



# ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

## *2020-21 State-of-the-School Report*

*Mission Statement: St. Mary's School in Bird Island serves the area students in Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade by providing a Christ-centered Catholic education where academics, 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 of learning for our students each day.

At the heart of our school are 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 dedication 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 as listed in the following pages of the Annual Report. 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 2021-2022 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,  
Mrs. Tracy Bertrand Sigurdson  
St. Mary's Principal

### **Tuition Rate/Cost comparison for the 2020-21 School Year**

Average Annual Tuition	\$2950.00
Average Tuition per Day	\$17.87
NCEA Average Tuition	\$4846.00

Average Cost to Educate a Student	
St. Mary's	\$5970.00
NCEA	\$6293.00
District School	\$12,598.44

The average public school per pupil cost of \$12,612.00 as reported by the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), includes both Elementary and secondary schools. Catholic schools save the US billions a year in educational costs.

**Catholic Identity Theme for 2020-21: Forming Faithful Disciples**

With the theme “Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed”, staff and students focused on memorizing scripture and its meaning for us in our lives. They participated in weekly liturgies, prayer services, Stations of the Cross, Adoration and received classroom visits from priests. Students were prepared for the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Reconciliation and May Crowning. This year our student body focused on providing a “**Service**” to others within the community. For our marathon the students, staff, and parents of St. Mary’s School did projects of service for community members. We raked leaves, picked up sticks, and pulled weeds. It was a lot of fun helping other people. We had a great time getting to know you and becoming closer in Christ, following his example of serving others.



**Accredited through MNSAA since 1988**

Accreditation is a framework for the best possible educational program for learners. In addition to delivering recognized credibility of the quality of a school program in the eyes of stakeholders and the public, accreditation also offers outside objective validation that a school has met high standards and is actively seeking a quality educational program.

**Strategic Plan Goals Achieved for 2020-21:**

- Implemented a revised teacher’s salary scale to reflect a sustainable increase and to also recognize those who hold a Masters Degree in Education.
- Continued to embed Guided Reading and Daily 5 into our Language Arts area in the grade levels of PreK-3
- Explored more STEM content to engrain into our daily teaching of Science for the 2021-22 SY
- Embraced our Distance Learning Plan as a “living document”, which allowed us to operate throughout the 2020-21 school year in person

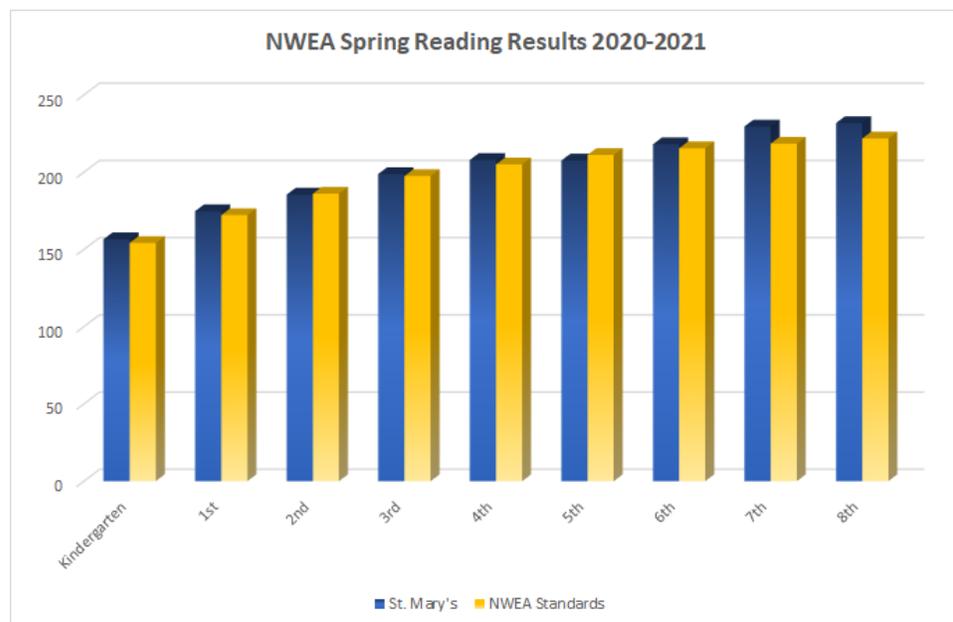
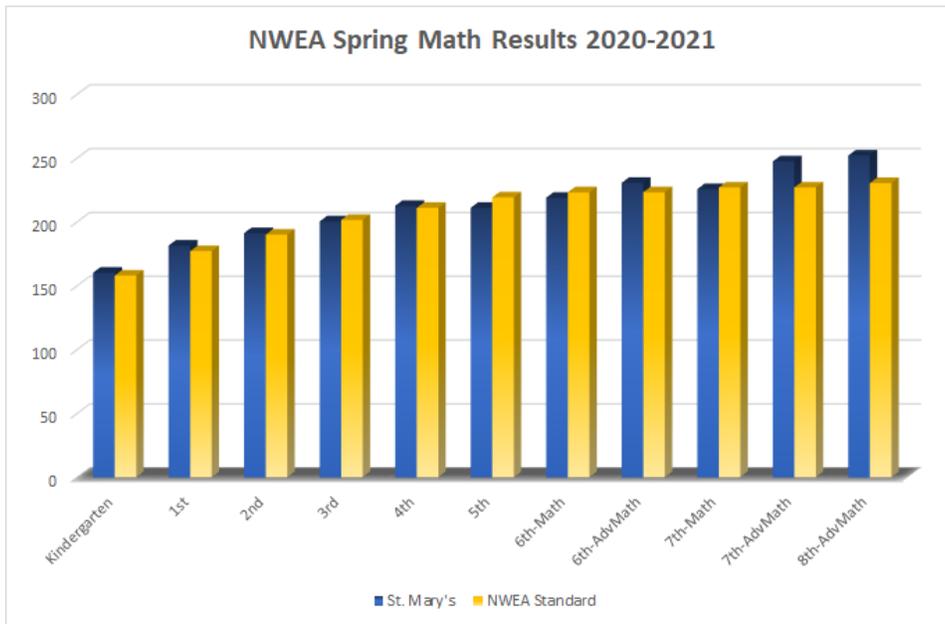
**Financials**

	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
<b>School Revenue Budget</b>		
Tuition	\$364,700.00	\$382,220.00
Fundraising & Donations	\$262,503.00	\$261,213.00
Parish Subsidy	\$159,830.95	\$173,328.84
Other Parish Subsidies	\$14,350.00	\$15,000.00
Endowment	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$841,383.95</b>	<b>\$871,761.84</b>
<b>School Expense Budget</b>		
Salaries	\$591,255.46	\$559,994.11
Plant & Operation	\$109,392.20	\$110,080.11
Instructional	\$59,586.29	\$56,305.00
Other Administrative	\$81,150.00	\$145,382.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$841,383.95</b>	<b>\$871,761.22</b>

<b>Enrollment Trend:</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
Kindergarten Thru 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	147	131	136	121	122	119	124	115	114
Preschool	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2019-20</b>							
	25	17							

### Assessment Results

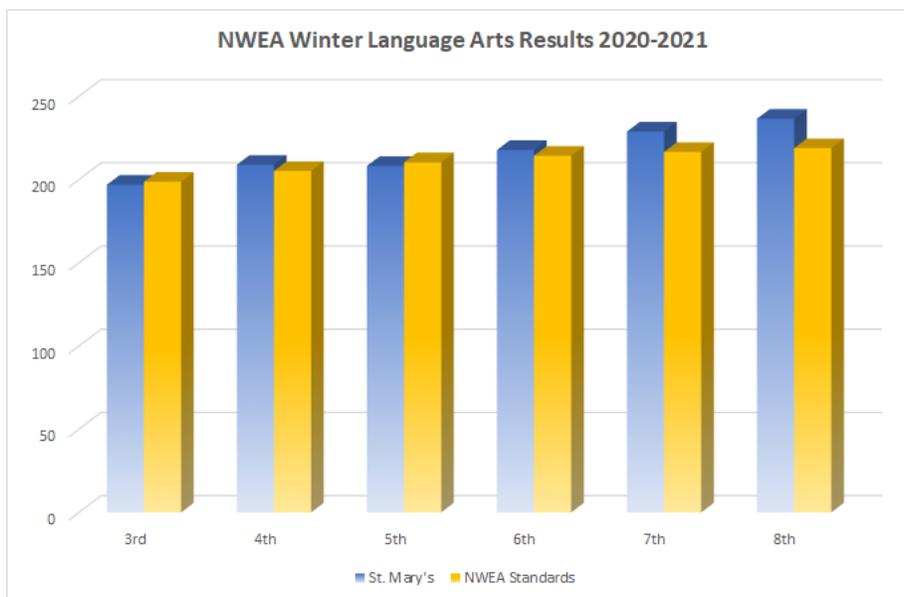
NWEA results were given to students in grades K-8. The following are results from spring testing. NWEA is designed to help teachers as they plan instruction for individual students. It also supports school staff and administration as they focus on allocating resources and it empowers staff as they work to improve all educational outcomes. All schools within the New Ulm Diocese have now implemented NWEA with the goal to have comparative data in the future. We were able to test students in the Fall, Winter and Spring sessions. The “Blue” bar represents the students of St. Mary’s. The “Gold” bar represents the national norm from the schools who also tested in the same window.



**2019-20 Education Committee Members:**

Scott O'Neil, Matt Baumbartner,  
Jaime Schlomann, Sene Zupke,  
Jackie Kaufenberg, Jamie Kubesh,  
Malissa Everson

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact Mrs. Bertrand Sigurdson at 320-365-3693 ext. 215 or via email at [tbertrand@stmarysbi.com](mailto:tbertrand@stmarysbi.com).



*A special thank you to Mrs. Shari Stahl & Miss Sami Swanson for serving St. Mary's School. Thank you to Mrs. Jaime Schlomann for serving on the Education Committee for the past 6 years.*