



ST. MARY'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FAMILY HANDBOOK
2025-2026

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<http://www.school.ccjc3.org/>

2025-2026 St. Mary's School Calendar

FIRST SEMESTER

Thursday, July 31	6:00pm Back to School Night
Monday, August 4	First Student Day K-8
Monday, August 4	First Day of 4 yr. old Preschool
Tuesday, August 5	First Day of 3 yr. old Preschool
Friday, August 8	Summer Reading and Math Celebration at Kirchner park
Monday, August 18	PK-3 Grade Classroom Information Night 6:00
Tuesday, August 19	4-8 Grade Classroom Information Night 6:00
Monday, September 1	Labor Day (No School)
Thursday, September 4	St. Mary's Parish Festival Set Up (No School)
Friday, September 5	St. Mary's Parish Festival (No School)
September 5-6	St. Mary's Parish Festival
Monday, September 15	6:00pm PTO Meeting
Friday, October 3	End of First Quarter
October 6-10	Fall Break
Thursday, October 16	Parent Teacher Conferences 3:00-7:00
Friday, October 17	Parent Teacher Conferences 3:00-5:00
November 26-28	Thanksgiving Break
Friday, December 19	PTO Christmas Dinner
Friday, December 19	End of 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester
December 22-January 2	Christmas Break

SECOND SEMESTER

Monday, January 5	2nd Semester Begins- Students Return
Monday, January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School) <i>Possible Make-Up Day</i>
Saturday, January 24	PTO Chili Supper
January 25-31	Catholic Schools Week
Monday, February 16	Presidents Day (No School) <i>Possible Make-Up Day</i>
Saturday, February 28	Reverse Raffle
March 2-13	IREAD
Friday, March 6	End of Third Quarter
March 23-27	Spring Break
Friday, April 3	Good Friday (No School) <i>Possible Make-Up Day</i>
Monday, April 6	Easter Monday (No School) <i>Possible Make-Up Day</i>
Monday, April 13	6:00pm PTO Meeting
April 13 - May 8	ILEARN (grade 3-8)
Friday, April 24	Grandparent's Day
May 3-5	8 th Grade Washington DC Trip
Monday, May 18	6:00pm Preschool Graduation
Wednesday, May 20	6:00pm Eighth Grade Graduation
Thursday, May 21	End of 4th Quarter & 2nd Semester

CONTENTS

History of St. Mary's School	4
Mission Statement	4
Mascot, Colors, and Song	4
School Improvement Goals	4
St. Mary's School Staff	5
School Commission	6

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Uniform Dress Code	6
Admissions	9
After-School Child Care	10
Alcohol and Drugs	11
Arrival and Dismissal Procedures	12
Athletics	13
Attendance/ Tardy Policy	13
Bully Procedure	15
Bus Safety and Procedures	16
Calendar	17
Cell Phones	17
Change of Address/Phone	17
Child Custody	17
Choice Scholarship and SGO Programs	18
Communication	18
Discipline	18
Dismissal/Expulsion Policy	19
E-learning Days	19
Field Trips	19
Fire, Tornado, and Lockdown Drills	20
Gifts	20
Grading System	20
Health Services	21
Homework	22
Library	22
Lost and Found	22
Lunch	23
Maintenance	24
Non-Discrimination Statement	24
Parent Teacher Conferences	25
Party Invitations	25
Physical Education	25
Prayer/Liturgy	25
PTO	25
Recess	26
Special Education and Speech	26
Standardized Testing	26
Personal Belongings	26
Volunteers	27

APPENDIX

St. Mary's School Tuition Program	A
Appropriate Use of Technology	B
e-Learning Guidelines	C
IN State School Voucher Program	D
Admissions Policy	E
Archdiocesan "Mission" Policy	F
Meningitis Letter	G
HPV Letter	H
Indoor Air Quality	I
Archdiocesan Student Health and Safety Plan	J

THE HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

St. Mary School is a Catholic elementary, K-8 parish school located in the small rural town of North Vernon, Indiana (population 6,703). It is in Jennings County (population 28,241) and approximately 65 miles south of Indianapolis. St. Mary School and Parish are part of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

In 1865 St. Mary Parish established the school, building a two-room, two-story construction behind the church. In 1907 a new, three-story school was built to accommodate growing enrollment for grades one through eight. More classrooms were added in 1954, and a Parish Center was built in 1991 to house the kindergarten, gym, cafeteria, kitchen and meeting rooms. Through a major parish capital campaign in 1999, the school was completely renovated and modernized with additional classrooms and restrooms, new windows, state of the art technology and telecommunications, new heating/air conditioning system and library expansion.

St. Mary School is the only Catholic school in North Vernon and Jennings County and the only K-8 school in the county. Former students from St. Mary School rank consistently in the academic top ten percent of their high school classes. St. Mary School was the first in the county to inaugurate a full day kindergarten. Parish subsidy, tuition, and development fundraisers finance the school.

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Students and Staff of St. Mary's School, are committed to strengthening our relationship with Jesus Christ. As we seek to achieve academic excellence, we strive to see each other as precious gifts and valued, respected members of our learning environment.

SCHOOL MASCOT

St. Mary's Wildkats

SCHOOL COLORS

Red, White, and Blue

SCHOOL SONG

We are the Wildkats
Mighty as can be.
We will charge on to Victory.
So raise up your hands
Up very high.
Our boys (students) will raise the score
Up to the sky.
We are the WILDKATS.
Our team is better
Better than the rest.
We'll do our best to try
Because that's the kind we are.
We're the WILDKATS of St Mary's School--
Rah Rah!

2025-2026 ST MARY'S SCHOOL STAFF

Pastor	Father Chris Craig
Principal	Mrs. Meredith Inman
Secretary	Mrs. Courtney Maschino
Office Assistant	Mrs. Karla Gasper
Resource Teacher	Mrs. Abby Capes
Preschool	Mrs. Megan Sporleder
PK Assistant	Mrs. Nicole Bullard
Kindergarten	Mrs. Gretchen Hughes
K Assistant	Mrs. Jackie AmRhein
First Grade	Mrs. Lindsey Morris
Gr. 1 Assistant	Mrs. Kristine Feider
Second Grade	Mrs. Angie Kelley
Gr. 2 Assistant	Ms. Grace Kirchner
Third Grade	Mrs. Sandi Kirchner
Gr. 3 & 4 Assistant	Mrs. Kenda Maschino
Fourth Grade	Mrs. Jennifer Sanders
Fifth Grade	Mrs. Abigail Ertel
Sixth Grade Homeroom	Mrs. Sidney Vogel
<i>Middle School Science and Social Studies</i>	
Seventh Grade Homeroom	Mrs. Jamie Zeser
<i>Middle School Math & Algebra</i>	
Eighth Grade Homeroom	Mrs. Tori Wernke
<i>Middle School Language Arts</i>	
Middle School Assistant	Mrs. MaKayla Gasper
School Assistant	Mrs. Michelle Gasper
Technology/Data Reporting	Mrs. Felicia Vogel
Librarian	Mrs. Nicole Bullard
Art/STEM	Mrs. Abby Capes
PE	Mr. Tyler Smith
Maintenance	Mr. Brian Capes
Custodian	Mrs. Lisa Siener
Extended Care	Mrs. Kenda Maschino
	Mrs. MaKayla Gasper
	Ms. Grace Kirchner
Athletic Director	Mrs. Brooke Maschino

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL COMMISSION

Mr. Johnny Bright
Mrs. Charla Cummings
Mrs. Terri French
Mr. Andy Ebbing
Mr. Gary Kreutzjans

Mr. Dan Schuck
Mrs. Erin Treadway
Mr. Charlie Weber, President
Mrs. Samantha Wilder

St. Mary's School Commission is responsible for consulting with the principal on establishing policies for the school as parent and community members. Other common tasks include: monthly review of the school budget, planning for the future, and fundraising. The commission's role is similar to the Parish Council. The principal still has final say in the decision making process.

UNIFORM DRESS CODE FOR GRADES K-8

The school staff has the authority to make decisions regarding the appropriateness of dress as it conforms to the dress code listed below. Parents may be called to bring appropriate clothing to school for any dress code infraction. The principal may grant exemptions for the school dress code for a given class or the entire school because of special days, events, etc.

SOURCE: If items conform to the requirements stated below, items may be purchased from the following companies:

- A. ***At least one royal blue polo with the approved St. Mary's School embroidery is required. These will be worn on field trips, special Mass days, and other principal designated days.*** The embroidered royal blue polo must be purchased from approved suppliers only. The approved suppliers are Fresh Printz (812-352-6400) and <http://www.frenchtoast.com>.
- B. Most uniform departments within other retailers (Gap, Kohl's, Target, JCPenney, Wal-Mart, etc.)

GENERAL RULE: No labels, logos, emblems, or tags (other than the approved SMS emblem) may be showing. Students are asked to not wear Under Armor, Polo, Abercrombie, Aeropostale, etc.

PANTS:

Color: Solid Colors-Khaki, Tan, Black, Navy, or Blue/Black Denim (jeans)
Style: Plain or pleated with fitted waist, includes capri/cropped style
Fit at natural waistline
Must be in good repair (no holes or snags)
Bottom hem must be cuffed or finished (no elastic)
No athletic pants, **pajama pants**, leggings, stretch pants, tight fitting, or baggy style pants

SHORTS:

Color: Solid Colors-Khaki, Tan, Black, Navy, or Blue/Black Denim (jeans)
Style: Plain or pleated with fitted waist
Fit at natural waistline
Must be in good repair (no holes or snags)
No tight or baggy style fitting shorts
Shorts should be upper knee length

JUMPERS/SKIRTS/SKORTS (Additional Option for Girls Only):

Color: Solid Colors-Khaki, Tan, Black, Navy, or Blue/Black Denim (jeans)

Style: Pleated or A-line style

When kneeling, jumpers/ skirts/ skorts should be no higher than 3" from the floor.

SHIRTS:

Color: Solid Colors-Royal, White, Navy, Gray, Black

Style: Polo shirt must have collar and buttons

Long or short sleeves (no cap sleeves or sleeveless shirts allowed)

Under shirts must also be one of the approved shirt colors

Under shirt must be tucked in

No long sleeved shirt may be worn under the polo

No labels, logos emblems, or tags (other than the approved SMS emblem) may be showing

SWEATERS/SWEATSHIRTS:

Color: Solid Colors-Royal, White, Navy, Gray, Black

Style: Must be crew neck, v-neck, cardigan, or vest

Plain fleece jackets may also be worn over polo

Sleeves and waist must be banded or hemmed

Must be worn over a collared shirt

Bottom hem may be no longer than the back pocket length

No hooded sweatshirts or sweaters

SHOES:

Style: Athletic shoes, sandals, Sperry boat shoes, boots, and dress shoes are permitted

All sandals must have a strap or back around the heel

For grades 6-8: Students may wear a Birkenstock style sandal

Flip-flops/slides are NOT allowed

Gym shoes and socks need to be worn for P.E.

SOCKS:

Color: Solid Color- White, Black, Gray Navy, or Royal (Logos are appropriate.)

TIGHTS (Additional Option for Girls Only):

Color: Solid Color- White, Black, Gray Navy, or Royal

HATS

No hats may be worn in the building without teacher permission

ACCESSORIES/MAKE-UP/TATTOOS:

Rules for ALL Students:

No smart watches

All jewelry must be conservative and not disrupt classroom atmosphere

No body paint, glitter, or appliques

No facial piercings

No tattoos (permanent or removable)

Scarves are not allowed to be worn inside school

Additional Rules for BOYS ONLY:

No earrings allowed

No hair accessories allowed

No make-up or nail polish allowed

Additional Rules for GIRLS ONLY:

Earrings allowed by no more than 2 earrings per ear

No dangling earrings

For grades K-5: No make-up other than finger nail polish.

No fake fingernails allowed

For grades 6-8: Make-up must be light enough to have a natural appearance.

HAIR:

Hair must be neat and well-groomed

Hair must not have distracting artificial coloring

Hair must not have distracting styles

EXCEPTIONS:

A. Spirit Wear Day:

For Grades K-8:

Spirit Wear Days will be the last Friday of each month. Students may wear St. Mary's School attire with athletic shorts or pants on Spirit Wear Days. St. Mary's School hoodies, t-shirts, sweats, etc. are allowed to be worn during school hours on these days only. If a child does not wear St. Mary's attire, they must be in the school uniform.

For Grades 6-8:

Students who have no dress code violations may earn the privilege (through Strike Slip grades) of wearing a shirt of their choice along with jeans, cargo pants, or cargo shorts on additional Fridays. (No sweatpants or athletic shorts are allowed for regular Fridays.)

B. NUT (No Uniform Today) Days:

Attire for dress down days is expected to be in good taste and to be appropriate for a Christian atmosphere.

The following must be adhered to on these days:

Length of clothing must be dress code length.

Sleeveless tops/ blouses/ shirts are not permitted.

Flip flops/ slides are not permitted.

Leggings and pajama pants are not permitted.

Hair dye is not permitted.

ADMISSIONS

Faithful and consistent financial support of families enrolled in or intending to enroll in St. Mary's School will be expected. Students must be at least age five for kindergarten and age six for first grade by the state established cut-off date for the school year in which they are registering. Students will be accepted and placed in the appropriate grade using the following categories:

ADMISSION SELECTION PROCEDURES- PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Beginning with the spring registration date each year until the closing date of registration, students registering for preschool who are at age 3 or 4; or for kindergarten, who are age 5 by August 1 of the school year for which they are registering will be eligible for consideration for admission. Students will be added to classes and given preference for am or pm preschool according to the following categories:

1. Catholic children of parishioners (as defined in Appendix E) and siblings of current students in grades 1-8.
2. Catholic children of parishioners (as defined in Appendix E).
3. Non-Catholic children.
4. In order of registration time, birth certificate received in the office, and registration money paid.
5. Administration has final discretion in decision making

ADMISSION SELECTION PROCEDURES-GRADES 1-8

For grades 1 through 8, students will be eligible for consideration for admission based on proof of successful completion of the previous grade. Eligible students will be selected and placed in the school based on the maximum capacity of classrooms as set by the School Commission according to the following categories in order of preference:

1. Current students of the school.
2. Catholic children of parishioners (as defined in Appendix E) who are siblings of students attending in the current school year or of a graduate of the school.
3. Non-Catholic children who are siblings of students attending in the current school year.
4. Catholic children of parishioners (as defined in Appendix E).
5. Non-Catholic children.
6. In order of registration time and registration money paid.
7. Administration has final discretion in decision making.

Within categories numbered 1 through 8 above, priority will be given according to the date of the School admission application including registration fees and required documents.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

After the school year commences, when space permits, students not currently enrolled in St. Mary's School who wish to transfer from another school may be accepted when certain conditions are met. We will support the academic and disciplinary decisions of other schools. Therefore, a student from another school may not be considered for enrollment until one year after the expulsion date. The principal has the right to put any newly enrolled student on a probation period of up to no more than 6 weeks. At any time, within the six-week period, the principal has the right to determine a student's permanent placement.

Students must be in good standing at the time of transfer to be considered for admission and meet the following requirements:

1. Conference with the principal, parents, and the student has been held.
2. Parents provide a written statement indicating their reasons for desiring admission of the child to St. Mary's.
3. Contact with the previous school has verified good standing in both behavior and academics.

4. Satisfactory arrangements have been made for the payment of tuition and fees.

WITHDRAWAL/TRANSFER

A family wishing to withdraw from St. Mary's School should notify the principal in ample time. The parents must sign a release of information sheet and all balances must be paid in full before the school is permitted to release the student's records. This form will be given at the new school and sent to our school office. We suggest that you let the school handle the school records.

AFTER-SCHOOL CHILD CARE

St. Mary's School provides an aftercare program to meet the needs of working parents and staff.

After school care is provided for students from dismissal time until **5:00**. There is a fee for this service.

Structured time will include snack, recreation and quiet study time. When picking a child up, go to the main entrance of school and ring the bell. Your child will be brought to the front door. Registration for Extended Care may be made on registration day or in the school office. All St. Mary's School rules and regulations apply to Extended Care.

AFTER CARE FEES

Hours and Fees

2:45-3:30 \$4.00

3:31-4:30 \$6.00

4:31-5:00 \$8.00 (after 5:00 will be charged \$2.00/five minutes)

PAYMENT: An invoice will be sent home every Wednesday. Payment for each child must be received 5 days after the invoice date. We must implement a denial of service when payment is not received within one month from the billing date as the extended care program is self-funded.

ALCOHOL, DRUGS, SMOKING, AND WEAPONS

Students shall not possess or utilize alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, vaping devices, or weapons on school grounds.

DISPOSITION

PROBLEM 1: SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Under the influence and/or possession of alcohol or other unauthorized use of drugs or narcotics.

- 1.** First incident- recommend expulsion
- 2.** Second incident- expulsion, no waivers

PROBLEM 2: SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Dealing is defined as selling or sharing alcohol or other unauthorized drugs or narcotics.

- 1.** First incident- recommend expulsion
- 2.** Second incident- expulsion, no waivers

PROBLEM 3: SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The possession and/or use of tobacco products, including snuff, and vaping devices in the building or on school grounds.

- 1.** First incident- one day out of school suspension, parent contacted
- 2.** Second incident- three days out of school suspension, parent contacted
- 3.** Third incident- five days out of school suspension, recommend expulsion

PROBLEM 4: WEAPONS

The possession of any weapon or the threatening use of any article that can cause bodily harm

- 1.** First incident- recommend expulsion

For the above offenses involving alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, vaping devices, or weapons, expulsion may be waived based on any one or more of the following conditions:

- 1.** Student will be suspended for a period of one to five days
- 2.** Students cannot return to school until he/she and parent provide proof of receiving professional outpatient counseling
- 3.** Student and parent agree that in addition to or as an alternative to numbers 1 and 2, any other conditions deemed necessary for reinstatement by the decision making team shall be met

The decision making team includes:

- 1.** Principal and/or acting assistant principal
- 2.** School Threat Assessment Team
- 3.** Pastor

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURE

ARRIVAL

School starts promptly at 8:00AM. The preferred time car-rider students should arrive at school is by 7:45 so students have ample time to unpack and prepare for the day. We do offer morning care that starts at 7:15AM. Teachers also may invite students to their room before 7:40 AM for extra tutoring, help with homework, etc. Car riders should be dropped off by the curb in front of school. Preschool and Kindergarten students arriving after 7:45 should be dropped off at the Parish Center doors. **DO NOT** allow students to cross the street without an adult escort. You may walk your child to the front door of the Parish Center where an adult will walk him/her to the classroom, but you may not enter the building due to safety reasons. Those who must arrive before 7:45 because of their parents' work schedule should go directly to the library for morning care. Students arriving after 8:00 AM will be marked tardy.

DISMISSAL-End of the Day

Afternoon dismissal begins at 2:40. Bus transportation is provided for students living in Jennings County. Cars arriving to pick up students should wait on Clay Street until the bus arrives and is parked in the school parking lot. Once the bus is parked, cars will make 3 rows of lines on Washington St. and put their car in park. Dismissal is at 2:40 PM. The students will exit the school with their class and when released they will find their car and get in. After staff members make sure all cars are ready to go and no students are on Washington Street, the car lines will be let out one row at a time.

All students that are leaving school are expected to leave the grounds at dismissal. The school will not accept responsibility for children who were dismissed, but remain after dismissal time, except for those in our Extended Care Program.

CAR DROP-OFF PROCEDURES

7:15–8:00 AM

Cars park on Washington Street along the curb nearest school (South side of Washington Street). All students exit cars onto the sidewalk and proceed along the front entrance of school.

Exception: Kindergarten students arriving after 7:35 AM should be dropped off in the parking lot closest to Parish Center or near the sidewalk going into Parish Center.

2:00-2:45 PM

Park cars for student pick-up **along Clay Street** until buses are parked in the school parking lot. **Please do NOT line up along the side streets and block traffic in all directions. Please do not block Scott Street at the stop sign.** After buses are parked, cars turn left onto Washington Street making 3 rows of parked cars; first cars in each row proceed to the stop sign. Place vehicles in “park” and school staff will dismiss all students. Teachers will come around to make sure every car has their child. Two staff members will stop traffic and then release the rows one at a time. Cars can turn Left or Right.

PRESCHOOL- Arrival and Dismissal Procedure and Times

FOUR YEAR OLD- MORNING SESSION (MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY)

7:45-8:00	Arrival	Park car in large parking lot/playground area near Adoration Chapel and walk the child to the FRONT Parish Center door.
10:55 am	Dismissal	Park car along Clay Street and pick up child at the FRONT Parish Center door.

FOUR YEAR OLD- AFTERNOON SESSION (MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY)

12:00	Arrival	Park car along Clay street and walk child to the FRONT Parish Center door.
2:45	Dismissal	Follow dismissal procedure for K-6 listed above.

THREE YEAR OLD- MORNING SESSION (TUESDAY, THURSDAY)

7:45-8:00	Arrival	Park car in large parking lot/playground area near Adoration Chapel and walk the child to the FRONT Parish Center door.
10:30	Dismissal	Park car along Clay Street and pick up child at the FRONT Parish Center door.

THREE YEAR OLD- AFTERNOON SESSION TUESDAY, THURSDAY)

12:15	Arrival	Park car along Clay street and walk child to the FRONT Parish Center door.
2:45	Dismissal	Follow dismissal procedure for K-6 listed above

EXTENDED CARE PICK UP

Extended care pick-up drivers should park in the parking lot near the side entrance of school and come to the main door using the steps. Parents will need to push the buzzer and your child will be brought to the front door.

ATHLETICS

St. Mary's School sponsors basketball teams for boys and girls in grades 5-6. Girls in grades 5-6 may also play on the school volleyball team. An archery team is available for grades 3-8. Seventh and eighth graders are invited to participate in sports programs at Jennings County Middle School if St. Mary's School does not offer that particular sport.

See Athletic Handbook for academic/behavior eligibility and other information.

ATTENDANCE/ TARDY POLICY

Regular school attendance promotes the success of students. The educational process requires a continuous sequence of instruction. When broken by a period of absence, this instruction can never be fully regained by extra work. The regular contact of students with one another in the classroom and their participation in learning activities under the supervision of a qualified teacher will assist each student in attaining his/her

maximum potential. The primary purpose of this attendance policy is to develop a sense of responsibility, to promote punctuality, to develop traits of good citizenship, and to enhance academic success.

ALL ABSENCES MUST BE CALLED INTO THE FRONT OFFICE AND SYMPTOMS MUST BE STATED.

In accordance with Indiana state law (IC 20-33-2-14), the governing body of each school shall have a policy outlining the conditions for excused and unexcused absences.

- **Excused Absences:** An illness with a doctor's note, an illness without a doctor's note, but a parent called the office to notify us (limit of 5 per semester), a family emergency, a funeral
- **Unexcused Absences:** Parent does not call in, vacations
- **Tardy:** Arriving late (after 8:00 until 9:15), leaving during the day for any reason (max of 1 hr and 15 min), leaving early (after 1:30)
- **Half Day:** Arriving after 9:15 or leaving before 1:45
- After 5 unexcused absences in a 10 week period, parents will receive an attendance letter from the Principal.
- After 5 parent call-ins of sickness without a doctor's note in a semester, parents will receive an attendance letter from the Principal.
- After 10+ unexcused absences, a student may be classified as habitually truant. DCS must be notified and an intervention plan put in place.

ABSENTEEISM

1. Upon the tenth unexcused absence, a letter will be sent home to the parent/guardian notifying them of their student's excessive absenteeism and reinforcing the importance of good attendance. Any absence beyond the tenth day must be for medical or dental appointments, serious illness, injury, or death to a member of the student's immediate family.
2. In the event of chronic unexcused absenteeism, a student will be placed on an attendance contract. The student and parents will also be required to see the principal to discuss his/her attendance. Extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration by the principal. Any student who is put on an attendance contract for unexcused absences will be prohibited from attending field trips.
3. Severe cases of poor attendance may be prosecuted under Indiana's compulsory attendance laws. IC 20-33-2-25: the school "shall report a child who is habitually absent from school in violation of this chapter to an intake officer of the juvenile court **or the department of child services**. The intake officer or department of child services shall proceed in accord with IC 31-30 through IC 31-40.
4. Missed Work- When a child is absent, whether it is excused or unexcused, the teacher reserves the right to assign work that was missed. Oftentimes, this work will need to be taught by the teacher and completed by the student at school. The student may miss recess or special area classes in order to get this work completed.

TARDINESS

School attendance is extremely important for the success of our students. It is important that students be present in the classroom when the school day begins. All students must be in their classrooms by the start of morning announcements at 8:00AM. **Students arriving after 8:00 AM are considered tardy.**

EXCESSIVE ABSENTEEISM/ TARDINESS PROCEDURE

- When tardiness/attendance becomes a chronic issue, parents will be asked to come and meet with the School Improvement Committee to devise an improvement plan.
- If the plan is not followed, the School Improvement Committee will meet to discuss further action. Options include: loss of financial assistance if applicable, decision to retain student to current grade due to academic concerns related to chronic tardiness and/or attendance issues, possible legal action, request parent/guardian to withdraw students.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Students must be present 100% of the time. (No tardiness, no early dismissals, no days missed for any reason)

WEATHER OR EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

For weather-related closings, **St. Mary's may or may not** follow the decision of the Jennings County School Superintendent. **Students will not be counted tardy in the event of inclement weather.** Parents will be notified on weather closings or e-learning days via mass text message. Please keep your phone numbers updated with the school so you can receive all the text messages.

BULLY PROCEDURE

At St. Mary's School, we believe that children learn best in a nonviolent community. Faculty, children, and parents are committed to a school environment in which they are treated like Jesus would treat others. We, therefore, do not accept any sort of bullying behavior. Bullying is when someone is subjected to behavior that is hurtful, threatening or frightening. It often is a conscious, planned, and repeated act. It can cause distress at the time or has the potential to be a threat in the future. It can take a number of forms: physical, verbal, telephone or email, extortion, exclusion, or a person with more power using his/her superior position to belittle, frighten, exclude, or harm another student.

What will the faculty do in regards to bullying?

The faculty will not ignore bullying behavior. They will intervene when they observe bullying behavior or it is brought to their attention. The faculty will take appropriate steps to stop bullying, including communicating it to appropriate people.

What will students do to prevent instances of bullying?

Students will recognize bullying when they observe it. Students will report bullying to a faculty member, to their parents, or to the school principal. If you are bullied or know someone who is, you will take responsibility to talk to a teacher or the school principal.

What will parents do to prevent bullying?

If your child talks to you about bullying, take him or her seriously. Contact the school principal or teacher immediately. Tell your child that it is everyone's responsibility to protect him or herself and that adult involvement in matters of bullying is necessary. If your child is the bully, seek the school's help.

What actions will the school take?

The school takes bullying very seriously. When the school is informed that a student is being bullied, the principal and teacher will investigate. They will talk to the child reporting the bullying and the child accused of bullying, determine if this is an isolated incident or an ongoing pattern, and proceed accordingly.

The following levels of action will be taken if it is determined that bullying has occurred. Each incident will determine what level it is based on the following categories: severity, how many people it affected, and how many times it occurred.

Level 1: The principal and/or teacher will talk to all the students involved and discuss different ways of responding or treating others. The school will give the students the knowledge and power on how to fix the problem.

Level 2: The principal will talk to the students involved and the parent will be notified. A discipline action will take place.

Level 3: The principal will set a conference with the parents and child. The child will be required to talk to the pastor. The child may be suspended.

Level 4: The principal will confer with the pastor and teacher to determine if the student should remain in the school.

The school principal, in consultation with the pastor, reserves the right to determine the seriousness of the student's actions, and therefore, the appropriate consequence for the action.

THREATS AND CONCERNS ABOUT STUDENTS

St. Mary's School always takes concerns about any student seriously. Safety of all the students is always on our mind when making decisions. Please be aware when any concern arises, there is a protocol in place that we follow, to ensure the fair treatment of all parties involved. Situations that can interfere with the safety of our students, teachers, and staff are taken very seriously and are investigated thoroughly by the school improvement team. If deemed necessary advice and consultation is sought from appropriate professionals. Once all data is gathered and analyzed an individualized action plan is determined and implemented.

With respect to all persons in all situations, it is only appropriate for us to discuss each situation with the parents/guardians of the children involved. When determined there is a risk to all students, communication will go out to all families of St. Mary's School.

GUIDELINES FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS RESPECTING OTHERS

The good name, reputation and personal safety of each student, faculty, staff member and adult volunteer is vitally important. In order to protect students, employees, volunteers, and the school/archdiocese itself, each student is expected to treat the good name and reputation of other students, school employees, volunteers and the school/archdiocese with dignity and respect and not engage in any activity or conduct, either on campus or off campus, that is in opposition to this guideline and/or inconsistent with the Catholic Christian principles of the school, as determined by the school in its discretion. Any derogatory, slanderous, hostile, or threatening remarks or actions directed toward any of the above by a student will be seen as a violation of this policy and will be viewed as an extremely serious matter, whether it is done physically, verbally, or electronically through the use of a home or school computer, phone, IPAD or other electronic media or by remote access during school time or after hours. Some examples include, but are not limited to, social media, text messages, blogging, images, pictures, etc. Any individual found to have made or participated with others in making any such remarks or actions will be subject to disciplinary action by the school, up to and including expulsion/dismissal.

SEARCH

When deemed necessary, student lockers, desks and backpacks can be searched at any time. Students may not bring items to school that are in violation of the law and/or school rules.

BUS SAFETY AND PROCEDURES

The students of St. Mary's who ride the bus must observe the proper rules of behavior, safety, and courtesy. If the privilege of riding the school bus is abused in any way by misconduct, the child may have to forfeit his/her right to ride the bus. If a bus driver feels that a student's conduct warrants contacting our office, a notice of this will be sent to the parents. If the same child should be cited by the bus driver a second time, we may give a one to five day suspension from bus service. A third citation may be a three-day to end of year suspension from service.

CONDUCT ON THE BUS

1. Follow the directions of the driver.
2. Walk to the assigned seat and remain there. Do not stand or move around while the bus is moving.
3. Do not talk to the driver unless it is an emergency. (Drivers need to keep their minds on driving and their eyes on the road.)
4. Talk quietly so that the driver can hear traffic sounds.
5. Keep arms, feet, and school books out of the aisles.
6. Do not open or close windows.
7. Keep hands and head inside the bus. Do not stick anything out of the windows.
8. Loud, profane language or yelling is not permitted.
9. Smoking is not permitted.
10. Do not deface or litter the bus.
11. Do not tamper with any safety device or any equipment.
12. Eating or drinking on the bus is not permitted.
13. The possession of knives or any weapon-like objects on the bus is forbidden.
14. Tobacco products of any kind are prohibited at the bus stop and on the school bus.
15. The Principal reserves the right to prohibit the use of a cell phone on the bus if there are any disciplinary actions regarding the use of the phone.

NOTE: Violation of the above rules and regulations may result in suspension of transportation privileges. Bus drivers have the same authority on the bus and in bus loading areas as teachers do in the classroom.

CALENDAR

St. Mary's School follows the JCSC calendar. Calendar dates for the school are listed in this handbook and posted on the school's website.

CELL PHONES & SMART WATCHES

We realize that cell phones keep families in touch with one another and are important to have after school hours. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES are students allowed to use cell phones and smart watches during the school day.** Cell phones should be either silenced or powered off. If teachers see students with cell phones during the day, the phone will be confiscated, sent to the office, and may be returned to parents only. If this policy is abused by any student, that student will forfeit the privilege of having a cell phone on school property.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE

If at any time during the school year a family moves to a different address or the phone number or email address is changed at home or work, this must be reported to the school office. This is for your child's safety. In case of illness or accident we need to be able to reach our parents immediately.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ALL EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION BE UP TO DATE WITH THE SCHOOL OFFICE!

CHILD CUSTODY

This school abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, the school will provide the non-custodial parent with access to the academic records and other school-related information regarding the child upon request. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with an official copy of the court order. If the school is to honor custody agreements, a copy of the court order **must** be on file in the school office.

CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP AND SGO PROGRAMS

St. Mary School is participating in the Indiana State School Voucher (House Bill 1003, effective July 1, 2011) and the Indiana School Scholarship Tax Credit Programs. The Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) for St. Mary's is Choice Charitable Trust. A brief summary of both programs is located in Appendix F. You may contact the school principal for questions or clarifications.

COMMUNICATION

SCHOOL TO PARENTS

St. Mary's works diligently to ensure that information will be communicated in the following ways:

- **NEWSLETTERS** A school newsletter will be sent to parents the first day of the week.
- **TEACHER EMAILS** The teachers will send emails that pertain to their class to inform parents of classroom events, homework, field trips, and general classroom information.
- **WEDNESDAY FOLDERS** Graded papers will be sent home on Wednesdays; the SCHOOL NEWS will also be emailed to each family. After looking at the papers and reading the SCHOOL NEWS, sign the cover sheet with the student's lunch balance and return the empty folder to school.
- **BEHAVIOR COMMUNICATION** Teachers will send home a strike/behavior slip weekly in the green folders. This will be the first communication about your child's in-school behavior and any disciplinary actions taken. We desire to work with you and your child for the success of the child. It may be necessary to forgo this process if the infraction is deemed necessary to get the principal involved.

PARENTS TO SCHOOL

Parents are welcome to call or email the school. Teachers do not usually answer the phone while teaching, but you are free to leave a message with the school secretary. Email is the best way to communicate with the teacher.

MESSAGES

Please make arrangements with the child regarding dismissal before coming to school to alleviate the number of message calls throughout the day. Messages on dismissal changes should occur before 1:00 pm and by a telephone call to the office **ONLY**; messages sent by text or email may not be delivered. If a child is staying after school for tutoring, please meet the child at the front door or wait in the car.

If you have an emergency message, please contact the front office and it will be delivered to your child's classroom immediately.

DISCIPLINE

As a general procedure, however, discipline will be handled in the following manner:

When inappropriate behavior is not able to be avoided and further intervention is required, staff will attempt to mold or change behavior using positive techniques. Staff members do not use physical discipline and/or shout or yell at children.

When further intervention is required due to repeated behavior, the teacher will take the necessary actions, typically according to the following schedule:

1. Talk with the child regarding the behavior. This discussion will include what the behavior is, why it is inappropriate, and what the child and teacher can do to modify the behavior.
2. If the behavior continues, the student will receive a consequence at the teacher's discretion.

Consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- Assigned seating
- Removal from the classroom, activity or group
- Silent lunch
- Walking at recess
- In-school suspension
- Detention

3. In the event that the behavior continues, the child will be taken to discuss the behavior with the principal, and this information will be shared with the child's parent or legal guardian.

Individual behavior plans may be implemented for students as needed and will be shared with the child's parent or legal guardian.

NOTE: Behaviors involving physical aggression will result in the student being placed in an immediate time out. Behaviors which are more severe and disruptive in nature will be handled on an individual basis through the severe discipline policy.

DISMISSAL/EXPULSION POLICY

If a student is to face disciplinary action that could result in expulsion (permanent removal from school), the following will occur:

1. Parents will be phoned and the student will be immediately removed from school.
2. The parents will be required to attend a meeting with the School Improvement Team to discuss the incident and the next steps.
3. The parents or guardian will be given the opportunity to withdraw the child before the expulsion or they may schedule an appeal within 3 days of the dismissal. This appeal will be with the president or pastor. In the event of a withdrawal, the word "withdrew" may be entered on the permanent record at the principal's discretion.

E-LEARNING DAYS

In the event of inclement weather or state mandated school closings, St. Mary’s School will have e-learning days. Teachers will provide lesson plans to students electronically either through Google classroom or email. Students and/or parents may contact their teacher with any questions or concerns. For more information concerning e-Learning days, please see the e-Learning Guidelines located in the Appendix.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are privileges afforded to students. No student has an absolute right to a field trip. Students can be denied participation if they fail to meet academic or behavioral requirements listed in this handbook. If for some reason your child cannot attend a field trip, he/she is expected to be at school the day of the field trip. If a child is not in school on a field trip day, it is counted as an absence.

Buses are used for out-of-town transportation when at all possible. Parents are occasionally used as drivers for field trips. When parents are used as drivers for field trips, Indiana laws requiring booster seats and seat belts will be followed. Parents are used as chaperones for most field trips. (Chaperones must have had Safe Parish training and a background check on file with the school office. Please see the section in this handbook on VOLUNTEERS.)

FIRE, TORNADO, AND LOCKDOWN, ACTIVE INTRUDER DRILLS

In accordance with the state laws, fire drills are held monthly. Two tornado drills are held each semester. Exits to be used by the respective classes are known and state and local prescriptions are followed. Lockdown and Active Intruder drills will be held to practice these situations.

GIFTS

SMS requests balloons, flowers, cake, cupcakes, or any other type of food/treat are not to be sent to school for birthdays or special events. Please keep in mind the feelings of others when inviting other students to parties. Invitations should not be passed out in the school unless the whole class is invited.

GRADING SYSTEM

All students in grades K-2 will be utilizing the Archdiocese Report Card and grading system. This report will be standard/domain based, and students in Grades K-2 will receive letters E, M, P, N, X. Grades 3-8 will use the traditional report card and grading scale.

<u>GRADES K-2 AND SPECIAL SUBJECTS</u>	<u>GRADES 3-8</u>
E = Exceeds Expectations	A = 93 – 100
M = Meets Expectations	B = 85 – 92
P = Progressing Forward with the Expectations	C = 76 – 84
N = Does not Meet Expectations	D = 70 – 75
X = Not assessed at this time	F = 69 or below

Report cards are issued quarterly at St. Mary's. Midterms will be sent four weeks prior to the issuance of report cards to students in grades 3-8. Please sign and return.

HONOR ROLL

We have an honor roll in grades 3-8. The requirements for Honor Roll:

- First Honors (all A's)
- Second Honors (all A's & B's)

POWERSCHOOL GRADEBOOK

Parents should be checking the online gradebook to follow their child's progress.

HEALTH SERVICE

MEDICATION POLICY

In order to protect the health and welfare of children and school staff members alike, Indiana laws require that school personnel observe certain safeguards in administering prescription medication to pupils. If school personnel are to administer prescription medicine to your child, the following procedures **MUST** be followed:

1. ALL medication shall be kept in the school office.
2. Cough drops may be administered by the teacher with a note granting permission by a parent.
3. The secretary or principal will administer all medications. Students are not permitted to medicate themselves at any time- including inhalers.
4. The office staff makes every effort to dispense medication in a timely manner, but occasionally circumstances beyond our control may delay dispensing scheduled medication.
5. All prescription medication to be administered during school hours must be in the original **pharmacy issued container with a label**. Please request an extra bottle from the pharmacist so just the amount of medicine needed at school can be kept in the school office.
6. All prescription medications that are administered on a regular basis or on an “as needed basis” must have a completed **Medication Permission Form** on file. This includes inhalers and EpiPens. Forms are available in the school office. Any dosage changes must have a doctor’s written statement or new prescription container. All prescriptions must be current within the year.
7. Non-prescription medications (over-the-counter medications) to be given must also be in the original container (**please NO baggies or envelopes**) with written authorization for parent/ guardian detailing when the medication is to be given, how much, and for what reason. A note is needed from the parent stating the student’s name, the name of the medication, the dose, when it is to be administered, and for how long.
8. Tylenol, Advil, Benadryl for bee stings, topical preparation for cuts and itching will be administered to your child, if necessary, with written permission **ONLY** via the **Medication Permission Form**. It is the parent’s responsibility to provide any medications authorized.
9. Students will not be allowed to take medications home. This includes all prescription and over-the-counter medications. Medication can only be released to a parent or an adult over the age of 18.

STUDENTS SHOULD BE KEPT HOME FROM SCHOOL FOR:

- A temperature of 100 or higher.
- Most inflammatory eye conditions until a doctor has verified it is not contagious. In the case of pink eye, the student may return to school after 24 hours of treatment with a doctor’s note
- Rashes until a doctor has verified it is not contagious or infectious.
- Sore or inflamed throat-if strep throat is diagnosed, the student needs to be on medication for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Discharge from ears.
- Diarrhea and Vomiting. Your child must not have any episodes of vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school
- Body lice, head lice. The school has a “no nit” policy.

If your child is sent home ill during the day, he/she will not participate in any after school activities that day.

SCREENINGS

Hearing and vision screening tests are provided annually by the Jennings County School nurse. After the testing is performed, a form is sent home to the parents of those students whose screenings or tests indicate problems.

IMMUNIZATIONS

St. Mary's School is required by law to require immunization of ALL STUDENTS, preschool through 8th grade. The state law requires that a child be excluded from school if his/her parents do not supply this record. Immunization requirements are available, upon request, in the school office.

ALLERGIES

Please inform the school office if the student has any known allergies. Some of our classrooms might be peanut or another ingredient free due to student's allergies. If this is the case, you will receive notice and we NEED everyone to abide to keep the safety of all of our children.

WELLNESS POLICY

Our Wellness Policy requires that food items not be sent to school for birthday celebrations. Because of this policy unhealthy lunches, **including fast food and soda**, are NOT to be brought into school.

HOMEWORK

Home assignments are part of the school program and may require some parental supervision. Parents should provide a regular time for homework as well as a definite place with a conducive atmosphere for study. Parents are not expected to help the children excessively, but parental interest goes far in encouraging a child. Homework may be given on weekends.

If your child seems to have very little homework, you may wish to require him/her to spend a specified amount of time reading. On the other hand, if your child seems to be overloaded with homework, contact the teacher. There is probably a misunderstanding that can be corrected. There will be a consequence for homework that is not turned in on the due date.

LIBRARY

Students have the opportunity to check books out of the school library every week. They are responsible for returning the book to the library in the same condition in which it was checked out. If students lose a book, they must pay for it so it can be replaced. This exchange must be approved by the librarians, Mrs. Nicole Bullard.

LOST AND FOUND

Articles that have been lost may be placed in the office for a short period of time. Because of the lack of space and the amount of articles that accumulate, we do not store these items over a long period of time. Periodically during the school year items are taken to St. Vincent de Paul.

LUNCH

We have students with peanut, egg, and dairy food allergies at St. Mary's School. Please be considerate of the safety of ALL St. Mary's students when packing a snack or lunch for your child.

All students are expected to eat lunch. Children may take advantage of the hot lunch program at school or bring lunches from home. Children may not bring canned pop to drink with their lunches nor lunches from **fast food restaurants**. Sack lunches should be packed so that they do not require refrigeration or microwaves. Due to a significant number of food allergies, **students may NOT share food at lunch.**

Students may leave school grounds during lunch, accompanied by an adult, provided that the school office has received a notification from the parent granting permission. **No one will be permitted to call for this permission.**

LUNCH PROGRAM

Hot lunches from the Jennings County Middle School are available each day. Lunch must be prepaid. Accounts will be computerized with each child having an account number. Students eligible for free meals will be provided with a meal at no charge. By having every student in the school use his/her Meal Account Number the anonymity of children receiving free or reduced priced meals is assured.

Parents will fill out deposit slips provided by the school office. It is important that the following information be completed on the proper blanks.

1. Students' Name
2. Student's Meal Account Number
3. Check Number for Check Deposit
4. Amount Enclosed.

Cash or checks will be accepted for deposit. Payment into an account can be for one or more meals. Food Services encourages parents to prepay for a number of meals at once in order to reduce the need for frequent deposits and daily cash handling. See the chart below for multiple meal prices:

	One Meal	One Week (5 Meals)	One Month (20 Meals)
Full Paid Breakfast	\$1.60	\$8.00	\$32.00
Reduced Breakfast	\$0.30	\$1.50	\$6.00
Reduced Price	\$0.40	\$2.00	\$8.00
Full Paid Lunch	\$2.95	\$14.75	\$59.00
Extra Milk	\$0.50	\$2.50	\$10.00

Households with more than one child at the school need to designate the amount of money to be placed into each child's account. A parent can always ask for a detailed report on available meal money and meal transactions in a child's account. To request this information, please call the school office.

****Some parents are familiar with Skyward, the Student Information System used by JCSC. St. Mary's School is not connected with that platform; therefore, do not deposit money into Skyward for any child attending St. Mary's School.**

MAINTENANCE

PEST CONTROL POLICY

St. Mary's School has a policy and guidelines regarding the use of pesticides. Pesticides are not allowed to be used when children are present and must be heavily documented when used. If you would like to view this information, please request to do so at the office. If your child has an allergy to any pesticides, please inform the office.

ASBESTOS HAZARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 1986 (AHERA)

St. Mary's School, North Vernon, of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis has complied with the EPA School Rule (1982) and AHERA (1986). The management plan for meeting the requirements of AHERA is available upon request in the school office.

The initial required inspection of this school was completed on July 9, 1988, by an accredited inspector/planner. The asbestos-containing building materials identified, if left undisturbed, do not present an immediate danger to building occupants. All response actions and preventive measures called for from the first inspection, have been taken in accordance with the management plan.

In May 1999, Environmental Abatement Inc. removed all asbestos insulation piping from the basement area. TEM (air sampling) was taken after removal to ensure complete removal and safety. In June 2005, floor tile was removed from a basement classroom by DHA, Inc. In June 2015, floor tile was removed from the library by DHA, Inc.

Furthermore, periodic surveillance of asbestos-containing building materials is completed every six months to ensure that the materials are undisturbed and remain in good condition.

On November 30, 2010, a representative of the United State Environmental Protection Agency conducted an inspection of the Saint Mary School and determined that it was in compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA).

INDOOR AIR QUALITY

St. Mary School complies with the Indiana Indoor air Quality Program as established by the Indiana Administrative Code, Rule 410 (IAC 33), April 2011 and administered by the Indiana Department of Health. (See Appendix I for contact information.)

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

All schools operated by schools and parishes under the guidance of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. The schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent Teacher Conferences will be conducted in the fall for all families. Attendance is expected. Conferences with teachers will be held at other times at the request of the parent or teacher.

PARTY INVITATION

Party invitations may be distributed at school only if everyone in the class is to receive one, i.e. all boys or all girls. Invitations given to only a few should be mailed in order to be sensitive to all.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students are required to participate in physical education. If there is some reason why a student cannot fully participate in the program, the teacher and office must be notified in writing. In order for a student to be dismissed from participating in PE for an extended period, a note from the family's doctor is required.

PRAYER/ LITURGY

Forming a good habit of prayer is an important part of our religious curriculum. Each class prays together as the day begins, at lunchtime, and at the end of the day. In addition, all students attend Mass at 8:30 am on Wednesday. Classes, grades K-8, are scheduled on a weekly basis to help prepare and minister to all-school Masses.

PTO

St. Mary's Parent-Teacher Organization (P.T.O.) is a support group for the school. The PTO organizes many activities that benefit the school and students. ALL parents, preschool through grade eight, Catholic and Non-Catholic, are members of the PTO.

The primary purpose of the PTO is to support the ongoing mission of St. Mary's School. Through the PTO, parents and teachers strive to build community, strengthen communications, and provide resources necessary to support the school and the programs it offers. The PTO is also a forum for exchanging thoughts, expressing ideas, and sharing experiences.

The PTO has two meetings per year and some great fundraisers. It is in charge of the mumsChili Supper, and others. The PTO also sponsors several activities throughout the year including Back to School Night, Grandparents' Day, Christmas Dinner, and End of the Year Picnic. Please find time to attend a meeting and participate in some of the wonderful things PTO does for the children and staff of the St. Mary's School family.

The officers for the 2025–2026 school year are:

President	Cathie Stratton
Secretary	Amber Elsner
Treasurer	Katie Suhre

The officers, along with the principal, comprise the P.T.O. executive committee which meets periodically to take care of routine matters and other business that must be dealt with before the general meetings.

RECESS

All students are expected to be outdoors, engaged in active play during recesses. If a child is not able to be outside for some legitimate reason, a written excuse is required each day from the parents before he/she is allowed to remain indoors. However, every time a child must stay inside during recess, we have to provide some kind of supervision. Therefore, please do not request that your child be allowed to remain indoors unless it is absolutely necessary. When the wind chill temperature is too low during winter months, we will have indoor recess.

PLAYGROUND RULES

- Obey the supervising teacher or parent on duty.
- Avoid any game or activity (i.e., throwing rocks or snowballs, tackling, fighting) that could result in injury.
- Do not deliberately kick balls in the street or nearby yards. If a ball does land in the street, the teacher or parent on duty will retrieve it.
- Seek permission from the playground supervisor if there is a need to go inside.
- At the bell, students walk quickly and quietly to their assigned area and line up. Students proceed to their classrooms in an orderly and quiet fashion when the playground supervisor gives the signal.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SPEECH THERAPIST

Special Education and speech therapy is provided for students with this specific need through St. Mary's staff. Students who are referred by their teacher(s) or parents can work with a specialist on a regular basis. If any parents feel their child may need help in the area of speech development or other special education services that affect the child's learning, they should contact their child's teacher in order to obtain an evaluation from Jennings County.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

Because St. Mary's School is accredited by the Indiana Department of Education, ILEARN will be administered each spring to students in grades 3-8. Second grade students will also take the required IREAD 3 test. Any second grade student that does not pass the IREAD 3 will be required to take remediation sessions. Any student not passing the IREAD 3 by third grade could face possible retention, per the State of IN guidelines. All students in grade K-8 will also be required to take the NWEA.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

SMS students do NOT need to bring extra money or other personal, expensive items (ex: personal electronic devices, toys, phones) to school. We accept no responsibility for loss, damage, or safekeeping. Extra-special or valuable toys or devices should be kept at home.

Any item brought to school that is not an essential school supply or that is used in a manner that is distracting to other students or the teacher may be confiscated by the teacher, principal, or adult supervisor. The student may request the return of the item at the end of the following school day.

There will be a special announcement if it is necessary for a child to bring money (other than lunch money) to school. Any money brought to school is the student's responsibility and should be kept in a safe, secure place (ex: deep pocket, purse, wallet).

VOLUNTEERS

For the safety of our students, all volunteers in our school are required to fulfill the Archdiocesan Safe Parish training, which includes a background check, prior to working with our children. **Safe Parish is conducted through the following website:** <https://www.archindy.org/hr/safe-home.html>.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL TUITION PROGRAM

The mission of St. Mary's School is to offer a Catholic education to each and every child in the parish. When there is space available, we extend an invitation to other families who wish a values-based Catholic education for their children to attend St. Mary's. We, the St. Mary School Commission, believe that a Catholic education should be a multi-faceted partnership involving traditional teaching in the classroom, parental involvement, and family stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. The Commission holds to the principle that the faculty set high moral and academic standards for themselves and their students in order to create an optimal, Christian, learning environment in which students grow spiritually and academically to the best of their abilities. The Commission also has high expectations that school families will make a strong commitment to the school: physically through your volunteer work and your financial support; emotionally through your words, attitude, and encouragement; and spiritually through your church attendance and practice of religion.

A Practicing Catholic Family affiliated with St. Mary's Parish is defined as one that:

1. Is a registered member of St. Mary's Parish.
2. Provides proof that the child attending St. Mary's School is a baptized Catholic.
3. Participates regularly in Sunday liturgies.
4. Financially supports the parish through the weekly use of contribution envelopes in a significant way.
5. Participates through service to the school/parish in volunteering for events such as Festival, Reverse Raffle, board and/or committee work. Additional opportunities are listed in the enrollment packets.
6. Failure to meet criteria 1 and 2 will mean non-affiliated rate. Failure to meet criteria 3, 4, and/or 5 as determined by the School Principal, may result in a conference with the Principal, Pastor, school commission rep, and/or fundraiser committee rep and may result in being assessed a different tuition rate or dismissal from the school.

A Non-affiliated Catholic Family is defined as one that:

1. Is Catholic but has membership at another parish.
2. Participates through service to the school in volunteering for such events as Festival, Reverse Raffle, board and/or committee work. Additional opportunities are listed in the enrollment packets.
3. Failure to meet criteria 1 will mean non-Catholic rate. Failure to meet criteria 2 as determined by the School Principal, may result in a conference with the Principal, Pastor, school commission rep, and/or fundraiser committee rep and may result in being assessed a different tuition rate or dismissal from the school.

A Non-Catholic Family is defined as one that:

1. Is not a Catholic family.
2. Participates through service to the school in volunteering for such events as Festival, Reverse Raffle, playground duty, board and/or committee work. Additional opportunities are listed in the enrollment packets.
3. Failure to meet criteria 2 as determined by the School Principal, may result in a conference with the Principal, Pastor, school commission rep, and/or fundraiser committee rep and may result in dismissal from the school.

A Non-participatory Family is defined as one that:

1. Does not meet the criteria for any of the above categories.

REGISTRATION DATE FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

Completed registration and enrollment fee must be paid for the child to be registered and their spot held. This enrollment fee shall be non-refundable so long as the family maintains a residence in Jennings County. Enrollment after the due date will be taken on a first come, first serve basis depending upon space and availability; according to our Admission and Wait Policy.

TUITION DUE

August 15 through May 15 - 1/10 of the tuition is due the 15th of each month.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

ALL students are eligible to receive local assistance. This assistance is based on an individual family's financial needs. Families are required to show evidence of financial need by providing a copy of their Tax Return and a written letter stating why there is a need and what you are comfortable paying for the upcoming school year. You might also include other documents that identify why there is a struggle for the upcoming school year. The specific scholarship amount granted will be determined by an anonymous, confidential committee. Money was raised by Project SHARE and other specific donations for tuition assistance through the years.

DELINQUENT TUITION

Delinquent tuition payment shall be dealt with in the following manner.

- The first month delinquent: Parents shall receive a statement informing them of the delinquency.
- The second month delinquent: Parents shall receive a phone call from the Principal or the Principal's designee requesting that the parents bring tuition payments to current balance due or make an appointment with the Principal to explain the situation and request a waiver or reduction of tuition.
- Tuition payments shall be current at the end of the first semester or arrangements made with the Principal prior to the beginning of the second semester for enrollment to be continued.
- Registration forms, enrollment fees, previous year's tuition, or other unpaid bills not received by July 1 of that school year may result in students' names being dropped from the class list.

PLEASE NOTE: If a family has had a conference with the pastor as contemplated by the definitions set forth on St. Mary's tuition program in this handbook which has resulted in a reclassification of a student for tuition purposes, the new tuition rate shall become effective immediately following the conference. The pastor retains the sole responsibility to determine the tuition classification applicable to any family. Failure to pay the new tuition rate as determined by the pastor shall result in the institution of the above delinquent tuition procedures.

An unpaid tuition balance or other unpaid bills may result in a child's name being dropped from the class list July 1st. Permanent files will not be forwarded to the new school until full payment of outstanding tuition and fees have been made.

2025-2026 TUITION RATES

Catholic Child	\$6250	Preschool- 3 yr. old	\$1050
Non-Catholic Child	\$6475	Preschool- 4 yr. old	\$1600

St. Mary's School
Appropriate Use of Technology

The purpose of this document is to inform parents, guardians and students of the rules governing the use of school and personal technology resources while on or near school property, in school vehicles, and at school-sponsored activities, as well as the use of district technology resources via off-campus remote access.

Please read the following carefully before signing the St. Mary's School Appropriate Use Form. SMS reserves the right to modify the terms and conditions of this document at any time. The latest version of this document is available from the SMS web site at <http://school.ccjc3.org/>.

Introduction:

St. Mary's School is pleased to offer students access to chromebooks with access to the internet and an array of technology resources to promote educational excellence. Each student is responsible for her/his use of technology, whether personal or district-provided. While using district and personal technology resources on or near school property, in school vehicles, and at school-sponsored activities, as well as using school technology resources via off-campus remote access, each student must act in an appropriate manner consistent with school, district, and legal guidelines. It is the joint responsibility of school personnel and the parent or guardian of each student to educate the student about his/her responsibilities and to establish expectations when using technology.

Using the Internet and Communications Systems:

Technology resources are provided to students to conduct research, complete assignments, and communicate with others in furtherance of their education. Access is a privilege not a right; as such, general rules of school behavior apply. Access to these services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Just as students are responsible for good behavior in a classroom or a school hallway, they must also be responsible when using school computer networks or personal technologies. Students must comply with district standards and honor this agreement to be permitted to use technology.

All digital storage is school property, and as such, network administrators will review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that students are using technology responsibly. Students should not expect that files stored in their Google Drive or email will be private.

The educational value of technology integration in curriculum is substantial.

Access to the Internet will enable students to use extensive online libraries and databases. Families should be warned that some material accessible via the Internet might contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, profane, sexually oriented or potentially offensive to some people. While the intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access these other materials as well. SMS does not condone or permit the use of this material and uses content filtering software to protect students to the fullest extent possible. Parents and guardians must be aware that content filtering tools are not completely fail-safe and while at school, direct supervision by school personnel of each student using a device is desired, but not always possible. Students are expected to use technology resources in a manner consistent with the rules below and will be held responsible for their intentional misuse. SMS believes that the benefits of student access to the Internet in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed any disadvantages. Ultimately, parents and/or guardians are responsible for setting and conveying the standard that their children should follow when using technology. If a student accidentally accesses inappropriate material, they should back out of the information at once and notify the supervising adult. St. Mary's School will be utilizing monitoring tools during the school day and after school hours.

Proper and Acceptable Use of All Technology Resources:

All technology resources, including but not limited to chromebooks and the Internet, must be used in support of education and academic research and must be used in a manner consistent with the educational mission and objectives of SMS.

Activities that are permitted and encouraged include:

- school work;
- original creation and presentation of academic work;
- research on topics being studied in school;
- research for opportunities outside of school related to community service, employment, or further education

Activities that are NOT permitted include:

- plagiarism or representing the work of others as one's own;
- using obscene language; harassing, insulting, ostracizing, or intimidating others;
- representing Copyright, Registered, and or Trademark materials as one's own work
- searching, viewing, communicating, publishing, storing, or retrieving materials that are not related to school work, community service, employment, or further education (thus, searching inappropriate materials is not permitted);
- damaging or modifying chromebooks or networks; intentional or neglectful transmission of viruses or other destructive computer files; hacking into district or external computers; intentionally bypassing district filters;
- use of USB or other devices to alter the function of a chromebook or a network;
- subscription to any online services or ordering of any goods or services;
- use of personal e-mail accounts, non-school-provided e-mail accounts, on the school network;
- online sharing of any student's or staff member's name, home address, phone number, or other personal information;
- non-educational uses such as games, role-playing multi-user environments, gambling, junk mail, chain mail, jokes or raffles;
- participating in online chat rooms or using instant messaging, unless specifically assigned by a teacher;
- use of resources for commercial purposes, personal financial gain, or fraud;
- any activity that violates a school rule or a local, state, or federal law.

Students are expected to report harassment, threats, hate-speech, and inappropriate content to a teacher or administrator. If a student has any questions about whether a specific activity is permitted, he or she should ask a teacher or administrator.

Privacy and Security:

Students must use technology responsibly and in a secure manner.

They must not share their logins, passwords, or access with others.

Online Assessments:

Student assessments may be conducted using technologies such as the Internet or audience response systems. Normally, students will use these technologies as part of their instructional day. Privacy and security, as defined above, along with confidentiality of assessment responses, are expected.

Vandalism:

Any intentional act by a student that damages technology hardware, operating systems, or data will be considered vandalism and will be subject to school rules and disciplinary procedures. Any intentional act that requires a person's time to repair, replace, or perform corrective work on district technologies or data is also considered vandalism and subject to repair costs at the student's expense.

Consequences of Misuse:

Misuse of personal or school technology resources on or off campus may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. This document shall be used in conjunction with our school handbooks. In addition, the student's use of school technologies may be suspended or restricted. A school may temporarily hold (pending parental or same-day pick up) personal technology resources that are used inappropriately. Furthermore, intentional unauthorized access and/or damage to networks, servers, user accounts, passwords, or other school resources may be punishable under local, state, or Federal law.

Reliability and Limitation of Liability:

St. Mary's School makes no warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, for the technology resources it provides to students. SMS will not be responsible for any damages suffered by the student, including those arising from non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, service interruptions, unauthorized use, loss of data, and exposure to potentially harmful or inappropriate material or people. Use of any information obtained via the Internet or communications technologies is at the student's own risk. St. Mary's School specifically denies any responsibility of the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the Internet. The student and his/her parent/guardian will indemnify and hold SMS harmless from any losses sustained as the result of misuse of the district's technology resources by the student.

St. Mary's School Non-Certified/Certified e-Learning Guidelines

St. Mary's School recognizes the need to provide students with an opportunity to participate in an alternative means of instruction when the traditional school day is compromised due to inclement weather or an unforeseen circumstance. E-Learning is an educational option and learning experience that is designed to extend, enhance, supplement and serve as an alternative to classroom instruction.

e-Learning Policies

1. **Academic work completion/ submission and Attendance:** All work should be completed and turned in to teachers two (2) days after the last e-Learning day. If work is not turned in at the end of the second day, the student will receive an unexcused absence for the class periods in which the work is missing.
 - Teachers will need to keep track of the day each assignment was assigned for record keeping purposes.
2. **Platforms:** Teachers must utilize the following online platforms to facilitate e-Learning: e-mail, Google Classroom, and/or hard copies of work. Online assignments should be submitted through the Google Classroom. PowerSchool, the student information system, should be used to communicate with parents for daily assignments, discipline, grades, schedule, and attendance.
3. **Format:** Teachers should utilize a standardized e-Learning format. For example, in an efficient lesson plan, teachers will do the following (unless otherwise instructed in an IEP, an ILP or a 504):
 - Model/ Demonstrate
 - Guided Practice
 - Independent Practice
 - Assessment

As part of the e-Learning experience, we should strive to do the same with a thirty to forty-minute lesson plan in mind. Teachers should provide students with the following for an effective e-Learning experience:

- Provide students with modeling / demonstration material. (i.e. video, podcast, presentation, reading assignment, web site module.
 - Ask students to recall what they have learned. This portion should prove that the student has actively participated in the previous step. A recall quiz or worksheet would be a good example.
 - Ask students to apply what they have learned with a higher-level thinking activity. This should not simply be a worksheet. This task should apply knowledge to a problem-solving activity that incorporates critical thinking and independent thought.
4. Procedures for extra-curricular activities, including athletic practices: On e-Learning days there will be no athletic practices or activities.



**Indiana State School Voucher
House Bill 1316**

- A bill that redirects state funds from a public school to pay for tuition and fees at a private school through a state voucher.
- Vouchers are for students in grades K through 8 that fall within the updated state income guidelines.



**Donor Funded: Educational CHOICE Charitable
Trust/Scholarship Granting Organization
Indiana School Scholarship Tax Credit Program**

The Indiana School Scholarship Tax Credit Program, passed in the summer of 2009, is designed to provide scholarship support for thousands of low and middle income families to enroll their children into the private or public school of their choice. Donors (individuals or corporations) are eligible to take advantage of a 50% credit against their state tax liability for contributions made to a qualified scholarship granting organizations (SGO).

- Taxes applicable: adjusted gross income tax, financial institutions tax, insurance premiums tax. Corporate or individual taxpayers may participate.
- No limit on the size of individual contributions to SGOs, but the tax credit amount cannot exceed a taxpayer's state tax liability.
- Program caps: \$2.5 million per year (qualifying up to \$5M in donations). First to contribute, first to qualify for tax credits.
- Eligible students: SGOs set their own eligibility requirements, but family income cannot exceed 200% of federal free or reduced lunch levels, students must be entering kindergarten or have been enrolled in a public school the previous year (i.e. doesn't fund current private school students), and be an Indiana resident.
- An SGO may not limit the ability of a recipient of a scholarship to change attendance from one participating school to another.
- SGOs will work directly with the Dept. of Revenue to assure your donation qualifies and is properly recorded.

ST. MARY SCHOOL
North Vernon, Indiana
Admission and Wait List for Preschool through Grades 8

POLICY STATEMENT

In order to ensure an orderly and equitable admission for children to St. Mary Catholic School (hereinafter referenced as the “School”), this policy and procedures is adopted and shall be periodically revised to allow for improvement based on the changing needs of parish membership, demographic trends and/or other pertinent factors. Once recommended by the School Commission and ratified by the Pastor, revisions of this policy shall supersede any prior admission policy of the School.

A. Primary Goal – Catholic Education

The primary goal of the School is to provide a Catholic education to the children in the Parish in accordance with the mission statement of the School, archdiocesan policies, curriculum and guidelines. Therefore, all students once admitted are required to participate in religion classes and liturgies and otherwise conform to the religious expectations of the School.

B. Accommodation of Students with Special Needs

The School strives to accommodate students with physical, emotional, social, or learning challenges. However, families must fully disclose the nature and known extent of such challenges at the time of registration. The School has limited resources to meet certain challenges and may recommend educational alternatives that may better serve the needs of some students.

C. Parishioner Status

Regular attendance at mass and faithful and consistent stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure (financial support) to the Parish will be expected by Catholic families of students attending or wishing to attend the School. All School families will participate in a registration process that will help establish each family’s gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure. Families meeting these criteria will be deemed “participating parishioners” for purposes of determining the rate of tuition. All other families will be considered “non-participating” or “non-affiliated” or “non-Catholic” for purposes of tuition.

D. Financial Aid and Responsibility

It is a goal of the School and Parish to provide financial support to economically disadvantaged parish families to the fullest extent possible. However, all School families must assume responsibility for paying the agreed-upon tuition charges in full and on time as prescribed by the School. Families of students who are not of the Catholic Faith will be expected to assume their portion of the financial responsibility for the education provided through an increased tuition rate, since they do not participate in the investment (subsidy) received by School from the contributions of parishioners.

E. Agree to Abide by the School Rules

Upon admission all parents and students agree to abide by the policies and rules of the School as specified in the School Handbook.

F. Non-Discrimination

The School Commission, Administration and Pastor establish policies for admission of Catholic and non-Catholic students in alignment with archdiocesan policies. Catholic Schools administered under the authority of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis comply with those constitutional and statutory provisions as may be specifically applicable to the schools which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, disability, or national origin in the administration of their educational, personnel, admissions, financial aid, athletic and other school administered programs. This policy does not conflict with the priority given to Catholics for admission as students. This policy also does not preclude the ability of the school to undertake and/or enforce appropriate actions with respect to students who publicly advocate any practices or doctrines which are inconsistent with the religious tenets of the Catholic faith. Catholic schools have not been, nor shall they become, havens for those wishing to avoid social problems confronting them in the public sector.

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Beginning with the spring registration date each year, without exception, students registering for preschool who are at age 3 or 4; or for kindergarten, who are age 5 by August 1 of the school year for which they are registering will be eligible for consideration for admission. Students will be added to classes according to the following categories in the order registration is completed:

1. Catholic children of participating parishioners (as defined in C above) and siblings of current students in grades 1-8.
2. Catholic children of non-participating parishioners (as defined in C above).
3. Non-Catholic children.

GRADE 1-8 ADMISSION PROCEDURES

For grades 1 through 8, students will be eligible for consideration for admission based on proof of successful completion of the previous grade. Eligible students will be selected and placed in the school based on the maximum capacity of classrooms as set by the School Commission according to the following categories in order of preference in the order registration is completed:

4. Current students of the school.
5. Catholic children of participating parishioners (as defined in C above) who are siblings of students attending in the current school year or of a graduate of the school.
6. Catholic children of nonparticipating parishioners (as defined in C above) who are siblings of students attending in the current school year or of a graduate of the school.
7. Non-Catholic children who are siblings of students attending in the current school year.
8. Catholic children of participating parishioners (as defined in C above).
9. Catholic children of non-participating parishioners.
10. Non-Catholic children.

Each year's incoming student class will be selected soon after the registration/re-registration process is closed. If classes become full, students will be placed on a waiting list.

WAIT LIST

Students not selected for admission to the School will automatically be placed on a waitlist. If an opening becomes available, students on the waitlist will be given priority for those openings in the same order of preference as detailed in the Admissions Selection Procedures above. The wait list will exist from year-to-year only and the wait list for each school year shall be established after the selection process for the upcoming school year has ended and shall terminate when that school year ends.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students in good standing from another school will be considered for transfer admission after the following has been accomplished:

1. Enrollment/Admission forms are completed.
2. A conference with the principal, parents and student has been held to discuss the goals, religious mission and expectations of the School.
3. If requested, the parents have provided a written statement indicating their reasons for seeking enrollment for their child in the School.
4. Previous educational records have been supplied to the School including, if available and applicable: current grade transcript or report card, most recent standardized testing results, Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Service Plan, Section 504 Plan or Individual Catholic Education Plan (ICEP).
5. If appropriate records are not available or if there are other educational concerns, the principal may require entrance testing of the child and direct consultation with the previous school to determine appropriate educational placement before admission is granted.
6. Updated immunization records have been received.
7. Applicants for admission to grades 6, 7 and 8 are generally scrutinized more closely than applicants for lower grades as educational preparation and disciplinary records at this level are of more concern to the School.
8. NOTE: Catholic schools support the disciplinary decisions of other schools. Therefore, a student expelled from another private or public school may not be considered for enrollment until one year after the expulsion date and then only at the discretion of the Principal in consultation with the Pastor.

If the Principal determines through the above procedures that the family and student have philosophies, educational goals and levels of preparation that are compatible with the religious mission and educational programs offered by the School, and that the student is likely to be successful in the Catholic educational setting, and an opening exists; the student may be admitted either on a probationary basis or without restriction. Prioritization of placement of applicants for transfer will occur in the same order and by the same criteria as defined in the Admission Selection Procedures above.



ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

ARCHDIOCESAN "MISSION" POLICY

Policy Statement

The language below is to be shared with families when enrolling to ensure that they understand the benefits of Catholic education and formation and to encourage all to embrace the mission. The language is to be placed in the Parent/Student Handbook and a signature of each parent/guardian is required, acknowledging that they have read and understand what it means to be a part of a Catholic school.

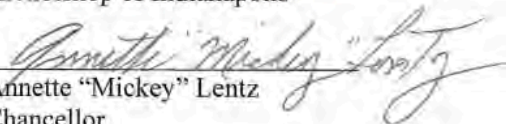
1. The primary purpose of a Catholic school education is to form students in the values of Jesus Christ and the teaching of the Catholic Church.
2. Catholic schools are distinctive religious education institutions operated as ministries of the Catholic Church; they are not private schools but are administered and supported by the sponsoring parish(es), the archdiocese, or a religious community.
3. Attending a Catholic school is a privilege and a choice, not a right. As such, we welcome you as a member of our school family who is committed to the mission of our Catholic school. We are grateful that you, as the first teacher of your child, choose this Catholic school!
4. While academic excellence and involvement in extracurricular activity (i.e., sports, clubs, etc.) are important, fidelity to the Catholic identity of the school is a fundamental priority. We strive to integrate our faith into all aspects of our school culture and curriculum.
5. The school and its administration have the responsibility to ensure that Catholic values and moral integrity permeate every facet of the school's life and activity. Such is reflected in our policies, practices, and protocols.
6. In all questions involving faith, morals, faith teaching, and Church law, the final determination of admission in our Catholic schools rests with the Archdiocesan bishop.

As a parent/guardian desiring to enroll my child in a Catholic school, I pledge support for the Catholic identity and mission of this school and by enrolling my child, I commit myself to uphold all the principles and policies that govern a Catholic school. In turn, I understand that we are now part of a Catholic school family that will do all they can to help in the formation and education of my child.

Dated on this 28th day of May, 2020.



Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson, D.D., J.C.L.
Archbishop of Indianapolis



Annette "Mickey" Lentz
Chancellor

MENINGITIS

The Indiana Department of Education requires that each state accredited school distribute information concerning Meningococcal Disease and its vaccines to students and parents/guardians each year. This letter is to provide you with that information. No case of meningitis has been reported in our school.

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

One type of meningitis is caused by a bacterium called *Neisseria meningitidis*. Infections caused by this bacterium are serious, and may lead to death. Symptoms of an infection with *Neisseria meningitidis* may include a high fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, confusion and a rash. This disease can become severe very quickly and often leads to deafness, mental retardation, loss of arms or legs and even death. The bacteria are spread from close person to person contact through the exchange of nose and throat secretions, by activities such as kissing or sharing eating or drinking utensils. The bacteria are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been.

There are two vaccines that can help prevent cases of this disease in teens and young adults. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination of children with the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menactra and Menveo) at 11 or 12 years of age, with a booster dose of the vaccine at 16 years of age. The booster dose at age 16 provides ongoing protection from the disease after high school.

The state of Indiana requires all students in grades 6-12 to have the appropriate number of meningococcal conjugate vaccine doses. One dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine is required for all students in 6th -11th grade. A second booster dose is required for students entering 11th grade. These vaccines are a legal requirement for school entry (Indiana Administrative Code 410 IAC 1-1-1) for the 2014-2015 school year.

All students in grades 6-12 must have acceptable documentation of required immunizations on record at the school they are currently attending. An acceptable record includes a signed record from the child's health care provider indicating the name of the vaccine given and the date it was given, a record of the immunization in the state immunization registry (CHIRP) prior to the start of the school year, or a record from another school showing the required immunizations have been given.

Many local health departments and private healthcare providers offer this vaccine. Please contact your health care provider for specific instructions regarding your child.

More information about meningococcal disease can be found at: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/default.htm>

IN State Department of Health website:

<http://www.in.gov/isdh/25455.htm>

Sincerely, Taryn Broadus, Director of Nursing Services





**ARCHDIOCESE
OF INDIANAPOLIS**

The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

Office of Catholic Schools

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**Statement for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Regarding the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine**

In April 2007, the General Assembly of the State of Indiana enacted legislation requiring schools throughout the state to provide parents of students entering grade six with information concerning the link between cervical cancer and the human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and advise them that an immunization against the HPV infection is now available (Indiana Code: 20-34-4-3).

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis, the Office of Catholic Education and the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) appreciate the seriousness of healthcare issues involved with the human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and we are pleased that the Indiana General Assembly has recognized parents as the primary educators of their child/children. As is stated in the law, the decision to vaccinate (or not to vaccinate) your child/children is seen as a parent's decision and responsibility.

To make good decisions, parents and young women/men need accurate information regarding the vaccine. The vaccine, called Gardasil, has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to protect against two strains of HPV that are responsible for 70 percent of cervical cancer. The vaccine also protects against two other strains of the virus that cause 90 percent of genital warts. However, the vaccine is not a panacea. Parents and their children must also realize the following about the vaccine:

- The vaccine will not prevent the transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or other sexually transmitted diseases;
- The vaccine will not prevent infections from other strains of HPV;
- The vaccine will not prevent infections from all HPV strains that cause cervical cancer;
- The vaccine will not eliminate the need for regular screening.

The Church teaches that a primary role of Catholic educators is to provide assistance to parents in understanding the teachings of our Catholic faith so that they can form their children in the Faith. To this end, parents should know that there is no moral objection to the vaccine itself and the prevalence of HPV in the reproductive age population makes the possibility of exposure to the virus significant. (Source: National Catholic Bioethics Center).

Whether you choose to vaccinate your daughter/son or not, please use this opportunity to speak with your child/children about God's plan for each of us as sexual beings. Talk with your child/children and emphasize that the most effective way to avoid contracting any sexually transmitted disease is to abstain from sexual activity before marriage and to remain faithful within marriage. Share with your child/children that sex is sacred and is beautiful within the context of marriage. We believe that parents can and will make prudent decisions when provided with full and accurate information.

Gina Kuntz Fleming
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

This school adheres to the Indiana Indoor Air Quality Program, “IAQ”

**The Procedure and Record Handbook is located at:
St. Mary School Office**

**The IAQ Coordinator is:
Meredith K. Inman,
Principal, St. Mary School**

The IAQ coordinator can be contacted at: School Office

School name: St. Mary School

**School address: 209 Washington St.
North Vernon, IN 47265**

**Location of IAQ records:
St. Mary School Office**



ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis believe:

- in fostering positive relationships that exemplify the love of God;
- that Catholic school communities are enriched by the unique image and likeness of God that is present in each individual;
- that formation best occurs within faith-filled cultures of learning that are inclusive;
- that parents are the primary educators of each young person and that it is the responsibility of Catholic schools to support the domestic church;
- that Catholic schools are part of the evangelizing mission of the Church, forming disciples through the intentional integration of faith, culture, and life; and
- that "excellence" is defined by and achieved through the growth and holistic development – spiritual, intellectual/academic, social, emotional, and physical – of the individual within the context of community.

The best way in which Catholic schools can practice these beliefs is by operating Catholic school ministry and its extra-curricular activities in their preferred form – in person – whenever possible. Therefore, as early as July 1, 2021, Catholic school ministry and its extra-curricular activities will resume with new health and safety precautions in place, unless there is a resurgence of the pandemic and/or canonical and/or civil authorities require(s) closure.

The Catholic school will take every precaution possible to protect students and adults. Heightened protocols related to cleaning and sanitization are in place. Expectations of proper handwashing, physical distancing to the extent possible, and minimal sharing of resources to the extent possible will be enforced. Guidance from IDOE, CDC, and local authorities will be employed as best fits our Catholic school community as determined by administration. A more comprehensive plan is (attached/included).

1. I understand that the School will make every reasonable effort to provide a safe environment, including specific measures to guard against the spread of a contagion such as Covid-19. I accept that no matter the precautions taken by the School there is no way to fully assure that such measures will be successful in preventing injury, exposure to a contagion, or illness. I understand that by allowing my child to participate in Catholic school ministry and its extra-curricular activities, there is some assumed risk on behalf of students and their parents.
2. I will provide my student the necessary equipment, resources, and supports needed for participation. These needed materials will be communicated by the teacher(s), coach(es), and/or moderator(s). I will also reinforce to my student the need to maintain all expected protocols related to his/her health and that of others.
3. I understand that parish and school leaders, united in the mission of the Catholic Church, work collaboratively to make sure shared spaces are as safe and secure as possible for participants in all ministries.