



*REPORT TO THE PARISH
St. Mary Catholic School
Wayne, Michigan
Presented by: St. Mary School
Advisory Committee*

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The St. Mary School Advisory Committee is pleased to present this *State of the School* report to the St. Mary Parish community.

St. Mary Catholic School was established in 1924, and has a long history of providing the highest quality education to both Catholic and non-Catholic students in Wayne, Westland, and surrounding communities. St. Mary Catholic School is fully accredited by the Michigan Non-Public Schools Accrediting Association and was recognized as a *School of Distinction* in 2009. It is one of only four schools in the State of Michigan to receive that designation and honor. According to criteria established by the Archdiocese of Detroit, St. Mary is one of the top Catholic Schools in the area.

Deeply rooted in Christian/Catholic values, the school continue to prepare students in pre-school through eighth grade, with a comprehensive academic program using the latest technology, a highly qualified teaching staff using best practice, and the most current content standards established by the Michigan Department of Education. Furthermore, through a strong Faith Formation (religious education) program, students are prepared for the Sacraments, and are taught Catholic values and the value of Christian Service, empowering them to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Philosophy and Mission

St. Mary Catholic School, as an extension of the educational ministry of the Church, dedicates itself to the spiritual, intellectual,

social, and emotional development of each student.

Our mission is: to uphold the
Strength of academics;
be Motivated to do our best;
and to Serve God and his people.

School Advisory Committee

The St. Mary School Advisory Committee (SAC), meets monthly throughout the school year and is composed of school parents, parishioners and the school principal. Meetings are open to all parents/parishioners unless otherwise stated and minutes are made available on the school website. SAC is an extension of the St. Mary Education Commission.

Current members of the School Advisory Committee are:

Mike Hurley, Chairperson
Don Lipinski, School Principal
Paula Frawley
Ann Gillies
Christine Hayes
LeeAnn Near
Alicia Reyes
Christine Skomra
Michelle Sweikowsky.

The purpose of the committee is to advise the pastor and the school principal as a consultative body on school related matters such as academics, day-to-day operation of the school, fundraising, obtaining volunteers, and other school related matters. It provides parents/guardians and parishioners with a voice in the formation and education of the students in St. Mary School and allows the

principal to spend more time as an instructional leader.

For more information, contact the school principal or SAC chairperson-Mike Hurley.

Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC), was established in August of 2010. This group of volunteers is made up of the school principal, School Advisory chair, school parents, parishioners and school staff. Meetings are held once or twice a month throughout the school year and, as needed, in the summer. The meetings are facilitated by members of the Notre Dame Club, a group of Notre Dame Alumni who want to promote Catholic schools. The purpose of strategic planning is to develop a business plan to promote marketing the school, long-term fundraising, and the use of volunteers. It provides a clear vision for the future and identifies the strategies needed to complete the goals and objectives established by the committee. Meetings are open to anyone. Anyone interested in this committee should contact the school principal.



Parent-Teacher Group

The Parent Teacher Group or (PTG), is another important arm of the school community. PTG is a core group of volunteers who provide support for the school and school staff through fundraising events, helping out in the classroom and around the school, supervising the playground at lunch recess, chaperoning field trips, paying for educational assemblies, and purchasing much needed school supplies. The PTG currently sponsors Holiday Ham Sales, Trivia Nights, the school

Fun Fair, and Trunk or Treat, to name a few. New members are always welcome. However, it is not necessary to join PTG in order to volunteer around the school and volunteers are always needed. Anyone wishing to volunteer at the school must complete a thorough background check and complete the AOD-sponsored seminar: [Protecting God's Children.](#)



Points of Pride

St. Mary Catholic School is extremely proud of the following:

- Being a fully accredited School of Distinction by the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools
- Having highly qualified and experienced teachers
- Our newly instituted pre-school program, which was expanded for 2011-2012
- Our "shared time" programs with Wayne-Westland and Garden City Public Schools, such as computer lab, Spanish Language instruction, and art classes
- Our outstanding Faith Formation programs
- Outdoor Education program for 5th and 6th grade students (camping program)
- Vocal music choir and Bell choir
- Our instrumental band program.
- Our outstanding IOWA test scores
- Our active PTG organization
- Our School Advisory Committee and our Strategic Planning Committee
- Our monthly Awards assemblies
- Our educational assemblies
- Our annual Fun Fair
- Trunk or Treat
- Our Scholastic Book Fairs

- Our many field trips such as the apple orchard
- Our many scouting groups
- Our very competitive CYO sports program
- Our SMART boards in every K-8 classroom
- Our newly refurbished computer lab
- Our soon-to-be updated science lab
- All the technology and educational grants obtained by Mr. Lipinski
- Safety Patrol and Service Squad
- Our recycling efforts such as newspapers
- Our many Christian Service projects such as our canned food drive and our Warming Tree
- Our Student Council
- Our open houses and our Science Fair
- Our school honor roll
- Geography and Spelling Bees

The above list is a sampling of the many programs and initiatives taking place throughout the year at St. Mary School. Our many thanks to our teachers, office staff, principal, custodial staff, pastor, students, parents, volunteers, parishioners, and others who make them possible.

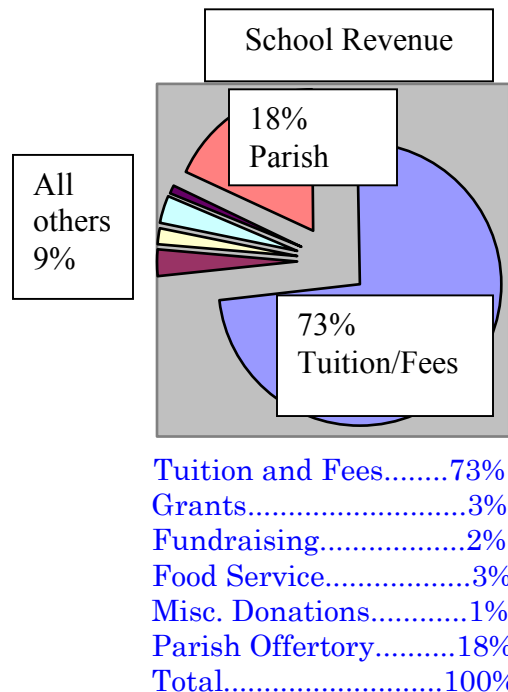
IOWA Testing

Each year during the month of October, students in grades one through eight, take the IOWA Tests of Basic Skills. This test is similar to the Michigan MEAP test. Over the years, our students have consistently scored well-above the national averages on these tests, which is an indication that our curriculum is meeting the needs of the students and our teachers are doing an excellent job in the classroom. This year, the test was changed to more appropriately reflect the latest benchmarks and standards being taught in our schools. The scores are being made available and the school will share these in the near future.

School Finances

An old African proverb states that "it takes a village to raise a child." Here, at St. Mary, it takes a parish to fund a school.

The cost to operate St. Mary School this year is \$1,122,679, with 83% of that money going toward staff salaries and benefits, which is common in all schools in the area. The chart below illustrates where the money comes from for operating expenses:



Without any parish subsidy to the school, the school brings in about \$938,535, from all revenue sources except the parish. Based on the cost of \$1,122,679, to adequately operate the school, the parish must subsidize the school in the amount of \$184,144, per year or \$3,640 per week in order to meet school expenses. This money comes directly from the weekly offertory donations from our parishioners. The cost of educating each child is \$4,710.00 per year. Registered parishioners receive discounts on that amount based on the number of students enrolled from the family.

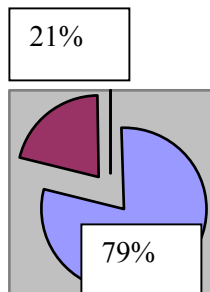
Currently, weekly offertory donations do not meet the needs of the parish. Gary Kurylo, our business manager, has predicted that the parish will be about \$60,000 short in our basic

financial needs by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2012. This shortage affects the day-to-day operations of the entire parish campus. It is a fact that about 300 registered parishioners did not pick up their Sunday offering envelopes last year and some have not picked them up this January.

Finance Council

The parish Finance Council has been working diligently for the past several years to stabilize our parish finances. Many cutbacks have been made. Staff has been laid off. The Outreach Center has been made self-sufficient; some needed improvements and repairs have not been done. The school administration has obtained grants to improve the school. The school staff has made sacrifices in salary and benefits. The custodial staff has made the entire campus more energy-efficient. However, over the past ten years, the parish has lost approximately 1/2 of its membership. This has affected our weekly offertory donations. While many parishioners support the parish each week, some do not. Our current budgetary needs are \$10,800, per week in offertory collections. We have been averaging about \$9,650, per week. In order to maintain our facilities and the level of services we currently enjoy, we must have \$10,800, per week. Fortunately, the average weekly envelope contribution is \$25 per week. However, without an increase we will be short by \$60,000, or more by June 30, 2012.

Seventy-nine percent of all parish revenue comes from weekly offertory donations including Christmas and Holy Days. Twenty-one percent comes from other sources.



The Finance Council has worked closely with the school administration, the business manager and Father David to ensure that the school remains open and on solid ground. Finance Council has tried to keep tuition increases to a minimum since the

more tuition is raised, the more enrollment drops. This year, tuition will increase by \$75.00 per student for families receiving discounted (subsidized) rates.



Why Choose St. Mary School?

While the School Advisory Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee have developed plans to market the school and boost enrollment, it is the families whose children attend the school that help the most. Word-of-mouth advertising is one of the best ways to increase enrollment and we encourage everyone to talk-up the school and attend school events such as the open house and invite their friends to the Fun Fair, the Auction, Trivia Nights, etc. So, why choose St. Mary?

- A tradition of academic excellence since 1924
- Highly qualified staff members
- Outstanding curriculum
- Higher than average IOWA scores
- Excellent facilities/Activities Center
- Advanced technology throughout the school, such as SMART boards and computers
- Emphasis on teaching moral, ethical, and Catholic/Christian values



St. Mary Catholic Parish
Celebrating 150 years, 1862-2012