

Pencils are sharpened, plexi is in place and floors are shined! Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. September 8, 2020 is the start of another academic calendar which brings forth much anticipation; not only for students, teachers and staff but also for our parents.

This new school year brings with it plenty of excitement for your Principal, as well. Now entering my thirteenth year as Principal of St. Mary's School I can't help but look back with pride on all that we have accomplished together. Over time we have explored ways to improve student learning, embrace the importance of a school-family, to make our school safer and more welcoming and engage the community in all facets of the educational journey. This work is recorded in our Strategic Plan, which is required to be accredited through Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association, MNSAA. Our plan monitors progress, allows us to design initiatives to improve goals and hold us accountable for that work. This plan guides us in the decisions we make with the sole purpose of providing the highest quality of education possible. We are very proud to say we are accredited through MNSAA.

As we begin this new school year, I invite you to be an active participant in a child's education. Ask a student about their day, encourage them to talk about what made their heart smile that day, ask them to identify one thing they did that day that made them a better person, the list can go on and on. Because before we know it we will be wrapping up another school year and setting our sights on the next one again. Time is a gift we can not waste, so treasure the time you have with a child. Every minute makes a difference .... You make a difference!

One of my goals for the 2020-21 school year is to "Ignite a Passion for Lifelong Learning". Igniting a passion in every student is a lofty goal that requires an individualized approach to the education of our students. St. Mary's School has a dedicated and talented staff that is committed to helping every student succeed in finding their passion. I know that choosing a school and school system is one of the most important decisions families make. I am confident that the St. Mary's Schools will exceed your expectations.

In years past, parents sent their children to school and the school personnel went about the business of education without much communication or collaboration. Today, we understand that without a strong partnership with our parents and community members we cannot fully prepare our students for the careers and experiences that await them after graduation. We welcome your participation in helping us to educate all students that attend our Pre-K-8 school.

Every year students enter our school full of hope, curiosity and expectations for their future successes. I have a picture in my office of my granddaughters on their first day of school. As I look at their faces I see their hopes and dreams communicated in their expression. As a parent and educator, I know how important it is to maintain the excitement of learning in our students.

For this reason, our mission to “embrace the passion”, it is a commitment we make to you and to our students. I am also full of optimism, hope and expectations of success for all of our students. Welcome to the St. Mary’s School. We are beyond blessed to have you here!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tracy Bertrand Sigurdson