

Messages from the School Office



- STAR test results are going home today with students in grades 1-8.
- Grandparent/Special Person Book Fair is Wednesday, October 8th from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Please enter the school building through the 2nd grade doors.
- Monday, October 13th – NO SCHOOL – Columbus Day
- Send in your Trunk or Treat money as soon as possible it is selling out quickly.

Student of the Month



September



Congratulations to the following students:

Philip Sekyiamah	K1	Jack Jagielski	K2
Valerie O'Malley	1A	Adrian Sekyiamah	1B
Dominic Sottile	2A	Joshua Zorzi	2B
Christopher Piccone	3A	Gianna Childs	3B
Bethany Sekyiamah	4A		
Ryan Stannard	5A	Mia Maccario	5B
Gianna D'Amico	6A	Carlie Nees	6B
Zac Lawrence	7A	Josephine Mazure	7B
Alexis Mullen	8A	Giovanna Arango	8B

ST. MARY HOUSE SYSTEM

Our proposal which was accepted by the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools was to *Strengthen Our Academic Community through a School Wide House System*. In our first year each grade picked a Saint or Servant of God as a model for them to follow throughout their time here at St Mary School. The patron follows the students through 8th grade and then it is passed on to the incoming Kindergarten. We have since changed that and assigned each grade a permanent Saint. This has helped our students have a better in-depth understanding of these role models who served our Lord.

In the subsequent years our teachers have created academic goals, which are grade equivalent, in all subject areas that relate to the information the students have learned about their patron. New goals are added and updated yearly as the students move through the grades. Each House also has their own House Flag and color.

As a school we have seen a rise in students obtaining honor roll and a decrease in the number of afterschool detentions. There is a more positive mood throughout the school which is fostered by our faculty and staff. Students are encouraged to earn individual points and House points in three categories: Service, School Pride, and Academics. There has been a rise in the number of points that each House has earned over the last several years.

The individual student who earns the most points in their House each month has breakfast with me to celebrate their accomplishment. I look forward to celebrating with our House Point winners this year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Patricia Mancuso
Principal

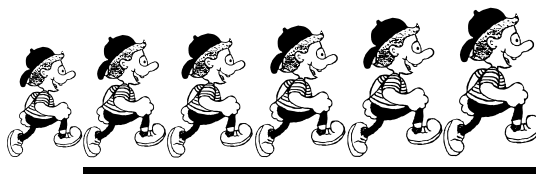


HOUSE POINTS WINNERS 2025-2026

House of Saint Patrick	Penelope Meehan
House of Saint Valentine	Jacob Lisman
House of Saint Joseph	Keira Wardwell
House of Saint Francis	Darlin Qato
House of Saint Theresa	Kathleen Romano
House of Saint Elizabeth	Raegan Miller
House of Saint Dominic	Josiah Beckford
House of Saint Joan of Arc	Ella O'Brien
House of Maria Esperanza	Christopher Onwuegbule

The division winners for highest points:

Division 1	House of Saint Patrick
Division 2	House of Saint Elizabeth
Division 3	House of Saint Joan of Arc



Race for Education GOAL UPDATE!

WE ARE \$20,000 AWAY from reaching our \$40,000 goal!

If we reach our goal—we will be PIE-ING our principal, Mrs. Mancuso, Our Lady of Peace Pastor, Fr. Sanjai, Seventh Grade teacher, Mr. Wolf, Sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Coffey, and Physical Education teacher, Mrs. Shannon!

Also if a class reaches 75% participation AND \$1500 in donations (you need to have BOTH) to get to Silly String a faculty or staff member.

Here is where classes stand:

Class	Percentage	Amount Raised
K1	43%	\$1,395
K2	38%	\$1,590
1A	37%	\$850
1B	50%	\$1,765
2A	35%	\$990
2B	62%	\$2,605
3A	25%	\$900
3B	14%	\$550
4A	28%	\$865
5A	37%	\$2,590
5B	21%	\$485
6A	18%	\$455
6B	30%	\$855
7A	22%	\$385
7B	29%	\$700
8A	25%	\$1,000
8B	20%	\$550
PK -3	30%	\$1,170
PK- 4	21%	\$1,120

St. Mary School PTA
Beef & Beer Basket Auction
Featuring the band
High Noone

When: Saturday November 15th

7pm-11pm

Where: St. Mary School Assumption Hall

\$30 per ticket

Must be 21+ to attend

Please fill out the form below and send in with payment for tickets!

Please send in ticket form by 10/31

Any questions please reach out to pta@smarys.org

Name: _____

Number of Tickets: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Request a table? Yes or No

Childs Grade: _____ A or B



October 7, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As the seasons and daylight savings time changes, so does our school uniform. Our “Cold Weather Uniform” will be required on **Monday, November 3rd** for all students. This uniform consists of the following:

Please note that the knit golf shirt is part of the warm weather uniform and is not to be worn after Oct. 31st.

Girls (K to 2)

- Blue and white plaid jumper
- Light blue long or short sleeve blouse, peter pan collar
- Navy blue pants (optional) can be worn with peter pan blouse and navy blue SMS vest
- White or navy blue tights, knee socks, or crew socks (**at least two inches above the top of the shoe**)
- Plain Black flat rubber soled shoe with either a tie, buckle, or strap. (No slip on shoes) Solid, black Vans are permitted. These may be purchased at your favorite store.
- Navy blue cardigan sweater (optional)
- Belts are optional but if chosen must be plain blue, black, or brown.

Girls (3 to 8)

- Blue and white plaid wrap around skort – **skort is to be fingertip length**
- Light blue long or short sleeve blouse with button down collar
- Navy blue pants/slacks (optional) can be worn with blouse and navy blue SMS vest
- Grades 3-5: White, black or navy blue tights (tights are not to be torn), knee socks, or crew socks (**at least two inches above the top of the shoe**)
- Grades 6-8: **mandatory** white, black or navy tights must be worn
- Navy blue vest with St. Mary School Monogram or cardigan sweater (required). Long sleeve v neck sweater optional.
- Plain black flat rubber soled shoe with either a tie, buckle, or strap. (No slip on shoes) Solid black laced Vans are permitted. These may be purchased at your favorite store.

Boys (K to 8)

- Navy blue pants (straight leg – not hanging below the waist)
- Belt – plain colored (grades 3 and up only)
- Long/short sleeve shirt with light blue oxford button down collar.

- Navy blue vest with SMS monogram (required) Long sleeve v neck sweater optional.
- White, navy blue or black crew socks (**at least two inches above the top of the shoe**).
- Plain black sneakers (no color at all on sneakers) or black tie shoe (**high-top sneakers are not permitted**).
- Plaid tie (optional K-4)
- Navy/maroon/silver striped tie (grades 5 - 8) required.

Gym Uniform (Cold weather):

- T-shirt with Crusader logo or **white, blue or gray spirit wear t-shirt only (individual team apparel is not permitted)**
- Navy blue cotton sweat pants. (**may be plain or any past or present style of spirit wear sweat pants**)
- Navy blue sweat shirt (no hood) with Crusader logo - optional

Cheer shorts and yoga pants are not permitted. Students are to wear school appropriate athletic sneakers. Solid colored/plain navy blue, black, gray or white crew socks may be worn. **For support and safety, sneakers must be laced properly.**

All items for the uniform are available at Flynn and O'Hara Uniform Company (1-800-441-4122) since that is the only way to be sure that the elements that make up our uniform match. The NJ store is located at 2240 W. Marlton Pike Cherry Hill, NJ 08002. Spirit wear is sold through the school in the beginning of the school year.

General Appearance

Student's hair shall be neat and well groomed. No fad haircuts are permitted i.e., extreme color (bleached, green, blue, red etc.hair coloring or highlights), spikes, etc. **Student's hair should be above the eyebrows so as not to hinder their eyesight and boys' hair is to be above the eyebrows, above the ears, and well maintained/groomed. It should be above the collar.** Girl's hair accessories should not be excessive. Headbands are to be simple and not distracting. Large bows are not permitted above grade 2. Boys are not permitted to wear earrings. **Nail polish is not permitted. For safety reasons, artificial type nails are also not permitted.** Make-up is also not allowed in school. Jewelry is limited to small post earrings, in the ear lobe. Necklaces and bracelets are not permitted. A chain with a religious symbol is permitted. **No jewelry may be worn on gym day or science lab day for safety. Hoodies/sweatshirts are not permitted to be worn during the day with the regular school uniform.** If your child gets cold easily, cardigans and SMS fleece jackets are available for purchase at Flynn & O'Hara. **Dress code notices will be sent home for repeated offenses.**

NUT Card/ Dress Down Days

Students generally conduct themselves in a manner similar to the way they dress and groom. Therefore, even on dress down days, short shorts, spaghetti strap tank tops, ripped jeans, shirts with inappropriate slogans, and make up are not permitted. Shirts and dresses must have sleeves. The mid-section must be completely covered. **Yoga pants or leggings without a long shirt are not permitted.** Open back shoes, flip flops, sandals or any open toe shoes are not permitted for the safety of our students. Shorts may not be worn during our winter months – November thru March. If a NUT Card is used on a student's scheduled gym day, the student must wear sneakers to participate in gym. Hoodies are permitted on NUT card days but for safety reasons cannot be worn during gym class. If shorts or skirts are worn during warm weather uniform days, shorts must be fingertip length. NUT cards may only be used during the winter months. If students are not appropriately dressed we may call home for parent to bring suitable clothing or provide a uniform piece. **NUT CARDS MAY NOT BE USED ON DAYS SCHEDULED WITH MASS OR SPECIAL EVENTS.** Birthday NUT cards may only be worn during winter months.

The school uniform requirements are in our Student/Parent Handbook on our website. The complete uniform is required for all students. When our students are dressed properly in their school uniform they reflect order in their appearance, which brings about order in their thinking and learning. We thank you in advance for your cooperation with this policy.



October 7, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you are aware, the Cold Winter Uniform will begin on Thursday, November 1st. For boys in grades 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th this consists of navy blue trousers, long, or short sleeve light blue oxford shirts with button down collar, vest, and the navy/maroon/silver striped tie.

If you wish to place an order for a tie through school, please complete the form below and return no later than Tuesday, October 21st to the main office, attention Mrs. Morales. The cost of the tie is **\$22.00**. No tie orders will be accepted after this date.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Patricia Mancuso
Principal

TIE ORDER

_____ Number of ties

_____ Amount Enclosed (make checks payable to St. Mary School)

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ A B

St. Mary School

Vintage

Daddy/Daughter Dance



Get your poodle skirts, saddle shoes, red lipsticks, and neck scarfs ready!

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 30, 2026
ASSUMPTION HALL



PRESENTED BY

St. Mary School PTA

BOO GRAMS

SPREAD SOME
SPOOKY SPIRIT

SEND BOO- GRAMS TO STUDENTS, THEIR FRIENDS,
TEACHERS & ANYONE ON OUR AWESOME STAFF!

\$2- PER GRAM
\$30- PER CLASS

EACH GRAM WILL INCLUDE ASSORTED
HALLOWEEN CANDY &
UTZ HALLOWEEN PRETZELS
PLEASE BE SURE TO SEND
ALL GRAM REQUESTS
IN BY OCTOBER 17TH
WILL BE DELIVERED OCTOBER 31ST



BOO



OH HEY



TO: _____

FROM: _____

TEACHER: _____



TO: _____

FROM: _____

TEACHER: _____

SPOOKY



AND SWEET

TO: _____

FROM: _____

TEACHER: _____



TO: _____

FROM: _____

TEACHER: _____



TO: _____

FROM: _____

TEACHER: _____



TO: _____

FROM: _____

TEACHER: _____



TO: _____

FROM: _____

TEACHER: _____



TO: _____

FROM: _____

TEACHER: _____



TO: _____

FROM: _____

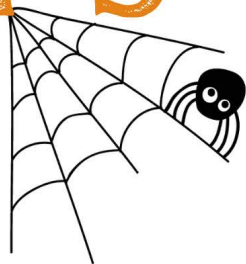
TEACHER: _____

ST MARY'S

TRUNK

OR

TREAT



OCT 24TH

6:00-8:30 PM



★ DJ, PHOTOBOOTH, CONTESTS AND MORE!

ATTENDANCE LIMITED TO ST MARY'S SCHOOL
NO ENTRANCE "ON FOOT"

PRESALE WHOLE PIZZA PIE & 4 WATERS- \$20
ADDITIONAL FOOD SOLD NIGHT OF



RAIN DATE OCT 25TH

.....

FAMILY NAME _____

OLDEST CHILD HOMEROOM _____

CAR TICKETS (2 AD/4 CHILDREN) _____ X \$25=_____

ADDITIONAL TRICK OR TREATERS _____ X \$5= _____

PRESALE PIZZA PIE/WATER _____ X \$20= _____



TOTAL ENCLOSED = _____

ST MARY'S TRUNK OR TREAT INFO

Oct 24, 6:00PM-8:30PM, side parking lot

ALCOHOL IS NOT PERMITTED!!

Once in parking lot no car will be permitted to leave until event is over! Please follow PTA for parking!

Prizes for Best Decorated Trunk and Best Costume prizes

Enjoy DJ, Photo booth, and additional food for sale

EVERY CHILD MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A
SUPERVISING ADULT WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE
FOR THEIR BEHAVIOR



Event Schedule:



Arrival 6:00-6:15, trunks decorated by 6:30pm

Trunk or Treating starts at 6:30PM

Trunk Breakdown: 8:15PM



ST. MARY SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN MONROE TOWNSHIP HALLOWEEN PARADE



September 30, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

St. Mary School will once again be participating in the Monroe Township Halloween Parade on **Saturday, October 18, 2025.**

We will also once again have a float for the parade. Thank you to the Thomas family for generously donating their trailer and help for the parade. We are encouraging our families to walk together with us in the parade alongside our float. In addition to our float, we will be carrying banners, handing out postcards and candy.

Our theme: **“YO HO-HO—A Crusader’s Life for Me”!!!**

Any child/parent who wishes to participate in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade we are asking to please wear **ST. MARY SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR** and we will be providing a Halloween accessory for students to wear. Because we will be performing in front of the judges, **we ask that all parents walking in the parade please dress in the theme SMS Spirit wear as well.**

Parents/Guardians, you will need to walk with your child during the parade or have a designated adult with them AT ALL TIMES. It will help keep all the students together and safe and then we will know they are picked up at the end. The parade ends at the Pfeiffer Center after we perform in front of the judges. We hope that families will join us and walk together in the parade. **Our float this year WILL NOT be one that the students are able to sit on—so everyone will be walking behind the float this year.**

The parade begins at 7 pm and we are required to be in place anywhere from a half hour to an hour prior. If you plan to participate, please plan accordingly. We walk along Main Street in Williamstown and those walking will need to be able to walk the entire length of the parade. **We will meet at the CVS parking lot, Main St. and Black Horse Pike, no later than 6:15 pm.**

If you wish to participate, please fill out the form below and return it to school with your child by **Thursday, October 16th.** Upon arrival at the CVS parking lot, ask where St. Mary School section is located. **Any questions contact Jackie Kern at advancementoffice@smarys.org**

RETURN ONLY THE BOTTOM PORTION PLEASE—KEEP THE TOP FOR YOU PLANNING INFORMATION!

.....
**YES I/We would like to participate in the Monroe Township Halloween Parade
on Saturday, October 18, 2025 Rain Date: Sunday, October 19, 2025**

<u>Child’s Name</u>	<u>Homeroom</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Parent/Guardian Contact Cell Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Email: _____

_____ **YES, I can donate a bag of candy to be handed out during the parade. If you are joining us in the parade please drop it off at the main office by Thursday, October 16 so we can be assured that we have enough candy. You may also bring it directly to the parade that night and have your family hand it out as we are walking. In years past, we needed a large amount of candy. If you have a bag or plastic pumpkin you can use to carry candy to hand out please feel free to bring that along and we can fill it with candy.**



SAINT MARY'S CRUSADERS

BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

FOR BOYS GRADES 4TH - 8TH

**TRY OUTS: NOVEMBER
2025**

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

-  **VARSITY: 7TH / 8TH
GRADE**
-  **JUNIOR
VARSITY: 5TH /
6TH GRADE**
-  **4TH GRADE**

SIGN UPS/REGISTRATION:

**October 1st to
October 17th**





SAINT MARY'S CRUSADERS

BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

FOR GIRLS GRADES 4TH - 8TH

**TRY OUTS: NOVEMBER
2025**

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW



**VARSITY: 7TH / 8TH
GRADE**



**JUNIOR VARSITY:
5TH / 6TH GRADE**



4TH GRADE

SIGN UPS/REGISTRATION:

**October 1st to
October 17th**





Champion Coach Note

Forming Champion Coaches Since 2006

Volume 25, Issue 6 | October 7, 2025

Building Relationships

Relationships are the second element of *Play Like a Champion's* GROW approach, but that doesn't mean they should be viewed as secondary. In fact, when athletes are asked what they remember *most* about their youth sports experience, they almost always speak about relationships. The friendships we create and the bonds we form over a season have a remarkable impact on our enjoyment, our personal growth, and even our athletic development.



In the video above, *Play Like a Champion's* Kristin Sheehan reminds us to pay attention to the relationships on our team. How do you relate as a coach to the athletes on your team? How do you help them relate to each other?

This week, ask yourself what you've done to build relationships on your team. Focusing on this aspect of your team will yield benefits for you and your athletes in both the days ahead and the years to come.

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."
~ Proverbs 17:17

Sharing Notes



We encourage the administrators and coaches who receive these weekly notes to forward them to the coaches, parents and athletes in their league or school. But you can also add your own message, reminder or inspiration to the note.

What does this look like? New *Play Like a Champion* partner Benedictine Schools of Richmond (VA) offers a great example of how to use these notes to offer encouragement, highlight key points, and shoutout coaches

who demonstrate the culture you're working to create. Kudos to Athletic Director Fran Pochily for the example below:

*Happy Saturday! I write to share with you the first **Play Like a Champion Coach Note** (see below). Thank you again for your attendance at the workshop and if you missed it, don't worry! We will be setting up another session in the next few months once I have all of our winter and spring coaches in place. I have included head coaches only on this email, so please feel free to share this with your assistants.*

You can continue to look for these emails from me weekly or bi-weekly. I encourage you to read them and incorporate what you learn into your practices/games/team meetings for the week.

Suggestion for this week: *Take a few moments with your team to have a "circle talk." The power of coming together as a group and feeling the trust and support to share thoughts and feelings builds team camaraderie, helps to address and work through conflicts, and reminds us that everyone has an important place on our team and value to bring to the group.*

JEDI CHOMPP Shoutout!

I know ALL of you are demonstrating and modeling our leadership traits everyday, but just to share a few examples I saw this week:

HUMILITY - Coach Kurt von Barga: *In last night's shutout at Matoaca (CONGRATS!), at a timeout, I watched Kurt realize that some of his players didn't have water and the managers were tied up, so he RAN to grab water and brought it back for his guys while he discussed their next play. In that moment, Kurt's first instinct wasn't to bark at someone else to grab the water, it was to get it himself. As a head coach who manages a lot of players, coaches and staff members, he showed true humility in that brief moment.*

EMPATHY - Coach Annie Smith: *Annie mentioned to me in passing that she had met with a parent and player who had been struggling with some family hardships but who wasn't ready to share her experience with the team. Annie listened and offered support for the student and let her know that she was there for her through a difficult time.*

*If you witness another coach deserving of a shoutout- let me know!
Have a great week! I'm here if you need me!*

*Go Gators! Go Cadets!
Fran*

A Prayer for Coaches

Lord, help me to be for these children a model of faith and love. Through my words and actions, may I show them what it means to be a Christian and how to live that faith through a participation in sports. May they know love through my caring for them personally and taking the time to help them

grow in skill and virtue. Help me to be truly humble, that I might not be tempted by the pressure to win or to coach for my own sake, but always strive to do what is best for those you have entrusted to my care. Grant me the graces I need to help each of these children reach their absolute best in sport and in life, and give me the strength to remain steadfast in this commitment through the days and weeks to come. Amen.



Play Like a Champion Today Educational Series

PO Box 72, Notre Dame, IN 46556 | information@playlikeachampion.org
www.playlikeachampion.org

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