



Parents,
Guardians,
&
Students

Catholic Schools Week is a time to recognize the impact a faith-based education has on the lives of our students and their families. St. Mary's School creates a community that encourages and nurtures prayer, as well as provides a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for children and staff. We are proud of the environment we provide where rich traditions of the Catholic faith can be integrated into the academic offerings and woven into our everyday lives. Throughout the coming week, we will partake in various activities and events that reflect the spirit of our mission, fostering a deep sense of community and belonging among us. Catholic education is truly an investment in the future of our Catholic community.

SMS Celebrates **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

The National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) Catholic Schools Week (CSW) theme is "**Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community.**" Catholic schools have an irreplaceable role in the Church's mission. Catholic schools teach and embrace the whole person - body, mind, and spirit. The fact that all members of a Catholic school community share the Christian vision of faith is what unites the school and parish as a faith-filled community.

While faith is the binding element in Catholic schools, the Church stresses that parents are the first teachers of their children. Holding this view, Catholic school communities expand beyond the walls of school buildings to envelop the family as an integral part of the school community. Together teachers, administrators, staff, students, and parents fuel the light of faith by integrating culture with faith, and faith with living.

"**Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community**" is a powerful theme on which we build a spirit of the gospel to benefit the human family. We at SMS welcome you to join our school family in any way you are able - whether you pray for our students, families, and staff, volunteer at our school, are an ambassador by inviting others to join our school, or donate financially to the success of our program - we thank you for your commitment to quality Catholic Education in our community!



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community



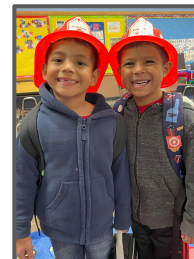
- Friday, January 26: **Celebrating Families** - We kick off the week with **FAMILY FUN NIGHT** from 6:30-8:30 at St. Mary's School. There will be games, snacks, and time to visit. The whole family is welcome.
- Sunday, January 28: **Celebrating our Parish** - St. Mary's School will host a **CHILDREN'S MASS** at 10:00 a.m. We will also gather as a community in the St. Mary's School Gym for our annual **SCHOOL BREAKFAST** from 8:30-12:00.
- Monday, January 29: **Celebrating our Community - JERSEY DAY!** Classes will be writing letters to members of our community who take care of others: the Nursing Home, Rose View, Hospice, and Home Health Care workers.
- Tuesday, January 30: **Celebrating our Students - HAT/HAWAIIAN DAY!** Students will get to sit by someone new at lunch and partner read with students from a different grade.
- Wednesday, January 31: **Celebrating Vocations - PAJAMA DAY!** Each grade will have the opportunity to learn about the different ministries people are involved in within our church
- Thursday, February 2: **Celebrating God's Creation - FUNNY/FUZZY SOCK DAY!** Little Saints-3rd graders will be sledding near the St. Mary's School and 4th-6th graders will be Skiing at Andes Tower Hills.
- Friday, February 3: **Celebrating Faculty and Staff - ST. MARY'S SPIRIT DAY!** Students will wear St. Mary's clothing or blue/white/purple clothing. We will have mini-courses after lunch.



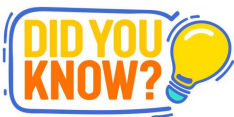
Little Saints Preschool is **GROWING!**

The SMS Preschool Program, known as Little Saints, began in 1996, with Barb McClure teaching 18 students 3 mornings a week, with Shirley Nathe as the classroom helper. In these 28 years, the program has grown to become a state-licensed and exceptional pre-Kindergarten educational program, with 6 staff members and 33 students - and continues to grow each year. SMS students and staff enjoy the playfulness and creativity these young minds bring to the school; there's always an exciting story to be told or a hug to be given when seeing the preschoolers. The 5th graders have enjoyed being buddies with the preschool students throughout the years; this gives the older students opportunities to be mentors to the younger children and help them adjust to school life.

Contact SMS at 320-256-4257 if you have a child ready for preschool; we accept students ages 3-5 throughout the school year.



- SMS Auction4Education: **"Down on the Farm"** Mark your calendars for **MARCH 2ND, 2024!**
 - **Raffle Tickets** are on sale now for \$100 each with a grand prize of \$20,000! Drawing will be held at 7:00pm the night of the auction.
 - **Dinner** at the Melrose American Legion on March 2nd from 5:00 to 8:00pm; free will donations for the food are appreciated. **50/50 drawings** will be held too; please join us there!
 - **Online Auction** at <http://www.bidpal.net/smsmelrose>. Online viewing begins on February 18th, online bidding begins on February 25th. Online bidding will close the night of the auction.
 - **Live Auction** for the classroom items will be held during the event-don't miss the excitement!
- Winter Open House: Monday, March 11th, 4:00-7:00pm



Alumni and Friends - To receive positive and uplifting messages from SMS, please sign up for our eNews at <https://mailchi.mp/3596b1349d3c/sms>, or use this QR code to access the site.

You will receive no more than one email per month.



Illuminating the teachings of Jesus with our **HEARTS, HANDS, and VOICES!**