed. For any student selected for the incoming class, his or her Catholic siblings will be placed in category #2 or #5 above for the school year for which they are registering depending on parishioner status (See Section C previously). A lottery process will be put in place if the number of Choice Scholarship seats available cannot accommodate the number of students wanting to register using the above criteria.

### **WAIT LIST**

Students not selected for admission to the School will automatically be placed on a wait list. If an opening becomes available, students on the wait list will be given priority for those openings in the same order of preference as detailed in the Admissions Selection Procedures above. The wait list will exist from year-to-year only and the wait list for each school year shall be established after the selection process for the upcoming school year has ended and shall terminate when that school year ends.

### **TRANSFER STUDENTS**

Students in good standing from another school will be considered for transfer admission after the following has been accomplished:

1. Enrollment/Admission forms are completed.
2. A conference with the Principal, parents and student has been held to discuss the goals, religious mission and expectations of the School.
3. If requested, the parents have provided a written statement indicating their reasons for seeking enrollment for their child in the School.
4. Previous educational records have been supplied to the School including, if available and applicable: current grade transcript or report card, most recent standardized testing results, Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Service Plan, Section 504 Plan or Individual Catholic Education Plan (ICEP).
5. If appropriate records are not available or if there are other educational concerns, the Principal may require entrance testing of the child and direct consultation with the previous school to determine appropriate educational placement before admission is granted.
6. Updated immunization records have been received.
7. Applicants for admission to grades 5 and 6 are generally scrutinized more closely than applicants for lower grades as educational preparation and disciplinary records at this level are of more concern to the School.
8. NOTE: Catholic schools support the disciplinary decisions of other schools. Therefore, a student expelled from another private or public school may not be considered for enrollment until one year after the expulsion date and then only at the discretion of the Principal in consultation with the Pastor.

If the Principal determines through the aforementioned procedures that the family and student have philosophies, educational goals and levels of preparation that are compatible with the religious mission and educational programs offered by the School, and that the student is likely to be successful in the Catholic educational setting, and an opening exists; the student may be admitted either on a probationary basis or without restriction. Prioritization of placement of applicants for transfer will occur in the same order and by the same criteria as defined in the Admission Selection Procedures above.

~OCE/gjp 02/11

### **AFTER SCHOOL CARE (ASC)**

- Director for the 2018-19 school year – Jessie Reed.
- After care will be from 3:15 to 5:30 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. After care will be from 2:35 to 5:30 pm on Wednesday while teachers have their in-service.
- The fee will be \$5.50 per child, per day with a total of \$27.500 a week for each child. Money can be included in the weekly lunch check.
- Space is limited. Please advise the office at the beginning of the week if your child will need ASC. The ASC program will be on a first-come first-served basis. If you wish, you could fill out a calendar in advance at the School office. If something comes up after Monday and you wish to utilize ASC, please contact the office to check on availability.



Every child should bring a non-perishable snack and a gallon of juice the first day of ASC. These snacks will be kept at school and will be shared with the other children in the program. Snacks and juice will need to be replenished as needed.

- Students must be signed out by his/her parent or authorized adult.
- Pick up time will be no later than 5:30 pm every day. After 5:30 pm there will be a late fee of \$1.00 per child, per minute late. This late fee *must be paid in cash* by Friday of the current week. Children will not be able to participate in ASC until parents pay the late fee and meet with the Principal. This will be enforced as we need to be respectful of the After School Care Director's time.
- State Choice Vouchers DO NOT cover After School Care.

### **ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES**

Vehicles should be stopping at the stop sign at the end of the east drive. Vehicles coming from the west should not park on the wrong side of the road (north side of 5<sup>th</sup> Street) facing the wrong way. Vehicles coming from the west should not make a U-turn, or turn around in the east drive or drives across the road. There are many cars traveling on 5<sup>th</sup> Street at dismissal and arrival time and we want to keep all of our students safe.

#### ***Arrival***

Students arrive at School between 7:30 a.m. and 7:55 a.m. and enter by the flagpole. If you need to come into the office or escort your child in, please park on 5th Street up past the handicapped parking space. Please do not leave your car idling. Students must report directly to the multi-purpose room. Students cannot stop at their lockers or their classrooms. Those children needing breakfast, may have breakfast upon arrival until 7:50 am. Once the 7:55 a.m. bell sounds, students are dismissed directly to their classrooms. Classes begin at 8:05 a.m. and a child is marked tardy after that time. Please be prompt and ready for class to begin.

#### ***Dismissal***

##### **Car Riders – Preschool thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

At the 3:10 p.m. bell, **on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday**, all car riders (with staff members) exit downstairs to the backdoors to the parking lot. All cars will park in a row facing playground. Teachers will dismiss all students at one time. Parents will secure students in their cars. Once all students are secure, cars will be dismissed by rows, beginning with Row #1. **FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF, DO NOT PULL AROUND ANY PARKED/LOADING CARS.** All students should be picked up here. **We are NO longer dismissing on 5<sup>th</sup> Street.** On **Wednesday, early dismissal is at 2:30 pm** and should follow the same procedure as outlined above.

#### ***After School Care***

Any child NOT picked up by 3:25 pm (all days except Wed.) will be taken to our After School Care Program (ASC - see After School Care) and the appropriate charges will incur. Wednesday dismissal will be 2:35 p.m.

#### ***Bus Riders***

Staff members and bus riders will exit the double doors leading to the church at the 3:05 p.m. first bell. They will be escorted to Perkins Street where one bus will pick up all children to be transported to the high school for their connecting bus.

## **ASBESTOS**

As required by law, you must be informed that St. Mary School does contain asbestos. It is regularly inspected and considered safe. An abatement plan is in a file marked in the custodian's room at the doorway.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### Reporting

- A parent/guardian must report each day of absence by 7:55 a.m. Office **932-3639**. You can leave a message on the office voicemail system after school hours.

### Office Procedure

- *Door Buzzer/Intercom System*-As of 8:10am and during all school hours, ALL doors of the school are kept locked and secure. A door buzzer and intercom on the 5th Street door is in use during school hours. Children and staff members are not able to open any doors to the building at any time for someone to enter from outside. Please be respectful of this rule. It is for everyone's safety and security.
- *Sign out* – Parents, please enter the School office through the south door or 5<sup>th</sup> Street door by the flagpole AFTER BEING RECOGNIZED AND BUZZED INSIDE, complete the sign out sheet, request your child to be excused from class, and wait for your child to meet you in the office.
- *Sign in* – Parents, please walk your child inside to the School office, AFTER BEING RECOGNIZED AND BUZZED INSIDE, and complete the sign in sheet.

### Illness

- All absences of three consecutive days or more must be verified with a doctor's note prior to readmission into St. Mary Catholic School. Any absences after an accumulated 10 days must have a doctor's note.
- If your child has a communicable disease or condition (chicken pox, head lice, pink eye, etc.) please immediately notify the office prior to readmission to School.
- Students with a fever, severe colds, and contagious diseases/conditions should stay home from School.
- A child may not return to School until he/she is "fever free" for 24 hours and not taking fever reduction medication.
- If a child is absent from School that day, no sports or school-related activities (including after school) should be attended that same day or evening.

### Missed work

- When you phone in the absence, please indicate school work arrangements. Any missed work can be picked up in the office **at 3:00 p.m.** A sibling or friend may transport the homework if this arrangement is designated.
- All work is due back to School in the number of days absent. (Example: If a student misses 2 days, then he/she will have two extra days after they return to complete the missed work.)
- Class work missed due to family vacations will be given to students upon their return to class. No work will be given prior to a vacation.

### Tardy

- Students are expected to be in the classroom ready to begin class at 8:05 a.m. Students who arrive after 8:05 a.m. will be considered tardy and must report to the school office upon arrival at school. Contact will be made with the parents by the principal if excessive tardiness occurs.

## Excessive Absences/Tardiness

- Tardiness
  - Educational neglect occurs when a child is excessively absent OR tardy. Excessive tardiness is defined as 5 or more tardies per semester. A letter and/or phone call to parents may be warranted. Should nine or more tardies occur per semester, a parent conference will be called. The Rush County Prosecutor's Office may also be contacted. Your child's education is compulsory in the State of Indiana. Help your child to succeed by being on time (8:05 a.m. / 1<sup>st</sup> school bell) and attending school daily.

## Consequences

- Absences
  - When a student reaches seven absences the principal will contact the family through a phone call or letter to discuss the consequences of further absences. When a student reaches ten absences a parent conference will be scheduled with the principal.

Excessive absenteeism or tardiness may necessitate the following actions.

1. Written attendance contract.
2. Required additional outside tutoring.
3. Retention in the same grade the following year.
4. Prosecution under Indiana State Compulsory Attendance Law (IC 20-8. 1-3-33)

## Excused Absences

- Excused absences are generally for illnesses, medical or dental appointments, funerals, weddings, court appearances, or to serve as a page of the Indiana General Assembly.

## Unexcused Absences

- Vacations should follow the St. Mary School calendar. Attendance may be unexcused if you remove your child for vacations while School is normally in session.
  1. Work may not be given in advance.
  2. Unexcused absences will affect grades and daily work as well as tests.
- In the event of unavoidable circumstances for absences/vacations, please immediately write a request to the Principal and your child's teacher with an explanation.
- Note that some disciplinary decisions such as in-school suspensions may warrant unexcused absences.

## Outstanding Attendance

- Outstanding attendance will be recognized at the end of the year. To qualify, the child cannot miss or be tardy more than three school days in the year.

## **BEHAVIOR PLAN**

**This behavior plan is broken into three tiers as the level of the infraction increases. This is not meant to replace classroom rules or classroom management but rather support and reinforce it.**

### Level 1

- Not respecting God, self and others at all times
- Use of inappropriate language and/or gestures
- Not following directions given by an adult
- Not coming to class prepared and ready to learn
- Not listening politely and speaking respectfully
- Not accepting ownership of actions
- Not keeping assigned areas clean
- Using equipment and supplies inappropriately
- Ignoring classroom rules and procedures

Demonstrating the above behaviors will result in a consequence determined by the teacher and/or one demerit issued to the student.

### Level 2

- Open defiance
- Backtalk/arguing with adult
- Refusal to work
- Cheating/lying
- Minor physical altercation (example – hitting another student)

A noon detention will be issued and be served at the next available date.

**Uniform infractions** = could result in a call home or office for proper attire;

### Level 3

- Fighting
- Bullying
- Stealing
- Profanity
- Extreme disrespect

Demonstration of the above behaviors will result in a conference with the student, principal /pastor and parent(s). Consequences will be dependent on the severity of the offense, but will include at least an in-school and after-school detention. These offenses could result in suspension or expulsion. The number of demerits will be based on the offense.

Level 1 and 2 offenses are handled by the classroom teacher and documented. Homeroom teachers will keep track of accumulated demerits. Once a student reaches five demerits, a conference will be held with the homeroom teacher, student and principal in hopes to alter the behaviors. In addition, parents will be notified. The accumulation of 10 demerits in any one grading period results in loss of privileges (TBD by grade level) and ineligibility to be on honor roll.

Certain offenses require an immediate office referral (e.g. sexual/racial harassment, possession of a weapon, making threats, inflicting advanced bodily harm on others and other Safe School Violations). These incidents may immediately result in an Out-of-School Suspension or other consequences at the discretion of the administrator and/or pastor.

Additionally, we want to reward students who make good choices and demonstrate Catholic values and character. Anytime a teacher or adult working in the building notices behavior that exemplifies this, they can give the student a "Paws-itive Behavior Ticket" that the student will put his/her name on and put in the container in the office. Each Friday during announcements, three names will be picked and announced to come get a small prize.

### **BIRTHDAYS**

- Birthdays are recognized each morning as part of our morning announcements.
- If your child would like to share a simple birthday treat with their class, please notify the teacher in advance. Please check with the teacher for any food allergies, too.
- Any party invitations distributed at School should be offered for ALL of the boys or ALL of the girls of your child's class. Otherwise, they should be placed in the mail.
- We know your child's birthday is a special day, and we are happy to share in your celebration.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION/SCHOOL COMMISSION**

The St. Mary School Commission serves as the policy-making body regarding educational matters. Parents are welcome to attend the regular board meetings, which are held monthly on the second Tuesday of September - May immediately following 6:30 p.m. Mass during the school year. The meetings are conducted from a prepared agenda. Anyone desiring to have a topic discussed at a board meeting should contact the school Principal or a board member one week BEFORE the regular board meeting. Chair: Mrs. Susan Spaeth

### **BOOKS**

Books (non-consumable) are rented to students each year. Students also check out library books regularly. Students are encouraged to protect and care for these books. A book bag should be carried daily to School. All rental books are checked carefully before and after they are issued to students. Damage beyond normal wear and tear will be charged to the students. Lost or mishandled books must also be charged to the students prior to the fourth quarter report card being issued.

### **BREAKFAST**

Those children that are on the approved list in the office, may have breakfast each day from 7:30-7:45 am. Charges will be \$1.30 daily, reduced fees of \$.30 or free (as approved through application for free or reduced lunch which is available in the office). Breakfast cannot be taken to the classrooms.

### **BULLYING**

Jesus, our Teacher, wants us to "Treat others as we wish to be treated." St. Mary Catholic School and Preschool will not tolerate the following bullying behaviors: physical aggression, social aggression, intimidation, threats, written aggression, sexual harassment, and racial or ethnic harassment.

All classroom behavior will be tracked and monitored. Each classroom infraction involving bullying will be reported to the Principal and monitored. If a child visits the Principal for disciplinary reasons, the Principal WILL notify the parent via email, a note, or a phone call immediately.

## **GUIDELINE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ON RESPECTING PERSONS**

The good name, reputation and personal safety of each student, faculty, and staff member is vitally important. In order to protect students, employees, and the School itself, each student and family member is expected to treat the good name and reputation of other students, School employees and the School with dignity and respect and not engage in any activity or conduct, either on campus or off campus, that is in opposition to this policy and/or inconsistent with the Catholic Christian principles of the School, as determined by the School in its discretion. Any derogatory, slanderous, hostile, or threatening remarks or actions directed toward any of the above by a student will be seen as a violation of this policy and will be viewed as an extremely serious matter, whether it is done physically, verbally, or electronically through the use of a home or school computer, phone, Ipod or other electronic media or by remote access during school time or after hours. Some examples include but are not limited to, text messages, blogging, images, pictures, etc. Any individual found to have made or participated with others in making any such remarks or actions will be subject to disciplinary action by the School, up to and including expulsion/dismissal. ~OCE/2011

## **CLASSROOM CONDUCT**

Our teachers promote a classroom atmosphere in which everyone will be able to learn. All students are expected to:

- Come each day to class with all supplies needed such as homework, paper, pencils, and books.
- Show self-discipline at all times in all places.
- Respect all property and belongings.
- Be polite and courteous. Follow the Golden Rule.
- Keep the School neat and clean.
- Be the best you can be every day.

## **CLOSINGS AND DELAYS**

St. Mary Catholic School (SMS) follows the same calendar as Rush Co. Schools. If Rush County Schools are closed – SMS is closed. If Rush County Schools are delayed – SMS is delayed. During 2-hour delays the school will be open at 9:30 a.m. for students to arrive. Tardy bell is at 10:05 a.m. To receive free closing and delay information automatically from WISH-TV, go to [www.wishtv.com](http://www.wishtv.com), scroll down to site tools on the bottom right for sms/text alerts. You will be asked to enter your mobile number – be sure to scroll down to WISHCLOSINGS and enter Rush County Schools. The school voicemail (932-3639, ext. 229) also indicates any delays or closures.

## **COMMUNICATION / ACADEMICS**

- Your child's checked work, various papers, and other information are sent home each week in a "Friday Folder." Teacher and office weekly newsletters are e-mailed unless a paper copy has been requested.
- Quarterly report cards and mid-quarter reports (called progress reports) keep parents regularly informed of their child's progress.
- Jupiter is an online reporting system is used to track your student's progress during the school year. **Each student has an account that you have direct access to.**
- Teachers and the office will phone parents immediately if something occurs that demands immediate attention.
- Parent/Teacher conferences are held at the end of the first quarter
- At various times throughout the school year, conferences may deem necessary. Please contact the teacher, first, to arrange a conference at your convenience. If this first conference does not rectify the situation, then a parent should call the Principal.

## **COMMUNICATION / SCHOOL OFFICE**

- All persons entering the building AFTER BEING RECOGNIZED AT THE OUTSIDE DOOR AND BUZZED INSIDE must report first to the office, sign in and obtain a visitor's tag.
- Office personnel will deliver messages, lunches, or books to classrooms.
- A newsletter is sent home each week via e-mail or paper form from the office and from each classroom.
- All staff members can be reached by voicemail or email.

## **DAILY SCHEDULE \*\***

7:30 a.m.	Entrance doors by flagpole are unlocked
7:30-7:45 a.m.	Breakfast available
7:30-7:55 a.m.	Study hall in multi-purpose room/all students
7:55 a.m.	Students are released to their classrooms
8:05 a.m.	Tardy bell rings – classes begin ALL DOORS ARE LOCKED
8:10 a.m.	Morning announcements on the intercom
11:00 a.m.	Dismissal of half-day preschool
11:15 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	Lunch and recess
3:05 p.m.	Bus riders / walkers dismissed
3:10 p.m.	Car riders dismissed
3:25 p.m.	After School Care begins

**\*\* Wednesday dismissal is 2:30 pm**

## **DAMAGE TO SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Any student who damages or destroys School property will be held responsible for replacing, fixing or paying for the item(s). The student may be subject to other disciplinary action at the Principal's discretion.

## **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

With Jesus Christ as our teacher, St. Mary Catholic School and Preschool students learn to be loving and respectful members of our Christian community. When an incident occurs that will warrant a referral to the Principal, the parents will be informed that school day. Classroom teachers or any other staff member may also contact you in your child's homework assignment notebook (Study Buddy) of any school infractions. You will be kept informed and we will cooperatively work together to ensure that our students are held responsible for their actions.

## **DRESS CODE**

**The dress code for St. Mary Catholic School students is intended to encourage a neat appearance consistent with our values and appropriate to a learning environment. Parents are expected to assume responsibility for making sure our students are dressed appropriately for school.** Students are to be dressed for classroom work. Clothing should not distract from the learning process. Clothing should be neat, clean, and comfortable. The principal will make final decisions regarding appropriateness of dress and grooming issues.

Formal uniform will be worn on specific dates. A list of these dates will be sent home and does include any non-out of uniform field trips. \*\*

The following is the dress code for students in grades kindergarten through sixth for the 2014-15 school year. **Students attending Mass or a Church function MUST follow dress code.**

Dress slacks – both boys and girls      \*navy or khaki      \*NO knit pants      \*NO LEGGINGS  
\*pants with belt loops must be worn with a belt in grades **3-6**  
\*Cargo pants are acceptable

Preschool students may wear jeans.

Dress shorts– both boys and girls      \*navy or khaki      \*no shorter than 3 inches above the knee  
\*shorts with belt loops must be worn with a belt in  
grades **3-6**  
\*Cargo shorts are acceptable

**\*\*Formal Uniform** – (Grades K – 6)

Girls – Jumper or skirt, white oxford, knee socks or tights, dress shoes.

Boys – Green vest, white oxford shirt, khaki pants, dark socks, dress shoes.

**\*\*\*\*Dress shorts may be worn from the first day of School until fall break and after spring break to the end of the school year.**

Capris      Girls may wear navy or khaki capris during shorts season.

Skirts, jumpers, or skorts      \*navy, khaki, blue or green plaid  
\*no shorter than 3 inches above the knee  
\*bib-overall type jumpers are not acceptable  
\*shorts **must** be worn under skirts or jumpers

Shirts/blouses – boys and girls      \*white, navy, light blue, or dark green  
\*NO stripes or patterns  
\*oxford, polo, mock, or turtlenecks are permissible  
\*must have collar and sleeves  
\*NO monogram or emblems unless St. Mary small emblems

Preschool Students may wear any solid, plain shirt in uniform colors.

**\*\*\*\*ALL shirts and blouses are to be tucked in at all times.**

Sweaters, vests, sweatshirts      \*white, navy, or dark green – solids only with **NO HOODS**  
\*NO writing or logos or graphics except small St. Mary

Shoes      \*Casual dress shoes or athletic shoes.  
-- ALL shoes must be closed-toe, have backs or heel straps;  
NO flashing/blinking lights, noises, crocs, heels (must be 1" or less), wheels, or boots.

Socks      \*Socks must be worn at all times – solid black, white or navy only.  
\*Tights/Leggings/Pantyhose: Solid uniform colors or skin tones only.  
\*Leggings may only be worn under skirts/jumpers/skorts (not as pants).

Belts      \*Belts must be worn with looped slacks, shorts, skirts/jumpers/skorts (for grades 3 – 6).  
\*Belts must be in solid, plain colors.

Nail Polish      \* Nails should be clean, neatly groomed, and of natural length.  
\* Girls may wear fingernail polish if it is light in color and presents an overall acceptable appearance.



## Jewelry

\*All jewelry should be conservative and not disrupt the classroom atmosphere.

## Gym clothes (grades 5 & 6 only)

**If gym clothes are forgotten, students must wear school clothes.**

**Calling home will not be allowed.**

\*solid t-shirts in uniform colors.

\*sweatpants or shorts (no more than 3 inches above knee and in season) may be worn but must be same colors as uniforms (khaki, navy, white, dark green, or light blue) in addition to gray and black.

**NO JEANS. NO LEGGINGS. NO BIKER SHORTS AT ANY TIME.**

\*Students in the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades ONLY may change for gym (other grades will wear uniforms for gym class).

**\*students must come to School in uniform**

**NO tattoos \*NO make-up \*Girls ONLY/small earrings – NO other body piercing**

- Modest hairstyles with no “unnatural” hair coloring permitted, i.e. pink, purple, blue, green, etc. Hair should be out of the eyes. No mohawks.
- Boys’ hair should be above their collar, not over the ears, and out of eyes.
- Coats and sweaters or light jackets must be worn outside the building as dictated by weather conditions. Students not having appropriate outdoor clothing for recess will be required to stay in at recess. This includes hats and gloves when needed.
- We do have a **Uniform Closet** that has several pieces of uniform clothing available at no cost. Use what you can and return those items when finished and get the next size needed. If you have any uniform clothing that no longer fits your child, please send those to School for another child to use.

## ***DISCIPLINE/CONSEQUENCES for Dress Code violations:***

If student fails to comply with set dress code, the following will ensue: (per semester)

First violation: Child will be required to call parent and parent will be required to bring proper attire to school.

Second violation: Student will be required to write an essay (age-appropriate as determined by teacher, principal, &/or Father), in addition to calling parent and correcting dress code violation.

Subsequent violations: Student will be required to write an essay (age-appropriate as determined by teacher, principal, &/or Father), in addition to calling parent and correcting dress code violation. After THREE essays have been assigned due to dress code violations, the student will be assigned after school detention.

*Dress code will be enforced. If you are in doubt, ask the Principal before wearing something questionable to school.*

## **DRUGS/ALCOHOL/WEAPONS POLICY**

These are considered serious offenses: bringing to School or possession of a weapon or object that could be used as a weapon, bringing to School or possession of drugs or alcohol, bringing to School or possession of tobacco. Violations concerning these things have the potential of resulting in suspension, exclusion, and/or expulsion.

## **EMERGENCIES**

A file is kept in the office containing confidential contact and emergency information. Please notify the office immediately should any contact information change such as address, phone number or names.

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

St. Mary Catholic School has developed an emergency preparedness plan, which includes fire, tornado, earthquake, nuclear disaster, flooding, and lock downs. Regular drills are held, as mandated by the State Fire Marshal's office and other state agencies. Copies of the emergency preparedness plan are in

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

**Brain Game:** 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will compete against other Deanery schools in a complete academic competition in the Spring if enough students want to participate.

**Cubs Basketball:** Boys in grades 5-6 are eligible to play for the St. Mary Cubs Basketball Team. 4<sup>th</sup> graders may be able to play depending on the number of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**Cubette Basketball:** Girls in grades 5-6 are eligible to play for the St. Mary Cubette Basketball Team. 4<sup>th</sup> graders may be able to play depending on the number of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**Math Bowl:** Students in grades 5 and 6 will participate in Math Bowl, if desired. Mr. Tom Giesting is our coach. St. Mary School competes against other Rush County schools. (4<sup>th</sup> grade may be added if needed)

**Girl Scouts:** St. Mary School has a combined Girl Scout Troop made up of all interested girls in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade through Grade 6.

**Cub Scouts:** St. Mary School is the charter for the Boy Scouts of America, Pack #33. Cub Scouts would be available with parental support.

Students must meet certain academic and behavior guidelines. Students who habitually break the classroom and/or School rules will not be eligible to participate in the program. All classroom work as well as required homework must all be completed in order to fully participate in any athletic program.

**Passing grades must be received in all subjects and maintained as well.**

## **FIELD TRIPS**

- Classes are encouraged to participate in field trips, which relate to areas of the curriculum.
- A permission slip listing all pertinent information will be sent home in advance. Students must return the signed permission slip in order to participate in the field trip. Verbal permission will not be acceptable.
- Parents may be asked to drive or chaperone on these field trips. Parents who are transporting students in their own vehicle must provide proof of insurance and have a current driver's license on record in the School office. Archdiocesan regulations also prohibit the use of fifteen passenger vans to transport children. Bus service will be used on field trips whenever feasible.
- According to the guidelines from the National Catholic Education Association and the Office of Catholic Education, parents who plan to chaperone may not bring younger siblings along on a field trip.
- **Chaperones and Volunteers must maintain their Safe and Sacred training, have a current background check, and have a Code of Conduct form on file in the office. Training may be obtained by visiting: <https://safeandsacred-archindy.org/login/index.php>**

## **GRADES**

Teachers are expected to maintain a grade book using the following Archdiocesan grade scale:

Grades K – 2 will use the new standards based grading system.

**M=Mastery Level:** *Demonstrates an understanding of the standard and consistently performs at grade level expectations.*

**PM = Partial Mastery Level:** *Demonstrate mastery of some of the skills necessary for the standard.*

**N=Non-Mastery Level:** *Not progressing at grade level for this standard.*

**O = Not meeting mastery of any part of the standard.**

Grades 4 – 6 will use the following grading scale:

A=95-100

B=86-94

C=76-85

D=70-75

F=69 or below

I=Incomplete

**Honors** - Honor roll will be for students in grades 4 – 6 only. High Honors will be awarded to any student who has a 95% average or above for that semester, with no grade under a 90%. Second Honors will be awarded to any student who has at least an 86% average with no grade under an 80%. The accumulation of 10 demerits in any one quarter disqualifies a student from earning any honors.

## **HOMEWORK**

We believe any work done at home should be meaningful and respectful of the family. Homework will be given at the teacher's discretion.

It is totally up to the family to ensure this work is complete. The failure to complete homework, in most instances, reflect in the student's retention of the subject matter and thus reflect in his/her overall grade based on in-class assignments and tests. Appropriate consequences will be given by the teacher if necessary.

Parents will be contacted for repetitive behavior of not completing homework.

## **INTERNET USE ACCEPTANCE POLICY**

### **What Is the Internet?**

The Internet technology began in the 1960's with the Department of Defense who used it to compete in the space race. Today, the Internet is available to any computer user in the world. The Internet is a communications highway connecting databases and computers whose users are able to access and share information. Students and teachers at St. Mary have access to many curriculum related resources. As we move forward in our technological efforts, it is important to be responsible users.

Listed below are examples of the types of information that may be accessed:

1. Electronic mail communication with people all over the world.
2. Information from libraries, scientists, authors, politicians, and museums etc.
3. Discussion groups on a wide range of topics such as culture and the environment.
4. Videos and music from libraries, museums etc.
5. Research to gather information from the World Wide Web and Navigational software.

### **Security and Privileges**

With access to computers and people all over the world, also comes the availability of information and material on the Internet that would not be considered of educational value in the context of a school setting. St. Mary School will take precautions to restrict access to the Internet with proper supervision and implementation of this user's policy. Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and the teacher may review or examine all student files and communications to maintain integrity to the school and student. The school retains the right to edit any material in a student's computer file that is not related to the educational purposes of the school.

### **Educational Philosophy**

Part of our goals is to promote academic and personal growth of students. Technology is available at St. Mary Catholic School to enable students to enhance their learning opportunities by fostering a positive attitude for lifelong learning. Technology has become integrated into the curriculum so students can access, explore, communicate and learn information effectively.

### **Responsibility of St. Mary School**

1. To notify parents through this user's policy that his/her child will have access to Internet services.
2. To make this Internet user policy and procedures available for review by parents, guardians, staff members, and members of the community.
3. To provide in this user policy, descriptions of inappropriate Internet use and consequences for inappropriate use.
4. To supervise students using the Internet services when accessing or transmitting information for educational purposes.
5. To prohibit access to the Internet for any reason other than for educational purposes.
6. To notify students of their responsibilities and that Internet use must comply with the school's educational philosophy and all local state and federal laws.

### **Responsibility of the Student**

1. To use the Internet as a tool for learning. Accessing information, exploring for information and transmitting of information must have an educational purpose and directly related to the school's curriculum and educational philosophy.
2. To obtain the permission of the teacher or staff member before accessing the Internet.
3. To follow general classroom and computer lab rules.
4. To comply with all local, state, and federal laws.

### **Responsibility of the Parents or Guardians**

1. To encourage proper use of the Internet by their children.
2. To be aware of this user policy for Internet use.
3. To understand that computer storage/files may be reviewed, examined and edited at anytime to insure compliance with school policies.
4. To pay for any Internet services your child accesses without permission of school personnel.

### **Inappropriate Uses and Consequences**

The following activities will not be permitted when accessing the Internet or any other telecommunications network.

1. Accessing, sending, or displaying offensive, obscene, harassing, insulting or attacking messages, pictures, videos, audios or other forms of inappropriate communications.

2. Trespassing on the other rights of users by falsifying user identities, sharing, using or displaying account numbers or passwords.
3. Damaging or disabling files, computer, related equipment or the work of others.
4. Using the Internet for non-educational purposes.
5. Violating copyright laws.

Misuse in any form will not be tolerated. Violation may result in loss of Internet privileges, detention, restitution for monetary damages, and/or suspension. In extreme cases legal action will be pursued and families will be held liable for any damages incurred.

**Please indicate acceptance of the St. Mary Catholic School Acceptable Internet Use Policy by signing the page in back of the handbook. If you do not want your child to use the Internet at school, please still fill out the form, but mark a large "NO" overtop of the writing on the form. Internet Use Policy should be signed and returned no later than August 8, 2016.**

### **LITURGIES**

- Weekly liturgy is an important part of the curriculum at St. Mary Catholic School and Preschool. It is the very core of our existence of our religion and our faith. Students plan and actively participate in the liturgies, which are on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m. As always, parents are expected to attend Sunday Mass with their students as obligated by our Catholic Faith.
- Holy Days of Obligation throughout the year will also be attended.
- Preschool joins us on Wednesdays beginning in February.
- The students are also regularly given the opportunity to take part in Reconciliation, the Way of the Cross, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and other special services. You are always welcome and invited to join together with us.
- We welcome families to join us for Mass and sit with your child(ren).

### **LOST AND FOUND**

Please mark all coats, jackets, gym shoes, lunch boxes, and other belongings with your child's name. Items found should be turned into the office.

### **LUNCH PAYMENTS**

When hot lunch is provided in cooperation with the Rushville Consolidated School System, there is a charge of \$2.85 per day (includes milk) plus \$.35 for extra milk. Payment must be paid by the first day of the week for all lunches that will be ordered that week. A large lump sum may be paid and placed in your child's lunch account. As your child orders lunch/milk, your child's account will be charged that amount. Once the account is close to being depleted, you will be notified to send in more lunch money to be placed in their lunch account. Students bringing a sack lunch from home may purchase milk for \$.35 each.

### **MEDICATION POLICY**

In order to protect the health and welfare of children and school staff members, Indiana laws require that school personnel observe certain safeguards in administering prescription and over-the-counter medication to your child, the following procedures must be observed:

1. We must have the Authorization to Dispense Medication Form completely filled in with all information complete, including specific instructions for administration, dosage, reason to be given, etc.

The children are taught that prayer is essential in daily living. Giving example in prayer is highly important as children watch and copy the way we speak to and of God. Parents can assist the teacher in giving inspiration, understanding, and meaning to these common forms of prayer the child should use in his/her daily life.

Morning Offering	Meal Prayers
The Our Father	The Glory Be
The Hail Mary	Apostles' Creed

Spontaneous prayer is also fostered, taught, and encouraged to thank, praise, petition, and make reparation to our good God.

### **REPORT CARDS**

St. Mary Catholic School issues report cards at the end of each nine-week grading period for all students in grades kindergarten through sixth. These are sent home with the child to be read and signed by the parent, and then returned to the teacher who issued the report. In addition to this, teachers also send progress reports home to parents at the end of the first five weeks of each grading period.

You can access and monitor your child's progress via Jupiter 24/7.

### **SCHOOL SAFETY**

Policy of the SMS School Commission  
#1999-1

Adopted: May 4, 1999

School Safety – Zero Tolerance for Weapons

The SMS School Commission recognizes that its responsibility for the safety of students extends to possible natural and human-made disasters and those emergencies are best met by planning and preparedness.

There will be zero tolerance for knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon. Student will be immediately suspended from school and recommended for expulsion for such possession, unless the particular circumstances for the case show that expulsion is inappropriate per the discretion of administration. No exceptions shall be made in the case of the possession of a loaded or unloaded firearm. Police will be notified per Indiana code.

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Policy of the SMS School Commission  
#1999-2

Adopted: May 4, 1999

School Safety – Threats

The SMS School Commission recognizes that its responsibility for the safety of students extends to possible natural and human-made disasters and that such emergencies are best met by planning and preparedness.

All threats will be taken very seriously. Administration will determine the gravity of the situation in which the threat was made. Parents will be notified. Students who make threats can/will be suspended from school and be required to receive psychological assessment and counseling. The student can return only if he/she presents a written recommendation to that effect from the psychologist/psychiatrist and the administration is willing to have the student back.

If the student returns, his/her parents must be notified, in writing that a second offense will result in automatic expulsion.

In the case of an adult threat, immediate legal action will be taken.

### **SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT**

St. Mary's Catholic School believes a safe and healthy environment should be provided in which all children can learn, develop, and participate in instructional programs that promote high levels of academic achievement. As an Indiana accredited non-public school, state law requires that our school has a Seclusion and Restrain Plan. The purpose of the plan is to insure that all students and staff are safe in school, and that students who may have behavior crises are free from inappropriate use of seclusion or restraint.

Behavioral interventions for children must ensure all children are treated with dignity and respect. This environment should allow all children to be free from physical or mental abuse, aversive behavioral interventions that compromise health and safety, and any physical seclusion or restraint imposed solely for purposes of discipline or convenience.

Seclusion or restraint shall not be used as routine school safety measures; that is, they shall not be implemented except in situations where a child's behavior or action poses imminent danger of physical harm to self or others and not as a routine strategy implemented to address instructional problems or inappropriate behavior (e.g., disrespect, noncompliance, insubordination, out of seat), as a means of coercion or retaliation, or as a convenience. Any use of either seclusion or restraint shall be supervised, short in duration and used only for the purposes of de-escalating the behavior.

Eight of our staff members are fully trained. Parents can access a full copy of our school's plan by request in the school office.

### **ST. MARY PTO (PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION)**

All parents are invited to become active members of our parent group, St. Mary PTO. This organization consists of teachers and fathers, mothers, and guardians of children in St. Mary Catholic School. All members are encouraged to attend the business meetings, which are held in the school multipurpose room four times each school year. Schedule for the year as well as officers will be sent home by September, 2018.

### **STANDARDIZED TESTING**

St. Mary participates in the statewide testing, I-Read, WIDA, and NWEA

- Students in grades 3-6 take the ISTEP+ (Indiana Statewide Testing for Education Progress) standardized tests as required by the Indiana State Department of Education. This test is administered yearly in the spring. (The state is replacing this test and we will participate in whatever they choose.)
- 3rd graders will take the I-Read 3 test in the 2018-2019 school year as well.
- English as a Second Language Learners will participate in WIDA testing in February.
- NWEA testing will be offered to all students several times as well. Results will be tracked and shared with families when administered.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Student Council Officers will be nominated and elected each year from the 6th grade class. Periodically, these students will join the Principal to help make decisions pertaining to work on service projects that we will participate in throughout the year and work on our monthly virtues.

### **SUMDOG WEBSITE [www.sumdog.com](http://www.sumdog.com)**

Students have access to this from home. Subscriptions are for Math and English and Writing.

## **THEME**

Our School theme for the 2018-19 School year is: Sowing Saintly Seeds!

Each class will be assigned a month in which they will participate in a service project. At the end of the month they will present information about the project to the school and pass on the icon to the next class.

## **TUITION**

The information below is an explanation of the tuition plan which will be in effect during the 2018-2019 school year for families with children attending St. Mary Catholic School, Rushville, (Kindergarten through grade 6). The details of the plan are as follows:

### **MINIMUM TUITION AMOUNTS TO BE CHARGED PER MONTH PER FAMILY:**

1. **YEARLY PARISHIONER SCHOOL TUITION**

\$4175.00 / year for 1 child  
\$6,70.00 / year for 2 children  
\$8,575.00 / year for 3 children  
\$10,500.00 / year for 4 children

2. **YEARLY NON-PARISHIONER SCHOOL TUITION**

\$4,850.00 / year for 1 child  
\$8,725.00 / year for 2 children  
\$12,100.00 / year for 3 children  
\$15,000.00 / year for 4 children

\$100 REGISTRATION FEE is assessed to all students in addition to tuition.  
\$50.00 Uniform fee and a \$25.00 Technology fee will be assessed as well.

For families to qualify as a parishioner, they must be an active member of St. Mary Catholic Church, Rushville, and must attend Mass regularly and contribute to Sunday collections.

3. **PRESCHOOL TUITION** if not full-day, all day.

\$2,350.00/year for 1 child HALF day (8-11am) everyday

Both preschool and school tuition that needs to be financed will be paid through FACTS Tuition Management. Incidental charges for lunch and after school care exceeding \$100 each will be charged to your FACTS account as warranted. A late fee of \$20 per incident will be charged to your account if not received by the due date(s) that you have agreed to. Two months delinquency will result in preschool student being excluded from the program unless prior payment arrangements have been made. Placement in the preschool class will be determined by priorities established by the St. Mary School Commission and will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

The intent of the School Commission is to make a Catholic school education possible for any family desiring such an opportunity. Some money is available to assist Catholic school families who are unable to pay full tuition and need tuition assistance. Your family will be asked to complete a FACTS Tuition Assistance Application online for a nominal fee. Tuition assistance is not available for preschool.



### **VOLUNTEERS**

We would love for you to show an interest in volunteering or being a chaperone at St. Mary Catholic School. According to the Archdiocese, all staff and volunteers are required to have a background check, complete SAFE AND SACRED online training, sign a code of conduct and sign a technology agreement. A copy is included on the following three pages to be kept in the handbook. The forms you sign and return will be at the back of the handbook

<https://safeandsacred-archindy.org/login/index.php>

Every adult who interacts with students at St. Mary Catholic School and Preschool must complete the Safe and Sacred program and the required background check, as per the guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. St. Mary Catholic School will pay for the student's primary guardians' background checks only, up to two. All other interested adults must pay the cost of the background check, which is currently \$7.00, directly to the school before being approved and certified. Each certification is good for three years

### **VOUCHER PROGRAM/SGO PROGRAM**

As of July, 2011, St. Mary Elementary School became eligible to accept students through both the voucher program (HB 1003) and the Choice Scholarship Program which is an Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). Requirements and guidelines can be accessed by visiting the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) website at [www.idoe/schoolchoice.com](http://www.idoe/schoolchoice.com).

### **WEDNESDAY EARLY DISMISSAL**

Our students are released 40 minutes earlier (at 2:30 p.m.) than normal on Wednesday of each week. This will coincide with the Rush County School release, bus and dismissal schedule. Teachers and staff members will be attending weekly in-service meetings and professional development.

## TECHNOLOGY POLICY

School staff and volunteers:

- Will only use email accounts that are provided by the School to communicate electronically with young people.
- Should only communicate with students and parents using the approved system, that is provided by the School or employer.
- Must decline or disregard invitations from students to interact one-on-one through instant messaging, texting, and social networking sites.
- Should not use a personally owned device such as a cell phone or smart phone to communicate with a student or young person.
- Should not use a web cam or internet type of phone to communicate with a student or young person.
- Always notify the parent or guardian anytime there is electronic or telephone communication to a student or young person involving schedule changes, cancelation of practice, weather cancelations, etc.
- Always notify the principal anytime a teacher or caring adult uploads a file to a student or a young person as well as copy the file that was uploaded to the parent and the principal.
- Adults and staff members of the school are forbidden from knowingly participating in any type of online games with students or young people.
- In the case of an emergency, if an adult uses a personal communications device or email account to contact an individual student; the date, time, and nature of the contact must be copied directly to the principal at the same time. (Janna Stonebraker email = [jstonebraker@stmaryrush.org](mailto:jstonebraker@stmaryrush.org).)
- Adults must acknowledge in writing that they are aware that technology auditing software is being used by the school or employer in order to protect not only students, but also the adults.

Any violations of this policy must be immediately reported to the principal, Janna Stonebraker, at [jstonebraker@stmaryrush.org](mailto:jstonebraker@stmaryrush.org).

**All staff and volunteers will have this signed policy kept on file, together with updated Safe and Sacred training, and Code of Conduct form for each year.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Staff or Volunteer

Please see page 31. There will be one form signed in which you agree to the Technology Policy, Code of Conduct, Handbook Agreement, and Internet User Policy. That form needs signed and returned to the office no later than August 14, 2018

**Archdioceses of Indianapolis**  
**Code of Conduct (Effective June 1, 2012)**

As a community of faith, we are committed to safeguard our children and youth, the most important gifts God has entrusted to us. The following rules and regulations reflect that commitment and apply to clergy, employees, and volunteers.

**I will:**

- Safeguard children and youth entrusted to my care at all times.
- Treat everyone with respect, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
- Attend Virtues: Protecting God’s Children training and read monthly online articles.
- Avoid situations where I am alone with a child or youth at church/school activities.
- Refrain from giving inappropriate, personal gifts to children or youth.
- Avoid all unnecessary physical contact, especially when alone with a minor.
- Obtain permission from a parent or guardian before contacting a minor via social media or before posting pictures, video, and other information that may identify a minor.
- Always maintain a professional attitude when dealing with minors, avoiding emotional attachment and being aware of the powerful attraction of adults in positions of authority.
- Report suspected child abuse to civil authorities (Indiana hotline: 800-800-5556) or to a local law enforcement agency and to the archdiocese (victim assistance coordinator: 800-382-9836, ext. 1548). Report any violations of this code of conduct to the victim assistance coordinator. Confidential reports to the archdiocese can also be made online at [www.archdioceseofindianapolis.ethicspoint.com](http://www.archdioceseofindianapolis.ethicspoint.com). You do not have to give your name.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children and/or youth.

**I will not:**

- Communicate any views contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol while overseeing youth at any church/school activities.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs.
- Allow minors to have and/or use alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Use profanity or engage in behavior that is harassing or degrading to others.
- Allow minors to have, or assist them in gaining access to, pornographic or inappropriate websites, movies, or printed materials.

I understand and will abide by the rules and guidelines in this Code of conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Parish, School, or Agency Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

Please see page 31. There will be one form signed in which you agree to the Technology Policy, Code of Conduct, Handbook Agreement, and Internet User Policy. That form needs signed and returned to the office no later than August 14, 2018.

## **ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL INTERNET USE ACCEPTANCE POLICY**

### **What Is the Internet?**

The Internet technology began in the 1960's with the Department of Defense who used it to compete in the space race. Today, the Internet is available to any computer user in the world. The Internet is a communications highway connecting databases and computers whose users are able to access and share information. Students and teachers at St. Mary have access to many curriculum related resources. As we move forward in our technological efforts, it is important to be responsible users.

Listed below are examples of the types of information that may be accessed:

1. Electronic mail communication with people all over the world.
2. Information from libraries, scientists, authors, politicians, and museums etc.
3. Discussion groups on a wide range of topics such as culture and the environment.
4. Videos and music from libraries, museums etc.
5. Research to gather information from the World Wide Web and Navigational software.

### **Security and Privileges**

With access to computers and people all over the world, also comes the availability of information and material on the Internet that would not be considered of educational value in the context of a school setting. St. Mary School will take precautions to restrict access to the Internet with proper supervision and implementation of this user's policy. Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and the teacher may review or examine all student files and communications to maintain integrity to the school and student. The school retains the right to edit any material in a student's computer file that is not related to the educational purposes of the school.

### **Educational Philosophy**

Part of our goals is to promote academic and personal growth of students. Technology is available at St. Mary Catholic School to enable students to enhance their learning opportunities by fostering a positive attitude for lifelong learning. Technology has become integrated into the curriculum so students can access, explore, communicate and learn information effectively.

### **Responsibility of St. Mary School**

1. To notify parents through this user's policy that his/her child will have access to Internet services.
2. To make this Internet user policy and procedures available for review by parents, guardians, staff members, and members of the community.
3. To provide in this user policy, descriptions of inappropriate Internet use and consequences for inappropriate use.
4. To supervise students using the Internet services when accessing or transmitting information for educational purposes.
5. To prohibit access to the Internet for any reason other than for educational purposes.
6. To notify students of their responsibilities and that Internet use must comply with the school's educational philosophy and all local state and federal laws.

### **Responsibility of the Student**

1. To use the Internet as a tool for learning. Accessing information, exploring for information and transmitting of information must have an educational purpose and directly related to the school's curriculum and educational philosophy.
2. To obtain the permission of the teacher or staff member before accessing the Internet.
3. To follow general classroom and computer lab rules.
4. To comply with all local, state, and federal laws.

Please see page 31. There will be one form signed in which you agree to the Technology Policy, Code of Conduct, Handbook Agreement, and Internet User Policy. That form needs signed and returned to the office no later than August 14, 2018.

**Responsibility of the Parents or Guardians**

1. To encourage proper use of the Internet by their children.
2. To be aware of this user policy for Internet use.
3. To understand that computer storage/files may be reviewed, examined and edited at anytime to insure compliance with school policies.
4. To pay for any Internet services your child accesses without permission of school personnel.

**Inappropriate Uses and Consequences**

The following activities will not be permitted when accessing the Internet or any other telecommunications network.

1. Accessing, sending, or displaying offensive, obscene, harassing, insulting or attacking messages, pictures, videos, audios or other forms of inappropriate communications,
2. Trespassing on the other rights of users by falsifying user identities, sharing, using or displaying account numbers or passwords.
3. Damaging or disabling files, computer, related equipment or the work of others.
4. Using the Internet for non-educational purposes.
5. Violating copyright laws.

Misuse in any form will not be tolerated. Violation may result in loss of Internet privileges, detention, restitution for monetary damages, and/or suspension. In extreme cases legal action will be pursued and families will be held liable for any damages incurred.

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**Please indicate acceptance of the St. Mary Catholic School Acceptable Use Policy, by filling out the information below and return it to school by August 14, 2017. If you do not want your child to use the Internet at school, please still fill out the form, but mark a large "NO" overtop of the writing on the form.**

---

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

I/we have read, understand and will comply with the Internet Use Policy and guidelines for St. Mary School and hereby give my/our permission for the student to participate in school sanctioned Internet activities.

Parent Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

or Legal Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please see page 31. There will be one form signed in which you agree to the Technology Policy, Code of Conduct, Handbook Agreement, and Internet User Policy. That form needs signed and returned to the office no later than August 14, 2018.

**ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL - HANDBOOK AGREEMENT**

We the undersigned, state than we have read, discussed, and agree to be governed by the policies as stated in the Parent – Student Handbook for St. Mary School during the 2018-2019 school year. We understand fully the regulations contained therein and recognize the right of the School to establish rules and provide for their enforcement. St. Mary Catholic School retains the right to amend the handbook for just cause and parents will be given prompt notification if changes are made.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

or Legal Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature

Grade

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please see page 31. There will be one form signed in which you agree to the Technology Policy, Code of Conduct, Handbook Agreement, and Internet User Policy. That form needs signed and returned to the office no later than August 14, 2018

**ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL and PRESCHOOL**  
**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**



We the undersigned, state than we have read, discussed, and agree to be governed by the technology policy on page 26 of the St. Mary Catholic School and Preschool Parent – Student Handbook for 2018-2019.



We the undersigned, state than we have read, discussed, and agree to be governed by the Code of Conduct on page 27 of the St. Mary Catholic School and Preschool Parent – Student Handbook for 2018-2019.



We the undersigned, state than we have read, discussed, and agree to be governed by the internet Use Acceptance policy on pages 28 and 29 of the St. Mary Catholic School and Preschool Parent – Student Handbook for 2018-2019.



We the undersigned, state than we have read, discussed, and agree to be governed by the policies as stated in the Parent – Student Handbook for St. Mary School during the 2018-19 school year. We understand fully the regulations contained therein and recognize the right of the School to establish rules and provide for their enforcement. St. Mary Catholic School retains the right to amend the handbook for just cause and parents will be given prompt notification if

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

or Legal Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature

Grade

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

This copy can be retained in the handbook for your records. There is a separate copy in your Back-To-School packet to be signed and returned to the office no later than August 14, 2018.