

*St. Mary's School
Bird Island
Annual Report
2010-2011 School Year*



Mission statement: St. Mary's School in Bird Island serves the area students in kindergarten through eighth grade by providing a Christ-centered Catholic education where academic excellence, self-worth and faith development go hand in hand in a safe environment.

Dear Parents, Family, Friends, Supporters, Parishioners, and Alumni of St. Mary's School,

During the past year, our school has certainly been through a variety of transitions, but our core mission remains strong. Working together, students, faculty, staff, parents, and parishioners have come together with a spirit of cooperation and collaboration to help insure the best possible experience for our students each day.

At the heart of our school, the children we serve. As I have said countless times over the course of my time at St. Mary's School, our students are simply the best! They are intelligent, self-motivated, inclusive, and filled with the spirit. They bring with them a variety of interpersonal, intellectual, and spiritual gifts they share with one another as well as parish community. In the process, they are instilled with the competence and confidence to be thoughtful people to possess critical thinking skills so they are able to take on whatever academic or personal challenge may come their way.

Much of our student success is tied to the commitment and hard work of our dedicated and talented faculty and staff. We are blessed at St. Mary's School because our teachers understand the importance of nurturing, meaningful relationships, and challenging students with high expectations. Our students are the beneficiaries of the outstanding commitment and experience that our faculty and staff offer.

Our parents and parishioners are to be commended for their continued commitment and support during the year. The strong spirit of devotion that is apparent among the stakeholders has helped forge a strong partnership that allows us to go from simply achieving the ordinary to achieving the extraordinary. We are richly blessed by our parents, supporters, and parishioners who share their time, talent and treasure with our school community.

As a school we have accomplished a great deal and have much to be proud of over the past year. With pride we look back at the exciting highlights and accomplishments of the year. From a renewed sense of optimism about the direction of our school is headed together we will continue to move our school forward. Because of the partnership, we have developed; St. Mary's School continues to be a center of academic excellence, student empowerment, and Christian service to others.

As we look forward to the 2011-2012 school year, we plan to continue the good work. We look forward to working in partnership with you for the benefit of our school children. May God continue to bless your life!!!

Sincerely,

Tracy Bertrand
Principal

Technology

- Received one SMART board that was installed in the Music room. All rooms now contain a SMART board.
- Staff continues training for the use of the SMART boards
- Two Senteo SMART Response systems were purchased. The Senteos are handheld devices that a student can use to answer a question posed by the teacher and have the answer instantly be seen by the teacher via SMART board and/or laptop.
- Ten document readers were purchased to work in conjunction with the SMART boards

Curriculum

- Reviewed and adopted a new Language Arts series for K-8. The K-5 curriculum is published through Scotts Foresman/Pearson, copyright 2011. The 6-8 curriculums are published through Pearson/Glencoe, copyright 2010. Both curriculums align very closely with the Minnesota State Standards. Several key features supporting our choice of this curriculum include online accessibility, the inclusion of resources designed to meet the needs of all learners and its alignment with the content of other curricular areas.
- Staff attend various workshops to keep abreast of current academic trends

Awards, Recognitions & Achievements

- Math Counts participated in annual competition
- Number of 5th and 6th graders represented St. Marys School at the Regional Science Fair held in Mankato
- Two sixth grade students earned ratings to advance to the State science fair level
- Math Masters team from grade 5th represented St. Marys School
- Accreditation approved

Catholic Identity

- Students participate in weekly liturgies and the Sacrament of Reconciliation throughout the year.
- Guardian Angels - 7th and 8th graders are paired with the 1st graders and Kindergarteners to help them find the music in the missalettes at Mass and other events and/or gathering.
- Celebrated First Communion and Reconciliation for the 2nd graders
- Students actively participate in the Catholic Schools Week celebration and Mass
- Fr. George visits the classrooms on different occasions
- Fr. George met with the 2nd graders to help them prepare for their First Communion and Reconciliation.
- Students and staff took part in a school-wide Rosary
- Classes write to an assigned priest each month

- Fifth graders partake in server training
- Celebrated Grandparent’s Mass during Catholic Schools Week
- Student led Advent and Lenten Prayer services

Stewardship

- Participated in the Mission of Love project
- Participated in the Swaddling Clothing drive for the needy
- Collected pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House
- Collected gift cards for a family in need
- Collected food for the local food shelf
- Participated in events that supported our soldiers
- Families cleaned ditches

Facility Enhancements

- Emergency Exit lights were installed throughout the building
- Installation of new gym floor

Test Results

Data gathered from the standardized testing results on the Iowa Basic Skills Tests is used to help us monitor learner progress. This test provides a snapshot of student performance based upon the subject areas of Reading, Language, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Maps and Diagrams and Reference materials. The Iowa Basic Skills test is given to students in grades 1-8. The chart below identifies the average grade equivalent performance over the past three years per grade. By tracking more thorough individual and group progress, we hope to provide the students with the tools they require to reach full potential.

| Composite Growth by Grade (Grade Equivalent by Average) | First | Second | Third | Fourth | Fifth | Sixth | Seventh | Eighth |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|---------|--------|
| 2010-2011 | 2.3 | 3.7 | 4.9 | 7.1 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 10.8 | 13+ |
| 2010-2009 | | 3.4 | 5.4 | 6.7 | 7.6 | 9.4 | 11.6 | 12 |
| 2008-2009 | | | 5.5 | 5.6 | 7.3 | 9.1 | 9.5 | 12 |
| 2007-2008 | | | 3.9 | 4.4 | 6.1 | 8.2 | 8.2 | 9.8 |

Financial Information

TUTION SCHEDULE FOR 2010-2011

**Parish Members
St. Mary's, St. Aloysius, St. Thomas-Moore, Holy Redeemer, St. John's**

| | Total Tuition (Per Pupil Cost) | Parish Support & St. Mary's Parish Subsidy | Parent's Cost of Tuition |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| K-8 Grades | | | |
| First Child | \$ 4,291.00 | \$2,191.00 | \$2,100.00 |
| Two Children | \$ 8,557.00 | \$4,662.00 | \$3,895.00 |
| Three Children | \$12,923.00 | \$7,268.00 | \$5,655.00 |
| Four Children | \$17,339.00 | \$9,919.00 | \$7,420.00 |

All Others

| | Total Tuition (Per Pupil Cost) | Parish Support & St. Mary's Parish Subsidy | Parent's Cost of Tuition |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| K-8 Grades | | | |
| First Child | \$ 4,291.00 | \$1,476.00 | \$ 2,815.00 |
| Two Children | \$ 8,557.00 | \$3,207.00 | \$ 5,350.00 |
| Three Children | \$12,923.00 | \$5,168.00 | \$ 7,755.00 |
| Four Children | \$17,339.00 | \$7,229.00 | \$10,110.00 |

Tuition Rate/Cost Comparison

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|
| St. Mary's Average Annual Tuition | \$2,100.00 |
| St. Mary's Average Tuition per Day | \$12.43 |
| NCEA Average Tuition | \$3,383.00 |
| Cost to educate a St. Mary's child | \$5626.29 |
| CEA Average cost to educate a child | \$5,436.00 |

Money Received from SAVINGS

Box Tops, Campbells, Max Perks, Food Club, Land O'Lakes, Kemps, Target, U.S. Again, Terra Cycle, Capital One credit card,

Evangelization and Catechesis Members

Rob van der Hagen – Chairman
 Dave Rauenhorst– Vice-Chairman
 Jeff Woelfel
 Kyle Scholmann
 Todd Frank
 Sarah Feige
 Kevin Ziesmer