



September 15, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to inform you about the upcoming Star Assessment which will be administered to all students in grades 1-8 on September 22 and September 24. The assessment will be administered during ELA and Math classes. To show how much students really know, it is important that students try their best. We encourage parents and children to read and talk about the test taking suggestions listed below.

Getting Ready...

- Get plenty of sleep the night before the test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.
- Eat a healthy breakfast. This will give your brain the energy it needs to do your very best.
- Come to school on time and with the tools that you need.
- Have a positive attitude.

Knowing What to Do...

- Read all of the directions and follow your teacher's instructions.
- Read the questions carefully and all of the possible answer choices. Remember that you are looking for the best answer choice.
- Try to eliminate some of the answer choices. Which are the ones that just do not make sense? Then choose your answer from the remaining choices.

Test results will be included in each student's permanent school record and a copy of the test results will be provided to parents/guardians. Students are encouraged to avoid absences on testing dates: September 22 (Reading) and September 24 (Math) and if at all possible to please schedule student appointments around those dates. Students will be required to make up any test session missed due to absence from school.

The Star assessment is just one of the important tools available to parents and educators to determine how well our school is helping students meet standards and grade level expectations. In every assessment, scores are only as meaningful as the effort students put into the tests. Encourage your child to take the test seriously and to give his or her best effort. Thank you for supporting your child and our school during the testing period.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Patricia Mancuso



HELP WANTED

TECH COORDINATOR/STEAM TEACHER

ST. MARY SCHOOL IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME DEDICATED AND ENTHUSIASTIC TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR / STEAM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS, AND MATHEMATICS) TEACHER TO JOIN OUR FAITH-FILLED EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- TEACHING CERTIFICATION
- PRIOR EXPERIENCE AS A TECHNOLOGY TEACHER, STEAM TEACHER, TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR, OR SIMILAR ROLE.
- EXPERIENCE SUPPORTING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS IN A SCHOOL SETTING.

INTERESTED CANDIDATES SHOULD SEND COVER LETTER/RESUME TO MRS. PATRICIA MANCUSO:
PRINCIPAL@SMARYS.ORG



IMPORTANT!

POWERSCHOOL TEXT MESSAGING OPT-IN

Dear Parents and Guardians,

St. Mary School now utilizes **SchoolMessenger** to send text messages directly to your mobile phone with important information, including school events, closings, safety alerts, emergency notifications, and other important school communications.

PLEASE NOTE: Texting will be used for various school communications as well as emergency notifications. We will also be utilizing Finals site texting as well for the same purposes. This allows us to have multiple methods of communications. We encourage you to please also continue to check emails and our Tuesday online and take home communication folder.

St. Mary School will also use SchoolMessenger for **phone calls** as well—this will be for **EMERGENCIES ONLY!**

To make sure you receive these messages, please opt in to our SMS text messaging service.

From the mobile phone number associated with your PowerSchool account, text “Y” or “Yes” to 67587.

Please complete the opt-in process by **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026**

TEST MESSAGE: We will send a **test** text message on **SEPTEMBER 24TH in the evening**. Please make sure you have opted in before this date.

IMPORTANT: Please Do Not Opt Out

You may see the option to reply **STOP** to SchoolMessenger texts. If you reply STOP, you will no longer receive text messages from the school.

If you want to continue receiving important and emergency school communications, **please do not reply STOP.**

Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. You may reply HELP for help or STOP to cancel.

PHONE MESSAGE: We will also test our emergency phone message on **SEPTEMBER 24th in the evening**.

If you have opted in for text messages but do not receive our test message and our phone test on September 24th please contact Jackie Kern (text messages) at advancementoffice@smarys.org or Melissa DiNunzio (phone messages) at mainoffice@smarys.org

Thank you for helping us make sure we can reach you when important information needs to be communicated.



Important Finalsite Information

This is a reminder to please go to your Finalsite Portal. Click or copy and paste in your browser this link <https://stmarysnj.fsenrollment.com/portal> in order to complete items on your checklist if you have not done so already. If you have more than one child in the school you need to do this for each of your students.

These checklist items include:

NEW: School Policies Consent Form

As well as Health Appraisal, Emergency Contact, Medical information and consent to treat, Photo upload, and Consent for routine medical care.

Thank you!

Back to School Night

September 15, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Back to School Night for Grades 5-8 will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2026 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Enter through Assumption Hall and you will be directed to your child's classroom. 8th grade parents/guardians will remain in the gym for the teacher presentation. All others will head to oldest child's classroom first. There will be more than one session offered so you will have the opportunity to see the teachers of all of your children. Uniform exchange will be available. The Assumption Hall Doors will open at 6:05 p.m. **This night is for parents only.**

Your attendance at Back to School Night is strongly encouraged. It is here that you will receive information about the upcoming school year and is also a great opportunity to meet your child's new teacher as well as to review classroom policies and expectations.

Thank you,
Mrs. Mancuso

FALL SPORTS PICTURE DAY is Sat, October 17th

Please see the next page for your scheduled time slot.

HOW TO ORDER PICTURES:

- Visit <https://www.teamphotonetwork.com/track/e.aspx?2493330-81048-8AD82C1360>.
- 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](tel:856-308-5461)

PhotoVisionInc@gmail.com

PhotoVision

St Marys Fall Sports Picture Schedule

K2 Classroom

Date: Saturday, October 17th

Start Time: 8:00 AM

Time	Team Name
8:00 AM	Varsity Cheer
8:15 AM	JV Cheer
8:30 AM	Co-ed Soccer
8:40 AM	Volleyball - Mrs. Quigley Coach
8:50 AM	Volleyball - Mr. Gunson Coach
9:00 AM	Volleyball - Mrs. O'Malley Coach
9:10 AM	Volleyball - Mrs. Decker/Sottile Coach
9:20 AM	Intramural Soccer - Red
9:30 AM	Intramural Soccer - Yellow
9:40 AM	Intramural Soccer - Blue
9:50 AM	Intramural Soccer - Purple
10:00 AM	Intramural Flag Football - Mr. Angelus Coach
10:10 AM	Intramural Flag Football - Mr. Janisse Coach

SMS

Mini Cheer

GRADES K - 2
2026 - 2027

IT'S REGISTRATION TIME!

REGISTRATION IS DUE NO LATER THAN **OCTOBER 12, 2026**

The Mini Cheer season will run from November 2026 to February 2027. Practices will be held on Saturdays for approximately one hour, sometime between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM in Assumption Hall. Specific practice times will be determined following registration.



In addition to practices,
MINI CHEERLEADERS WILL ALSO:



Perform at the
Winter Pep Rally
(during school hours)



Sideline Cheer at ONE
Home Basketball Game
(optional)



Perform/Compete in
ONE-TWO Winter Showcases
(mandatory)

All registration forms and fees will be due at the time of registration. The forms can be found on the St. Mary School website under the ACTIVITIES/ATHLETICS tab. Please note, the registration fee is \$75.00, which includes competition fees.



Any questions, please email me!

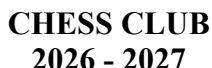
Kimmy Thomas – E: kimmythomas158@gmail.com



GO CRUSADERS



♥ FAITH • FRIENDSHIP • SPIRIT • TOGETHER WE SHINE ♥



We will be offering a Chess Club this year for students in grades K through 8th at St Mary School. Chess is a wonderful game to help build critical thinking and organizational skills. We will have checkers for our younger students. The students will meet on the **First and Third Thursday** of most months. **Please see dates for Chess Club below.** We need parent/guardian volunteers to help. Parents/guardians will need to be finger printed and Virtus trained.

Your student does not have to know how to play the games to join us. Learning how to play is part of the fun. The club will meet from 2:45-4:00 in the Science Lab. You may pack a light snack that they can have from 2:45 until we start to play at 3:00. The students will clean up the tables before we start so they will need **a napkin or paper towel to place under their snack**. You will also need to provide transportation home. You must pick up your child on time at the 8th grade doors at 4:00 pm.

Our first meeting will be Thursday, October 1st. Please send in a note to your student's teacher to let them know when they are staying after school for Chess Club.

Please fill out and return the form below if your child is interested in joining our Chess Club.

Mr. Brian Wolf Mr. Raymond Moffa
7th Grade Teacher Gym Teacher

Chess Club Dates: **Oct. 1, 15** **Nov. 5** **Dec. 3,17** **Jan 7, 21** **Feb 4,18**
March 4, 18 **April 15** **May 6 Last Chess Club Meeting**

CHESSE CLUB

Name	Class
------	-------

Emergency Telephone #

My child would like to join the Chess Club. I agree to provide transportation home and be there by 4:00 pm to pick up my child at the 8th grade doors.

Signature Parent _____ I will be able to help on the 1st Thursday _____
on the 3rd Thursday _____

Use back if necessary:

Does your student have any allergies or other medical issues we need to be aware of?

Is someone other than yourself/spouse picking up your child? If yes, whom?



St. Mary School Rosary Fellowship

I give permission for my child to attend
the **St. Mary School Rosary Fellowship**.

Meetings will be held on the **second and fourth Thursday** of most months from **2:45 pm until 3:20 pm** with **Mrs. Bryson, Mr. Bakley, and Mrs. Riggins in classroom 3B**. **Meetings will begin October 8th**. Please pick up your student at the 2nd grade doors at 3:20 pm.

The inspiration of this club is to encourage a younger generation to employ the power of one of our church's greatest prayers, the Rosary. In addition to praying this beautiful prayer, meetings will allow discussions on the origins of and blessing from the Rosary. We will experience the peace of putting our special intentions in the hands of our Lord.

St. Mary Rosary Fellowship is for students in **3rd through 8th** grades who truly wish to explore the power of prayer. Children are welcome to bring their personal Rosary beads, but it is not mandatory.

Rosary Fellowship

PLEASE PRINT	Name of child	/	Class

PRINTED NAME and signature of parent/guardian(s)

Number to call in the event of emergency: _____

Use back if necessary:

Are there any allergies or other medical issues that may be important to note?

Is someone other than yourself/spouse picking up your child? If yes, whom?



ST. MARY SCHOOL **14th ANNUAL RACE FOR EDUCATION 2026!**



COMING OCTOBER 20, 2026!!

We ask you to join us in supporting our annual **RACE FOR EDUCATION** Fundraiser. We hope you can help, volunteer and enjoy this wonderful school event! Last year we raised \$42,000 and this year our challenge is to again reach our \$40,000 goal and even more! Our goal is attainable if everyone can do their part!

DETAILS:

- Step 1, on September 16th parents will receive an email providing a link to your child's web based donation page. Each child has their own link
- Step 2, IMPORTANT.... share your donation page via Facebook, Instagram, twitter and other social media. Also use the email and text link included in the email invite and reach out to as many family and St. Mary School friends requesting their support. Donations are made via secure credit card site.
- Step 3, check in often and follow St. Mary and your child's progress as we strive to reach and surpass our goal of \$40,000!
- Reach out again as a reminder to family and friends.

We will continue to accept cash or checks. Send to school in envelope, Attn: Race for Education. Please include student's name and homeroom number along with donor's name and if available email.

If you do not receive your link via email, please search your student's page here:

<https://independent.pledgebrite.org/fund/stmaryrfe26>

ALL STUDENTS will participate ON RACE DAY and receive a popsicle treat & certificate!

GOAL: If our school raises \$40,000 by October 23rd, we will "PIE IN THE FACE" our principal, Mrs. Mancuso; Our Lady of Peace Pastor, Fr. Sanjai; eighth grade teachers, Ms. Brino and Ms. Worstal, seventh grade teacher Mr. Wolf; fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Simon; and a member of our Monroe Township community.

PRESCHOOL—Will "Pie in the Face"—Miss Tiz, Miss A., Deacon Mike and Fr. Naveen

- If an individual student reaches a goal of \$100 in donations by September 25th they will receive a N.U.T. card and be entered into a gift card raffle (grades K-4 and 5-8)- **PLEASE NOTE:** THE DATE TO REACH \$100 DOLLARS IN DONATIONS FOR THE N.U.T. CARD IS SEPTEMBER 25th!! Preschool students will receive a prize from the Treasure Box and be entered in a gift card raffle.
- The Top 5 students who raise the most money as of October 23rd will receive an Amazon gift card (Preschool-8th grade)
- The Top 5 students with the highest number of donations as of October 23rd will receive a Target gift card (Preschool-8th grade)
- Classrooms who reach 75% participation (the class must ALSO raise a minimum of \$1,500) will have the opportunity to silly string a faculty or staff member. REMINDER: CLASSES NEED TO HAVE BOTH PERCENTAGE AND MONIES RAISED!



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

September Birthdays & Summer Birthdays accepted as well!

Childs Name: _____

Date of message: _____

Message:





To: St. Mary School Parents and Guardians

IT'S TIME FOR THE BOOK FAIR ~ HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

BOOK FAIR DATES: October 6th, 7th and 8th

Please see the attached schedule for the date and time your child will be visiting the Book Fair. If you would like your child to purchase a book please send money in an envelope with child's name, homeroom, and Book Fair written on front and send it to school on the day your child is scheduled to attend. The Book Fair will be held in Assumption Hall on the stage, please enter through Assumption Hall (gym) doors to sign in if you wish to attend with your child/ren. Scholastic offers e-wallet, a convenient and secure digital payment option for your children to shop. Please visit scholastic to sign up.

Grandparents/Special Person Event:

On **Thursday, October 8th from 9:00 am to 10:00 am** your child will have the chance to shop exclusively with a grandparent or special person. They will enter through Assumption Hall doors. If your child will shop with a grandparent/special person, please send in a printed note to the teacher with the names no later than Thursday, October 1st.

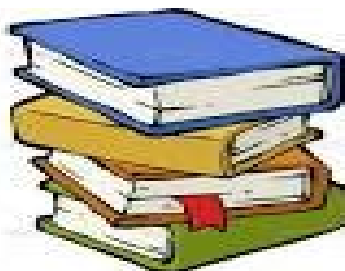


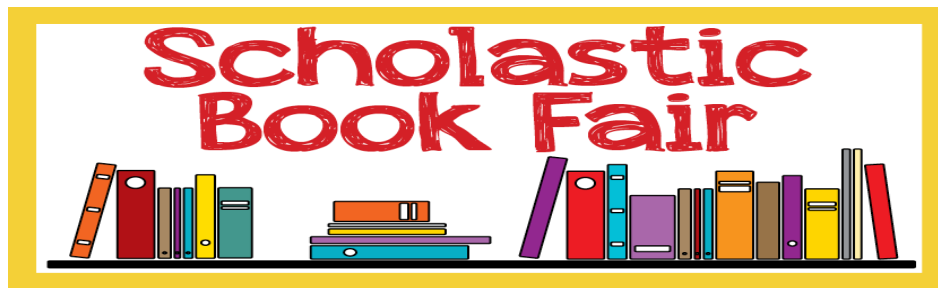
Teacher Gift Certificates:

We are offering parents the opportunity to purchase gift certificates for their teachers from home. If you would like to purchase a gift certificate (can be for any teacher) please send the attached form and send to school in an envelope to the attention of Linsie Decker, Book Fair Gift Certificate. We will deliver all gift certificates to teachers to be used at the Book Fair.

PTA appreciates your help and support during this week. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the e-mail listed below.

Sincerely,
SMS PTA
Linsie Decker
linsiedecker@gmail.com





SCHEDULE

**Tuesday, October 6th,
Wednesday, October 7th,
and Thursday, October 8th**

Time	Tuesday, October 6th	Wednesday, October 7th	Thursday, October 8th
8:30-9:00	4B	8B	
9:00-9:30	K1	5A	Grandparent/ Special Person
9:30-10:00	3A	3B	Grandparent/ Special Person
10:00-10:30	1A	7A	
10:30-11:00	4A	8A	
11:00-11:30	6B		
11:30-12:00		7B	
12:00-12:30		2B	
1:00-1:30	6A	1B	
1:30-2:00	2A	K2	

**TEACHER
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR
GIFT CERTIFICATE
ORDER FORM**

Teacher: _____

From: _____ Grade ____ A B

Amount: _____

Check or Cash: _____

**TEACHER
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR
GIFT CERTIFICATE
ORDER FORM**

Teacher: _____

From: _____ Grade ____ A B

Amount: _____

Check or Cash: _____

TURN SHOPPING INTO EARNING



EARN
\$1,000+
per year

Experience the right way to fundraise

Gift card fundraising is the best way to raise money. Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to earn on your daily purchases. It's never been easier to create opportunities for what matters most to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted.

How it works



You buy a gift card

You get the full value.



The brand gives back

No extra money comes
out of your pocket.



Your organization earns

Impacting what
matters most to you.

Shop 750+ popular brands

Getting your morning coffee. Doing DIY projects around the house.
Ordering takeout. Conveniently raise money by doing everyday things.



amazon



STARBUCKS®



"It's super convenient. All I need to go shopping is my phone—I don't even need credit cards or my purse. I'm going to pay for these things anyway, I love being able to use gift cards so we get something in return."

Jen H., earns for hockey

Get started by downloading the [RaiseRight™ app](#) on your phone or go to [RaiseRight.com](#) on your computer.
For step-by-step instructions, visit [RaiseRight.com/m/StartEarning](#).

St. Mary enrollment code: RR-FZJZ2HSAVX

Scrip Coordinator Annemarie Norton text/call 856-419-7400

50% of rebate to the school and 50% of rebate to you in the form of tuition credit, check in January and June, or donated back to school. Raise Right app on your phone-easily get digital gift cards or order physical gift cards. No fee for VISA Gift Cards.



The merchants represented are not sponsors or otherwise affiliated with RaiseRight™. The logos and other identifying marks used are trademarks of and owned by each represented company and/or its affiliates. Please visit the company's website for additional terms and conditions. © 2024 RaiseRight

SMS FRIDAY LUNCH ROSARY CHAPEL GROUP

Hello, my name Kari Janisse and I am a lunch room parent volunteer on either Mondays or Fridays (depending on the week) at St. Mary School. (My son JP is in third grade). I am also the former Youth Minister at Our Lady of Peace Parish/St. Mary School (2009-2022). I currently work as Youth Minister at Notre Dame De La Mer Parish.

I always enjoy sharing the Catholic faith with the young Church!

We are blessed with the beautiful Chapel at St. Mary School, which is conveniently located outside of the Cafeteria/Gym doors.

For the last three years, I have been leading the rosary group in the Chapel during the lunch periods.

I will begin the lunchroom prayer time opportunity in the Chapel this week. Each week a different class has the opportunity to have students sign up to attend during their lunch period. This takes place the last 10 minutes of the lunch period. I can take up to 10 students each lunch period.

While in the Chapel, we will pray a decade of the rosary together.

(I will teach those who do not know how to pray the rosary.)

I look forward to this new prayerful opportunity with the students this year!

“The Rosary is a priceless treasure inspired by God.”

-St. Louis De Monfort



ST. MARY SCHOOL ATHLETICS PROGRAMS PRESENT

MORE THAN

BAG BINGO



Join us for a night of fun and games at the Annual St. Mary School Athletics "more than" Bag Bingo Night!

Bingo, Raffles, Silent Auction, Mystery Bag Pull, and More!!!

Lots of opportunities to WIN BIG all while supporting the talented Athletes and Athletics Programs of St. Mary School!

****VIP Tickets Include: 10 Bingo Boards, Access to exclusive buffet featuring hoagies, pizza, assorted appetizers, and complimentary non-alcoholic beverages, and 10 Free Basket Raffle Tickets. Tickets are priced at \$85, \$75 if paid prior to 9/1/26.

****General Admission Tickets Includes: 10 Bingo Boards. Tickets are priced at \$35. Table reservations must be made prior to 10/1/26 and are first come first serve until sold out.



DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2026
DOORS OPEN AT 5PM BINGO STARTS AT 6:45PM
ASSUMPTION HALL, ST. MARY SCHOOL



Purchase tickets or Sponsor at
<https://forms.gle/Ld8pV2MFHEHr9NCPA>
or Scan the QR Code!



St. Mary School PTA



MUM SALE

September 9 - September 30

****PICK UP Friday, October 9, from 1pm-5pm****

\$9 each or 3 for \$25
Cash or Check

Please make checks payable to
St. Mary School PTA

Red, Orange,
Yellow,
Purple/Pink,
White

9" POTTED

St. Mary School Mum Order Form

\$9.00 per Mum or 3 for \$25

Name	White	Orange/ Bronze	Yellow	Pink/ Purple	Red	Total Mums Ordered	Total Cost \$

Please return the below portion ONLY with payment & totals to school by September 30th

Family Name/ Grade	White	Orange/ Bronze	Yellow	Pink/Purple	Red	Total Mums Ordered	Total Cost \$



CLOTHING DRIVE

date: Saturday, October 3

drop-off time: 8:30am – 10:00am

location: 8th grade doors SMS

Items Collected

Clothing & Accessories

Shoes (in separate bags)

**Towels, Sheets, Pillowcases
Curtains**

Small Toys (under 2ft)

Stuffed Animals, Bikes/Scooters

Strollers

**Please ensure ALL donation items are in
TIED PLASTIC BAGS**



ITEMS NOT COLLECTED: quilts, comforters, pillows, blankets, sporting equipment, board games, books, puzzles, pots, car seats, electrical devices, glass, large toys, highchairs, furniture of any type, VCR tapes, outdoor play sets

Please keep **SHOES** in **SEPARATE** bags

Any **QUESTIONS** please call or text Liz Duxbury 609-602-1913

Annual School Integrated Pest Management Notification
for St. Mary's School

As part of a school pest management plan, *St. Mary's School* may use pesticides to control pests. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) registers pesticides to determine that the use of a pesticide in accordance with instructions printed on the label does not pose an unreasonable risk to human health and the environment. Nevertheless, the EPA and DEP cannot guarantee that registered pesticides do not pose any risk to human health, thus unnecessary exposure to pesticides should be avoided. The EPA has issued the statement that where possible, persons who are potentially sensitive, such as pregnant women, infants and children, should avoid unnecessary pesticide exposure.

The following is a list of any pesticide(s) in use or used in the last 12 months on school property:

Low impact
D Nutribait
D Dual Choice

Our school district has designated an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Coordinator, and that Coordinator maintains the product label and material safety data sheet, when available, of each pesticide that may be used on school property. The label and data sheet is available for review by a parent, guardian, staff member, or student attending the school. The IPM Coordinator is available to parents, guardians, and staff members for information and comment.

Name, Address and Phone Number of our School District IPM

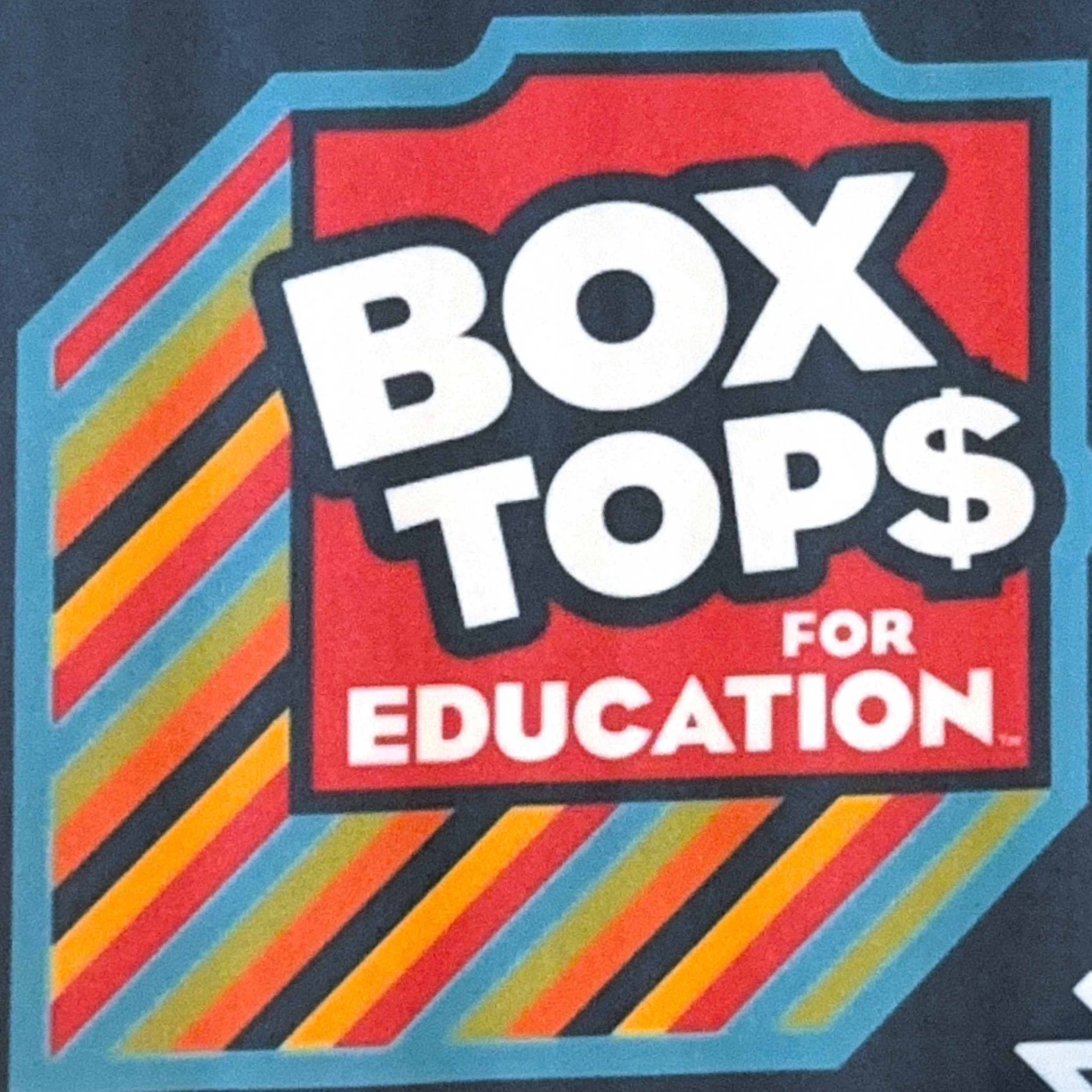
Coordinator: *Tush Manum* *856-629-6190*
324 Carroll Ave
Williamstown NJ 08094

Time and Place of any meetings to be held to adopt the school integrated pest management policy:

Don't have the Box Tops
app yet? Download it now:

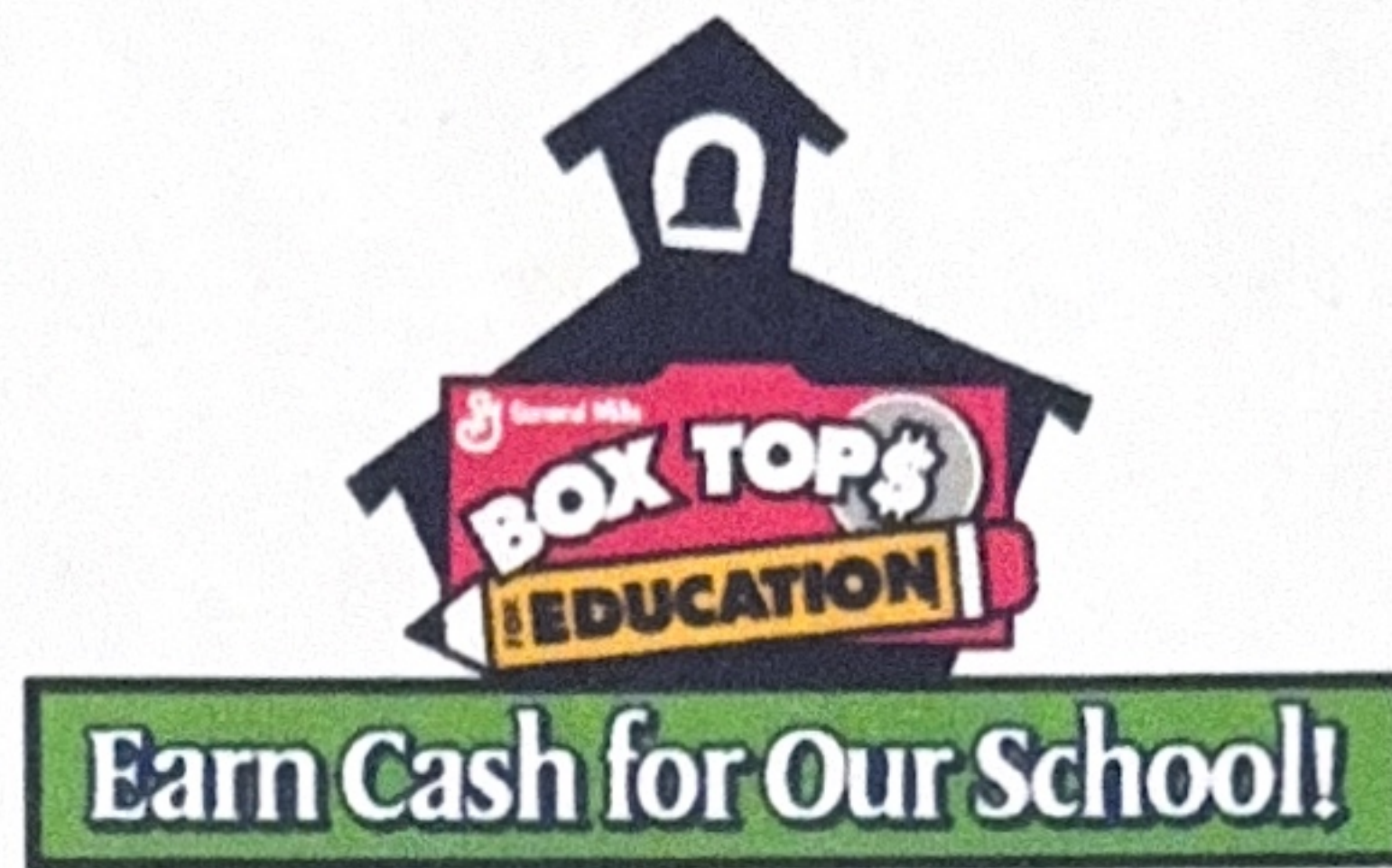


 **ST. MARY
SCHOOL**



YES I SCAN!





School is back in session and that means packing lunches and snacks!

For those of us packing the snacks and lunches, that means food shopping!



What you may not have known is that your food shopping can raise money for our school!

Box Top for Education, is a way where our school can earn money, just from your everyday shopping receipts, from ANY retailer!

Step 1: Download the Box Top\$ for Education App on your phone

Step 2: Make a FREE account with your name and find St. Mary's School, Williamstown.

Step 3: Using the App, take a picture of any receipt

Step 4: Select which grade you would like to receive the credit for money earned. You may select a different Grade with each receipt.

Step 5: Select SUBMIT. That's it!

You will be notified of any earnings immediately, and can track how our school and the classes are doing with reaching our goal!



**** Our First Goal is to have every grade registered****



**** Prizes to be intermittently given for the most funds raised per Grade****

SCIENCE EXPLORERS®



610-816-5047 * SCIENCEEXPLORERS.COM

Club Tuition per Topic: \$125
3-Week Fidget Factory Tuition: \$99

There is an additional fee of \$10 if you register on or after start date.

Many schools do not allow registrations on the same day that a club starts so please register early.

Multi-Club Discount: (Clubs must be in one order)

Register for 3 or 4 clubs: 5% off the total.

Register for 5 or 6 clubs: 10% off the total.

Register for 7 or more clubs: 15% off the total.

USE CODE: **SCIENCE26**

St. Mary School

Tuesday Afternoons - 3:00-4:00 - Grades 1-5

Pick-up Location: 8th Grade Doors

2026-27 School Year:

Club CSI

September 29, October 6, 13, 20

Science Rocks!

October 27, November 3, 10, 17

Fidget Factory

December 1, 15, 22

Candy Chemistry

January 12, 19, 26, February 2

3-2-1 Blast Off

February 16, 23, March 2, 9

Club Pre-Med

March 23, April 6, 13, 20

SE Super Sampler

May 4, 11, 18, 25

Important Information:

Please Register Early: A minimum number of participants is needed one week prior to the start date in order to run a club. Class size is also limited and many clubs fill quickly. Registrations will only be confirmed via email. There will be a \$15 processing fee for all refunds given prior to the club start date. Refunds are not permitted once a session has begun. We are unable to pro-rate for any reason including registering after the start date.

Late Fee Policy: Parent is responsible for child's attendance and prompt pick-up. Late pick-ups are subject to additional fees of \$5 at 10 min. late and \$1 per min. after.

Cancellations: In the event of inclement weather or other emergencies, Science Explorers will follow your school's dismissal procedure. If a class is cancelled due to weather or other circumstances beyond our control, Science Explorers is unable to provide a refund; however we will make every effort to reschedule, add an extended session or offer a virtual option if possible. We are unable to issue a refund if your child cannot attend a make-up date.

Want to get in on the fun? Many clubs use parent helpers to assist each week in exchange for FREE club tuition. If you are interested and have all of the background checks required by your school, please email us at :
parenthelper@scienceexplorers.com (Please make sure you are available to help for each of the dates in any given club topic. Thank you!)

By registering your child you grant permission and release Science Explorers and its affiliates from any and all liability relating to or arising from Science Explorers after-school club program.

REGISTER ONLINE AT: ScienceExplorers.com

After-School Club Topics

2026-2027

Club CSI

Become a Science Explorers CSI! Each week a new suspect will be revealed, and we'll use forensic techniques to solve the mystery of "whodunit." Learn how to lift fingerprints, analyze unknown substances, and use a black light to reveal glowing evidence. Will you be the one to crack the case?

Science Rocks!

Travel back in time to discover the mysteries of the Earth! Become a paleontologist for the day and experience a dinosaur dig, uncover the stories that fossils tell and create your own fossil models. Then become a geologist and enter the hidden world of the geode, use Mohs Scale to test and classify minerals, and explore how rocks can transform from a molten liquid to a solid. You'll be sure to find out what a rockin' place our world can be!

Fidget Factory (3 Weeks)

Get ready to mix, squish, and create! This is the ultimate hands-on club for kids who love to explore textures and get a little messy! Participants will become "fidget engineers" as they design and build their own custom stress balls filled with a variety of fascinating materials—like stretchy slime, soft sand, squishy play dough, and other fun textures.

Candy Chemistry

Discover the sweeter side of science where things will get deliciously wild! Watch Rock Candy crystals grow before your eyes, make Gummy Bears EXPAND like magic, create jaw-dropping Candy Rainbows, and uncover the hidden secrets of candy pH with fizzy, colorful experiments. It's a crazy-cool mix of chemistry, creativity, and candy-fueled fun that you won't want to miss!

3-2-1 Blast Off!

Blast off to an out-of-this-world adventure as you investigate our final frontier. Make a 3-D model of the solar system, have a blast creating a lunar landscape, take on an astronaut challenge, and put your engineering skills to the test by designing and building a protective space capsule to help your brave "eggstronaut" survive a daring return to Earth.

Club Pre-Med

If you have ever wondered what is running through your veins and what happens to your lunch after you eat it, then join Science Explorers for fun filled "office visits" that are guaranteed to kick your senses into high gear and stimulate your mind. We'll create a model of the components of blood, examine the digestive system, build a working lung model, and observe a real sheep brain! Make no bones about it, the doctor is in!

SE Super Sampler

Which science theme do you like best? Space? Chemistry? Geology? Forensics? Give each a whirl with our new sampler club and explore a different topic each week. Demonstrate Newton's 3rd Law of Motion as you launch your own air powered rocket, use chemistry to freeze a slushie treat, become a rock doc for the day, build and erupt your own volcano, and learn how to extract DNA from bananas.



**SCIENCE
EXPLORERS®**

www.scienceexplorers.com



Jesus Fish YOUTH GROUP 6th-8th grade

Every Thursday join us for social time, games, and separate girls and guys sharing of faith, life, and how to grow closer to God through it all led by our youth ministers Cat and Brooke. Meet outside of the Youth Lounge or in St. Joseph Room. Snacks and free pizza is served. 245-415pm

- Thursday Meetings
- Sunday Meetings
- Trips
- Service Opportunities
- Retreats
- Games
- Fellowship

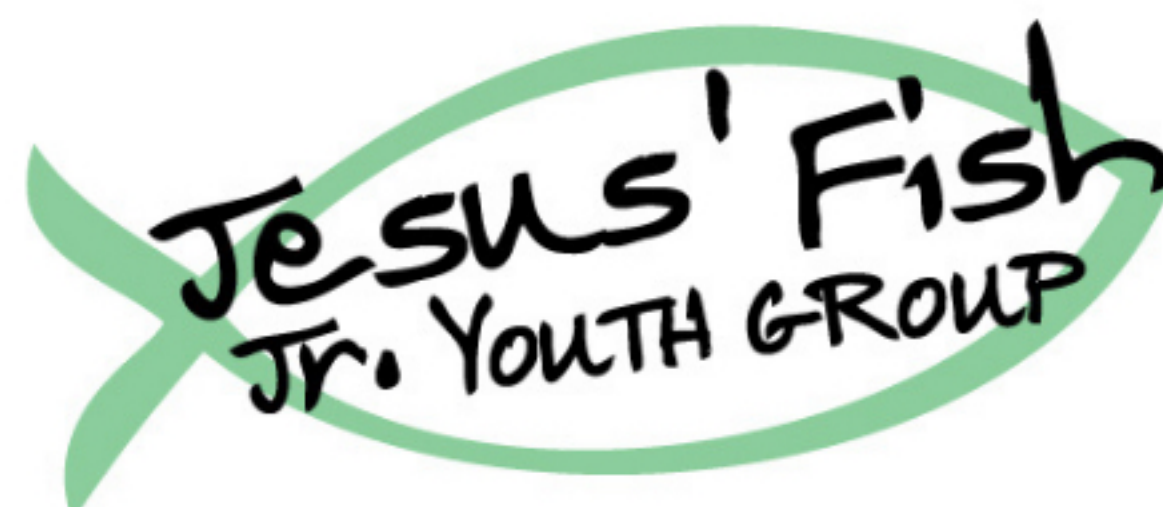


YOUTH GROUP- GROUPME

Guppies 3rd-5th



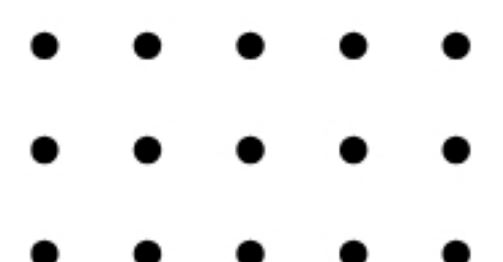
Jesus Fish 6th-8th



JP2 9th-12th



ACTS (18-26yrs)





Champion Parent Note

Forming Champion Coaches Since 2006



Volume 26, Issue 3 | September 15, 2026

Parents as Partners

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us that parents are the first and primary educators of their child (CCC 2223). We are called to provide a good example while teaching them virtue and helping them to grow in mind, body and soul. Just as we work in tandem with teachers in the academic setting, so too parents are called to partner with coaches in the athletic arena. Both coaches and parents play a pivotal role in the development of young athletes and providing them with a great experience in sports.



In the video above, *Play Like a Champion's* Kristin Sheehan [offers insight into the role of sports parents](#) and tips for how to partner with coaches. Parents are called to support the development of their own athlete and others on the team through encouragement and by expressing gratitude for the coach's work. Both coaches and parents need to communicate clearly and respectfully, prioritizing the needs of all children on the team.

As we move further into fall seasons or prepare for winter sports, let's consider how we as parents can be great partners to those who coach our kids. What's one area where we can improve? Is there a way we can demonstrate our gratitude or support to coaches? Take a moment to think and then commit to one concrete way that we can be better partners in the season ahead.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." ~ Proverbs 22:6

What Youth Sports Gives to Parents

If you've been to our *Parent Like a Champion* Workshop, you've likely heard us say that youth sports are now a \$40 billion industry. Our children's games are now big business, a reality that has shaped the current culture and placed an incredible amount of pressure on parents to invest time and money into what was once achieved by simply sending the kids outside to play or registering for with the local parks and recreation department. A growing body of research and media coverage



have pointed to the issues with our modern approach, emphasizing the stress placed on families and the dangers to children of trends like early specialization or the professionalization of youth sports - not to mention the growing issues with access to sport in low-income communities. The majority of parents are likely reading this and

nodding in agreement. So why does everyone keep going down this path?

A recent article provides one of the more thoughtful approaches to this paradox that we've seen. While recognizing the problems inherent in our modern approach, Steve Magness explains how [rational parents are solving real problems by choosing to invest significant time and money into youth sports](#). He explains that it's not just the benefits that sports provide to children, but also the *benefits to parents* that are at play. A best-selling author, high-level coach and former elite athlete himself, Magness also offers insight into how we can meet the needs of children and parents without driving ourselves crazy. As with much of his work, this article is worthy of your time and consideration this week.

Read: Youth Sports Parents Aren't Crazy

A Prayer for Parents

God, I thank you for the wonderful blessing it is to watch my children play sports. Thank you for the smile that it brings to their face and for the ways in which sports help them to grow in virtue and skill. I ask that as they participate you protect them from injury and harm and bless them with the grace to reach their full potential. Bless their coaches that they may embrace their role and have the courage to always do what is right for the children you have entrusted to their care. Grant all sports parents the graces we need to be supportive and to have perspective. May we seek not our own will for our child, but yours, and in doing so be freed to let them enjoy this experience no matter the result. May each of us - child, coach and parent - glorify you through our actions and come to know you better through this experience. I ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Play Like a Champion Today Educational Series

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

www.playlikeachampion.org

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

