

Dear St. Mary Families,

Even though it was a rough weekend for Wisconsin football fans, things here at St. Mary's are rocking! Along with many other schools in the diocese and school district, St. Mary's applied for more than \$15,000 in state grant money earmarked for school security. The grant will allow for shatter-resistant film to be placed on the main doors of the school, in addition to 8 security cameras with DVR recording and text notification to better ensure the security of our students and property. Most essential, the grant has allowed us to extend our PA system into the Nativity House to communicate more effectively with the 3k and aftercare students. We will also go through some professional development on teaching kids from traumatic backgrounds and making sure we are putting our students' social and emotional needs first. This is all very exciting and costs us as a school absolutely nothing. KC Computers has been in the building this week and should finish up within a couple days.

Playground Update: Do not worry, we have not forgotten about the playground! There is a primitive plan in place to remove the pea gravel and replace it with recycled rubber before winter comes. Once that is in place, the committee will meet to finalize the plans with the remainder of the budget.

Student Work: We want to remind our parents that the majority of Art work will NOT be going home this semester. Mrs. Hodge is keeping all the art in preparation for a student art show that will take place in January. A few classes are also utilizing more digital resources such as IXL, Discovery Education, and Google Classroom and as a result you might be seeing less paper work coming home. I assure you – that work is still being completed.

Back to School Night

Our Back to School night will be happening 9/20 at 6:30 pm up in the auditorium. This is an opportunity for parents to gain knowledge about what is expected from them. Throughout the course of the evening we will discuss:

- Expectations of parents
- Parent/Student Handbook, including dress code
- TeacherEase and FACTS
- Athletics
- Homework Policy
- Student Technology overview

The evening will start at 6:30 pm and will last between 60-90 minutes. All parents are encouraged to attend, in particular new parents to our school.



Upcoming Events:

9/20: Back to School Parent Night (6:30pm)

9/22: Midwest Invite (Cross Country)

9/26: Student-led mass - all are welcome! (8:15)

9/27: 8th Grade Kayak Trip

9/28: Dress Down Day

9/28: St. Mary Invite (Cross Country)

10/3: Student-led mass - all are welcome! (8:15)

10/4: World's Finest Chocolate Sales END

10/14: Steeple Chase

Athletics

Our home Cross Country meet is coming up on September 28th. Over 550 runners have registered and Bob Hoff will be DJing. It is one of the more elite events on the schedule. The cross country team is looking for concession stand donations or individually wrapped baked goods to help support athletics. If you are coming to the event or not, all are welcome to bring in concession items.

Email Change

For a variety of reasons, including costs savings and efficiency, the school has begun to change email systems from Microsoft outlook to gmail. All staff and student emails will change from @nativitymary.org to **stmaryschoolwi.com**. While staff will continue to check both emails for awhile, please try to get into the habit of using the **stmaryschoolwi.com** domain when emailing.

Committee Updates

Home and School: Home and School meets on the first Thursday of every month. In addition to coordinating the World's Finest Chocolate Sale, Home and School is exploring the idea of trunk or treating around Halloween as well as preparing for a middle school rec night in November. Along with the Spies family, Home and School also helps to support the Steeple Chase, which coming up on October 14. If you are a family looking to get involved, Home and School is a good place to start.

School Board: With the exception of October 8, the School Board meets on the first Monday of the month. Over the course of the year, the school board will do an analysis of our financial needs and resources, organizing a marketing campaign, update our school website, and assisting in the self-study accreditation process.

Stay Connected

We want to connect with you as much as possible and there are things you can do to help us out!

1. Follow us on Facebook (@StMarySchoolJVL) and Instagram (st_mary_school_janesville)
2. Check your email! If you do not have an email from me via TeacherEase, let me know! That means you are missing out on email blasts that get pushed out.
3. Keep track of your Wednesday Folders! Our administrative professionals work very hard to ensure essential paperwork gets sent home every other week. Please help us out by getting both the folders and paperwork returned.

In Christ,

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