

# Messages from the School Office



- School Choir practice scheduled for tomorrow is cancelled. The next practice will be held on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> - **12:15 pm dismissal** – Faculty Meeting (K-8 Only)
- STAR Testing is scheduled for the week of January 12<sup>th</sup>.



January 6, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! I hope that you enjoyed the holiday season with your family and friends. 2026 is upon us and we have many exciting things to look forward to over the next few months.

We welcome Mrs. Elena Amigot Marzo to our school as our new Spanish Teacher. Mrs. Amigot comes to us with varied experiences and we look forward to her sharing her knowledge of Spanish with our students.

The plans for Catholic Schools Week are being finalized and will be posted in next Tuesday's weekly communication.

In accordance with the Diocese of Camden Office of Youth and Child Protection, as of January 2026, Virtus training must be completed every three years. When your Virtus training is due to expire, you will receive an email from Virtus with instructions and a deadline to complete the online course. After completing the training, please email confirmation to Ann Marie Morales at [mainoffice2@smarys.org](mailto:mainoffice2@smarys.org).

I wish you peace and happiness in 2026! Thank you again for all the treats and kind wishes for Christmas!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mancuso

# Student of the Month

## December 2025



**Congratulations to the following students:**

Liliana Gordon	K1	Olivia Dudek	K2
Margaret Ritter	1A	Jasmine Leone	1B
Timothy Davis	2A	Julian Pagano	2B
Lincoln Mullen	3A	Cayden Crosse	3B
Austin Loser	4A		
Keegan Dussell	5A	Stella Leopardi	5B
Nathan Trail	6A	Luciana Mauriello	6B
Ava Canders	7A	Jenna Lyons	7B
Colden Anderson	8A	Michael West	8B



## HOUSE POINTS WINNERS 2025 – 2026

House of Saint Patrick	Elle Wooden
House of Saint Valentine	Louisa Dougherty
House of Saint Joseph	Annie McHugh
House of Saint Francis	Joseph Ritter
House of Saint Theresa	Chloe Scheiblein
House of Saint Elizabeth	Mark West
House of Saint Dominic	Michael Falasca
House of Saint Joan of Arc	Ella Beltran
House of Servant Maria Esperanza	Vincent Bottino

### **The division winners for highest points**

Division 1	House of Saint Patrick and House of Saint Joseph (Tie)
Division 2	House of Saint Francis
Division 3	House of Saint Dominic



St. Mary School Presents the  
Daddy/Special Person & Daughter

# SOCK HOP CARNIVAL!

30 January, 2026

Free Carnival games  
with ticket purchase

Raffles

DJ/Dancing

**Assumption Hall 6:00pm  
to 9:00pm**

Reservations:  
See Attached Page



Great Food and Fun for All!

St. Mary School Presents the  
Daddy/Special Person & Daughter

# SOCK HOP CARNIVAL!

30 January, 2026

\$25.00 Per Adult      \$15.00 Per Child

Please detach and return to the main office no later than January 23, 2026.

No Tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets will be sent home with your child on January 28 or 29, 2026.

Detach Here:

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Parent/Special Person Attending Name & Phone Number:

Child(s) Name(s) and Homeroom(s):

Total Amount Enclosed:

# PhotoVision

## St. Mary School Winter/Spring Sport Picture Schedule

**Location: K2 Classroom**

Date: **Saturday, January 24, 2025**

Start Time: **9:00 AM**

**Please note: If your student is interested in signing up for**

**Track in the Spring. They may come for the picture dressed in their gym uniform.**

**Please see the next page for ordering instructions**

Time	Team Name
9:00 AM	Cheer Minis Grades 1&2
9:10 AM	Cheer Minis Grade K
9:20 AM	Cheer Varsity
9:30 AM	Cheer JV
9:40 AM	Track
9:50 AM	Basketball Intramural Red Grades 2&3
10:00 AM	Basketball Intramural Blue Grades 2&3
10:10 AM	Basketball Intramural Green Grades K&1
10:20 AM	Basketball Intramural Yellow Grades K&1
10:30 AM	Basketball Cadet Grades 3&4
10:40 AM	Basketball JV Grade 5
10:50 AM	Basketball JV Grade 6
11:00 AM	Basketball Varsity Grade 7
11:10 AM	Basketball Varsity Grade 8
11:20 AM	Baseball Grades 5-8

# SPORTS PICTURE DAY IS SATURDAY, JANUARY 24TH

## HOW TO ORDER PICTURES:

- Visit <https://www.teamphotonetwork.com/track/e.aspx?2390129-81048-4BE1FF8475>
- Choose your team (your team is listed where your game/practice is and coach or team #).
- Choose your category (Team & Division)
- Enter your **child's** first & last name, then click **“Continue”**
- Make your product selections by clicking **“Add to Cart”**
- Enter the customizations required.
- You can then click on ‘Continue Working’ to choose more items. You can also click ‘Checkout’ if you are finished ordering, or ‘Order for Another Individual’.

When you are ready to ready to checkout, please create an account, checkout as a guest, or complete your purchase using PayPal.

Then enter your billing & shipping address (please note that your orders will be shipped direct to you), and your payment information.

Once you are done, click **“Complete Order”**

Please ensure that you receive the email with your confirmation (with Order ID Number).

**We look forward to seeing you on picture day!**

Text: 856-308-5461

[PhotoVisionInc@gmail.com](mailto:PhotoVisionInc@gmail.com)



## ***St. Mary's Catholic School- Vineland Veterans Home Collection***

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week this year, we will be living out our Service motto by supporting the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home to honor the men and women who have served our country. All items are stocked in their Red, White, and Blue store, where residents can shop free of charge.

We will be collecting the following **new** items:

- Body wash- scents that can be used for men or women
- Deodorant- scents that can be for men or women
- Tissues (Boxes)
- Colored Pencils and/or Colored Markers
- Adult Coloring books (easier to color pictures)
- Large print word search book
  
- Diabetic Socks and/or Socks with non-slip tread on bottoms
- Sweatshirts & Sweatpants (S – 5XL)
- Button-down cardigans (S-5XL)
- Pre-shave, Aftershave, and Cologne for men; Perfume for women
- Lip Balm
- Electric razors
- Denture adhesive and Denture Cleaning Tablets
- Suspenders and Belts- larger sizes
- Undershirts (white) sizes S-5XL
- Batteries (new only: AA, AAA, and C)
- Refreshments- individually wrapped (Please check expiration dates)
  - Tastykakes, Chips, Pretzels
- **Gift Cards**
  - Wal-Mart, Target, Visa, Amazon

**Monetary donations.** Cash or check (**NJVMH of Vineland**) These monies go towards trips out to restaurants, events, etc.

**Please send in donations by *Thursday, January 29, 2026.***

*Thank you for your help!*



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**MAY 8, 2026  
FROM 6-8PM**

**For our First**  
*Mother/Special “Motherly”*  
*Person and Son Dance!*

For those interested in being part of the planning committee please join our GroupMe by scanning the QR code or go to:

[groupme.com/join\\_group/111980391/BG6G2EFJ](https://groupme.com/join_group/111980391/BG6G2EFJ)

Or contact Kari Janisse:

[YouthMinisterKari@gmail.com](mailto:YouthMinisterKari@gmail.com)

Our first planning meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 7th at 6pm in the St. Mary School’s Science Lab.  
(Come in the 8th grade doors.)





# Happy Birthday!



Does your child have a birthday coming up?

We want to make it extra special!

Wish your child a happy birthday on our screens around the school!

\$5 Each

Please fill out the form below and send it back **a week before** you wish to have your message appear.

**\*We will take dates in advance\***

Any questions? Reach out to Kate McDermott at [pta@smarys.org](mailto:pta@smarys.org)

September Birthdays & Summer Birthdays accepted as well!

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Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of message: \_\_\_\_\_

Message:

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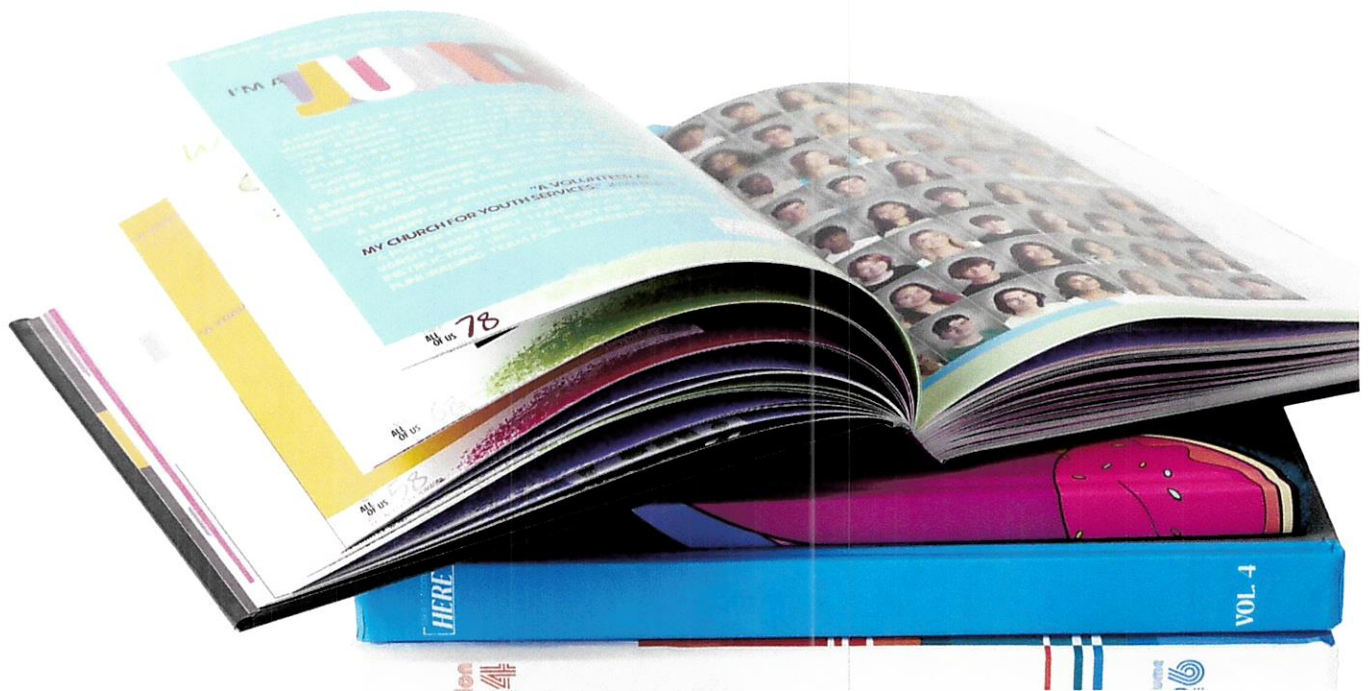
# COUNTLESS AMAZING MEMORIES. ONE ICONIC YEARBOOK.



## TO ORDER:

- Scan the QR Code
- [jostens.com/btsyrbk](https://jostens.com/btsyrbk)
- 1 (877) 767-5217

**NOW \$38.00**



Yearbook

\$38.00

**Share your student's photos with the yearbook staff to be featured in the yearbook more.**

1



Open your phone's camera and scan this code.

Or visit [photos.jostens.com/uploadspics](https://photos.jostens.com/uploadspics)

2

Upload your favorite photos from the year.

3

Tag students for the yearbook staff.

*Flexible Payment options are available at checkout.  
Taxes, service fees and delivery fees will be added, if applicable.*



# Champion Coach Note

Forming Champion Coaches Since 2006

Volume 25, Issue 17 | January 6, 2026

## Re-Engineering Youth Sports

When James Naismith invented the sport of basketball in December 1891, he was simply trying to solve a problem at the YMCA Training School in Springfield, MA; he needed an indoor sport for the harsh Northeast winter. Naismith had limited resources, so he used a soccer ball and two peach baskets, taking attributes from sports such as lacrosse, soccer, rugby, and a game from his childhood called duck on a rock. His new sport invented, Naismith then spent the final 48 years of his life *changing* basketball. In fact, today's basketball marks quite the departure from the original, when players could not dribble the ball, each score was worth 1 point, and play stopped after each score to retrieve the ball from an enclosed basket. Further adaptations made the game more enjoyable while opening it up to more participants.\*



We often think of today's youth and high school sports as a finished product, constrained by the structure or rules that have always been in place. Instead, *Play Like a Champion* encourages coaches and administrators to consider the intended outcomes and then engineer our sports and programs to meet those needs. [In the video above](#), *Play Like a Champion's* Peter Piscitello shares the concepts behind what has been called **Competitive Engineering or Sport System Re-Design (SSRD)**.

What does this look like? *Champion* coaches know that participation is at the core of the youth sports experience. It's through playing that young athletes have the opportunity to GROW and develop. Competitive engineering takes a **desired outcome** such as participation and tailors factors like **facilities, equipment, rules** and **roles** to maximize the outcome. This could mean smaller teams (more playing time), portable goals at practice (more drills, less idle time) or modified equipment that offers more kids a chance to learn the fundamentals (lighter volleyball, smaller basketball). In high school, this could mean developing an intramural program for kids who don't make the varsity team. It could also mean changing the equipment or rules to allow access for young athletes who are disabled, an idea that has had a tremendous impact in programs like [Special Olympics Unified Sports](#).

There are plenty of examples of this concept already in-action. We recommend checking out the book [Re-Designing Youth Sport](#) by John McCarthy, Lou Bergholz

and Megan Bartlett or watching this session from the 2025 Project Play Summit called [Re-Engineer Competition for Retention](#). Both further explain the concept and provide a myriad of examples.

Re-thinking a given sport can range from making small changes at a given practice to undertaking significant rules or program changes over several years. The important thing is to approach sport with an eye toward developing young athletes and an open mind. Rather than "this is the way it's always been done", get creative and rethink the dynamics of your program to achieve the outcomes you desire. Like James Naismith, you might even end up creating a brand new sport for the future.

*\*[Click here](#) to learn more about the invention of basketball from the very place it was invented, the now Springfield College.*

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*"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." ~ Romans 12:2*

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## Happy New Year!

Wishing everyone across the *Play Like a Champion* community a Happy New Year! May your year be filled with many blessings and great joy. We can't wait to see what 2026 has in store!

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## A Prayer for Coaches

Loving Father, I invite you into my life today and make myself available to you. Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself by seeking your will and becoming a living example of your love in the world. Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change in order for me to carry out the mission and experience the joy you have imagined for my life. Inspire me to live the Catholic faith in ways that are dynamic and engaging. Show me how to best get involved in the life of my parish. Make our community hungry for best practices and continuous learning. Give me courage when I am afraid, hope when I am discouraged, and clarity in times of decision. Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church to become all you imagined it would be for the people of our times. Amen.



*Prayer by Anne Stricherz, Sport & Spirituality Newsletter*

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