



August, 2026

Dear St. Mary School Families,

Welcome back to a new school year at St. Mary School! It is with great joy that we welcome our returning families and extend a special greeting to those joining our school community for the first time. As we begin another year together, we are grateful for the opportunity to partner with you in nurturing your children's minds, hearts, and faith. Rooted in Gospel values, our mission is to provide a faith-filled, welcoming environment where every child is encouraged to grow spiritually, academically, and personally. Thank you for choosing St. Mary School and for entrusting us with your child's education. We look forward to a wonderful year of faith, learning, and community.

We have had several changes in teachers/staff and responsibilities. Mrs. Cole has resigned from her position at St. Mary School. We are grateful for her dedication to our students and school community and wish her God's blessings and every success in her future endeavors. Ms. Brino has graciously agreed to take over duties as Vice Principal. Mrs. Arrowood will be moving to 4B. Mrs. Black will be the aide in K1 and Mrs. Guers will continue to be the aide in K2.

Please join me in extending a warm St. Mary welcome to our newest faculty and staff members!

We are pleased to welcome **Mr. Raymond Moffa** as our Physical Education teacher. Mr. Moffa brings many years of experience teaching physical education in the public school system, and we are excited to have him join our school community.

We also welcome **Ms. Dominae Worstall**, who will be teaching in classroom 8A. Ms. Worstall comes to St. Mary with previous teaching experience at another diocesan school and a strong commitment to Catholic education.

We are delighted to welcome **Mrs. Elisabeth Simon** as our 4A teacher. Mrs. Simon brings extensive teaching and administrative experience and, as a St. Mary alumni parent, is already very familiar with our school and its mission.

Mr. Daniel Carter will be joining us as our Technology Teacher. Mr. Carter brings many years of teaching experience along with extensive knowledge and expertise in computer systems and technology. We are excited to have him share his talents with our students.

Mrs. Mary Sanger will be joining us as our First Grade Aide. Mrs. Sanger is an active member of Our Lady of Peace Parish and has faithfully served the parish for many years through Children's Liturgy on Sundays, Vacation Bible School and as a Religious Education teacher. Her love for children and commitment to our Catholic community make her a wonderful addition to our school.

Finally, we welcome **Mrs. Sandra Randazzi** as our Spanish teacher. Mrs. Randazzi also teaches Spanish at St. Michael School and brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm for language instruction.

Throughout the summer we have been busy preparing for another amazing year. Over the break the school has been deeply cleaned, several classrooms and hallways have been painted. The gym floor has

been repainted, new air conditioners installed in part of the building and new partitions have been installed in the upper grade girl's bathroom. With the assistance of Deacon Mike, we received a large grant that allowed us to continue with our safety measures around the property. We now have bollards installed at doorway entrances and gates/safety cages have been placed on electrical/gas meters outside of the building. Some door handles have been replaced and interior doors leading to the exit doors have been secured with new handles and key fobs. Our state security funds enabled us to purchase updated cameras.

Our school year will begin on Tuesday, September, 8th at 8:15AM. All grades (K-8) will report this day. Preschool opening information was sent home directly to the preschool families.

Tuesday, September 8	All Grades	12:15 DISMISSAL – NO LUNCH NO BEFORE/AFTER CARE
Wednesday, September 9	All Students	FULL DAY OF SCHOOL – LUNCH SERVED, BEFORE/AFTER CARE BEGINS

When the students arrive on their first day of school, Grades K-4 will report directly to Assumption Hall where their teachers will assemble the classes. The children will participate in a brief prayer service before moving to their classrooms. Parents who drop off their K-4 children are invited to stay for the service. Students in grades 5-8 will go directly to their homeroom and will gather in prayer in their classrooms.

We ask that all parents driving their children to school, follow the car line in the morning and drop the students off as directed by the teachers and staff. As you enter the parking lot during arrival time, you will follow the car line that goes to the 8th grade doors or the one that will allow you to drop off at the gym doors. Please do not get out of your cars when dropping off the children. There are an exceptional number of car riders and we will need to keep the lines moving. Bus riders will enter through the side gym door. Starting on Wednesday, September 9th, all children will report directly to their homeroom when they enter the building. New students and kindergarten students will be escorted to their homeroom.

New parents and parents of children in grades K-3 are asked to place a name badge on your child/children for at least the first week of school. It is helpful to include the bus number or write "Car Line" to avoid confusion at dismissal. For Monroe Township buses, you will receive a bus pass in late August from the district listing the location and time of pick up only if you registered your child on the Monroe Township website for transportation – <https://www.monroetwp.k12.nj.us> You can expect that the buses will run late the first few weeks of school as the drivers become familiar with the routes. Please be sure that your child carries his/her bus pass in the front pocket of their book bag for teacher or driver reference. Also be sure that your child knows how they are going home each day (bus, car rider, or After Care). **Before School Care and After School Care will not be offered the first day of school. Both programs will begin on Wednesday, September 9th.** After School Care and Before School Care registration forms can be found on our website. You must submit a registration form in order for your child to attend the programs. Our After Care Program will be held in Marian Hall. Additional information concerning that program will come from Mrs. Audio when you register your child. Due to the number of students we serve in this program, parents must register a full week in advance before their child(ren) can attend After Care.

Our school nurses will be checking in medication during the first two days of school. They will be at a table outside the main office door on Carroll Ave. from 8am to 9am on September 8th and 9th. Please bring your completed paperwork and medication order form along with the medication.

For car rider dismissal, grades K and 1 will exit through the gym doors, grades 2, 3, and 4 will exit through the 2nd grade doors and grades 5-8 will exit through the 8th grade doors. When entering the parking lot for dismissal, **it is best to make an immediate left and park in the second or third row of cars.** If you are parked in the first row closest to the church, you will not be able to exit until we are totally finished with dismissal as there will be many students in that area. Please get out of your car and come forward to pick up your child. For the student's safety, your children will remain with the faculty until you walk forward. You are to come to your children; they will not come to you. It is preferred that you not park on Carroll Ave. for dismissal. Unless you are waiting for a sibling to dismiss, please move directly to your cars when your children exit the building. Dismissal is not a time for play; students are not to be running, jumping, playing on the grass or in the parking lot. Cars are to exit through the middle driveway of the parking lot as usual. Please note that the third driveway to exit the grounds will be for buses only. The parking area is to be exited immediately after dismissal. For the safety of our students and families, you must follow the correct traffic patterns, drive down the correct lanes, and do not cut through the lanes or the green lines near the exit. We will dismiss a few grades at a time, leaving time in between for cars to move safely out of the lot. Please be patient in the parking lot. Be sure to share dismissal procedures with anyone who might be picking up your child/ren (grandparents, babysitters).

All students will be issued a school Chromebook in the beginning of the year which will be kept in school. Expectations regarding the use of the technology will be sent home to parents from the teachers. Students are responsible for the care and safety of their assigned device.

If your child is absent for any reason, please be sure to call our absence line x250 and let us know the symptoms your child is experiencing. All absent students need to be called out of school for an absence by 9AM. Please request homework at that time. If your child will be late to school, please call the absence line as well. When you arrive late to school, accompany your child to the front door on Carroll Ave. and fill out a tardy slip which is in the drop off box located outside of the front door. **As per the handbook, any dismissal changes or absence notes will not be accepted by email.**

Kindergarten Meet and Greet is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2nd. Kindergarten parents have been sent a link through email to Sign Up Genius which allows you to choose a time to bring supplies, meet the teacher, and see the classroom. When you arrive, please enter the school through the 2nd grade doors.

For all other grades on the afternoon of Thursday, September 3rd you will receive an email with information regarding your child's homeroom teacher. If your email has changed over the summer, please email the school office with your new email address. **Please do not wait until September 3rd to let us know of a change of email address as it will be too late for us to get back to you. Email is the only way in which you will receive information regarding placement in class.** Our teachers have spent a great deal of time assessing the classes taking into account a variety of factors including academic performance, personalities, peer dynamics, learning styles and needs of our students in order to create a classroom environment that will, we hope, lead to a wonderful learning experience for your child. Your child's placement has been carefully determined after consideration of these factors and others. It is a very deliberate process and carefully balanced classroom communities have been created. Please respect the time and energy the teachers have put into the creation of these lists. I look for your confidence in the placement. Early requests for placement are taken into consideration but are not guaranteed. **The homeroom placement will not be changed. Please do not contact the school regarding the changing of homerooms. Placement will not be changed.**

PowerSchool is the student information system that we are now using. More information regarding access to the system will soon be forthcoming.

The Student/Parent Handbook has been updated and will soon be on the website. We ask that you be sure to read the updated handbook. Just a few reminders.....

- The section on the cafeteria explains our Nutri-Serve Program and how we are a part of the National Lunch Program which enables us to offer free and reduced lunch to those families who qualify. We do not want to jeopardize our participation in the program, so therefore, birthday celebrations must be done through Nutri-Serve only. They have a birthday celebration package that you can purchase to make your child's birthday fun. It is a program that follows the rule in which sugar is not the first ingredient. Treats from parents/guardians are not permitted. Information about birthday celebrations through Nutri-Serve can be found on our website. **We also ask that you do not bring in lunches for your child from outside vendors as this could jeopardize our participation in the National Lunch Program. The application for the participation in the Free and Reduced Lunch School Meals Program was emailed to you and is on the home page of our website.** Lunch prices for the 26-27 school year will be \$3.40 for students.
- Cell phones must be off and in school bags. If phones are found on a student and/or used during the school day, parents will need to pick it up from the school office and the child will be issued a detention. SMART watches, fitness monitors and other internet capable wrist devices are **NOT** permitted.
- Students are **not** permitted to wear hoodies or crew neck sweatshirts with the school uniform during the school day. Cardigans are optional and available for purchase at Flynn and O'Hara. In addition, we offer a Navy Blue Embroidered Fleece Jacket (approved to wear with the school uniform throughout the year) as well as a full zip up light weight jacket to wear with the uniform in the spring and fall only. Please note: this is in addition to the vest and can be purchased through PTA spirit wear. The spirit wear store will reopen in November. Follow us on the Facebook page St. Mary School PTA for updates on upcoming events.
- All students in grades 5-8 who participate in extra-curricular activities are expected to maintain adequate grades. Students are expected to maintain all grades above 75 in major subjects, with no NI or U grades in minor subjects. Students who fall below this expectation may become ineligible for extra-curricular activities.

Lunch will not be served on half days. .

If you would like to volunteer for lunch monitoring, room parent, library, sports etc.... please contact Mrs. Morales mainoffice2@smarys.org regarding fingerprinting and Virtus training.

The \$150 technology fee per child is going towards continuous updating/improving our technology and operating systems for both students and teachers, as well as tools to create safe and engaging learning for all students. This fee also allows for us to have a full -time computer/IT teacher on staff. The \$150.00 is included with your tuition payments. There is a flat \$50.00 supply fee for each grade level. That will be billed to your tuition account in October.

As parents/guardians you, along with your children, are a part of our faith community. I encourage you to adjust your schedules so that you are able to attend Saturday evening/Sunday mass. The times for mass at Our Lady of Peace Parish are: Saturday 4:00PM, Sunday 7:45AM, 9:30AM, 11:30PM and 6:00PM.

Thank you for taking the time to read through all of this information. We know there is a lot to take in as we begin a new school year! Please do not hesitate to reach out to our faculty or staff with any questions or concerns throughout the year. We are always happy to help.

This new school year brings with it the promise of new beginnings, meaningful friendships, exciting challenges, and many opportunities to live out our mission together. We look forward to sharing this journey with you and your children, and we are confident that, with God's grace and guidance, this will be a year filled with purpose, growth, and joy.

God Bless,

Mrs. Patricia Mancuso