



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

where academics and faith go hand in hand

St. Mary's School Parent Newsletter ~ 2023-2024 School Year ~ Edition 9

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

All-Around Students

At the end of the school year, each classroom teacher chooses a student from their classroom who exemplifies the values of St. Mary's School. These students show the true meaning of our goal of educating children as a whole: spiritually, academically, physically, and emotionally. It is with great honor to present this award to the following students in grades PreK-7: Colin Anderson, Beckett Maertens, Maren Osthus, Nora Gass, Halle Jacobs, Catherine Buckley, Camri Elfering, Aiden Nere, Lila Beckler. Congrats!



Class of 2024

St. Mary's graduated ten 8th graders on May 22nd. We are so proud of their academic accomplishments and leadership throughout these years! We wish them the best as they move on to high school. Congrats!



8th Grade Awards

At the end of the year, the middle school teachers select 3 students who have exemplified the qualities of outstanding character and award these at the graduation reception. These students show willingness to work with others, religious values, leadership, stewardship and excellent work ethic. The all-around student of the year for 2024 is Mara Strandberg. The Marion male student of the year is Jackson Everson and the Marion female student of the year is Abby Brede.



2023-2024 Yearbook Order

Pre-order your 2023-2024 Yearbook! Click [here](#) to order. Checks can be made payable to St. Mary's School and sent to the office labeled "Yearbook pymt". Yearbooks will be distributed in the fall.

Now Hiring for the 2024-25 School Year

St. Mary's School has been providing quality education for over 125 years. We have some positions open for the upcoming 2024-25 school year and would like you to help spread the word. The following positions are available:

- 6th-8th grade Reading & K-3rd gr Reading Interventionist
- Full-time Head Cook and Food Service Assistant
- Full-time Student Resource Coach/Counselor

Sign-on Bonuses included! Details about these positions can be found on our website.

Play Island Preschool

Our 3 & 4 yr old preschool program will continue to run as it has with social and academic learning in the morning and childcare in the afternoon. Next fall, we are excited to share with you that we are offering the following options to choose from:

- * 3 half days a week or 3 full days a week
- * 4 half days a week or 4 full days a week
- * 5 half days a week or 5 full days (this is what was offered this year). Mrs. Henslin is excited to work with your child. Our 4 & 5 yr old Prekindergarten program, led by Mrs. Peterson. This program will continue to operate 5 full days a week. The after school program will continue to be available. Contact Karen at 320-365-3693 to reserve your spot.

Bags of Blessings

Ms. Lambrecht delivered the Bags of Blessings to Kim Bailey and Deb Mahoney from the Renville Co. Walk in the Park program. This year, we donated 42 bags, making our program's total 433 bags over the course of the last 9 years! Thank you to everyone who donated bags, items, & money for this project!



Grandparents Day

We hosted a record-breaking Grandparents Day this past month! We served refreshments to over 186 Grandparents. It was a great day!

FAREWELL

A special thank you to Kathy McRell for her years of dedication to St. Mary's! We thank you so much for all you have done for the staff and for the students and wish you the very best in your retirement! We would also like to thank Annie See, Carren Frank, Jean Athmann and Laura Kivi for their years at St. Mary's. God Bless You!



BIKE SAFETY

The 2nd Graders were gifted & fit for bike helmets this month! Thank you to the Olivia Kiwanis & area business members for helping keep our kids safe!



School Supplies

School supplies for students in all grades for the upcoming school year will be ordered and purchased through the school. More details will be emailed out this summer!

2024-2025 Teaching Staff

Below is the **tentative** staff placement for the upcoming school year.

Preschool - Mrs. Henslin/Para Mary Neubauer
Prekindergarten - Mrs. Peterson / Para Mariah Lowe
Kindergarten - Mrs. Franzeen
1st/2nd grade – Ms. Melin / Para Deb Marks
3rd grade - Mrs. Aarons
4th grade - Mrs. Wendt
5th grade - Mrs. O'Halloran
6th grade - Mrs. Thole (Religion and LA)
7th grade – TBD (Math and Science)
8th grade - Ms. Lambrecht (Social)
M.S. Reading – Mrs. Eiler
Music - Mrs. Strandberg
PE/Health - Mrs. Stahl

1ST COMMUNION

On May 5th, the 2nd graders received their First Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church. We are proud to celebrate this very special moment in their lives!



Thank you!

Thank you to Lakeside Press and Laura Peterson for the donation of customized St. Mary's registration pocket folders for our school. These folders contain registration materials and information about our school that were handed out at kindergarten registration and will be used for any new families inquiring about our school.

POPPY POSTER WINNERS

The Olivia American Legion Post 186 held a poppy poster contest for students in grades 3-6. The winning posters were displayed at the Memorial Day program at the Olivia National Guard Armory. Prizes were given to 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in each grade. Winners received a Dairy Queen gift card.

3rd grade: 1st – Halle Jacobs, 2nd – Sadie Bauman, 3rd Mia Nissen. **4th grade:** 1st – Avery Peterson, 2nd – Ellie Thurston, 3rd – Esmae Mead. **5th grade:** 1st – Camri Elfering, 2nd – Grace Lerud, 3rd – Griffin Osthus. **6th grade:** 1st – Emma Tersteeg, 2nd – Piper O'Neill, 3rd – Emma Jacobs



Adopt-a-Highway

The 6th & 7th graders, along with their teachers and chaperones, picked up many bags of trash on the Hwy 212 ditches east of Bird Island for the Adopt-a-Highway program.



Kindergarten Graduation

The kindergarten class has learned so much over this past school year! We are so proud of all that they have accomplished! Congrats!



We fight together

Thank you to all of the 5th grade families for organizing the t-shirt fundraiser to help defray Mrs. O's medical costs as she battles cancer.

#togetherweprayfightbelieve



Bulls & Billygoats



Mrs. McRell's 4th graders Bulls & Billygoats bake sale and the beaded necklace sales was a HUGE success. They raised \$1,046 for the Maasai children in Noonkotiak, Kenya. Thank you to all who contributed to this fundraiser! You made a difference across the world!

Marion Open



The 16th annual Marion Open golf tournament is Saturday July 13th at the Olivia Golf course. 4 person teams for 18-hole event starting at 10AM. Non-golfers are welcome to join for the evening meal at 5PM. To register, become a sponsor, or for more information about the tournament click [here](#). In addition to the golf tournament, there will be a limited number of tuition raffle tickets sold for the 2024-25 school year, this includes cash prizes too. The following St. Mary's polos are also available for purchase at the parish office in Olivia. Limited color options. Available sizes in Mens S-2XL, Womens S-2XL, Youth XS-XL. All funds raised go to support St. Mary's School!



A Honor Roll – Quarter 4

8th grade: Abby Brede, Jackson Everson, Mara Strandberg, Anna Stahl

7th grade: Lilly Bauman, Lila Beckler, Brett Henslin, Elena Kubesh, Aiden Lerud, Adrian Medina Palma, Logan Osthus, Taylor Zupke

6th grade: Sophia Buckley, Amelia Dyrssen, Kooper Eiler, Kenley Everson, Emma Jacobs, Aiden Nere, Piper O'Neill, Aubrey Stahl, Hadley Weis, Sadie Zuhlsdorf, Skylar Zuhlsdorf

B Honor Roll – Quarter 4

8th grade: Sofia Mabee

7th grade: Hudson Edwards, Isaac Frank, Matthew Mohr, Paxton Thole, Mara Thurston, Charlie Visser

6th grade: Cody Cole, Eli Elfering, Jadin Martinson, Jakob Martinson, Austin Posl, Emma Tersteeg

Carter Bremseth Memorial Golf Tournament



This memorial event for Carter will be held on Sunday, August 4th at the Olivia Golf Course. Carter lived & breathed golf; and his family wants to keep his memory alive by doing what he loved most! They will be raising money to support area students (through scholarships) at both BOLD, here at St. Mary's School, the BOLD Golf Boosters, the BOLD robotics team, and to raise awareness and support for families whom have lost someone to suicide. This event will be a 9-hole golf tournament, dinner, and silent auction. Save the date!

Upcoming School Year

If you know of anyone interested in becoming part of our St. Mary's School or Play Island Preschool family, please contact our office at 320-365-3693

Scan this code for a digital copy of the newsletter



Upcoming Dates to Watch for:

- Jul 13th - Marion Open – Olivia Golf Course
- Aug 4th – Bremseth Memorial Golf Tournament
- **Aug 21st – Back to School Blast 4:30 – 6:30pm**
- **Aug 26th – 1st Day of school**

Click [here](#) for the 2024-2025 school year-at-a-glance calendar!



It is the policy of St. Mary's School to comply with federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and all requirements imposed by/or pursuant to regulations issued thereto, to the end that no person at St. Mary's shall on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex marital status, status with regard to assistance, age, or disability and handicapping condition (if, with reasonable accommodations on the part of the school, the handicapped person could be accommodated) be excluded for participation in, be denied of, otherwise subjected to discrimination under any educational program, or in employment, recruitment, consideration, or selection, whether part or full time, under any educational program, employment or activity by St. Mary's School.