

CHALLENGING MINDS • DEVELOPING CHARACTER • LIVING JESUS

Grandparents,
Welcome to receiving the Connections Newsletter!

We're excited to share our school newsletter with grandparents as a way to keep them updated on the latest news, upcoming events, and special programs that make our school such a vibrant place. We hope this brings grandparents closer to our school family and all we share together.

If you know of someone who would like to receive the newsletter, please send their email address to office@smps.school

UPCOMING EVENTS

TONIGHT:
Trivia Night
6:30pm

Nov. 20
End of Trimester 1

Nov. 22
Middle School Social
Cancelled

Nov. 22
3rd—5th grade
Junior Docent Field Trip

Nov. 27 - 29
Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 1
Join us in the [Menomonee Falls Christmas parade!](#)
Sign Up [here!](#)

Dec. 2
No School

Dec. 5
Open House for ages 2 - 6
6 - 7pm
Flyer [here](#)

Dec. 5-6
[Holiday Treasures Gift Shop](#)
Sign up to volunteer [here](#)

Dec. 18
Home & School Meeting
School Conf. Rooms
5:30pm

Dec. 19
Save the Date:
K5—2 Grade Musical

Dec. 23 - Jan. 3
Christmas Break

[View 2024-2025 Academic Calendar here](#)

Dear St. Mary Parish School Families,

This week, we celebrated Veterans Day and World Kindness Day. These days are excellent opportunities to reflect on the values of sacrifice, compassion, and service—which are central to our faith and our mission to “live Jesus” daily.

On Veterans Day, we honor the men and women who have selflessly served our country. Their courage, dedication, and love for others remind us of Jesus’ words, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:13). We are blessed to be part of a community that profoundly respects the sacrifices made by veterans and their families. This week, our students learned about and prayed for these heroes, thanking them for the freedom and peace we enjoy.

World Kindness Day, which followed closely on November 13, encourages us to embrace kindness as an everyday practice. St. Mary’s strives to create a compassionate and welcoming environment, teaching students that small acts of kindness can make a big difference. As it says in Ephesians 4:32, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Through service, understanding, and respect, we “live Jesus” through love to those around us.

Attending Mass each weekend is a powerful way to nurture the value of kindness. Through Mass, we connect to Christ’s example of compassion and love, learning to reflect His kindness in our lives. Gathering in faith reminds us of the strength of community and the joy of giving kindness to others.

Thank you for your continued partnership in guiding our children in faith, love, and kindness.

Warm blessings,
Annemarie Wood

School starts at 7:55am

Please make sure your child is here by 7:50 so they can put their things away and be ready to begin learning by 8am

December Hot Lunch Portal Open:

Our hot lunch portal for the month of December is open. Please order [HERE](#). Orders must be placed on or before **Thursday, Nov. 21st at 10am** at the latest. Please get your orders in on time as we will not be able to reopen the hot lunch portal once quantities have been submitted to our hot lunch vendor.

View [December menu here](#).

Hot Lunch Update: Cousins Subs

We are thrilled to share that Cousins Subs will be joining our hot lunch menu! Beginning in January 2025, every Monday, students can choose from three delicious sub options: turkey breast, ham & provolone, and roast beef & cheddar. Each sub will be 3 1/4" long, and there will be an option to order an extra sub if your student wants more. Toppings like tomato, lettuce, and mayo will be available on the side for customization.

JOIN US!

MENOMONEE FALLS CHRISTMAS PARADE

Is your business willing to donate knit hats for the event? Contact Mrs. Wood.

Tell the Good News about Christ as we kick-off the Advent Season. Walk in the Falls Christmas Parade! We're looking for approximately 50 people to join us as a living Nativity and friends who can hand-out glow-sticks.

Line up between 3:30 - 4pm.
More info coming soon!

DECEMBER 1, 2024

Save the date and make memories with us

ST. MARY SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE

FOR AGES 2-6

St. Nicholas & Advent activities
Meet the Staff
See the kindergarten classrooms

THURSDAY | 5 | DECEMBER
6:00-7:00 PM

Schedule a Tour for any age on our website
N89W16215 Cleveland Avenue
<https://stmaryparishschool.org>

ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL
Challenging Minds • Developing Character • Living Jesus

STEPPING DOWN
May 2025

HELLO ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL COMMUNITY, IT IS WITH A Mixture of GRATITUDE, SADNESS, AND EXCITEMENT THAT I AM ANNOUNCING I WILL BE LEAVING ST. MARY'S AT THE END OF MAY 2025 TO BEGIN GRADUATE CLASSES AT UW-MILWAUKEE TO PURSUE A CAREER IN PHYSICAL THERAPY.

I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ALONGSIDE SUCH WONDERFUL STAFF HERE AT ST. MARY'S. THEY HAVE ALL BEEN A GREAT EXAMPLE TO ME AND I WILL BE SAD NOT TO HAVE THEM AS COLLEAGUES ANYMORE. OUR STUDENTS ARE VERY LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH DEDICATED AND FAITHFUL TEACHERS AND STAFF.

I HAVE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED TEACHING PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH TO THE STUDENTS HERE AND I WILL TRULY MISS IT. IT HAS BEEN A BLAST WATCHING THESE STUDENTS BRING SUCH HIGH ENERGY, COMPETITIVE SPIRITS, AND TEAMWORK TO THE ACTIVITIES IN THE GYM.

IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE GETTING TO KNOW SO MANY FAMILIES IN MY TIME HERE. THANK YOU ALL FOR MAKING ME FEEL SO WELCOME. I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO SEE MANY OF YOU AT PARISH EVENTS AND MASSES IN THE FUTURE.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR A GREAT TWO YEARS OF TEACHING!

GOD BLESS,
- HUNTER WALLACE - PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH TEACHER

Thank you Mr. Wallace! We wish you all the best!

The search for a new PE teacher is currently open. If you know someone who is interested, they should send their resume to wooda@smps.school. Thank you!

Sponsored by the St. Mary's Middle School Service Club

FOOD DRIVE

NOVEMBER 18TH THROUGH DECEMBER 16TH.

Did you know that the pantry serves over 300 children each month?

Did you know the food pantry serves Colgate, Germantown, Richfield, Lannon, Brookfield, and the greater Menomonee Falls area?

Did you know that almost 300 senior citizens use the food pantry every month?

The need is great, so let's start the Christmas season by bringing in needed food for members of our community.

On December 9th the class with the most food donations will win a class prize. At the end of the drive, the winning class will win an out of uniform pass.

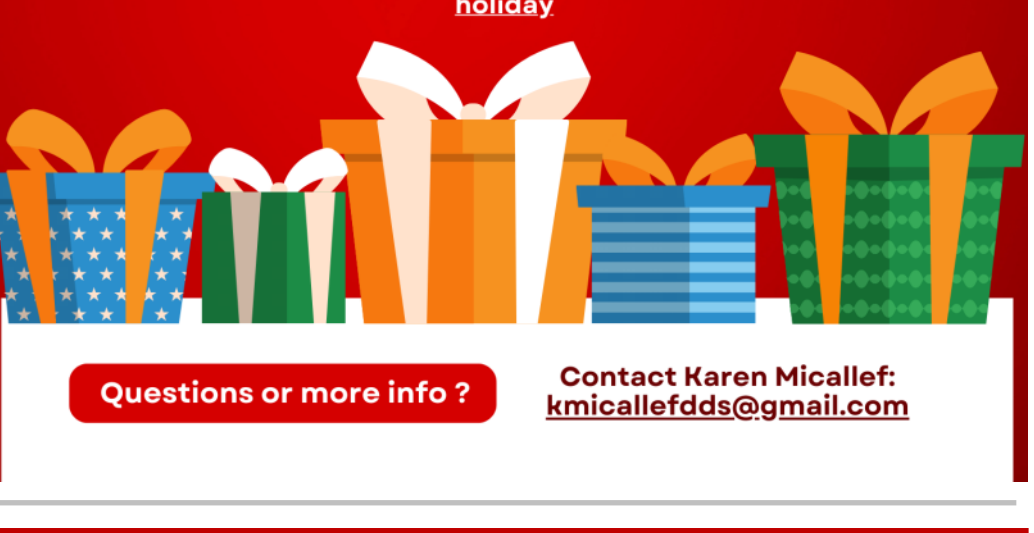
PLEASE HAVE STUDENTS BRING THEIR DONATIONS TO THEIR CLASSROOM

- MONDAYS**
Canned Meat
- TUESDAYS**
Soup
- WEDNESDAYS**
Whole grains (rice, pasta, cereal)
- THURSDAYS**
Canned veggies
- FRIDAYS**
Canned fruit

Telling our Good News!

The Good News is "World Kindness Day"

Our Student council members lead a buddy activity for World Kindness Day on Thursday! Students met with their buddies to create "Kindness Rocks" to spread messages of goodness and joy. These small acts add up as we live Jesus today and everyday.



Director of Teaching: From the Desk of Mrs. Mogilevsky:

Support a Positive Math Identity

Building a child's "math identity" involves helping them see themselves as capable problem solvers. Praising a child's process—such as their thinking and strategies—reinforces their view as "doers" of math. Instead of saying, "You're so good at math," try: "I can tell you worked hard on this problem!" This slight shift helps children focus on growth, which in turn strengthens their confidence and resilience in learning math.

Our St. Mary Teachers are the Best:

We're proud to have such great teachers here at St. Mary and we want to share how much they're appreciated by our students and community. This week we are highlighting our P.E./Health Teacher, Mr. Wallace.

Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Wallace, Physical Ed.

"Mr. Wallace is the best gym teacher in the whole world." - Noah

"I love when he uses different whistles. I like his new one." - Julian W.

"I like when he planned the Kids Heart Challenge for us and gave us keychains." - Olivia

"Mr. Wallace helps my body to get strong!" - Sophia

Read more quotes shared about Mr. Wallace [here](#).

Home & School Updates:

Holiday Treasures Gift Shop is Coming!

St. Mary's is hosting a Christmas shop for the students. They will be attending with their class on **Thursday, December 5th or Friday, December 6th.** Simply put cash or check made out to St. Mary in the envelopes provided and specify who the gifts are for. The gifts range between \$1 and \$15, and wrapping is complimentary. There will be festive activities available for all attending. It's a wonderful event for the children to enjoy the spirit of giving!

HELP NEEDED: Parent volunteers are very much appreciated and can sign up at the link below:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080849ACA2EA1FD0-52935350-holiday>

Questions or more info? Contact Karen Micallef: kmicallefdds@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need your help! Our St. Mary Volunteers are the best, and we're looking for more parents/volunteers to help for our daily volunteer needs! Thank you in advance for your consideration in signing up and volunteering! *Please note, all volunteers must have completed the Safeguarding Training. If you have not done so, please contact the School Office at office@smps.school

[Playground](#) Volunteer Sign Up
[Lunchroom](#) Volunteer Sign Up

Home & School Activities Calendar

Take a look at our Home and School Activities Calendar [here](#) for a peek at all H&S sponsored events scheduled this school year! Add these fun dates to your personal calendar so you are able to take part in these community-building school-based events!

Athletics Updates:

WARRIOR ATHLETICS

Thank you to all our volleyball teams on their successful seasons, including our Boys 8th Grade teams 4th place finish and our Girls 8th Grade teams Elite 8 finish at The Seton. Many thanks to everyone involved, including the coaches and families for all your support and encouragement. We're so blessed to have so many volunteers which allow us to run admissions and concessions during league play and for our home tournaments. As we prepare for the beginning of the basketball season we'd ask our families to keep an eye out for these upcoming volunteer opportunities to support our teams throughout the basketball season. Go Warriors!

Parish Updates:

Giving Tree Starts Nov. 16

Brighten Christmas for the needy in our community and beyond by participating in the Giving Tree Program sponsored by St. Mary Human Concerns Committee and St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Beginning Nov. 16, Christmas Trees decorated with gift tags will be at all entrances of the church. Take a tag, purchase the item listed and return the item by no later than Dec. 15. If you know of an elderly or homebound parish senior, contact the parish office or email svdp@stam.church by Nov. 16

Calendar Raffle Winners:

Congratulations to these \$30 winners drawn Nov. 13th: St. Mary School, Bonner Family, Reid Hietpas, Tom and Pam Henke and Diane Harley.

Thank you for your participation!

In the Community:

SMPS Alumni Performing in "The Lightning Thief" at D.S.H.A!

Former student graduates of 2024 and current Parish Members Amy K., Natalie N., and Emma E. will be participating in the DSHA production of **The Lightning Thief - The Percy Jackson Musical.**

\$5 STUDENT TICKETS! *Discount Tickets available thanks to a generous donor! Use code in image!

A few performances left...
November 15 at 7:00 p.m.
November 16 at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Tickets to this family-friendly show can be purchased at dsha.info/tickets.