



Parents,
Guardians,
&
Students

Summer- It's a time for students and staff to pursue outdoor activities, personal interests, and build connections with families and friends. Every September I look forward to the stories students share of their summer adventures; the experiences which bring us life, love, joy, and God's everlasting presence in our lives.

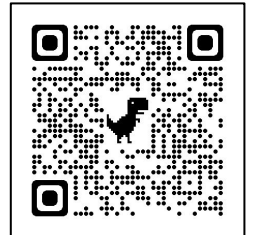
I look forward to a new school year and all God has in store for St. Mary's School. I have no doubt our faith, positive energy, teamwork, and dedication to excellence will guide us through another successful school year.

Little Saints Preschool - Learning with *faith, fun, & creativity!*

Little Saints Preschool offers a rich and nurturing hands-on program for children ages 3-5. Our program is licensed through the MN Dept. of Human Services. We offer multiple class options that accommodate individualized family needs. Check out the program on our website by scanning the QR code.

The Little Saints Program incorporates academics to prepare students for higher learning, while using games and activities that makes learning a fun process.

At Little Saints, students also pray and attend mass, socialize with classmates and their 5th grade buddies, and do what kids do best - have fun!



Preschool and Kindergarten students praying the "Our Father" around the altar at mass



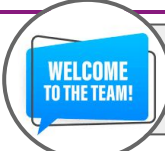
Socializing with their 5th grade buddies making chalk art



Preschool field trip to Hemker's Zoo



Hands-on learning - carving apples to make applesauce



SMS Welcomes new *Administrative Assistant*

SMS is excited to announce we have a new administrative assistant, Naomi Klaphake. Naomi and her husband, Mike, live and work on the family dairy farm 6 miles south of Freeport. Naomi was a 2003 graduate of Grand Rapids HS, and Mike was a 2004 graduate of Melrose HS. They have three children: Case (7), Lane (4), and Eva (2). Her hobbies include camping, spending time at the lake at the family cabin, farming, and spending time with family and friends. Naomi will begin working at SMS on August 1st. Welcome, Naomi!

Ms. Jenn has been hired as our Marketing Coordinator for the 2022-2023 school year. She will assist the administration in marketing, engaging families and community members, and acting as a public relations person for the school. This position was made possible through the Schulze Family Foundation Grant. She will also be volunteering in the school library.





Celebrating Local Heroes at SMS

Because of the bridge project, the Melrose Area Chamber of Commerce was unable to host Riverfest at Sauk River Park this June. The SMS campus was a perfect substitute for the event. Attendees enjoyed music, mass, games, and much more while supporting the city and honoring our local heroes!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Open House: Tuesday, August 23rd, 4:00-7:00pm
- First Day of School: Tuesday, August 30th
- School Pictures: Wednesday, September 7th
- Marathon/Prayer-a-thon: Friday, September 30th-Pledge/prayer envelopes will be available at school and the table in the church gathering space. Students pray for the needs of our community throughout the school year. The most rewarding part is hearing from people we're praying for - "thank you for praying for my family", and "I see my prayers answered".
- Grandparents Day at SMS: Wednesday, October 19th

SMS \$ 4KIDS

We have a partnership with the Raise Right SCRIP Program. Raise Right volume buying means better rebates and more revenue for our school and "extras" for our students like computers, library books, hands-on learning, field trips, new classroom curriculum, tools for learning, etc.

You can get eGift cards and gift cards in three ways:

1. Shop online for eGift cards and gift cards at more than 750 local and national brands. <https://www.raiseright.com/shop>
2. Download and shop on the Raise Right mobile app.
3. Purchase gift cards in the school office daily or after mass monthly.



DID YOU KNOW?

You can sponsor a child at SMS by donating to the Stacy Meyer Scholarship Fund at St. Mary's School or Sponsor A Child program through the parish. Contact SMS at 320-256-4257 or scan the QR code for more information.



Alumni - stay connected with SMS by signing up to receive information and the SMS Word by email.

