

CHALLENGING MINDS • DEVELOPING CHARACTER • LIVING JESUS

Dear Families,

It's August, and the air is buzzing with the excitement of the upcoming school year. This week's Connections is packed with crucial information to gear you up for the start of our school year. **Please read through everything with care.**

As we prepare the supplies, uniforms, and scheduling, let us prepare our hearts. We are doing more than coming "back" to school. We are starting fresh. So allow us to begin fresh as Paul shares with the Philippians, "complete my joy by being the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing." (Philippians 2:2). Let us start fresh, united by the love of God and love of these children. We share the mission to pursue excellence in academics and faith formation. Let us spend this year united as St. Mary's Parish School.

Our unity and the good news of our community will be on display during our **Community Build** for the playground. **We need MANY adults to help install it on August 16th.** Your participation is crucial. Sign up to help [HERE](#).

Then, we can extend our unity at the Golf Outing on September 14th. This event is not just about playing golf, but about coming together as a community, having fun, and supporting our school. Sign up [HERE!](#) Put your team together today!

I'm eagerly looking forward to seeing you at Back-to-School night (see information below) and hearing the children's voices fill our halls! The school building has undergone many beautiful updates over the summer, and you will see the clean and refreshed floors and walls. Our dedicated staff has diligently prepared their rooms, curriculum, and hearts to receive your children. This community is awe-inspiring, and we look forward to the aspirational goals that will come before us. We ask for the fervor of St. Thomas More, the strength of mind of St. Monica, and the guidance of St. Rita, as we share joy like St. Mary herself when we tell our good news -

St. Mary, Holy Mother, pray for us!
In His service,
Mrs. Wood

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug. 16**
New Playground Installation
(8 AM - 4 PM)
Volunteers needed
[Sign Up Here!](#)
- Aug. 19**
Back-to-School Ice Cream Social
5:30 PM - 7 PM
[Flyer here](#)
- Aug. 22**
Back-to-School Family Night
4 PM - 7 PM
- Aug. 26**
K4 - 8th
First Day of School
- Aug. 27**
K3 First Day of School
- Aug. 30**
No School
- Sept. 2**
No School
Labor Day
- Sept. 27**
Early Release
(at 11:30 AM)

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

2024-2025 SCHOOL THEME

This year's theme truly embraces the excitement and positivity of our school community!

According to a Second Century poem, the Christian symbol of the fish comes from our early Church, which spoke Greek. The Greek phrase "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior" produced the acronym ICHTHYS, which happened to be the Greek word for fish. The fish then became a clever secret symbol of the persecuted early Christians. Today, our school of fish "Live Jesus" in the face of the worldly temptations around them. As our children Live Jesus, they consistently show us many Good News moments daily. Their success needs to be shared. Our dedicated teachers celebrate with each child when they conquer a new skill, overcome a hurdle, and practice the many ways they Live Jesus. **We are ready to Tell everyone this Good News!** Good things are happening in this building every day, and we are so excited to share them with you. I pray that you join me in telling our good news. Join us as volunteers, Home and School members, Room parents, and community members to observe all the good things happening. Then please tell others about it. While our world divides itself in many ways, let us be the voices of good and give others hope.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

Back to School Night will feel slightly different from years past. **Our doors are open Thursday, August 22, 4-7 pm.** During those hours stop by when it is convenient for your family. During this time you will want to stop by three locations.

- 1 - Your child's classroom**
Drop off classroom supplies, meet your teacher, and learn a little about your year.
- 2 - The Conference Room**
Bring your smile, and take your picture.
- 3 - The Activity Center**
Drop off shared school supplies (paper & cleaning products), drop off forms, visit with friends, and learn about all of the opportunities to be a part of the community.

New Families - Please join me **5-5:30 in the STEAM Room (203)** for a brief welcome information session.

Middle School Families -

- 6th grade families - 6-6:30 pm Please attend the Middle School Orientation meeting in the STEAM Room (203)
- 7th & 8th Grade Families - Please be aware that the Middle School Teachers are not available in their classrooms 6-6:30 pm.

K4 Families - Please refer to your email sent earlier this summer for Meet & Greet information.

Family Handbook Updates

The Family Handbook is your guide to everything for St. Mary's Parish School. It is imperative that you read through it to familiarize yourself with our commitments to you and your child, as well as the expectations for the community.

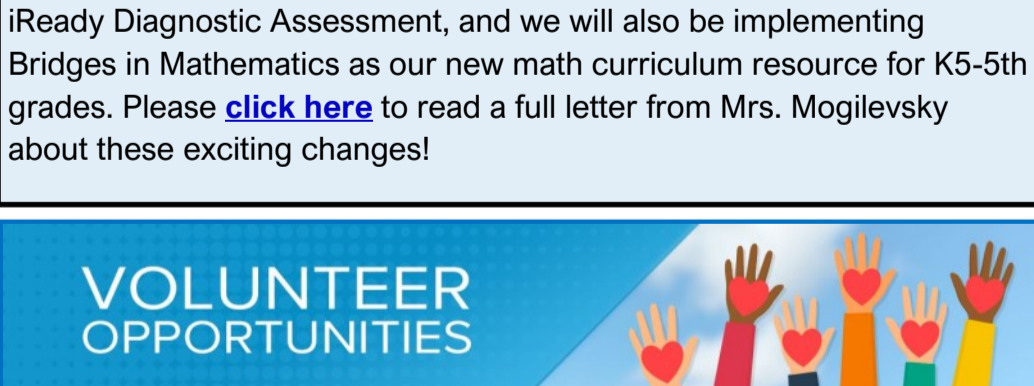
The handbook had a few updates this summer to better **align the language with the policies and practices that are already enacted.** Click [here](#) for the complete Family Handbook on our website.

Updates:

- **Page 14-15:** Clear language on the toilet training expectations for pre-kindergarten students
- **Page 17-20:** Clarity on absences. It is critical to your child's education that time away from the consistency of the classroom is minimal. Similarly, The start of the school day is 7:50 am. The start of the school day sets the tone for the rest of your child's day, it is important that your child is here on time.
- **Page 20:** Scooters are an acceptable means of transportation to and from school.
- **Page 21:** Updated the Bullying definition and included language aligned to cyberbullying
- **Page 23:** AI generated material is also plagiarism
- **Page 25:** The Connections Newsletter is our main source of information and it is critical to utilize it for both sharing and receiving information. We are reducing the number of emails and text blasts since the information is provided in the Weekly Connections newsletter. If you are a volunteer (Thank you!) who needs to communicate with families please adjust your schedule to put your information in Connections each week.
- **Page 34:** Academic eligibility updated to reflect Standards Based Grading
- **Page 37:** Grievance procedure updated to honor the role of collaboration and finding a resolution
- **Page 42:** Amount of time for homework updated to reflect Archdiocesan expectations
- **Page 51:** Standardized testing updated to reflect current practices and data collection
- **Page 55:** Out of school, text or social media messages that reflect cyberbullying, harassment, or distract students from fully participating in the learning environment may be subject to disciplinary action.
- **Page 56:** If students are not picked up from the office by 3:20 pm, they will be sent to After School Care and the family will be charged the appropriate amount for care.
- All employee / staff contact information is updated

Playground Community Build Day, Aug. 16

Volunteers NEEDED!



Please consider joining the group of builders! We need at least 30 adult (must be over the age of 18) volunteers to make this build happen and as of now, we are really in NEED! Maybe you have grandparents/special friends that can help? And how cool would it be to be able to tell your children for years to come that you helped build their school's first-ever playground!? Please help spread the word and share the [sign up link here!](#) We understand some of you might not be able to participate due to work conflicts or on a family vacation, that is ok! If you wish donate a case of water or a snack, please click [HERE](#). Thank you!

ST MARY PARISH SCHOOL ANNUAL

GOLF OUTING

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14, 2024

Blackstone Creek Golf Course
Germantown, WI

REGISTER ONLINE OR USE THE QR CODE
tinyurl.com/stmarygolf2024

FOR SPONSORSHIP INFO
Missy Martinez
262-251-1050
info@smps.school

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

THE RINZEL FAMILY
THE WEISKE FAMILY
THE DICK & JAYNE BECKER FAMILY

Hot Lunch Orders: August
(Orders due Tuesday, Aug. 20 by 12PM)

If you wish to order hot lunch for your student for August and/or September, please [click here](#). New families, please call the school office if you have questions.

[August & September Lunch Menu](#)

SPIRIT WEAR STORE OPEN

Exciting News! Spirit Wear tops are now allowed to be worn with uniform bottoms on Mondays during the school year! The Spirit Wear shop is currently open, but hurry... it closes soon! See below for all the ordering info.

LINK: <https://bsg.chipply.com/stmarysmf/>
STORE CLOSURES: MONDAY, AUGUST 12TH @ 11:59PM CT
ESTIMATED DELIVERY DATE: MID TO EARLY-MID SEPTEMBER
SIZING: Many items (but not all) are available to try-on at the Burghardt's stores.

***REMINDER:** Spirit wear tops may be worn on Mondays (*uniform bottoms are still required*). Other spirit wear can only be worn during the school day on designated "Spiritwear" days.

Any questions or if there additional items you would like added, please contact Michele Spaeth at (414) 617-8515.

Speaking of uniforms, we'd like to say a sincere "Thank you" to everyone who helped with our uniform sale last week! Many families walked away with uniforms to last the entire school year and it's because of our amazing volunteers and those who brought in uniforms that this was such a success! You are all appreciated!

Important Updates to Student Assessments/Testing

We are excited to share some upcoming changes at our school that we believe will greatly enhance our students' learning experiences. Starting this academic year, we will be transitioning from NWEA MAP test to the iReady Diagnostic Assessment, and we will also be implementing Bridges in Mathematics as our new math curriculum resource for K5-5th grades. Please [click here](#) to read a full letter from Mrs. Mogilevsky about these exciting changes!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our St. Mary Volunteers are the best, and we couldn't do it without you. 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

[Additional Volunteer Opportunities for the 2024-25 School Year](#)

New St. Mary Families (and existing, too!)

We are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning as we approach the 2024-25 academic year! Please see the links below for some useful resources and links, including the school supply lists (*and more!*), to help you navigate the upcoming school year. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to the school office (262-251-1050) with any questions or concerns.

Don't forget to join us for our BTS Ice Cream Social!

Join us August 19 at Village Park from 5:30-7:00PM!

Meet new families and help welcome them into our wonderful school family!

All families are welcome! Click [here](#) for additional information!

Important Reminder for Families with New Students

The school office needs a copy of the following:

1. **Child's Birth Certificate**
2. **Child's Baptismal Certificate**

These items can be brought to Back-to-School night. There will be a table set up in the Activity Center where forms and paperwork can be dropped off. Thank you!

Important 2024-25 School Dates

Important and Useful Links

St. Mary ISO ... K3 Kitchen Playset

Thank you so much for the donation of the playset for K4! Our K3 classroom is now also in need of one similar! If you or someone you know may have a set that is no longer being used but still in gently-used condition, please let us know. (We are hoping for a wooden one, similar to IKEA's version.) Our incoming K3 students and beyond would get a lot of hands-on-learning and fun through the donation! Thanks for considering and/or sharing!

[2024-25 Academic Calendar](#) [Playground Volunteer Sign Up \(Updated!\)](#)
[Scrip Raise Right App](#) [Lunchroom Volunteer Sign Up \(Updated!\)](#)
[Change of Dismissal](#)
[Safeguarding Training/CMG Connect](#)

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