



ST. MARY'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

713



A.M.D.G.
ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY
FOUNDED 1871 - ERECTED 1925

2023-24
BACK TO
SCHOOL
GUIDE

Welcome Back!

Dear SMS Families,

Welcome to St. Mary's Catholic School! In choosing St. Mary's Catholic School, you have demonstrated a commitment to the values and philosophy of a Catholic education.

The faculty and staff of our school look forward to working with you to promote academic excellence and spiritual development in the context of the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Together let us pray that God, who has begun this work in us, may carry it through completion.

God bless you,
Danny Ledbetter
Principal



First Day of School - Monday, August 14th

- The first day of school is Monday, August 14th. It is a full day of school.
- Please make arrangements to pick up your child at the end of the school day, as there is no Extended Day Care.
- Parents may walk their child to his or her classroom on the first day only.
- Students should wear regular day uniforms (Mass wear not required)

Preparing for School: 10 Tips to Prepare for Success

1. Attend the Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, August 10th at 6 pm.
2. Sign up for bus transportation if you need it to get to school.
3. Celebrate the end of summer at the Back to School Bash at Splash in Denison from 6-8 pm.
4. Get fresh haircuts, check skirt/pant hem lengths, and check uniform quality. Visit the new uniform stores at [Tommy Hilfiger](#) or [DM Uniforms](#) for any new uniform pieces you need.
5. Set up or check your lunch account in FACTS, and pack a healthy lunch for the first week of school.
6. Be on time! School starts promptly at 8:00 am.
7. Have patience in the afternoon carpool line. It always takes longer the first week as we settle into a routine and ensure the safety of our students.
8. Remember there is no Extended Day on the first day of school.
9. Read the Weekly Newsletter every Friday to prepare for the week ahead.
10. Download Tithe.ly, our new parent app, in English or Spanish to stay in touch with school updates, news, and useful information!

School Hours

- The school day for all grades begins at 8:00 AM.
- Students should be in their seats at 8:00 or they will be counted tardy.
- Pre-K 1/2 day ends at 11:30 AM.
- All other classes end at 3:30 PM.
- All Early Release days end at 12:00 Noon. These days will be noted on the school website and academic calendar.

School Picture Day

Students will take Fall photos on Wednesday, September 20th. Retakes and Class Pictures will be taken on Wednesday, November 15th

Bus Service

Ride the St. Mary's School Bus

Morning Northbound

McKinney

Depart 7:10 am
Chili's, 1940 N Central Expy

Anna

Depart 7:25 am
Walmart Parking Lot, NW section
807 S. Central Expy

Van Alstyne

Depart 7:40 am
Braum's, 848 W Marshall Drive

Sherman

Arrive 7:55 am
St. Mary's School

Afternoon Southbound

Sherman

Depart 3:30 pm
St. Mary's School

Van Alstyne

Arrive 3:45 pm
McDonald's
1001 W Van Alstyne Pkwy

Anna

Arrive 4:00 pm
Subway, 804 S Central Expy

McKinney

Arrive 4:15 pm
Party City, 2097 N Central Expy



Monthly Bus Rates

from McKinney \$105

from Anna \$100

from Van Alstyne \$95

Bus fees may be paid via student FACTS account either monthly or for a full academic year. Enrollment forms are available online or at the school office. Contact the school for more details.
(903) 893-2127

Enroll for Bus Services here:

<https://forms.gle/GVee7pTaMRNWhA3N6>



Early Arrival Program

The Early Arrival Program (EAP) is available Monday through Friday from 7:30 – 7:55 PM. Only children enrolled in St. Mary's Catholic School (SMS) are eligible to participate in the program. The school does not offer EAP when closed or on late arrival days. EAP follows a discipline where students may read, study or complete homework (coloring for young children) until they are dismissed to their classrooms. All program workers are Safe Environment approved with at least two employees minimum. Students may be dropped off at the school entrance. NO STUDENT MAY ARRIVE EARLIER THAN 7:30 AM.

Enroll in the Early Arrival Program Here:
<https://forms.gle/gdUQCq8FfN7YboFT8>



After-School Program

The After-School Program (ASP) is open to any student enrolled full day in the school and runs from 3:40 PM - 5:30 PM. Before a student can participate in the After-School Care Program, the parent(s)/guardian(s) need to fill out an ASP Agreement. For students who are not picked up by 5:30 PM there is a charge of \$1 per minute until the student is picked up.

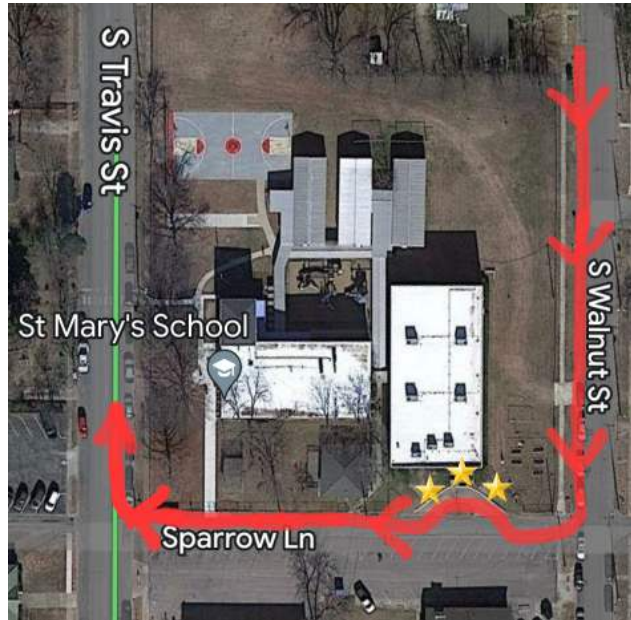
Enroll in After-School Program Here:
<https://forms.gle/x8YwrUV98sqK754u5>



Carpool

DISMISSAL PROCEDURE/TRAFFIC PATTERN

- Students will be called over the intercom for dismissal. The dismissal policy requires students to be dismissed from the McCullough Center foyer and placed into vehicles by a school employee.
- The pick-up lane must move quickly and consistently. A total of three vehicles may load at one time. Therefore, please proceed forward as far as you can. If a child is not present or ready to be picked up, then the vehicle driver will be asked to circle to the back of the line.
- Children are to enter on the RIGHT side of the car ONLY.
- Texas State Law prohibits the use of cellphones while driving within one block of any school campus.
- Students are required to wait in the McCullough Center. Please DO NOT ask your child to meet you at another location on the school grounds.
- If you pick your child up in the school, you may not enter or exit through the McCullough Center doors located at the circular drive. Please park in the parking lot and enter through the front doors inside the fenced schoolyard.
- If you send a person to pick up your child who is not an authorized individual, please contact the school so all involved can be alerted to the change. Please make the change in the child's RenWeb account. If there is any question in the mind of a supervisor as to who is picking up a child, that individual will be asked to produce identification and we may call the parent to verify the identity of the individual.





The school does not have personnel to watch students after dismissal. Therefore any student not picked up by 3:45 PM will be sent to the After-School Program and subject to drop-in charges. The school office officially closes at 4:00 PM.

Uniforms









Visit our two uniform stores for any new uniform pieces you need:

1. Tommy Hilfiger (<https://rb.gy/5f56z>)
2. DM Uniforms (<https://rb.gy/6db0e>)




Refer to this Quick Reference Guide to make sure your child has everything they need (or want!).




UNIFORMS		REGULAR DAYS	
PreK Girls	Optional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red or Blue Polo Dress with SMS Monogram 	
PreK Boys	Optional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Polo Shirt with SMS Monogram • Navy Shorts 	



UNIFORMS		REGULAR DAYS		MASS DAYS	
K-5 Girls 	Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Polo Shirt (short or long sleeve) Navy skirt, skort, shorts, or pants White Socks 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White Dress Shirt K-3: Plaid Jumper 4-5: Plaid Skirt Modesty Shorts White Crew or Knee Socks White or Blue Tights or Ankle Leggings 	
	Optional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Cardigan Sweater with SMS Monogram SMS Sweatshirt Zip up Sweater with SMS Monogram Zip up Fleece with SMS Monogram Windbreaker with SMS Monogram 			
UNIFORMS		REGULAR DAYS		MASS DAYS	
K-5 Boys 	Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Polo Shirt (short or long sleeve) Navy Shorts, or Pants Brown or Black Belt No-show Socks, any color White Crew Socks 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White Dress Shirt (short or long sleeve) Navy Neck Tie Navy Pants Brown or Black Belt No-show Socks, any color White Crew Socks 	
	Optional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Cardigan Sweater with SMS Monogram SMS Sweatshirt Zip up Sweater with SMS Monogram Zip up Fleece with SMS Monogram Windbreaker with SMS Monogram 			



UNIFORMS		REGULAR DAYS		MASS DAYS	
6-8 Girls	Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Polo Shirt (short or long sleeve) Beige skirt, skort, shorts, or pants White Crew Socks 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light Blue Blouse (long or short sleeved) Plaid Skirt Modesty Shorts White Knee Socks 	
	<i>Optional</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navy Cardigan Sweater with SMS Monogram SMS Sweatshirt Zip up Sweater with SMS Monogram Zip up Fleece with SMS Monogram Windbreaker with SMS Monogram 			

UNIFORMS		REGULAR DAYS		MASS DAYS	
6-8 Boys	Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Polo Shirt (short or long sleeve) Beige shorts or pants Black or Brown Belt No-show Socks, any color White Crew Socks 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light Blue Dress Shirt (long or short sleeved) Beige Pants Red and Navy Striped Neck Tie Black or Brown Belt White Crew Socks 	
	<i>Optional</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navy Cardigan Sweater with SMS Monogram SMS Sweatshirt Zip up Sweater with SMS Monogram Zip up Fleece with SMS Monogram Windbreaker with SMS Monogram 			



Dates to Remember

FALL *at a glance* 2023

St. Mary's Catholic School is committed to serving and supporting its families through fundraising and community-building events. Participation is voluntary, but we appreciate your ongoing support!

AUGUST

August 10, 6-7 pm: Meet the Teacher Night

Visit your child's new classroom and teacher before starting the new year! **New Parent Meeting** at 7-8 pm.

August 11, 6-8 pm: Back to School Splash

Cool off & reconnect with classmates and their families

August 23: HASA General Meeting Learn how you can contribute to your child's learning community

SEPTEMBER

September 21st: North Texas Giving Day

Annual Fund Drive, organized to support the school's operational funding. This year's goal is \$75,000.

OCTOBER

October 4: Grandparents' Day

Share the St. Mary's community on a special day at school with your grandparents.

All Month: Poinsettia Sales

Decorate your home and business, or gift a gorgeous bloom to friends and family. Deliveries in Nov/Dec!

October 28: St. Mary's Catholic Church Fall Fest

Join us for the biggest social event of our community!

NOVEMBER

HASA Fall Family Night (date TBD)

Spend time enjoying fellowship with other St. Mary's families. All are welcome!

DECEMBER

December 2: Run, Run Rudolph 5K

Run through Sherman in Christmas style to benefit the students of St. Mary's. This year's goal is \$15,000.

December 2: Sherman Christmas Parade

Join in the holiday festivities to share our Tiger pride with the town of Sherman!



Lunch

St. Mary's Catholic School provides a hot lunch most days. Prices are as follows:

- Hot Lunch Tray includes Water (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday): \$3.00
- Extra entree: \$1.00 (if available)
- Raising Canes (Thursdays): \$5-\$9, Orders placed at beginning of the month
- Pizza (Fridays): \$1.25 per slice, Orders must be placed by Wednesday
- Water: \$0.50
- Lunchables: \$3.50 (issued automatically for students who did not order Canes or pizza and failed to bring a lunch)

Lunch orders will be taken monthly through FACTS. At the end of each month the school will charge accounts accordingly. Families may pay as you are billed (within 15 days or late fee) or keep a "toll-tag" supply that automatically reloads the lunch account to a predetermined amount (set by the parent).

Students will still be charged for advanced lunch orders (i.e. pizza, Canes) regardless of absence unless canceled prior to the deadline. In the event of such an absence, parents may pick up the ordered lunch at the designated lunch time.

Students are expected to eat a portion of his/her meal. Be prepared to hear from the school if your child skips lunch. The school may ask you for a written note acknowledging that you are aware your child is not eating. Every child will be encouraged to eat something at lunch.

Safe Environment Training

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Dallas has implemented a Safe Environment Program for Parishes and Schools. You may access safe environment information at www.cathdal.org. The purpose of this program is to provide protection for both children and adults by informing adults of appropriate behavior toward children. St. Mary's Catholic School fully participates in this program. Each staff member and parent volunteer is required to be trained and to comply with all of the requirements and expectations.

All staff members and parents will fill out an application and submit to a criminal background check which will be updated every two years. All of these records are kept confidential, maintained in the principal's office, and secured at all times. Access is granted ONLY to those with a "Need to Know."

Attendance

Students are expected to attend school every school day, personal illness and family emergencies being the exception. Parents/guardians must sign their child out at the receptionist's office each time he/she needs to leave the school during the school day.

On the day following the absence the student is to provide the teacher with a signed and dated note from his/her parent/guardian explaining the reason for the absence. Unexplained absences will be considered unexcused.

If your child is going to be absent, the parent/guardian must contact the school by 8:30 a.m. This is to be repeated each day of the student's absence. Partial day absences will be recorded. An absence of two hours or more in the morning or afternoon will be considered as a half-day absence. Therefore any child that arrives after 10:15 will automatically be recorded half-absent. Any student that leaves prior to 2pm will be considered absent half a day. No student may exceed more than (10) absences for the school year without serious reason.

RENWEB

To access this site for student and school information, parents must have an updated email in the school's management system. Parents are expected to access and utilize the RenWeb features for tracking their child's academic progress, updating information including authorized pick-up, contact information, change of address and medical information.

- Go to the school website, click on Resources, scroll down to RenWeb Parent Login
- Read the instructions for first time users.
- District Code is STMARY-TX. Type in the email address you gave the school.
- Click "New Parent Login" if you have never logged on previously. You will be emailed a password at the email address you gave to the school.
- Once you receive the password, login by clicking "Parent Login."

RETURNING FAMILIES:

Please make sure all your contact information, emergency contacts, and authorized pick-up names are up-to-date in RenWeb. For the safety of our students, we cannot allow them to go home with unauthorized adults.



St. Mary's Catholic School 2023-2024 School Year Calendar



Communication**Tithe.ly - COMING SOON!**

We are launching a new school app with events, updates, photos, prayer requests, scrip shopping, and much more. Watch for information to come home with your child as soon as the app is ready to launch. It will be our information hub!

Newsletter

Watch for the school newsletter to arrive in your email each week. Important updates and guidance will be shared to help your child succeed at St. Mary's. It is important that all parents read it every week (we promise to keep it short)!

Parent Text Alerts

Urgent or important messages are sent through our text system from Principal Ledbetter. These texts will be sent to the mobile number you listed for yourself in RenWeb, so make sure your number is current there to stay in the loop.

Facebook Page

Follow our adventures and accomplishments on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/stmaryssherman>.

Instagram

If you prefer Instagram, follow the school there at <https://www.instagram.com/st.maryscatholicschool>.

Web Site

Check the St. Mary's web site at www.stmarys-sch.org for general information.

Daily Folders

PreK-3rd grade students will bring home a daily folder for parents to review and sign each day. Older grades: Please see your teacher for take home folder and planner expectations. Be sure to ask your children for information and flyers that come home from school each day!

SOCIAL EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS**Party Invitations**

Party invitations may not be given out at school unless all students in the class or all students of the same gender are invited.

Class Parties

Classes are allowed to have parties for a variety of holidays or special events as determined by the teachers. Parties should last no more than an hour and, if possible, be scheduled at the end of the day. The homeroom parent(s) will notify families of parties and needed items.

Birthdays

The celebration of individual student birthdays should be limited to a snack during the lunch period or at recess with the approval of the teacher. Any balloons, gifts or other items that are sent to the school from a florist will not be delivered to the classroom, but may be picked up at day's end in the school office.



HASA

Join St. Mary's School Home and School Association (HASA)!

Purpose: The purpose of HASA is to support the Catholic education of children at St. Mary's Catholic School by fostering relationships among the school, parents, and teachers by:

1. Providing an opportunity for parents and teachers to work together for the benefit of students.
2. Furthering communication between parents and the school.
3. Encouraging parent participation within the school.
4. Hosting various service events and social activities.
5. Assisting teachers in the planning and the implementation of extracurricular activities and supplementing classroom needs.
6. Sponsoring informational presentations for the school.
7. Nurturing a positive spiritual and emotional environment for the entire school community.

Dues: \$10/Family

Dues are used to fund HASA activities including:

- Back to School Splash
- Grandparents' Day
- Fall Family Night
- Teachers' Christmas Luncheon
- Spring Family Night
- Teacher/Staff Appreciation
- Field Day on last day of school



HASA General Meeting **Wednesday, August 23 | 6:30pm**

All parents/guardians are welcome!

Spirit Store**Yard Signs**

Share your Tiger Pride by ordering a St. Mary's yard sign for your front yard! Signs will be available for purchase at Meet the Teacher night and in the front office. Only \$15 each to share your school spirit! Order a yard sign to display at your home today at <https://forms.gle/sT648vhVACp8KugG8> or at this QR code.

**Friday Spirit Shirts**

Spirit shirts are available for purchase and may be worn on Fridays with jeans without holes or shorts that are fingertip length. Pre-order your shirts through the QR code or here <https://forms.gle/uFM3L9ME9Pn3rPwW8> today!

**Spirit Shirts and Merchandise**

All items will be available for sale through HASA and the school office. Stay tuned for updates and product debuts throughout the year.

Scrip



**Turn everyday shopping
into fundraising dollars**



RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

Participating in our Scrip Program is easy and generates income to benefit our students and learning community.

How Does it Work?

- Families download the RaiseRight App and enter the St. Mary's Giving Code: **2E35ED54219L6**
- Families purchase either gift cards from hundreds of merchants, at your convenience, and right from your phone!
 - Both physical and electronic gift cards are available for purchase.
 - Physical gift cards can take up to 30 days to arrive and be available for pickup, so always plan ahead.
- Merchants contribute anywhere from 1% to 25% to support St. Mary's School. It's a win-win!

We will keep you updated on monthly promotions (when brands increase their percentage donation for a limited time), and contests will run throughout the year incentivizing families to participate in scrip shopping.

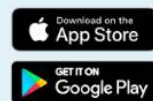


Introducing our new mobile app



RaiseRight™

by ShopWithScrip



Our Catholic Identity

Our Mission Statement

St. Mary's Catholic School is dedicated to academic excellence and inspiring a faith-filled community of lifelong learners and compassionate leaders. We commit to teaching Catholic values and to following Jesus through meaningful service, prayer, and love.

Our Vision Statement

We strive to help all students who leave our school to be:

Individuals Who Model Christ by:

- exhibiting compassion, tolerance, justice, and respect
- making good moral choices
- serving others
- having basic knowledge of Catholic doctrine, tradition, Scripture, and liturgy
- having the ability to engage in various forms of prayer

Diligent Lifelong Learners who:

- possess a foundation of basic, academic skills leading to independent thinking and learning
- are effective communicators, collaborators, and decision makers
- exhibit an appreciation for the fine arts

Active Individuals who:

- demonstrate knowledge of health, physical skills, and hygiene
- understand the need to care for their physical being, as it is a gift from God and a temple for their soul
- show respect for their own gifts and talents and for those of others

Responsible Citizens who:

- conscientiously respond to the needs of society and the environment
- appreciate and understand our diverse society
- are cognizant of current events
- participate in the democratic process
- identify with, and participate in an active, faith-based community
- display manners and etiquette toward all individuals

Statement of Philosophy

We, the faculty and staff of St. Mary's Catholic School, believe that the Catholic school provides a unique form of education to the students it serves. We believe that we can only achieve these goals with the full cooperation of the parents. We encourage our students to put forth his/her best efforts at all times. In order that each student may work to his or her fullest potential, we provide a comfortable and safe environment. St. Mary's School provides an academic environment in which students can develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values necessary for a productive Catholic Christian life.

Athletics

We at St. Mary's Catholic School will always work at:

"Guiding students through sports with a focus on always maintaining a healthy mind, body and competitive spirit."

Athletic Philosophy

The fundamental philosophy of the SMS Athletic Department is to develop the talents of young men and women through competitive, amateur athletics while maintaining a strong sense of Christian principles and good sportsmanship. The St. Mary's Catholic School Athletic Program is a Christ-centered program open to school students enrolled in the fifth through eighth grades at St. Mary's Catholic School. All students have the opportunity to participate, focusing on team unity, sportsmanship, skills' development and fun.



Dallas Parochial League

St. Mary's School participates in the Dallas Parochial League, the athletic organization serving the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Dallas. Students in 5-8 grades are eligible to try out for St. Mary's DPL teams, which currently compete in **volleyball, basketball, flag football, cross country, and futsal.**



St. Mary's Catholic School participates in the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). All tournaments or practices follow the official guidelines and rules set by this organization. **Archery** is available to students in grades 3-8



Faculty Contact Info

Pre-K 3	Teresa Colvin	tcolvin@stmarys-sch.org
Pre – K 4	Liz Bailey	lbailey@stmarys-sch.org
Kindergarten	Annie Galvan	agalvan@stmarys-sch.org
1st Grade	Cindy Tronzano	ctronzano@stmarys-sch.org
2nd Grade Homeroom 2nd-3rd ELA	Pat Brady	pbrady@stmarys-sch.org
3rd Grade Homeroom 2nd-3rd Math, Science and Social Studies	Sandy Buckner	sbuckner@stmarys-sch.org
4th Grade Homeroom 4th-5th ELA 4th Social Studies	Rachel Mobley	rmobley@stmarys-sch.org
4th/5th Math, Science and Social Studies	Mallory Aday	maday@stmarys-sch.org
6th Grade Homeroom 6th-8th Science & Social Studies	Sammy Brown	sbrown@stmarys-sch.org
7th Grade Homeroom 6th-8th ELA	Eduardo Hernandez	ehernandez@stmarys-sch.org
8th Grade Homeroom 6th-8th Math & Religion	Tiffany Adami	tadami@stmarys-sch.org
PE & Health Coordinator	Monica Dell	mdell@stmarys-sch.org
Resource & Enrichment	Sheila Mayberry	smayberry@stmarys-sch.org
Music & Orchestra	David Cason	dcason@stmarys-sch.org
K-8 Art	Katherine Hearn	khearn@stmarys-sch.org
K-3 SMART Lab	Anne Ledbetter	aledbetter@stmarys-sch.org
4th-8th SMART Lab	Adrian Banegas	abanegas@stmarys-sch.org
PreK Aide	Theresa Finley	tfinley@stmarys-sch.org



Staff Contact Info

Principal	Dr. Daniel Ledbetter	dledbetter@stmarys-sch.org
Office Manager	Lena Kane	lkane@stmarys-sch.org
Admissions	Jamie Antilla	jantilla@stmarys-sch.org
Bookkeeper	Chris DeMond	cdemond@stmarys-sch.org
Office Assistant	Tanya Mallinson	tmallinson@stmarys-sch.org
Athletics Director	Matt Stoval	m-stoval1@ti.com
Library Manager	Stephanie Foley	sfoley@stmarys-sch.org
Director of Development	Rebecca Knapp	rknapp@stmarys-sch.org