



June 2022

Dear Families,

It has been a privilege to serve as the principal of St. Mary's Catholic School again this year. I'm so grateful for the openness, support, honesty, and hard work our parents, staff, parish, and community gives to St. Mary's School. I appreciate the partnership with you as we work together to ensure that every child becomes a life-long learner and reaches their academic potential through enriching curriculum, engaging hands-on activities, and inspiring teachers and staff. I sincerely believe that a school environment which is collaborative draws on the strength of all stakeholders and fosters a positive school climate that makes a difference in the lives of our students.

Mission Statement

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.

Financial Report

The estimated cost to educate a student at St. Mary's School will be \$5,750 for the 2022-2023 school year. The following areas are the ways in which St. Mary's is funded.

Tuition: There was a \$100 increase in tuition for each child in Kindergarten-6th grade for the 2022-2023 school year:

First Child	Grades K-6	\$1975/year
Second Child	Grades K-6	\$1650/year
Third Child	Grades K-6	\$1375/year

Preschool: Little Saints Preschool tuition rates will remain the same for the 2022-2023 school year:

5 full days:	\$400.00/month	
3 full days:	\$250.00/month	
2 full days:	\$175.00/month	available for 3-year olds only
5 half days:	\$200.00/month	
3 half days:	\$125.00/month	available for 3-year olds only

Subsidy: The Church of St. Mary will support the school with \$145,000 in subsidy for the 2022-2023 school year, plus we will be receiving \$70,000 from the Endowment Fund. An additional \$70,000 is budgeted from our auction proceeds, along with an additional \$30,000 from the St. Mary's School Auction reserve fund, to meet our operating budget. St. Mary's School administration meets with the School Board and Leadership Council monthly to discuss operations of the school, including budget and financial projections.

Donations: We also receive many donations from companies and individual people throughout the year to help St. Mary's School balance our budget.

Financial Report-continued

Catholic Foundation: The foundation was founded by Bishop John F. Kinney in 2000 to hold and manage funds raised from the "Living the Promise" campaign. It offers scholarships and initiatives to support Catholic Schools. Money is raised for these scholarships through the Bishop's Annual Appeal, Breakfast with the Bishop, and the Bishop's Annual Golf Fundraiser. Through this foundation we receive donations from:

Stearns County Endowment Fund	\$910
Great Technology Giveaway	\$1200
Living the Promise Scholarship	\$1530 (scholarship and tuition assistance)
Catholic Schools Student Scholarship Fund	\$2400
Living the Promise Grant	\$1700 (Used for math curriculum)
Annual Appeal	\$4950 (June 2021)

Stacy Meyer Scholarship Fund: The Stacy Meyer Scholarship Fund was started in memory of Stacy, a former St. Mary's Catholic School parent, who passed away in May of 2019. The 2022-23 school year is the third year the Stacy Meyer Scholarship Fund was available to families who qualify for financial assistance. This scholarship fund has been started with the generous gifts of Stacy's family, friends, and community members who were touched by Stacy's giving nature. We continue to accept donations to keep the fund available for years to come. Stacy's friends and family raised over \$17,000 in memory of her at a fundraising event this April.

Fundraisers: We are very thankful and grateful for the support of our families, parish, and community in raising funds during our fundraisers.

Fundraiser	Amount Raised in 2021-2022
Freeport Golf Classic (It was not able to be held, but FSB still contributed to each of the three parochial schools.	\$4,500
Marathon/Prayer-a-thon	\$26,358
Catholic Schools Breakfast	\$6,068
Auction4Education (including raffle)	\$150,397
Harry's Pizza	\$18,970
Extra Programs that generate revenue	Amount Received in 2021-2022
Pop Cans	\$1,170
Coborn's More Rewards	\$1,424
Arvig	\$2,408

SMS\$4Kids: The total program rebate for 4/1/21 - 3/31/22 was \$9,049.86. St. Mary's School made a profit of \$5,649.51 after expenses (including \$3,400.35 that was given out in tuition reimbursements.) The **SMS\$4Kids Program** ("SMS Cash for Kids") is a wonderful program used to raise funds for the school as well as help **reduce your tuition commitment**. The best part about the program is there **is NO ADDITIONAL COST** to the people using it. If you or someone you know would like to start using SMS\$4Kids please contact the school at 320-256-4257.

Financial Report-continued

Budget: Our operating budget income for the 2021-2022 year was estimated at \$523,600. With the added income from successful fundraisers, the adjusted operating budget is \$597,000. The expenses for the 2021-2022 school year are estimated to be \$580,000. This information reflects our school budget as of April 30th. The complete school year budget runs from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

Enrollment

Projected 2022-2023 Enrollment (as of May 31, 2022)

Little Saints	16
Kindergarten	15
1st grade	16
2nd grade	12
3rd grade	17
4th grade	12
5th grade	21
6th grade	9
Total K-6	102

Registration is still open for the coming school year. If you know of anyone who might be interested in having their children attend St. Mary's School, please have them contact the school for a visit.

As a means of promoting continued increases in enrollment at St. Mary's School, and to reward existing families for their efforts in promoting our school, an Enrollment Referral Incentive Program will again be offered for the 2022-2023 school year. Any current SMS family whose outreach and referral efforts result in a new family registering their child(ren) at St. Mary's School for the 2022-2023 school year will receive a credit of \$100 in May of 2023 for each new family they refer.

Curriculum and Instruction

- St. Mary's implemented a new math program in the fall of 2021, called Bridges. We completed our third year using the Benchmark Workshop reading curriculum. We continue to receive professional development in reading and math instruction to optimize learning. This year our curriculum cycle guided us through researching and evaluating our religion curriculum.
- We started an enrichment program once a quarter called "Power Hour." Teachers focused on designing a lesson that introduced life skills while also incorporating academic learning, personal skills, and teaching to the whole child.

Faith Development and Dedication to Service

Throughout the year, our students have many opportunities for developing a strong faith and learning to serve others. These are a few of the activities our students participated in throughout this past school year that reflects our dedication to service and reaching out beyond the walls of our building.

- We connected with residents at Pine Villa through cards this year and were able to visit once. The 6th graders were pen pals with some of the residents at Pine Villa this year as well.
- Students prayed daily for those whose prayers we collected from our Marathon/Prayer-a-thon.
- Students collected socks for area shelters during Advent.

Faith Development and Dedication to Service-continued

- Students collected money for the Melrose Food Shelf, Fr. Schwieters and Fr. Ohmann, Simply Love International, and Food for Thought during Lent.
- 3rd grade students represented SMS in communicating via videos with Simply Love International, a non-profit organization founded by Erin (Meyer) Cannon, an alumni of SMS. The organization focuses on the idea of building sustainability for families through education, community development, and simply loving the children who live at Global Orphanage in Tanzania.
- Students prepared baskets with treats and notes of thanks to our health care workers in Melrose.
- Once a month classes joined St. Mary's parishioners to pray the Rosary.

Maintenance Projects

St. Mary's School has partnered with the Church of St. Mary to form a maintenance/grounds committee. One of the committee's priorities will be collaborating with the Leadership Council in developing a budget for bigger maintenance projects.

- New carpet and blinds are being installed in the 2nd grade and music rooms.
- The playground will get a fresh supply of mulch.
- A water softener was installed this past year.
- We added new tables in the cafeteria with Covid relief funds.
- Within the next 5 years, the roof will need to be replaced. The estimated cost as of right now is somewhere between \$200,000- \$300,000. Repairs will be made annually to maintain the roof until it can be replaced.

Successes

- We successfully met the Schulze Grant Challenge by raising \$25,000 and receiving \$25,000 from the grant. The money will be used to:
 - Implement new science and religion curriculums
 - Participate in professional development opportunities in higher-level learning, behavioral/social/emotional techniques, and technology integration
 - Add a Bilingual Family Liaison and Marketing Coordinator to our SMS Staff
- The marketing committee's successes included the reissuing of the SMS Word, Kindergarten yard signs, and Fall-o-Ween Jesus event.
- One-on-one devices for all students along with an Interactive Flat Panel in each classroom, provide teachers with flexibility, reusability, and a variety of tools that make learning engaging. Similarly, for students, an interactive display in the classroom allows them to use technology productively.

Accreditation

MNSAA (Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association): The Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA) has renewed the accreditation of St. Mary's School for the eligibility period of 2020 to 2027. The mission of MNSAA is to be a facilitator in improving the quality of nonpublic education in Minnesota through the accreditation process. Part of the improvement initiative that MNSAA requires of St. Mary's School is to produce a Strategic Plan that includes objectives, action steps, and a timeline. Progress on our Strategic Plan is reported to MNSAA on an annual basis. Our full Strategic Plan can be found on our website and SchoolSpeak.

Accreditation-continued

Successes:

- We implemented a new math program and are in the process of reviewing our religion and science curriculums.
- As a staff we read Classroom 180: Framework for Creating, Sustaining, and Assessing Trauma-Informed Classroom to help us grow and work with social and emotional concerns.

There are 4 main objectives in our Strategic Plan we continue to work on yearly.

- Objective 1: Using Hearts, Hands, and Voices, St. Mary's Catholic School will be a community of academic excellence.
- Objective 2: St. Mary's Catholic School will provide a safe, functional, and attractive learning facility.
- Objective 3: St. Mary's Catholic School will remain financially viable into the future.
- Objective 4: St. Mary's Catholic School will communicate effectively with stakeholders to increase enrollment and retention of students in the school.

SMS Information

Endowment Fund: The Endowment Committee meets quarterly. As of March 2022, the Endowment Fund has reached \$1,488,199.37. Of this amount, \$852,538.25 is principal. As of May 2022, the Endowment Fund has given a total of \$446,000 to the school.

Lunch: Our lunch program continues to be catered by True North Marketplace/Cornerstone Catering. Our school is not a member of the MN School Nutrition Program but we do offer free and reduced lunch options for families who are in need. In Minnesota, Title services are tied to free and reduced lunch patrons, so if you feel like your family may qualify for these services, we encourage you to apply (even if you choose not to use the program) as it helps St. Mary's School qualify for Title services and assistance from the public school system.

Alumni: Stay connected with everything SMS has to say at <https://mailchi.mp/3596b1349d3c/sms>

Sponsor a Child: The Sponsor A Child program is for anyone who would like to make a contribution towards the education of a student attending St. Mary's Catholic School. The contribution could pay for a student's tuition monthly, quarterly, semester, or entire year. The students selected to participate in this program will be based on financial need. The name of the student recipient will be kept confidential. All contributions will be used strictly for the education of the students at St. Mary's Catholic School and are tax deductible. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, contact the school at 256-4257 or anelson@smsmn.org, or use your Sponsor A Child envelope in the collection at Mass.

St. Mary's Facebook Page: St Mary's Catholic School - Melrose
St. Mary's Instagram Page: @smsmelrosemn
St. Mary's School Website: www.smsmelrosemn.org

I look forward to continuing to build on the foundation established by stakeholders and working with you to continue the tradition of excellence. If we can be of assistance please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here for you.

Sincerely,

Autumn Nelson, Principal

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.

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