



Parents,  
Guardians, &  
Students

I'm excited for the start of another school year. The 2021-2022 term marks our school's 64th year and my 5th year as principal. Thank you for the privilege of teaching your children and being part of your families.

## SMS Continues Path to Academic Excellence

In 2019, SMS introduced the Benchmark workshop program to our Little Saints Preschool-5th grade classes. Benchmark Workshop includes reading, writing, phonics, and word study components. The program focuses on a balanced literacy model. Balanced literacy is about balancing explicit language instruction with independent learning and language exploration. A balanced literacy framework consists of components including read along, guided reading, shared reading, independent reading, and word study. It aims to guide students towards proficient and lifelong reading.



Evan H., Colton L., Maggie F., Eli D., and Morgan H. working on math skills in 2nd grade

SMS has also purchased a new math curriculum for Kindergarten-4th grade called Bridges in Mathematics. The curriculum focuses on developing students' deep understandings of mathematical concepts, proficiency with key skills, and ability to solve complex and novel problems. Bridges blends direct instruction, structured investigation, and open exploration. It taps into the intelligence and strengths of all students by presenting material that is as linguistically, visually, and kinesthetically rich as it is mathematically powerful.

We continue to use the Holt McDougal Math Program in 5th and 6th grades as this has been a successful program for our upper elementary students.

### WE BELIEVE...

St. Mary's Catholic School is a faith-filled community that illuminates the teachings of Jesus by using our hearts, hands, and voices as Christian witnesses while striving for academic excellence.

- \*We are each a child of God bringing our own unique gifts and talents.*
- \*We are part of a team where students, staff, families and the broader faith community work together for the benefit of all.*
- \*We nurture the dignity and respect of all people.*
- \*We prepare students to embrace and live the gospel message and Catholic Faith.*
- \*We educate students to respect and share the gifts that God has given them.*
- \*We support the needs of all learners, realizing children learn in different ways.*
- \*We empower students to work to the best of their ability and be proud of their achievements.*
- \*We are here to help others succeed.*



Agnes H. and Peyton L.  
1st grade friends at SMS



- SMS has some wonderful new additions to our staff this year. We are delighted to welcome Holly Hellermann, our new 5th grade teacher, and Emily Krogstad, the new district music teacher.
- We have new Interactive Flat Panels in every classroom; these were funded by Auction Every Bid Counts contributions, Great Technology Giveaway winners, and multiple donations!



**Holly Hellermann**  
 5th grade Teacher

Eli R., Caiden W., and Connor F. using the flat panel

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Marathon/Prayer-a-thon: October 1st-Pledge/prayer envelopes are available at school and the table in the church gathering space. Students collect pledges for walking and praying for the needs of our community throughout the school year. The most rewarding part is hearing from people we're praying for - "thank you for praying for my family", and "I see my prayers answered".
- Harry's Pizza Fundraiser: October 13th-27th. Contact a SMS family or the school at 320-256-4257 to order! Pizzas are \$10 each; flavors include 4-Meat, Breakfast, Cheese, Chicken Alfredo, Chicken Bacon Ranch, Deluxe, Pepperoni, and Sausage.
- Grandparents Day at SMS: October 20th; all-school mass is at 8:30am. Grandparents of SMS students are invited to a program and lunch following the mass. Invites will be send to SMS families to register for the event.
- Fall-o-ween Jesus: October 29th, 3:00-5:00 pm in the SMS Gym-watch for more info coming soon!

**Question of the Day**

What do you like most about the new school year? Here are some of the fun responses students had:

- ★ Recess, art and phy-ed classes
- ★ Napping :) and learning to read
- ★ Seeing friends again

**SMS \$ 4KIDS**

We have a partnership with Great Lakes SCRIP Center (GLSC). GLSC volume buying means better rebates and more revenue for our school and "extras" for our students like computers, library books, hands-on learning, field trips, new classroom curriculum, tools for learning, etc.

You can get eGift cards and gift cards in three ways:

1. Shop online for eGift cards and gift cards at more than 750 local and national brands. <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/>
2. Download and shop on the mobile app, called Raise Right. You can use your Shop With Scrip account info on the app.
3. Download order form to purchase gift cards from local merchants supporting our school: <https://www.smsmelrosemn.org/sms-sms4kids>

**DID YOU KNOW?**

You can sponsor a child at SMS by donating to the Stacy Meyer Scholarship Fund at St. Mary's School or Sponsor A Child program through the parish. Contact SMS at 320-256-4257 or visit <https://www.smsmelrosemn.org/scholarship-information> for more information.

**Alumni** - stay connected with SMS by signing up to receive information at [bit.ly/smsmelrose](http://bit.ly/smsmelrose)

