



St. Mary School
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First Quarter 2018 Newsletter

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Mary’s School is to provide Catholic education in a Christ-centered environment, which enables students to attain religious and academic excellence.

Calendar Dates

- Sept. 28 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 2
Grandparent’s Day 8:45-10:30
- Sept. 30 Sunday Student Liturgy 8:45 Grade 3
Back to School Breakfast 8:00-11:00
- Oct. 2 Cookie Dough Assembly 1:00
- Oct. 3 Healthy Iowa Walk 9:00-10:00
- Oct. 5 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 1
- Oct. 12 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 5
Kindergarten Field Trip to Mrs. Edge’s House 10-1:45
- Oct. 16 Candy Sale Ends
- Oct. 19 School Mass 8:45 Grade 4
End of First Quarter
- Oct. 26 Healing Mass 10:00 Grade 6
- Nov. 1 School Mass 8:45 Grade 2
Wax Museum Grades 4, 5 & 6
- Nov. 2 Teacher In-Service/ No School
- Nov. 6 Parent, Student, Teacher Conferences and Book Fair 4:30-7:00
- Nov. 8 Parent, Student, Teacher Conferences and Book Fair 4:30-7:00
- Nov. 9 No School
- Nov. 11 Fall Festival 8:00-2:00
- Nov. 16 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 3
- Nov. 21 1:15 Student Dismissal
- Nov. 22 & 23 Thanksgiving Break - No School
- Nov. 25 Sunday Student Liturgy 8:45 Grade 4
- Nov. 30 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 1
- Dec. 6 Music Program in Church PS-Grade 6
1:00 and 7:00 pm
- Dec 7 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 6
Chili Supper and Bake Sale – Brave Bags and Meals From the Heartland 4:45-7
- Dec. 14 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 5
- Dec 21 All School Candle Lighting Service 12:15
1:15 Student Dismissal
- Jan. 4 All School Mass 8:45 Teachers

Principal- Mrs. Edge

May 2018 ACRE Results – Grade 5

<u>Areas Tested</u>	<u>St. Mary School</u>	<u>National</u>
Knowledge of the Faith	90%	72%
Liturgical Life	81%	70%
Moral Formation	92%	79%
Prayer	87%	66%
Communal Life	83%	72%
Missionary Spirit	79%	55%
Profession of Faith-Creed	86%	70%
Liturgy and the Sacraments	79%	68%
Morality	84%	72%
Prayer	85%	65%

PreSchool- Mrs. Howard

PreSchool students are reading Bible stories and learning about God’s Creation. Students are working on fine motor skills by tearing and cutting paper. They are working on sorting objects by color and by size and practicing counting objects.

In the pond study, students learned about the development of frogs from an egg to a tadpole to a frog. During the apple study, students tasted red, yellow and green apples. They also made a graph showing which type of apple was their favorite.

After the reading of Dr. Seuss’ book, Ten Apples Up on Top, they made their own version of the book. Students will be learning different aspects about the season of fall and will incorporate that into Math, Science, Reading and Art.

Students are learning the finger plays, 5 Green and Speckled Frogs, 5 Little Ducks and Way Up High in An Apple Tree.

PreKindergarten-Mrs. Mueller

The PreKindergarten students will be learning how to correctly hold their writing instruments. They will learn how to write the uppercase letters F, E, H, I, and T. They will continue to practice writing their first name and tell the name of the letters.

The students will continue to learn social skill strategies to use during center time and throughout the day. They will learn ways to share, take turns, and cooperate with their peers.

Kindergarten-Mrs. Gargano

The Kindergarten students have been busy this fall! We have been learning about each other, making new friendships, sharing materials in the classroom and using our manners.

In Reading this fall, we will review all of the letters and sounds and begin to learn “Popcorn” words that will pop out of our mouths when we see them. We will also be reading different types of books: nursery rhymes, nonfiction, fiction and fantasy. We will be working on their handwriting skills and writing their name the “kindergarten” way.

In Math, the students are working on their calendar skills. They are learning how to use different tools in Math: 10 frames, pattern blocks, dice, dominoes, and graphing the information.

In Science the students are learning about living and nonliving things, how things grow, as well as, plants and animals. We will be taking a field trip to Mrs. Edge's farm to see and experience lots of living things!

Grade 1-Mrs. Gotto

In Reading, students will be spending the next few weeks discussing what makes each of them special. School, pets, friends, and their community will be the focus for the next month's readings. In Phonics, students are reading short vowel, CVC words, as well as, words with digraphs and blends. Visualizing and finding key details will be comprehension strategies taught. Sentences, word order, statements, questions, and finally, writing sentences, will be worked on in grammar.

Grade 1 students will be starting Unit 2 in Math. In this unit, students will be introduced to addition. This means students will be using counting strategies to find sums. Finding pairs of numbers that add up to 10 is one of these strategies. Other strategies introduced are: counting on starting at the larger number, using number lines, and writing number models to represent number stories.

Beginning in October, students will be walking to the public library once a month to check out books. These books will stay at school, and students will be able to read them in their free time.

Grade 2-Mrs. Bormann

For the students in Grade 2, this is an important year both academically and spiritually. Throughout this school year, students will be preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. The students will spend much time focusing their minds and preparing their hearts to receive these gifts from God. They will grow to understand that the 7 sacraments are truly God's gift and through them we receive God's love and grace in our lives.

In other content areas Grade 2 will be focusing on strategies to make them more fluent in Math and Reading. The Grade 2 students will focus on addition fluency in Math. The students will use a variety of methods and strategies to help them along, including fun and engaging games on their Chromebooks.

In Reading they are also working on ways to increase their fluency and word accuracy. They enjoy reading aloud in small groups and partner reading. They also enjoy taking their reading home to share with their family at night.

Grade 3-Mrs. Gibson

The Grade 3 students will be leading the first Sunday liturgy of the school year on September 30th. Students will be ushering, lecturing, song leading, and bringing forth the gifts.

Reading instruction will continue to focus on a variety of genres and comprehension strategies. They will practice finding the main idea and details, the theme of the story, and cause/effect while reading stories in whole group and small groups.

The focus of Math instruction will be on the concepts of multiplication and division. Students will use a variety of strategies and materials to develop a deep understanding of these operations. They will continue practicing quick recall of addition and subtraction facts using flashcards and xtramath.org. Your child should be practicing addition and subtraction facts at home on the nights they are not assigned a home-link.

Science instruction will focus on Life Science. Students will learn that plants and animals have a variety of traits that help them survive and make them unique. Third graders will also learn how living things interact within their environment and how this helps with survival. Students will participate in hands on activities and online simulations to learn more about these concepts. By the beginning of October, the Grade 3 students are hoping to release several monarch butterflies into the wild. Students have been observing the caterpillars since the beginning of the school year. Students saw the caterpillars hatch from an egg and are eager to see them emerge from the chrysalis!

The students will learn about the different people and cultures in our communities in Social Studies. Students will discuss why many people move to America and how people share their culture with others. Students will learn how the United States is made of many different immigrants and cultures and how that makes our country unique.

Grade 4- Mrs. Dodds

Grade 4 students presented their first Mass of the year and did a wonderful job! The Grade 4 Sunday Mass is scheduled for November 25th. The Mass will be held at 8:45. We will be sending out an email prior to the Mass to inquire who will be available to participate. As we begin our second unit in Religion we are studying the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Our faith focus is to give thanks to God for His gifts to us, especially for the gift of His son, Jesus.

In Reading the students are learning new vocabulary and comprehension strategies to help improve their reading fluency. They are also gaining experience with reading a variety of genres. These are assigned and read together each week at school. Please have your child reread the stories with you. This will help them better understand what they are reading and be better prepared for the weekly reading assessment of their skill development.

The students in Math are focusing on place value understanding. They will also be using addition, subtraction, and multiplication to solve problems with multi-digit numbers. There will be an emphasis on various applications for using multiplication. The students continue to review and practice addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts.

In Social Studies Grade 4 students will be learning about the Northeast Region of the United States including: its physical features, state symbols, resources, and famous persons.

Grade 5-Mrs. Dettmann

In Religion, the focus will be on Creation, the Beatitudes, and Sacraments in the coming months. The students are learning to see Jesus in daily activities.

Grade 5 is always an exciting year. There is so much growth that happens between Grades 4 and 5, and it's exciting to watch that academic and social maturity grow! In the upcoming months, we will have a lot of activities and projects to allow that growth to showcase itself.

On November 1st (All Saints' Day) Grades 4 through 6 will be hosting a Saint Wax Museum in the Parish Center. The Wax Museum is an event where the students dress up as life-like wax figures representing the Saints of the Catholic Church. The students will choose and research a saint that is interesting to them. They will then play the role of a wax figure, and visitors get to learn about these important Saints as they tour the museum. The students really enjoy this event. All are welcome!

Friday, December 7th from 4:45 - 7:00, the Grades 5 and 6 students will be hosting a chili and cinnamon roll dinner. All proceeds from the dinner will go to support Meals from the Heartland. The students will also have a bake sale at the dinner. The bake sale proceeds will go towards Brave Bags which is a Grade 6 project. Please come support our students and both of these fantastic causes!

Math in the coming months will focus on figuring volume which is a new skill for the students. Grade 5 students will also focus on perfecting their skills with long multiplication and division using multiple strategies.

Grade 6-Mrs. Phillips

It has been a very positive and exciting start to the students' last year at Saint Mary School. The students have proudly taken their role as the leaders in our school through: safety patrol, putting up the flags, doing honor guard for funerals, leading the Rosary, and much more!

The students are really looking forward to their Brave Bags project that will be starting on October 15th. Brave Bags are care packages that we make for children who are hospitalized for any extended period of time. This year we have a class goal of making 175 Brave Bags which will be delivered to the Fort Dodge Trinity Medical Center and the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital. Items needed include: markers, crayons, colored pencils, coloring books, crossword and puzzle books, pens, pencils and highlighters, small notebooks and sketchbooks, chap stick, card games and playing cards, hand sanitizer, gum and mints, nail polish, travel size toiletry items, fuzzy socks and slippers, small new stuffed animals, water bottles, toothbrush and toothpaste, new hair ties, headbands and small brushes, new hat (baseball cap), Lego sets, matchbox cars, Barbies, play dough, and small toys, books (picture or chapter

book), monetary donation (purchase drawstring bag, etc.). Please consider donating to Brave Bags and helping our class make a difference in a child's life! If you would like any more information on our project you can contact Ms. Phillips or visit www.bravebags.org for more information.

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Music-Mrs. Caquelin

Music classes are preparing for Grandparents' and VIP Day on Friday, September 28, 2018. Mass will begin at 8:45 a.m. in St. Mary's Church. Following Mass there will be a short program of songs and poems from Kindergarten through Grade 6 in Church. After the program students and grandparents will enjoy refreshments down in the Parish Center. Thank you Grandparents and VIP special friends for all you do for St. Mary School!

Music students will continue with seasonal songs, liturgy music and starting Christmas music. Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Christmas Program "The Mystery of Simon Shepherd" by John Jacobson and Roger Emerson, on Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Church. We look forward to sharing the spirit of the season with you!

Technology and STEM

Kindergarten and Grade 1 - Mrs. Dieleman Technology

Kindergarten students kicked off the year with internet safety. Students will know what personal information not to share online, have good netiquette, how to avoid cyberbullying, and practice being good digital citizens. Kindergarten students are excited to have Chromebooks in their classroom this year. They will have opportunities to get on educational websites during times set aside by their teacher. Students learned the parts of the computer and practiced basic mouse skills; click-and-drag and point-and-click. Students will type, learn how to change font, size, color, and other basic actions in the Word program.

Grade 1 students began the year with internet safety. They will learn what information not to share online,

who to tell if they see something that makes them feel badly, how to avoid cyberbullying, and practice how to be good digital citizens. Students will begin typing using proper hand placement on the home row keys. The students will work in the Word program, reviewing basic taskbar functions.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math)

Kindergarten students started the year building 2D shapes using Play-Doh and toothpicks. They will experiment with M&M's to learn about the primary colors and how all of the other colors are made. Grade 1 students used their creativity to design wind chimes made from natural resources. The students will explore the color changing process leaves go through during the autumn season. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students will use the four C's of STEM: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity during various team challenges throughout the year.

Grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 - Mrs. Havlik

Internet Safety

Students in Grades 2 through 5 began the year learning the importance of being safe on the internet. Students will practice searching places safely online using key words, knowing what personal information not to share online, having good netiquette, cyberbullying, and practice being good digital citizens.

Technology

Grade 2 students received new Chromebooks this year and are learning how to properly use and take care of them. Second grade students are using Google Docs to learn how to copy and paste on a Chromebook by using ctrl c (copy) and ctrl v (paste). The students in Grades 2 through 5 are using Typing.com to practice their typing skills and finger placement on the keyboard. The students are also using Google Docs to work on their formatting skills like: changing font size, font color, centering a title, inserting a picture and creating a bulleted list. They are also using a Google Slides activity that is a great way for students to be creative and work on their writing skills.

STEM, (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

Students in Grades 2 through 5 are working together in teams using the 4 C's in STEM; critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity. Some of the projects they are working on in Grade 2 are creating Pipe Cleaner People and an engineering Lego Card Challenge. Grade 3 students are working on a chemical change activity with Nerds candy, a QR Code scavenger hunt in Google Maps and an engineering Keva Plank challenge. Grade 4 students are weaving bracelets using yarn and straws, working with Lego WeDo, creating robots and programming them to move. They are also starting to design in Tinkercad in which they practice with basic shapes and eventually create their own design to print with the 3D printer. Grade 5 students worked on designing and building a roller coaster out of construction

paper and cardboard. The engineering process involved building three different types of tracks and being able to problem solve while constructing the coaster. They also worked together on a jigsaw puzzle challenge to see which group could work together and get done first.

Grades 5 and 6 - Mrs. Dix

Internet Safety

Students in Grade 6 began the school year learning about internet safety through the website, sos.fbi.gov. Students worked at their own pace in completing Grade 6 level activities where they answered a series of questions pertaining to internet safety. There is an exam given through the website that scores the students' knowledge of internet safety. The goal of FBI-SOS is to promote cyber citizenship and help students learn about online safety while engaging in interactive games and large group discussion in the meaning of the vocabulary.

Technology

Grade 6 students will be working in various Google Docs and Sheets lessons to further their skills and knowledge of the programs. Grade 6 students will be working on typing documents based on class subjects and will be learning about citing sources and understanding plagiarism. Students will also enjoy working with Google Sheets in creating Halloween designs by adding color to certain cells from a handout with a set of instructions. Once the image is revealed, the students will create a design and write a set of instructions based on their design. This practice was helpful in understanding writing a series of directions based on a range of cells or single cells.

STEM, (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math):

Grade 6 students began the school year working on STEM vocabulary needed for this year's challenges. Students will understand the Engineering Design Process through the challenges on which they will be collaborating. A current STEM challenge the students are working on is learning about air pressure and the Bernoulli Principle through a series of hands-on activities. The students will design and create a toy using what they have learned.

Students will also learn how to make a wearable circuit. In addition to circuit design and coding, students will also need to take into consideration the construction time involved in sewing, and the pros and cons of different fabrics or materials to which the circuits may be attached. The project will include the use of LilyPad and Arduino for the wearable circuit.