



ST. MARY'S
SCHOOL

2022-2023 Annual Report

Partnering with families to develop a student's full potential in mind, body and spirit through Catholic values.

A YEAR IN REVIEW



The 2022-2023 has been another busy year at St. Mary's School. We are so happy to be "back to normal" after experiencing three school years that were impacted by the pandemic. It feels so good and at times it is hard to remember and believe what we endured as a school community during the pandemic. We are very grateful to be where we are today.

We had a very tragic start to the school year with the passing away of 6th grader Evan O'Connor the first week of September. We are extremely sad that Evan is no longer with us, but have faith that he is spending eternity in paradise. Our school community came together to grieve and support each other during this devastating time. We continue to hold Evan in our hearts and pray for him and his family.

This year we completed our Self-Study process for MNSAA accreditation and hosted our on-site visit in March. The MNSAA board will communicate with us later in May as to our accreditation status. The process was very time consuming, but we learned a lot and feel it will give us good direction for the future of our school.

Just before Christmas, we were blessed with an anonymous donation for ONE MILLION DOLLARS! A donation of this size will have a lasting and incredibly meaningful impact on our school. With an aging facility, and our recently completed facilities condition assessment, this donation has come at a fantastic time for our school. We are taking some time to prioritize improvements in both facilities and operations. We are extremely grateful for this donation and for the anonymous donor that has given us such a beautiful gift.

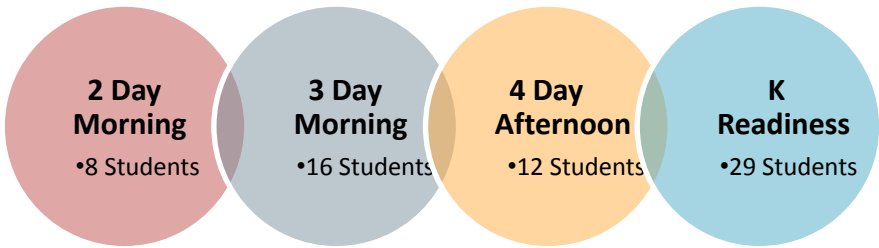
We are working to complete our Facilities Master Plan to create a vision for us to follow as we make improvements to our facility. We know that we have needs and want to make sure that whatever improvements we make will fit into our larger facilities plan.

We continue to explore ways to increase our enrollment, keep tuition attainable for our families, find and retain quality staff, and cover our continually increasing operational costs. We are so grateful to our students, families, parishioners, and community for the love and support given to St. Mary's School. We continue to grow and live out our core values of love, lead, learn, give, and pray. Have a great summer!

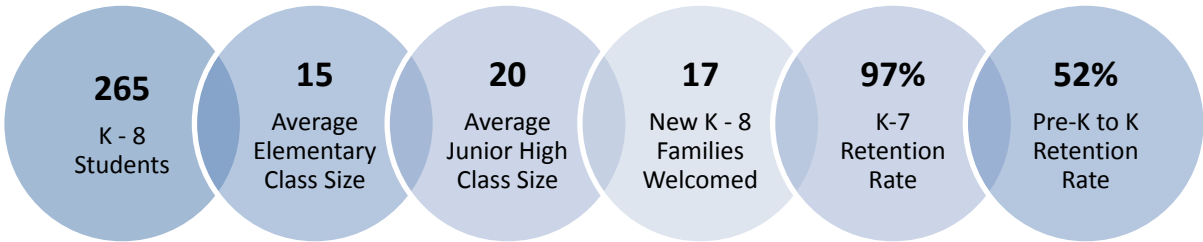
God bless!

Jen

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT: 65 Students

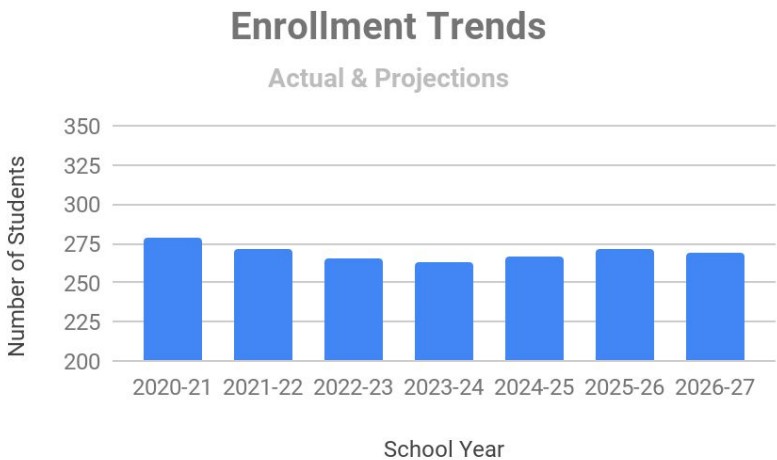


K-8 ENROLLMENT AT A GLANCE



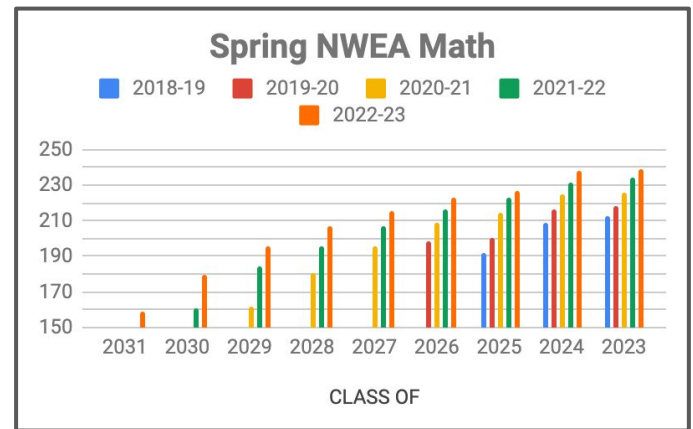
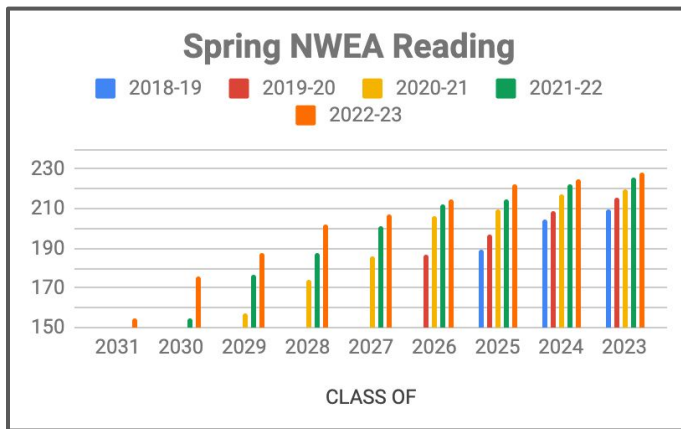
ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Nationally, Catholic school enrollment has been declining since the 1950s. St. Mary's School has also seen a decrease in enrollment. Historically, one factor for this decline is graduating larger classes sizes and lower Kindergarten enrollment resulting in lower annual enrollment. Owatonna's population is remaining level at this time and in the near future while local Catholic Parishes have a decline in baptismal records. Our projections are based on the historical data of eligible kindergarten enrollment. Our marketing team and enrollment management team have developed initiatives to market our school and retain current students. Our main efforts are to maintain current students, increase kindergarten enrollment and increase retention rates from preschool program to our kindergarten program.



PERFORMANCE

NWEA is a research-based, not-for-profit organization that supports students and educators worldwide by creating assessment solutions that precisely measure growth and proficiency. St. Mary's School administers NWEA testing for math and reading three times a year for students in grades K-8. This data provides insights to help tailor instruction to help ensure student growth. The charts above illustrate class growth over time. As a school, St. Mary's shows significant yearly growth in both math and reading scores.



The charts above illustrate class growth over time. As a school, our math scores average 5.7 points above the national average and our reading scores average 4.4 points above the national average. These scores signifying approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 year above grade level in each subject area.

SERVICE:

The Hands and Feet of Christ

Students complete many service projects throughout the school year. Every grade is learning to be the hands and feet of Christ through serving others.

The photos on the left show various way students help keep our city clean, positive and safe.

The photos on the left show students working together to make cards, blankets, and treats for those in need in our community.

Overall, students in grades 6-8 completed over 4,100 service hours this past year. Service categories include church, school and community.



JUNIOR HIGH REFLECTIONS

"I like that it feels like a home and that you can trust staff and friends."

-AJ

"I love that our school has us to to church on Wednesdays."

-Marcus

"I can come to school everyday knowing people will be kind to me."

-Lucas

"I like St. Mary's School because of the individuality encouraged in students."

-Lillian

“What I like most about St. Mary’s is being able to have a smaller class size so that I can ask more questions.”

-Sophie

"I like that we have all different grade levels. I like spending time with little kids and helping them."

-Molly

"All of the teachers are so nice and I'm going to miss St. Mary's after next year when I'm a freshman."

-Owen



MNSAA School Strategic Plan Update

St. Mary's School has been a member of the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accreditation Association (MNSAA) since 1988. The mission of MNSAA is to be a catalyst for enhancing the quality of K-12 nonpublic education in Minnesota through a comprehensive process of accreditation.

During the 2022-23 school year, the staff worked together on the final year of the strategic plan. Listed below are the key areas St. Mary's addressed for each objective during this school year.

Objective 1: St. Mary's School is committed to effectively meet the needs of all learners.

- Staff is working on the completion of the religion curriculum
- Physical Education curriculum is being completed

Objective 2: St. Mary's will optimize the operations and safety of our facilities.

- Completed the upgrade to classroom furniture

Objective 3: St. Mary's School will collaborate with stakeholders in meeting the development, enrollment management, and financial goals of the school.

- Continued to revise the current development plan

Objective 4: St. Mary's School will ensure the efficiency of our school.

- Updated written practices and procedures, Family Handbook, Resource Guide, calendars, etc.

Objective 5: St. Mary's School will teach, promote, and instill the Catholic faith: inspiring students, families and staff to grow in their relationship with God, work for social justice, and serve others in the spirit of the Gospel.

- Staff commits to Diocesan and school guidelines and agreements

MNSAA Accreditation Team Visit

In March, St. Mary's hosted an onsite visit from a MNSAA Accreditation. These visits occur every 7 years as part of the accreditation process. As part of our preparation for this visit, our school along with input from stakeholders, developed a new School Strategic Plan. Below is a list of the objectives our school will work on during the next 7 years.

2023- 2030 School Strategic Plan Objectives

- St. Mary's School will work with its stakeholders to plan for the sustainability of the school.
- St. Mary's will work to improve teaching and learning.
- St. Mary's School is committed to effectively meet the needs of all learners.
- St. Mary's School will work to improve operations and the safety of facilities.

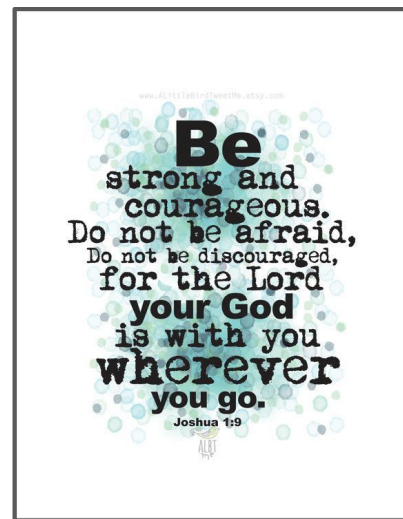


2023 GRADUATES

As Nora Ephron stated, "Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead."

We are proud to have had the opportunity to prepare 34 students for high school this year.

May our graduates continue to be blessed with love, protection, mercy, strength, and wisdom.



AJ Avalos
Lucas Candullo
Ava Cummins
Reagan DeWitz
Lillian Goluba
Sophie Grams
Sophia Guerrero
Alexandra Herget
Dylan Homuth
Brysen House
Kade Hulloper

Ben Jessop
Seth Keck
Joe Klecker
Peyton Knudson
Tegan Kruschke
Olivia Kubicek
Jared Laiho
Gavin Laughlin
Lexi Miller
Alex Neitzel
Shaun O'Connor

Sophie Oswald
Nolan Rolloff
Lowell Schultz
Ella Seykora
Owen Shaner-McDermott
Annika Slacter
Grayson Slotsve
Johanna Spielman
Jaida Swenson
Elizabeth Tippel
Eduardo Velazquez
Eric Zhang

VOLUNTEERS

We are blessed to have so many volunteers supporting our school. We do appreciate our parents, grandparents, alumni, and Catholic education supporters who help us inside the classroom, on field trips and behind the scenes. It would not be possible to offer the awesome SMS experience without your help. So thank you to all those who help out.

School Advisory Board
Sports Boosters
Music Boosters
Finance Committee

Fundraising Committee
Night of Knights Auction
Night of Knights Food & Beverage
Sustainability Committee

Home & School
Classroom Parents
Field Trip Chaperones
Scrip Coordinator



SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

ROLE: The Advisory Board is charged with the duty of policy formation and being a consultative body to the pastors and principal to foster academic excellence, advancement, and faith development of the school community, according to the school's mission statement.

EFFORTS THIS YEAR: This year, the Advisory Board has done much planning for a sustainable future by being competitive and fiscally responsible.

CURRENT MEMBERS:

- Roger Bailey
- Brian Haggerty
- Ray Bissen
- Missy Koch
- Kim Kubicek
- Beth Oltmans
- Von Petersen
- Dave Thamert



HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

ROLE: The Home & School Association is run by parent volunteer committee members, under the direction of our school principal, to support the school by partnering with the teachers and staff to help fund enrichment activities and social opportunities for our families.

AREAS OF SUPPORT:

- Marathon shirts for all Pre-K-8th graders
- Donuts with Dad/Muffins with Mom
- Donuts for Catholic Schools Week (CSW)
- Ice Cream Sundaes for CSW
- \$100 cash to all teachers for supplies
- \$25 party money for each class (3x/year)
- Snacks for teachers during conferences
- Birthday books – 1 book/student
- 8th Grade Graduation cookies
- Servant Leaders for Life reward /activity
- Teacher appreciation meal

SPONSORED EVENTS THIS YEAR:

- Family Bingo



FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

This year we implemented a new CRM system that allows for better organization and communication with all our valued donors. We also have been evolving and defining our fundraising efforts to ensure they are adding value to our mission. The 2 activities listed below are our highest impact efforts from 2022-23.

15th ANNUAL MARATHON

The purpose of the Marathon is to raise public awareness of nonpublic education and raise funds for our school. It gives students, faculty members, family members, and friends an opportunity to show their school pride while generating important financial support for our school programs. We participate in fundraisers, like the Marathon, to help keep our tuition more affordable. 100% of that money goes directly towards St. Mary's School programs and offerings.

GOAL: This year our school's marathon goal was to raise \$30,000. We raised \$32,245.22!

PARTICIPATION: Students completed service projects in their classrooms as well as in the community. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of the following teachers: Kaitlin Meger, Kayla Thilges, Lynn Lattery, and Jennifer Malepsy.

37th NIGHT OF KNIGHTS AUCTION

The Night of Knights Auction is our largest fundraiser. It provides us with the opportunity to come together as a community to remember the past, celebrate the present, and support the future of St. Mary's School. We are always amazed at the support we receive at Auction time, and this year was no exception.

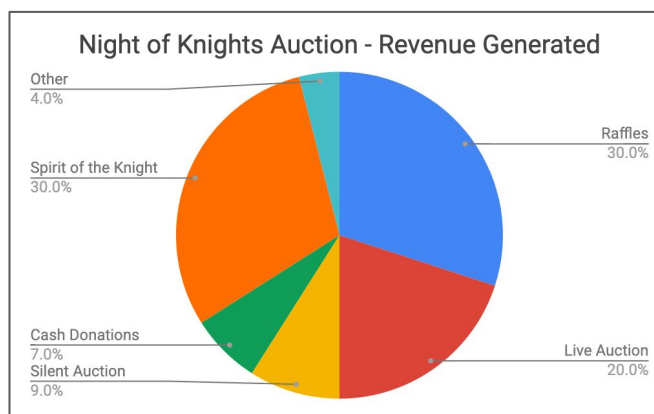
Auction Committee Co-Chairs: Roger Bailey, Amber Lacher, and Molly Liverseed

Auction Committee Members: Roger Bailey, Sarah Bailey, Justin Lacher, Amber Lacher, Aaron Liverseed, Molly Liverseed, James Konz, Amber Konz, Jason Iacovino, Shannon Iacovino, Nick Gill, Stephanie Dietz-Gill, Dustin Miller, Erinn Miller, Tricia Forsberg, Becky Schema and Tiffany Lempiainen.

Food & Beverage Committee Members: Andrew & Karissa VanOsedale(chairs), Dustin & Mary Reese, Brian & Anisha Zak, and Jennifer & Tony Malepsy.

Ad Hoc Volunteers: Marilyn Brandel, Kerri Lynch, Joe Stotko, and Theresa Seykora.

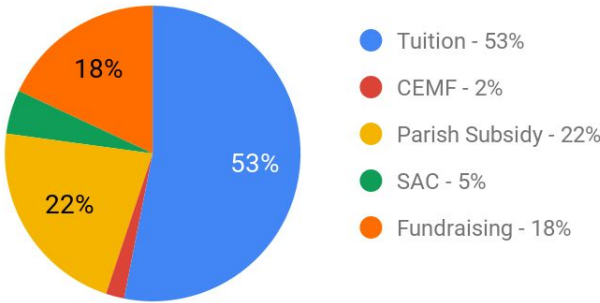
Goals: The Night of Knights Auction brings in a large part of their profit through the live auction, silent auction and raffle. We raised \$143,000! The theme of the Spirit of the Knight Big Give was "The Techie Teacher!" which includes teacher workstations and 16 interactive classroom boards. The goal was \$70,000 and we brought in over \$90,000 to put towards the project.



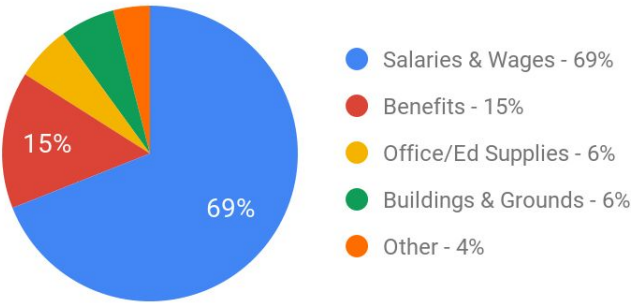
FINANCES/BUDGET

The St. Mary’s School annual budget is developed in collaboration with the School Advisory Board, the Finance Committee, the Pastors, and Parish Council. The Finance Committee meets monthly to review financial reports and recommend financial direction and actions. Our fiscal year is July 1-June 30.

Total Operating Income: \$2,214,227



Total Operating Expenses: \$2,373,636



FINANCIAL GIVING

We celebrate and sincerely appreciate the generosity of ALL our donors who make our school and offerings possible. The commitment & philanthropic support we receive enables St. Mary’s School to ensure the excellence in education that our families have come to expect. Gifts from trustees, parents, grandparents, alumni, parents of alumni, faculty, staff, and friends have and will continue to secure our future. Contributions are accepted and appreciated through a variety of means: Cash Gifts, Memorials, Securities: Stocks/Bonds/Mutual Funds, Gifts in Kind, Fundraising Support, Bequests, Life Insurance Beneficiary, Employee Matching Gifts.

CSCOE Impact Grant: St. Mary’s School was able to purchase a number of hands-on activities and stations for our pre-K program through the funding from this grant.

Memorials

Cheryl Bastyr	Otto Havelka	Ariana Ptacek
Patricia Blum	Audrey Hrdlichka	Klement Simon
Pat Fisher	Beverly Krause	Marian Simon
Gerry Ginther	Edward & Agnes Kubicek	Gordy Spinler
Frank Gurney	Jean Matthews	Mary Trenda
Ethel Halla	Margaret Meger	Joe Tupy
Theresa Hardcopf	James Nash Sr.	Don Vogt
David Hartle	Evan O’Connor	James Wierzbinski