

THE CONNECTION

Weekly Newsletter



ALLENGING MINDS

DEVELOPING CHARACTER

LIVING JESUS

Dear Parents,

Next week, we join with schools across the country to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. As we come together during this time, I would like to thank you for choosing a Catholic education for your child — and choosing St. Mary Parish.

Not only does a Catholic school education allow children to pursue academic excellence within the context of a community imbued with our Catholic faith, Catholic schools set the stage for years of positive results, including:

- Enriching Catholic values
- Becoming a good citizen
- Giving back to the community

Each one of us is special and important to the success of our schools in fulfilling their mission for God's glory. Thank you for the sacrifices you have made. Your support is always needed and welcome inside and outside the classroom.

Enjoy this year's Catholic Schools Week with your child and please invite friends and family to consider our school for their children. Thank you for all you do and may God bless you and your family.

Peace, Msgr. Ross Shecterle

Teacher Appreciation Committee Needs Your Help:

In Honor of Catholic Schools Week, our Teacher Appreciation Committee is providing a lunch to all teachers on Wednesday, Feb. 1st. Please consider signing up for a lunch / recess volunteer slot to relieve our teachers of their duties so they can enjoy their lunch, free of their usual obligations!

If you would like to help contribute to this event but are unable to volunteer, we are also accepting drink donations which can be dropped off in the Teacher's Lounge the morning of 2/1. <u>Click HERE</u> <u>to sign up.</u> THANK YOU! UPCOMING **EVENTS**

Jan. 29 Open House 11am - 2pm

Jan. 30- Feb.3 Catholic Schools Week

Feb. 2 Village Bowl Field Trip (K4-3rd Grade) *Permission slip

Sunburst Field Trip (4th - 8th Grade) *Permission slip

Feb. 3 School Day Fun Fair

Feb. 7 Home & School Meeting (School Conf. Rooms) 7pm

> Feb. 9 No School (Conferences)

Feb 10 No School (Teacher In-Service)

Feb. 22 Panera Bread Night 4-8pm

> March 2 - 22 Iowa Testing

March 7 End of Trimester 2

View Full Calendar

St. Mary Parish School Open House Sunday, January 29, 2023 | 11am-2pm Experience the exemplary academic journey that will prepare your child for a lifetime of success. **Discover What Makes Us Different**

TO REGISTER, CALL (262) 251-1050 | STMARYPARISHSCHOOL.OR

St. Mary Parish School Open House is this Sunday!

We're kicking off Catholic Schools Week with our Open House. It isn't too late to share the info with your friends, family, neighbors, and anyone else you think might be interested in touring our school! They can R.S.V.P. at this link.

A few more volunteers are still needed for the day of the Open House. If you are available and can offer your time and talents, please sign up here. With your efforts, we will continue to pass on to others the good fortune and wonderful education our children have been fortunate to experience. Thank you!

Junior Docent Trip to Milwaukee Art Museum

On Thursday January 19, Junior Docent participants attended their 2nd tour at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Third grade studied the art elements of line shape and color. Some third graders also had the opportunity to view a real Picasso which ties into their current art unit here at school. Fourth graders viewed artworks related to Wisconsin Stories. Many of the pieces they viewed also related back to their Social Studies curriculum of Wisconsin History. Fifth grade's tour was Antiquities to Contemporary, viewing works from ancient through modern times. They are also getting ready to choose their study piece for JDSP graduation in May!

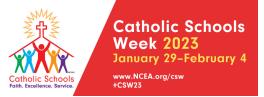
Check out a few more pictures here!











Catholic Schools Week: **Dress-Up Days and Fun Activities!**

In Celebration of Catholic Schools Week, we will have fun dress up days starting Monday, Jan 30th with a Pa'Jammin Monday! Click here for a full schedule of the dress-up days and other fun activities we have happening during Catholic Schools Week!

School Day Fun Fair: Friday, Feb. 3rd!

The School Day Fun Fair will be held next Friday, February 3rd from 8am to 3pm. Admission is \$5/student, charged through Smart Tuition.

To make this event a success, we need your help!

Please consider donating, volunteering or becoming a Fun Fair sponsor!

1) Donate candy, cookies, cupcakes and more! Click here to donate

2) Volunteer at the event next Friday - a few spots are available if you have time!

Sponsor a game or inflatable - <u>Google form</u>

Thank you for considering! Kristin Stanek and Arin Nguyen School Day Fun Fair Committee Co-Chairs

St. Mary Parish School - Catholic Schools Week



Optimist Club Student of the Month - January Lucas Otterstrom

a sponsor. Fill out the google form if you can help!



Lucas always has a great attitude during class. He doesn't shy away from a challenge and always has his homework complete. He is willing to ask for help and puts in extra time to review prior to a quiz or test. Lucas asks questions to clarify concepts especially when going over his homework. Lucas steps up to volunteer for various jobs during the day and follows through to complete tasks. He remembers to do his classroom job without being reminded. He is respectful and friendly to all teachers and students. Lucas works hard in his classes, is organized, and wants to do well so he can meet and exceed teacher expectations. Lucas is active in sports as well and enjoys basketball and track. Lucas checks the boxes as a learner, citizen and disciple! Congrats, Lucas!

<u> American Heart Association - Kids Heart Challenge:</u>

Our students are getting ready to Be the Torch and build longer, healthier lives through this year's Kids Heart Challenge program.

Mark your Calendars for our Kick-off and Packets Home: Starting Monday, February 6th!

Our fun celebration will run February 27 – March 3 when all donations are due! Join us today to help our students, school community and the American Heart





Association.

Our St. Mary Teachers are the Best!



We're excited to share more wonderful words about our St. Mary School Teachers! This week, we are highlighting Mrs. Bingenheimer, our K4 teacher, and Mrs. Brandt, her aide! They make an amazing team teaching our K4 students-check out what some of the students and parents had to say!

Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Bingenheimer and Mrs. Brandt – K4

"My daughter has grown so much academically and personally/socially this year in Mrs. Bingenheimer's class. Mrs. Bingenheimer really fosters a sense of independence in her students. I am amazed by the number of centers and activities the kids participate in each week. You can tell Mrs. Bingenheimer really cares about her students and puts in the time planning and teaching. As a parent, I love how Mrs. Bingenheimer shares a glimpse of her lesson plans with us and posts several pictures and videos to Schoology each week so that we can see all the neat things the kids are doing in the classroom such as making a grocery store, building an igloo, and of course, Foodie Friday creations!' - Heidi Henke

"I like to build, paint, play pretend, and draw in Mrs. B's class. I love Foodie Fridays!" -Nora H.

"We love the growth and confidence we've seen in Jack so far this school year. We are so grateful that Mrs. B and Mrs. Brandt care so much about the kids and put so much time and effort into the weekly lessons! They are a perfect team, and Jack is a better person for having them as his 4K teachers!" - Beth Helleson

"Mrs. B is a fantastic educator that does such a great job with the children. She goes above and beyond to provide both a strong educational foundation to the students along with a positive and friendly experience. Our son Cameron says that his favorite thing about Mrs. B is that she is nice to him and teaches him numbers and letters." - Mike Burtzel

"I love Mrs. B because she is an awesome teacher. She teaches fun things. I like learning our letters." - Maggie W.

"Mrs. B provides such a wide opportunity of educational activities for these kiddos. From color-themed songs, to igloo building, to the question of the day, to the enthusiasm of Fun Food Friday, she has taught me as a parent that every moment is an opportunity for learning, fun and making memories. We are blessed to have Maggie in her class." - Heather Wiesner

"Mrs. B makes me feel special because she plays with me. I love her." - Evelyn L.

"Mrs. Brandt draws with me and that's my favorite thing!" - Evelyn L.

"My husband and I are grateful to have Mrs. B and Mrs. Brandt as our daughter's 4k teachers. Her faith has grown exponentially and her biblical knowledge has, too. There is nothing better than knowing our daughter is building a strong foundation of faith at only 4 years old." - Meghan Limbach

"Whenever I see Mrs. Brandt, she is always helping students and teachers in the classrooms, hallways, cafeteria, outside or in church. A good teacher's aide is a gift and can make all the difference in the classroom when so many different needs have to be met. Mrs. Brandt knows how to calm a squirmy class of preschoolers, but also provides a fun loving presence for our kids to lean on during their day. Mrs. Brandt cares about her students and is invaluable to the school." - Heidi Henke

"Mrs. Brandt helps me learn math. She helps me learn to make stories." - Nora H.

"I really like when Mrs. B teaches me about Jesus, and when Mrs. Brandt reads to us.' - Jack Helleson

"Mrs. B is such a phenomenal educator. Her passion for teaching is evident in every interaction with each child in her care! We are particularly appreciative of her home and school communication, whether it's posts of pictures from centers, "Fun Food Fridays," field trips and videos— she makes sure that families know what the kids have been doing in the classroom! We also love the parent education pieces that she includes in her Schoology posts, emails and newsletters. Together we can reinforce the goals that they've been working so hard on at schoolfostering independence with self-help skills, strong communication skills, and fine and gross motor skills. Her igloo building and creative thematic center skills are also legendary!" -Meggie & Andy Kopplin

Home & School Updates **Volunteer Spotlight** Brandon Kirchoff

Brandon Kirchoff is a very active member of our St. Mary Athletics board and has helped make lasting impressions on our young athletes. We are grateful for all he has done to support our St. Mary Athletics and entire community! Check out what some other parents had to say about him:

"Over the past few years Brandon has dedicated an immense amount of time to coaching basketball at St Mary's. He also joined Athletics Board in 2021 and is serving as the boys basketball coordinator. This year alone he is coaching three different St Mary's boys teams, often wrapping up one practice and going straight into a practice with another one of his teams! While Brandon's oldest of his 3 sons will be graduating from St Mary's this spring his youngest will be entering 5th grade next year and starting Athletics here, so you will see Brandon in the gym for many years to come." - Dan Jaeger

"Brandon is an active member of our Athletic Board and serves as our Boys Basketball Coordinator. He notably coaches three of our St. Mary boys basketball teams, one of which he has no kids on! He is always willing to go the extra mile by setting up the gym after a Friday practice for Saturday morning games. He has frequently offered to set up and do the announcing for our tournaments. Even though he is at the gym a ton between the three St. Mary teams he coaches, he still volunteers for a lot of athletic board gym duty shifts during the week and on the weekends. One thing that is important to note is that Brandon takes the time to connect with the kids on his teams about life, making mistakes, trying hard, and just being good humans. I also think his wife Sheri deserves a shout out too....because in order for Brandon to have this kind of impact and follow his passion he is obviously out and about at the gym a lot...and she is able to support him in that, which I'm sure isn't always easy. (but she makes it look easy!)" - Terri Meulemans

"Brandon Kirchoff is an active St. Mary Athletic board member and coach. Not only does he coach his son's 8th grade and 6th grade basketball teams, he is also helping coach the 7th Grade A team as well! As a member of the athletic board, Brandon volunteers to pick up board duty shifts, which involves setting up and cleaning up the gym for volleyball and basketball games and supervising the gym during home athletic events on nights and weekends (when his teams aren't playing). On top of that, Brandon serves as the boys basketball coordinator. Thank you Brandon for all you do to keep St. Mary's Athletics going strong!" - Josh Stanek

"We are so thankful Logan has had Brandon as his basketball coach the last two seasons. Coach Brandon does an outstanding job of meeting the kids where they are at, making each player feel like a valuable part of the team, regardless of skill level. He works hard to create opportunities for every player on the team to score and fairly distributes playing time. He leads by example with his positive attitude and demonstrated respect for referees and other coaches. His generous gift of time and talent is a true blessing to our school community."- Lucas & Laurie Rocole

"Brandon has been an integral member of the Athletic board for a number of years, serving as the boys basketball coordinator. He puts many hours in to running a great basketball program and he is always willing to lend a hand, frequently helping to get the gym setup when there is a tight turnaround between practices and games. Brandon also coaches not 1, not 2, but 3 of our boys basketball teams!" - John Wiese

Amazon Smile Update:

Unfortunately, Amazon Smile will wind down by Feb, 20, 2023.



Click here for a full <u>update.</u>

Home and School Meeting Update:

Check out the meeting minutes from the meeting on Monday, Jan 9th. The next Home and School Meeting will be on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7th at 7 PM in the School Conference Rooms.

All are welcome.

TUITION TAX CREDI **CLARIFICATIONS**

Click HERE for some tips to assist you when calculating your tuition credit for your State Tax return.

Parish Updates

Volunteer Help Needed at Mass Jan. 28 and 29

Help us thank parishioners at St. Mary Parish and St. Anthony's Parish for supporting our school by signing up to pass out thank you cards 15 minutes before each mass this weekend. *We still have 1 slot to fill at St. Anthony on Sunday at 10:15am.

Students must wear school uniform. (You will receive an out-ofuniform pass). Click here to sign up. *Student can be the one who is reading his/her essay at mass.

THANK YOU!

Calendar Raffle Winners

Congratulations to these \$30 winners that were drawn on January 25th: Tom and Bobbie Braun, Christine and Steve Herbst, Pat Gagnon, Betty Glocka, and Sue Brandt.

Thank you for your support.

In the Community

Support St. Mary at J.K. Lee Taekwondo Help Support St. Mary and sign up for one month of classes, OR sign up to celebrate your child's birthday at J.K. Lee. All proceeds go back to St. Mary! Click here for more info, and complete the survey to sign up/get more information!

> Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (MACCW) 8th Grade Girls Scholarship Opportunity: MACCW will be offering three \$1,500 Scholarships to three deserving young girls who are planning to enter a Catholic High School in the Fall of 2023. Application forms and details are available here. All applications must be postmarked by Friday, April 1,2023 and winners will be notified by May 1st.

Pompeii Men's Club Catholic High School \$2,500 Scholarship Award: Must be a Catholic Grade School student to participate. Click on the image to the right to learn more and to access the full award application. (Applications due July 1st with full, final report card).

> Menomonee Falls Little League Registration: ONLINE Registration for 2023 is open and ends February 15, 2023. In-Person Registration will be held on Saturday, January 28th, 2023 from 9am-Noon at North Middle Cafe. Click the image for more info.

2023 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

Sunday, Feb. 12th at St. John Vianney. Open to boys and girls age 9 -14. No cost to participate. Click the image for more info.

Hamilton High School Open House, Wed. Feb. 1st - Must RSVP by Jan. 27th in order to attend orientation night. Click School District the image for more details.

Cultura Vitae Night: "Teenagers, Technology, and Mental Health," hosted by Chesterton Academy, Thurs., Feb. 16th. Click image for more information.

A Alar

2023 Milwaukee Festival being held on Saturday, February 18 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Click the image for more info.

February Hot Lunch Menu 2022-23 Academic Calendar

2022-23 Home & School Calendar

Updated Guidelines for COVID-19

Change of Dismissal **Inclement Weather Policy** Lunchroom Volunteer Sign Up Playground Volunteer Sign Up



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CHESTERTON ACADEMY