



St. Mary School  
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## Second Quarter 2019 Newsletter

### Mission Statement

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

### Calendar Dates

Jan. 26-31	Catholic Schools Week
Jan. 31	All School Mass 8:45 Grade 5
Feb. 7	All School Mass 8:45 Grade 2
Feb. 14	All School Mass 8:45 Grade 1
Feb. 21	No School
Feb. 23	Sunday Student Liturgy 8:45 Kindergarten
Feb. 25	Mardi Gras Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences 3:30 – 8:00 pm
Feb. 26	Ash Wednesday All School Mass 8:45 Grade 3
Feb. 28	No School
Mar. 6	All School Mass 8:45 Grade 4
Mar. 7	Daddy/Daughter Dance
Mar. 13	All School Mass 8:45 Grade 5
Mar. 20	All School Mass 8:45 Grade 3
Mar. 27	All School Mass 8:45 Grade 1
Mar. 28	Gala Saturday Student Liturgy 4:00 Grade 2

### Principal- Mrs. Edge

This Sunday kicks off Catholic Schools Week with a student liturgy at 8:45 and a pancake breakfast serving 9:00-11:00 in the Parish Center. In order to prepare for Nation/Community Day we are sending home a paper cross with the oldest child in each family today. We ask that you add names of those you would like prayed for, decorate and cut out the cross and return to school by Friday, January 24th. The crosses will be displayed in the Parish Center. Catholic Schools Week Schedule:

January 26<sup>th</sup>, Sunday – Parish Day, Grade 4 student liturgy and pancake breakfast serving 9:00 – 11:00 in the Parish Center hosted by the School Board.

Pancakes and sausage will be prepared by Chris Cakes; this is a free will donation. Profits will go toward a scholarship for high school senior that is an alumnus of St. Mary School.

January 27<sup>th</sup>, Monday – Student Appreciation Day, students will enjoy bowling with a buddy at Sundance Lanes.

January 28<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday – Vocation Day, Deacon Joe Coleman will visit with students about vocations.

January 29<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday – Nation/Community Day, students will make cards for people enlisted in the service. Students and staff will pray the rosary at 1:15 on Wednesday.

January 30<sup>th</sup>, Thursday – Teacher and Staff Appreciation, lunch will be served by Women of the Spirit for all staff members.

January 31<sup>st</sup>, Friday – Alumni Day, high school seniors will attend the all school liturgy (some will speak during the Mass), visit the classrooms to speak with the students and finish the morning by having lunch with them.

### PreSchool- Mrs. Howard

PreSchool students are being introduced to capital letters to learn their names and sounds. They are working on copying patterns and counting objects. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, the PreSchool students participated in activities centered around transportation, the 5 senses, and winter fun. During Bible time, the students learned about Moses' life and the Nativity story. The students have been learning to work together and share with each other.

### PreKindergarten-Mrs. Mueller

The PreKindergarten students have learned how to correctly write the letters M, V, W, X, Z, O, Q, and U. They also have been practicing writing their last names and saying the letters in their last names. When practicing their letters and last names, they use a variety of writing materials.

In Math, The PreKindergarten students have been working on sorting the students in the classroom based on similar attributes. I have students stand at the front of the room and the rest of the group has to figure out what makes those students the same. They maybe all have on short sleeve shirts, boots, or hair in a ponytail. They have to figure out the reason.

In Literacy, The PreKindergarten students have been doing a lot of different rhyming activities. During transitions, they sing songs and when the

student hears the word that rhymes with their name, they can line up. I also point out rhyming words while reading books aloud to the children. Before Christmas, we read several different versions of “The Gingerbread Man” and the students looked at the books during center time and re-told the stories on their own. We compared and contrasted the different stories and voted on which one was their favorite.

### **Kindergarten-Mrs. Gargano, Religion-Mrs. Caquelin**

The Kindergarten students have learned the Our Father prayer and its meaning. The students also heard the Bible story from Matthew 22:34-40 about “The Greatest Commandment”. This Commandment teaches us how to love as God wants us to love. The students are learning to love their neighbors as they love themselves.

In Reading, the Kindergarten students will be reading and learning about different genres of text; fantasy, fiction and informational text. The comprehension strategies they will be working on are visualizing and asking and answering questions. The students will continue working on segmenting and blending words. Skills they will be working on will be remembering key details about what was read, who the characters are, what is the setting and what events took place.

In Math, the Kindergarten students will continue working on counting to 100 by 1’s and 10’s along with writing their numbers to 100. The Kindergarten students will learn about 3D shapes. They will practice addition and subtraction problems with the sum/difference of 5.

### **Grade 1-Mrs. Gotto, Religion-Mrs. Bormann**

Grade 1 students are learning about the Holy Family. It is fun for them to think about what Jesus’ life was like. They have realized that Jesus was a child, just like they are and He probably did many of the same things that children do today. We also talked about how even Jesus had to obey His parents.

In Reading, the Grade 1 students will be spending most of the third quarter learning about animals. Students will learn how animals’ bodies help them, how animals help each other, how animals survive in nature, and different ways people work with animals. Alphabetical order, prefixes, open syllables, and compound words will be taught.

Asking and answering questions as well as visualizing while reading are two comprehension strategies Grade 1 students will be practicing.

In Science, Grade 1 students will also be learning about animals. Students will research how plants and animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs. Then students will take what they learned about external parts to design a solution to solve a human problem.

Grade 1 students will be starting unit 4 in Math. In this unit, the students will be introduced to measuring lengths of different objects. They will also be representing data with bar graphs and using base-10 blocks. Addition fact strategies taught will be adding doubles, making combinations of 10, and mentally finding 10 more and 10 less than a given number.

### **Grade 2-Mrs. Bormann, Science-Mrs. Gotto**

In Religion, the Grade 2 students are learning about the Holy Family, the Holy Trinity and Jesus as both God and Man. These are difficult concepts to grasp as a child. The students draw on their own personal knowledge of family to help bring these concepts to a fuller understanding for them. They have learned that just as a father loves his children that is how God loves them.

In Social Studies, Grade 2 students are exploring Native American cultures. The students have learned how Native Americans used their resources to survive. They have also had fun learning to use drawings to communicate as the Native Americans did. Next the students will explore how the early settlers relied on the Native Americans for help and guidance as they survived that first harsh winter in Jamestown.

### **Grade 3-Mrs. Gibson, Religion-Mrs. Tecklenburg**

In Religion, Grade 3 students began their study of the Holy Trinity after Christmas break. Some of the faith words that are focused on in this chapter include incarnation, mystery and creed. The Grade 3 students will examine Jesus’ teachings about God the Father and God the Spirit. They will learn how St. Patrick taught about the Trinity using a shamrock.

In Reading, Grade 3 students continue to read a variety of genres including historical fiction, expository text, and folk tales. While reading these genres, students will work on finding the cause and

effect of story events, main idea and details, and the problem and solution of the story. Students practice a variety of decoding and vocabulary strategies to help improve their reading skills.

In Math, Grade 3 instruction will continue to focus on multiplication strategies. As they continue to learn new strategies and fact families, students will bring home their flashcards as homework. Another area of focus will be on geometry. Students will learn about quadrilaterals, area, and perimeter.

In Science, the Grade 3 students are wrapping up the life science unit by learning about adaptations and variations that help plants and animals survive. Students created an imaginary animal with a variety of adaptations that would help it survive and presented this animal to the class. The next unit will focus on weather and climate.

#### **Grade 4- Miss Hillenga, Religion-Mrs. Tecklenburg, Science-Mrs. Gibson**

In Religion, Grade 4 students recently started chapter four which focuses on the concept that humans are created in God's image and because of this, all people are worthy of respect. The students will recognize that sin damages their relationship with God and others. The students will also learn that sin is a deliberate failure to love and that they must all do their best to reflect God's image in all they do.

In Math, the students have been learning about fractions and decimals. They have recently been introduced to extended multiplication facts.

In Reading, they have been reading different types of genres, including biographies and persuasive articles.

In Social Studies, the Grade 4 students have finished talking about the Northeast region. The students researched explorers and Native Americans from the region. They have moved onto studying the Southeast region.

In Science, the Grade 4 students will continue to learn about energy. The focus will be on sources of energy and the environmental impact of the various sources of energy.

#### **Grade 5-Mrs. Dettmann**

The second quarter brought a lot of fun and inspiring lessons in Religion. The students have enjoyed their new curriculum, and they currently find themselves diving into the Holy Trinity and the mysteries of the church. Their focus on the

Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love (Charity) is applicable to the students' daily choices, and they know that Jesus intended them to be used as guides for daily living. The Grade 5 students also spend quite a bit of time in guided Bible study.

In Math, the Grade 5 students have been moving right along. They have finished the study with fractions. The students know about real-life applications and that they use fractions daily. The students are moving onto a unit on decimals and their increase and decrease on a place value chart by powers of 10. This is a big step for students as they learn more about decimals and mixed numbers.

In Social Studies, Grade 5 students are learning about the birth of our nation. Currently, the students are deep into colonization. They are seeing that many different countries wanted a stake in our new land, and that our nation's roots rest in several different countries including Britain, the Netherlands, France, and Spain, among others. Soon The Grade 5 students will be introduced to the Revolutionary War and see how our Founding Fathers established what is now the United States of America.

#### **Grade 6-Ms. Phillips**

In Religion, Grade 6 students are learning about the journey of the Israelites. This journey reminds them that they don't travel as individuals. They travel with a community, with other members of the Church. The students are learning that although they cannot bring about God's Kingdom of love, justice, and peace solely on their own, they can *help* build that Kingdom by praying with others and loving others as Jesus did. Grade 6 students are also starting a Bible study on the Book of Exodus. Grade 6 students will read and discuss the chapters and lessons that this Book of the Bible teaches.

In Social Studies, the Grade 6 students are studying Ancient Greece. The students are learning that the concept of a democracy was actually given to us by the people of Athens. The students have enjoyed learning about the Trojan War, as well as the conquests of Alexander the Great!

Grade 5 and 6 students have started to work on their speeches for the Modern Woodmen Speech Contest that will be held in the Parish Hall on March 23rd and 24th. The students are to prepare and memorize a three to five minute speech on the topic of, "What Freedom Means to Me." The contestants will be judged on their organization of the material,

their delivery and presentation, and on the speeches' overall effectiveness. All are welcome to attend!

### **Music-Mrs. Caquelin**

Kindergarten through Grade 6 students continue to prepare for weekly liturgies. While learning winter songs, students are learning about rhythm and practicing sight reading.

### **Technology and STEM- Mrs. Havlik and Mrs. Dieleman**

Grade 1 students continued typing practice with proper hand placement. Students learned the cut-and-paste shortcut, Ctrl+C and Ctrl+V, with an interactive lesson in Google Slides. The students continue to work in the Word program, reviewing basic taskbar functions and formatting skills. Students continue to grow in their coding abilities using the online programs, Code.org and Tynker.com.

Students continue to use the four C's of STEM: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity during various team challenges. Grade 1 students built more complex robots with Cubelets, designed 3D shapes out of straws and pipe cleaners, and constructed a shelf for an elf.

Grade 5 students were introduced to electrical circuits. Students learned the basic concept of simple and complex circuits, then built a holiday card with a light-up component. They reviewed kinetic and potential energy. Students designed and built roller coasters out of construction paper to demonstrate these types of energy.

Kindergarten students continue to practice their typing skills in Typingclub and Google Docs. They are learning proper hand placement, typing their names and how to insert an image. They were also introduced to Code.org where they learned simple coding techniques.

Grade 2 students have been working in Google Drawings learning how to insert word art, shapes and text boxes. They used the fill color, border color, border weight and border dash tools for their text and shapes. The students also had a challenge where they each had to design a turkey trap in which they were given an assortment of materials. They had to draw a design of what their trap would look and the materials they would use before they built it. Next, they had a similar challenge where they

had to design a new hat for Santa. First they had to brainstorm ideas for a new hat, draw out a plan, use the materials to create their design and finally they had to test out their hat design to make sure it would stay on their head.

Grade 4 students finished up their Tinkercad ornaments and created their own holiday emoji card in Google, created in Code. They used block coding to create their setting, character, and the different layers such as the eyes, mouth, and clothing etc. They also continue to practice their typing in Typing.com and Typing Club. The students also worked in Code.org using different activities that teaches problem-solving skills, logic and creativity.