



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

2024-25 State-of-the-School Report

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 academics, excellence, self-worth and faith development go hand in hand in a nurturing environment.

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

Thank you for taking the time to read the 2024 State of the School report for St. Mary's School. The purpose of this report is to inform all stakeholders about important updates and events that have taken place over this past year. It also ensures that St. Mary's remains in compliance with the MNSAA accreditation requirements.

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 the 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 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 2025-2026 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 2024-25 School Year

Average Annual Tuition	\$3900.00
Average Tuition per Day	\$23.35
Average Private Tuition MN	\$7916.00

Average Cost to Educate a Student	
St. Mary's	\$8505.00
District School	\$17,099.51

The average public school per pupil cost \$16,080.00 as reported by the Education Data Initiative, this includes both elementary and secondary schools. Catholic schools save the US billions a year in educational costs.



Catholic Identity Theme for 2024-25: We are Many we are One!

St. Mary's School's tagline is "Where Faith and Academics go hand-in-hand". We at St. Mary's School focus upon the importance of focusing on our faith. Service and living out our faith are a recurring action in our school classrooms, in addition to weekly liturgies, prayer services, Stations of the Cross, Adoration and visits from the priest, students were prepared for Sacraments of First Eucharist and Reconciliation and May Crowning. Here are a few highlights from last years' service projects.

School Marathon: Since 2018 we have taken this fantastic fundraiser and turned it into a service project that we can give back to the community by raking leaves, picking up sticks and pulling weeds. It has been a huge success getting to know members of the community and coming closer to Christ by serving others



Adopt a Family: This year the families of St. Mary's School adopted 9 families from Renville County we were in need during the Christmas season. Each class adopted a family and collected the needed items from the list provided by Renville County Social Services.



Back the Pack: During Catholic Schools Week, St. Mary's collected for the Back the Pack, an important program in our community that feeds children who face food insecurity over the weekend. We collected over 200 pounds of food in January. On May 6 th , the 8 th graders got to see where that food went and packed the bags of food to feed over 200 children for the following 2 weekends. Thank you to Betsy for letting us join and to everyone who donated food this winter.

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 for 2024-25

- Develop and implement the strategies to an effective classroom and school-wide management structure.
- Incorporate a transparent coaching program to support the needs of the staff.
- Form a plan that will allow staff to study data and reflect on effective teaching strategies.
- Continue to improve the quality, appearance and functionality of the school which includes cosmetic repair to enrich its original character.

Strategic Plan Goals for 2025-26

- To fully infuse the Trust Based Observation (TBO) programming, which promotes ongoing dialog to promote growth within all educators.
- Redesign our Wellness committee to update our school Wellness policy.
- Continue to provide staff with the time and support to interpreting and implementing student data results in alignment to our teaching standards.
- Demonstrate 7- 10% growth in our 3 subjects areas that are tested on through NWEA in comparing this Spring to next Spring/grade level.

Financials

School Revenue	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 Projected amounts
Tuition	\$382,220	\$449,550	487,265	\$571,248	\$643,2599	\$506,450
Fundraising & Donations	\$261,213	\$286,473	610,646	\$288,300	\$2288,300	\$327,934
Parish Subsidy	\$173,329	\$175,640	0	\$294,616	\$2793,748	\$370,956
Other Parish Subsidy	\$15,000	\$15,000	19,248	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$50,000
Endowment	\$40,000	\$42,000	52,058	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$45,000
Total	\$871,762	\$968,663	\$1,169,217	\$1,211,164	\$1,267,307	\$1,300,340
School Expenses	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Salaries	\$559,995	\$723,422	\$814,740	\$911,673	\$948,486	\$1,005,209
Plant & Operations	\$110,080	\$123,270	\$145,804	\$154,895	\$158,426	\$136,536
Instructional	\$56,305	\$45,438	\$162,298	\$72,901	\$72,901	\$65,110
Other Administrative	\$145,382	\$76,533	\$46,375	\$71,694	\$87,494	\$93,485
Total	\$871,762	\$968,663	\$1,169,217	\$1,211,164	\$1,267,307	\$1,300,340

Enrollment Trend:	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
Kindergarten Thru 8 th Grade	121	121	138	149	147	131	136	121	122
Preschool	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20			
	31	23	26	16	25	17			

Assessment Results

St. Mary's School believes an effective assessment system motivates students to learn, communicates with stakeholders, promotes school improvement, guides instructional decisions, and shares a common vision. Assessment tools and practices are varied, ongoing, authentic, and aligned with specific learning targets. Regular and descriptive feedback is provided to students, and all parents, to promote learning positively. Assessments are used to understand and positively motivate the students as individual learners. Information gathered is used to understand the relationship between the learner and their progress toward achieving learning goals.

BELIEVE and READ

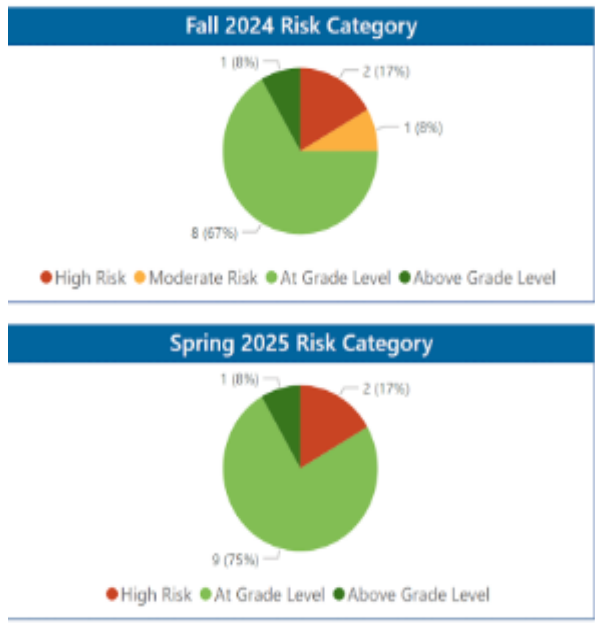
The 2024-25 school year marked the second year of the BELIEVE and READ program. Powered by the Catholic Schools Center of Excellent (CSCOE) and in partnership with Groves Learning Organization (GLO), a national leader in literacy instruction, Believe and Read brings GLO's methodology to St. Mary's through exceptional professional development and teacher coaching. Our goal is to ensure that every student at our school reads at or above grade level. Our K-3 teachers and our interventionist have become Believe and Read certified. Additionally our interventionist will also assume the role of our In-House Coach.

Teachers incorporate a daily 30 minute phonics-based lesson to ensure students grasp the reading rules needed to achieve fluency. These lessons use a multisensory approach that explicitly teaches the connections between letters and sounds. Our teachers receive bi-weekly support and feedback from their literacy coach and assistance in tracking student progress through routine assessments. Some of our students meet in small groups with the interventionists, allowing for daily targeting of skills for those who need it the most. This time is also used by the teacher to target higher -level skills with students who do not meet with the interventionist.

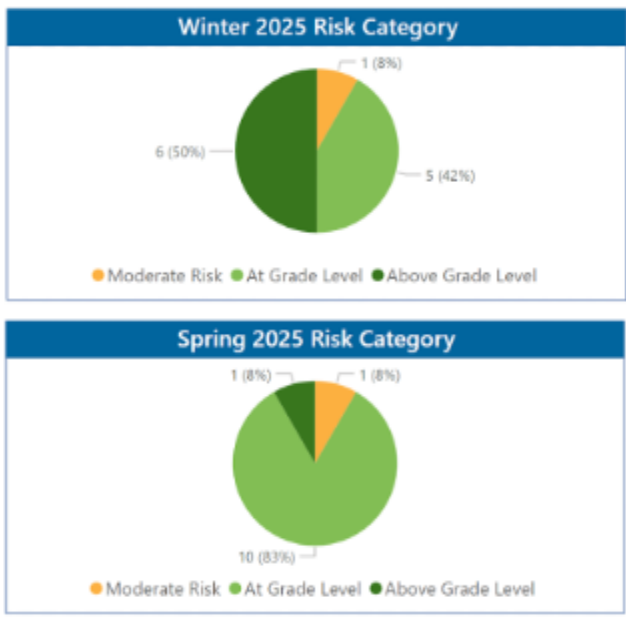
Through Believe and REad, our kindergarten students are monitored in letter name and sound fluency, while our first through third grade students are monitored on oral reading fluency. The charts on the left show the growth of our

Kindergarten students in letter naming fluency in the Fall of 2024 to Spring of 2025. The chart on the right shows the kindergarten students in letter word sound fluency. Below the kindergarten data you will also find first through third grade students showing their growth from Fall to Spring in the area of oral reading fluency. We have so much to celebrate!!!!

Kindergarten Overview – Naming Fluency

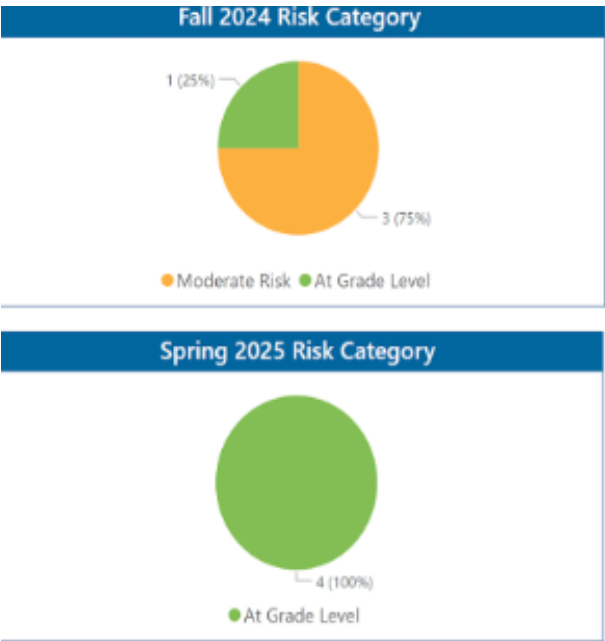


Kindergarten – Letter Word Sound Fluency

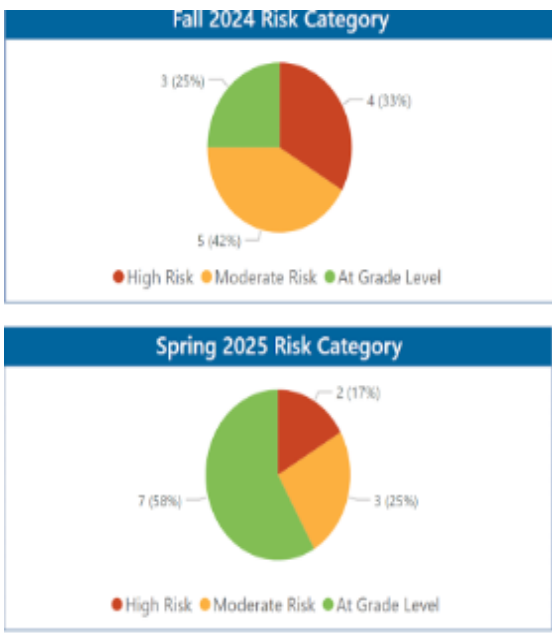


Hard Work + Determination = amazing student SUCCESS!
Way to go Kindergarteners!!!!

1st Grade Overview

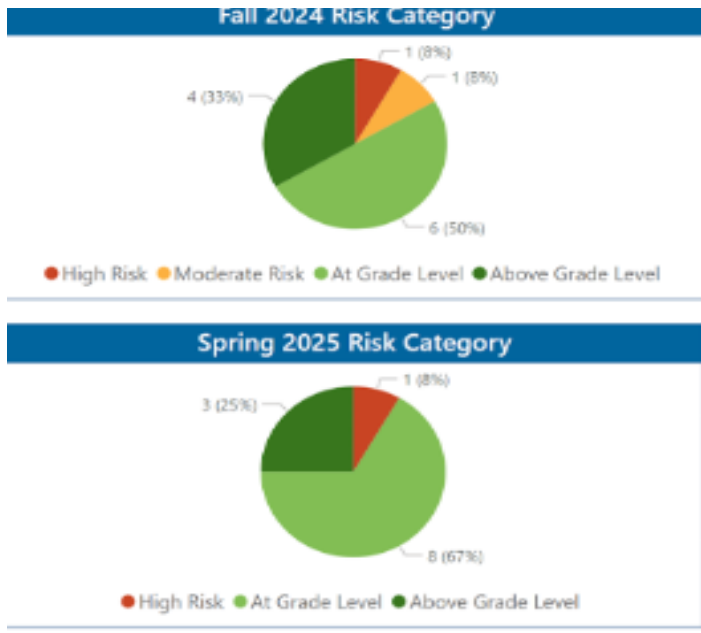


2nd Grade Overview



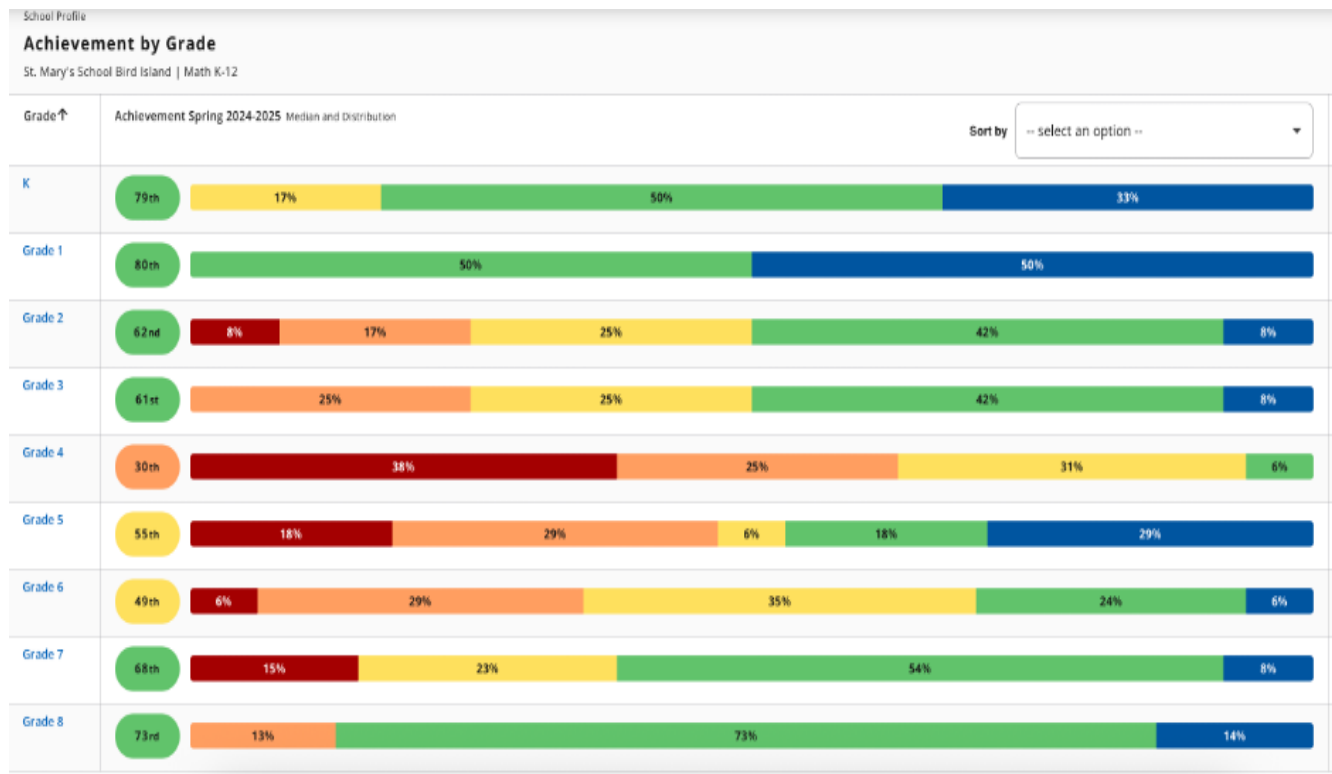
You believed you could and You DID!!!!
Awesome job by our 1st through 3rd grade students - Be Proud!!!!

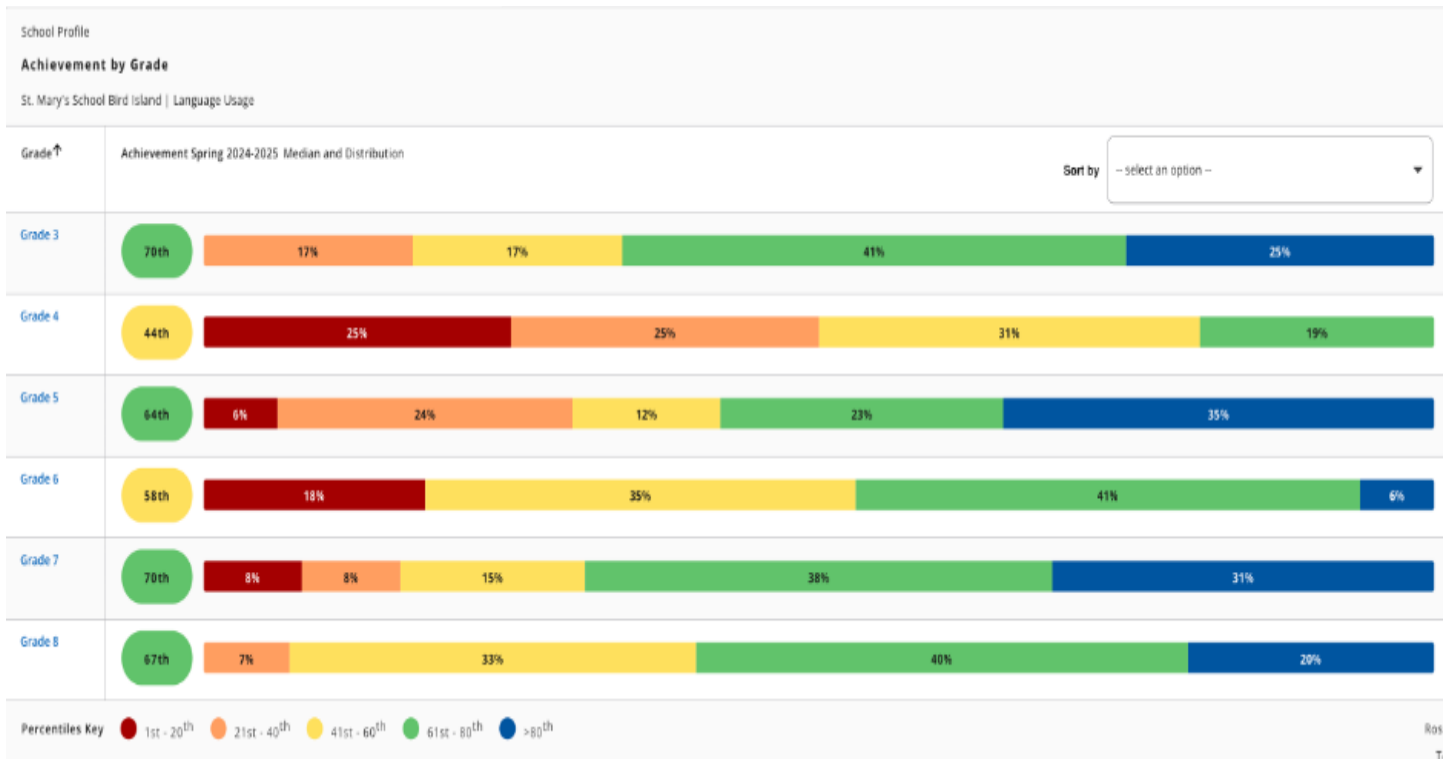
3rd Grade Overview



NWEA Testing (MAP- Measures of Academic Progress)

Students in grades kindergarten through 8 are tested 3 times during the school year. This test measures academic progress and gives individual student information to parents and teachers. The tests measure student progress and growth from one test session to the next. This test evaluates the school curriculum, the particular needs of an individual, class, or a condition of the entire school. NWEA tests taken are in fall, winter, and spring. Students have individual goals for improvement. NWEA gives students projected growth based on their ability levels. The goal is for students to move toward their projected growth goals as they work on meeting the curriculum standards. The following charts show the spring 2025 Math, Reading, and Language assessment results. The colors show each class's varied needs, which indeed identifies one of the challenges in our school in meeting the needs of all learners. As we compare to the tests taken in the fall and the spring, we can see growth and improvement, but we also need to set higher goals to bring those students who struggle up to a higher average.





A special thank you to Mrs. Karen Smith and Mr. Steve Schouton for serving St. Mary's School.

2024-25 Education Committee Members:

Sene Zupke, Jamie Kubesh, Malissa Everson, Steph Lerud, Rob Thurston, Kelsie Aeikens and Steve Herdina

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 tsigurdson@stmarysbi.com