



Parents,
Guardians,
&
Students

Happy New Year! I would like to extend best wishes to all for a happy and healthy new year. At SMS we place great value on seeing our students showing continued success and progress in their faith and academic journey. As we approach the midpoint of our school year, students are focused and the staff is energized. We are excited and ready to embrace all that 2022 has to offer us.

SMS Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

The CSW theme is "**Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.**" Catholic schools have a specific purpose to form students to be good citizens of the world, love God and neighbor, and enrich our communities by being examples of **faith**. Academic **excellence** is the hallmark of Catholic education intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Finally, **service** is fundamental to Catholic education and the core of Catholic discipleship. Service is intended to help form people who are not only witnesses to Catholic social teaching, but also active participants through social learning.

The Catholic school, like the Catholic Church, is not a building or an institution, but it is the people. As the people of God, we work together to bring the Kingdom of God to Earth and raise up the next generation to do the same. May we all strive to live in active service of Jesus and his mission as we join together during Catholic Schools Week and always.



- Friday, January 28: **Celebrating Families** - Family Fun Night at SMS from 6:30-8:30pm, including games and snacks!
- Sunday, January 30: **Celebrating our Parish** - Children's Mass at Church of St. Mary at 10:00am; School Breakfast 8:30am-12:00pm at St. Mary's Catholic School Cafeteria/Gym
- Monday, January 31: **Celebrating our Community** - Pajama Day. Classes will be writing letters to members of our community who watch out for us and keep us safe; firefighters, police, ambulance, mayor, city office, etc.
- Tuesday, February 1: **Celebrating our Students** - Dress up as what you want to be when you grow up. Students will get to sit by someone new at lunch, and partner read with students from a different grade.
- Wednesday, February 2: **Celebrating Vocations** - Dress up in your favorite sports attire. Each grade will have the opportunity to learn about the different ministries people are involved in within our church.
- Thursday, February 3: **Celebrating God's Creation** - Funny sock day. Little Saints-3rd graders will be sledding near the St. Mary's School campus and 4th-6th graders will be skiing at Andes Tower Hills.
- Friday, February 4: **Celebrating Faculty and Staff** - St. Mary's Spirit day. Students will wear St. Mary's clothing or blue/white/purple clothing. We will be having mini courses after lunch.



SMS Christmas Program Highlights

SMS 6th graders performed the play "December In Our Town" on December 15th at the Marit Elliott Performing Arts Center. This program highlighted holiday traditions of other cultures; the students showed that peace, joy, and hope are holiday traditions that can be shared by all. The 2nd-5th graders sang during the program; the Kindergarten and 1st grade classes entertained the crowd with festive songs before the program. Our Little Saints Preschool hosted their faith-filled (and adorable) program at SMS earlier in the day.





*"We each have a **Uniqueness** that can be expressed through **Making Art.**"*

Artist Dan Mondloch presented Watercolor & Art History, a 5-day art residency focusing on watercolor techniques and landscape painting, with grades 2-6 during the week of January 10-14. Each day provided a new subject from a historical artist such as Monet, Van Gogh, Homer, or Picasso. Students created one painting each day, and as the culminating event they hosted a school wide art show, with paintings on display in the hallways so the rest of the school could see their artwork. A reception took place with funding acknowledgement, highlighted stories of success shared, and an overall recap of the project.

This activity was made possible through a grant from the Central Minnesota Arts Board, thanks to funds provided by the McKnight Foundation. SMS is also grateful to the Jane Mullen family for their continued support of our Partners In Art Program, which teaches our students about new artists each month, including the ones listed above.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- SMS Auction4Education: **"Tailgating for 20 Years"** Mark your calendars for March 5, 2022!
 - **Raffle Tickets** are on sale now for \$100 each with a grand prize of \$20,000! Drawing will be held at 7:00pm the night of the auction.
 - **Tailgating Experience** at the Melrose American Legion on March 5th from 5:30 to 8:30pm; free will donations for the food are appreciated. **50/50 drawings** will be held too; please join us there!
 - **Online Auction** at <http://www.bidpal.net/smsmelrose>. The online viewing begins on February 20th, online bidding begins on February 27th. Online bidding will close the night of the auction.
 - **Live Auction** for the classroom items will be held during the tailgating event-don't miss the excitement!
- Winter Open House: Monday, March 14th, 5:30-7:00pm

6th graders host the *Living Wax Museum* highlighting the 1950's and 1960's!

The 6th grade class researched, prepared, and hosted a living wax museum in November. The celebrities represented included: singer Elvis Presley, actresses Carroll Baker, Julie Andrews, Jane Russell and Eva Marie Saint, President John F. Kennedy, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Queen Elizabeth II, creator of Marvel Comic characters Stan Lee, Dr. Jonas Salk, Army General Maxwell Taylor, athletes Johnny Unitas, Babe Didrikson, Mickey Wright, Ernestine Russell, Mohammed Ali, and icon Rosie the Riveter. The SMS students and 6th grade families were invited to attend the event; everyone was impressed with the work the students put into their projects!



DID YOU KNOW?

SMS Spirit Behavior Program: St. Mary's School has identified three key behavior qualities that are desired for students to demonstrate - being respectful, responsible, and safe. We call this school-wide positive behavior intervention system **"SMS Spirit"**. Rather than simply "expecting" students to know what these qualities look like in various settings, the behaviors within these traits are actively **taught and modeled** by staff members, recognized, and rewarded. The key to SMS Spirit is that discipline is learned and should be taught in the home, school, and community. A very positive and productive learning environment will enable students to strive for excellence.

