



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

713



A.M.D.G.
ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY
FOUNDED 1877 - REDEDICATED 1990 A.D.

2025-26 BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDE

Welcome!

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 all of your families,
Annette Roraback
Principal



First Week of School

- The first day of school is Monday, August 11th. It is a **FULL** day of school.
- Parents may walk their child to his or her classroom on the first day only.
- Students should wear regular day uniforms (Mass attire not required).
- **Friday, August 15th is the Feast of the Assumption. We will have Mass at 8:30 that morning. Students may wear regular day uniforms on that day. It is an early release day at 12:00.** Please make arrangements to pick up your child at the end of the school day. There is no Extended Day Care. Bus service runs on a minimum day schedule.

Preparing for School: 6 Tips to Prepare for Success

1. Attend Back to School Night on Thursday, August 7 at 5 pm.
2. Sign up for bus transportation if you need to ride it to get to school.
3. Celebrate the end of summer at the Back to School Bash at The Splash in Sherman on Saturday, August 2nd from 6:30-8:30 pm.
4. Get fresh haircuts, check shirt/pant hem lengths, and check uniform quality. If you need to order new uniforms, visit [Tommy Hilfiger](#) or [DM Uniforms](#) for any pieces you need. Gently used uniforms will be available for purchase from HASA at Back to School Night.
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! You may arrive at 7:45 am, and 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 Care on the first Friday of school.**
9. Read the Weekly Newsletter every weekend to prepare for the week ahead.
10. Download the FACTS Family app in English or Spanish to order lunches, pay tuition and fees, and access other 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 grades end at 3:30 PM.
- All Early Release days end at 12:00 Noon. These days are noted on the school website and academic calendar.

School Picture Day

Students will take Fall photos on **Wednesday, October 8th**. Retakes will be taken on Wednesday, November 19th.

FACTS Student Information System

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 FACTS for tracking their child's academic progress, updating information including authorized pick-up, contact information, change of address and medical information. To access FACTS:

- Go to the school website, click on the Parents tab, and FACTS/RenWeb.
- If it's your first time setting up your account, click "New Parent Login."
- District Code is STMARY-TX. Use the email address you gave to the school.
- Once your account is set up, login by clicking "Parent Login."

FACTS Family App



Download the FACTS Family App on Your Phone



1. Login to the FACTS Family app with the same information you use on a computer.
2. Click on the icons to see what features you have access to.
3. Order lunch, check grades, monitor attendance and behavior, and pay your tuition, or access the school directory... all right from your phone!

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. **All absences without a doctor's note are considered unexcused.**

If your child is going to be absent, the parent/guardian must contact the school by 8:30 a.m. each day of the student's absence. Partial day absences are 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 am or leaves prior to 2 pm will automatically be recorded half-absent. Students may not exceed more than (10) absences for the school year without serious reason.

Communication

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.

Parent Text Alerts

Urgent or important messages are sent from Principal Roraback through our text system to the mobile number you listed in FACTS. Make sure it is current!

Facebook Page

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

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!

Lunch

St. Mary's School provides hot lunch every school day at the following prices:

- Hot Lunch Tray (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday): \$3.75
- Extra entree: \$1.00 (if available)
- Raising Canes/Chick-fil-A (Thursdays): \$5-\$9.
- Chili's/Jimmy John's (Thursdays): \$5-14.
- Pizza (Fridays): \$1.25 per slice.

Lunch orders are taken **monthly** through FACTS. At the end of each week, 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).

If your child does not have lunch on a hot food day, they will be given what is served that day. If they don't bring lunch on a Thursday or Friday, they will get and be charged \$3 for a Lunchable.

If your child brings lunch from home, please note: **Staff cannot heat up lunches in the microwave.** If you send a hot lunch in a metal Thermos-style container, please allow it to cool off a bit before closing the lid, or it will be heat-sealed shut by the time your child tries to eat it at lunch.

Volunteer Requirements

One of the major strengths of St. Mary's Catholic School is our community. This community sustains the school financially, spiritually and socially. A general volunteer expectation produces a strong school community.

All families are expected to volunteer 30 hours per year (15 in the Fall, 15 in the Spring) for major fundraisers, community events, classroom needs, and various campus projects. Volunteer opportunities will be updated throughout the year on the school website under the *Support* tab, then *Volunteer*.

School employees and HASA Board Members are exempt from the volunteer requirement. And certainly, any family facing serious or unforeseen circumstances (i.e. hospitalization, etc.) may meet with the principal to discuss their situation.

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. Safe Environment training must be completed yearly, and background checks are 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."

Bus Service

Ride the St. Mary's School Bus

Morning Northbound	Afternoon Southbound
<p>McKinney Depart 7:10 am Chili's, 1940 N Central Expy</p> <p>Anna Depart 7:25 am Walmart Parking Lot, NW section 807 S. Central Expy</p> <p>Van Alstyne Depart 7:30 am Braum's, 848 W Marshall Drive</p> <p>Sherman Arrive 7:55 am St. Mary's School</p>	<p>Sherman Depart 3:30 pm St. Mary's School</p> <p>Van Alstyne Arrive 3:45 pm McDonald's 1001 W Van Alstyne Pkwy</p> <p>Anna Arrive 4:00 pm Subway, 804 S Central Expy</p> <p>McKinney Arrive 4:15 pm Party City, 2097 N Central Expy</p>

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/oS58MMq838XqSRA47>



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/D2Cxr8rsnDGnJ3st7>



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/mGxLtf69CEQPk4f3A>



Carpool

DISMISSAL PROCEDURE/TRAFFIC PATTERN

- Students will assemble in the Gym for afternoon prayers and dismissal.
- Family names will be projected on the Gym wall in the order parents are lined up outside for dismissal.
- The dismissal policy requires students to be dismissed from the Gym and placed into vehicles by a school employee.
- The pick-up lane must move quickly and consistently. A total of **six** 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 Gym. 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 Gym doors at the circular drive. Please park in the parking lot and enter through the front doors of the school.
- 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 FACTS 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 3:45 PM.

Uniforms

Visit our two uniform stores for any new uniform pieces you need. Their pricing is comparable to each other, but they do offer some unique style and material options to suit your students' preferences.

1. **Tommy Hilfiger:** <https://rb.gy/5f56z>
2. **Direct Uniforms:** <https://directschooluniforms.com/collections/st-marys-shtx>

Refer to this Quick Reference Guide to make sure your child has everything they need (or want!). **** Please Note: Hoodies are NOT permitted at Mass on Wednesdays. ****

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



Save the Dates

FALL *at a glance* 2025

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 2, 6:30-8:30 pm: Back to School Party at The Splash

Cool off & reconnect with classmates and their families

August 7, 5-7 pm: Back to School Night

Meet your child's teachers and get ready to start the new year!

August 11 - 1st Day of School!

August 15 - Feast of the Assumption School Mass at 8:30

August 19, 21, 25: Curriculum Nights

Come see what your students' teachers have planned for the year, visit classrooms, and preview work already completed.

SEPTEMBER

September 18th: North Texas Giving Day & Community BBQ

Annual Fund Drive to support the school's operational funding.

September 27: St. Mary's Catholic Parish Fall Fest

Join us for the biggest social event of our community!

September 29: Book Fair Week begins!

OCTOBER

All Month: Poinsettia Sales

Order gorgeous blooms for Christmas! Benefit the 5th grade Pines Trip & 9th grade Confirmation Retreat. Flowers arrive in December.

October 1: Grandparents Day

October 8: Fall Picture Day

October 13 Parent Teacher Conferences/No School

October 31: All Saint's Day School Mass at 8:30

NOVEMBER

November 19: Picture retakes

November 12: Honor our Veterans after the School Mass at 8:30

November 24-28: Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

December 7: Run, Run Rudolph 5K

Run through Sherman in Christmas style to benefit St. Mary's School.

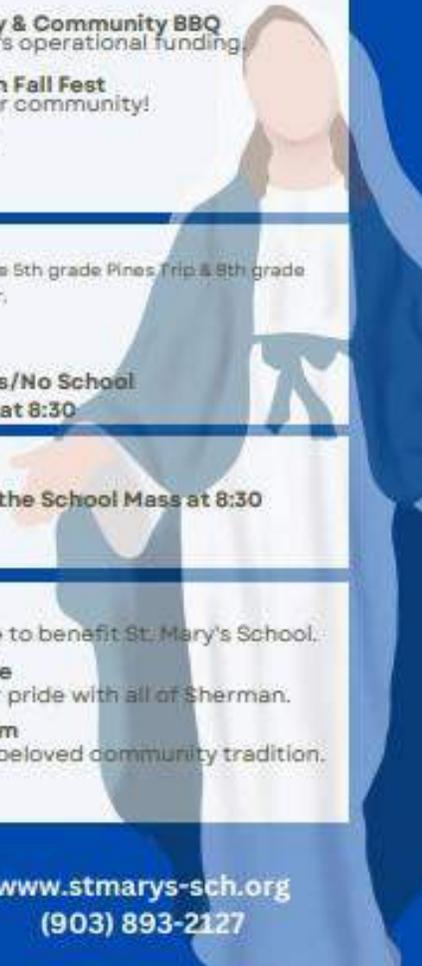
December 7: Sherman Christmas Parade

Join holiday festivities to share our Tiger pride with all of Sherman.

December 16: Annual Christmas Program

Come watch our students perform this beloved community tradition.

December 18: Fine Arts Night



Academic Calendar



2025
2026

8:30 School Day Begins
3:30 School Day Ends
12:00 Early Dismissal Day Ends

Calendar Key

Weekly Instructional Day	Start of Classes
First Day of Instruction	Early Dismissal Instructional
Color Coding	Holiday/No Class
Inclement Weather Day	Last Day of Instruction

July

- 26 Administrators Meeting
- 31 New Teacher Orientation

August

- 1 Teachers 1st Day
- 11 1st Day of Instruction
- 22 Diocesan Prof. Development

September

- 1 Labor Day Holiday

8-18 NWCA Testing Window
9 Beg. of Year Testing Day 1
18 Beg. of Year Testing Day 2

October

- 13-17 Virtus Lesson 3
- 22 Parent Conferences

November

- 16-22 Discover Catholic Schools
- 24-26 Thanksgiving

December

- 22-24 Christmas Holiday

January

- 1-2 Christmas Holiday
- 5 Professional Development Day

12-22 NWCA Testing Window (Delayed)
13 Mid-Year Testing Day 1
20 Mid-Year Testing Day 2

- 18 Diocesan Prof. Development
- 19 Martin Luther King Day
- 25-31 Catholic Schools Week

February

- 16 Presidents Day - Inclement Weather Day

March

- 16-20 Spring Break

April

- 9 Holy Thursday - half day
- 10 Good Friday
- 11 Easter
- 12 Easter Monday - Inclement Weather Day

13-24 NWCA Testing Window
13 End of Year Testing Day 1
24 End of Year Testing Day 2

May

- 26 Memorial Day
- 27 Graduation
- 29 Last Day of Instruction - half day

JULY 2025						
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NOVEMBER 2025						
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DECEMBER 2025						
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JANUARY 2026						
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MARCH 2026						
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MAY 2026						
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JUNE 2026						
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713 S. Travis St., Sherman, TX 75060
960-893-2127



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.

Suggested Donation: \$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



Spirit Store

Yard Signs

Share your Tiger Pride by ordering a St. Mary's yard sign (pictured below) for your front yard! Signs will be available for purchase at Back to School Night or in the front office. Only \$15 each to share your school spirit!



Spirit Merchandise

All items will be available for sale by HASA at Back to School Night and other special events. Stay tuned for updates and new product debuts throughout the school year.

Scrip



Turn everyday shopping
into fundraising dollars



RaiseRight™

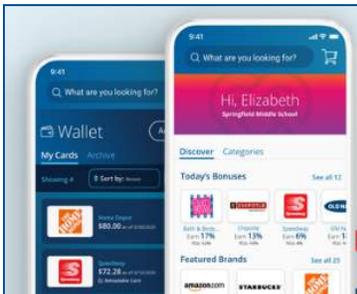
Formerly ShopWithScrip

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 Belief 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, soccer, 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	Rosie Candelaria	rcandelaria@stmarys-sch.org
2nd Grade Homeroom 2nd-3rd ELA	Ifeoma Oladele	ioladele@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	Theresa Finley	tfinley@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
Dyslexia & Intervention Support	Cindy Tronzano	ctronzano@stmarys-sch.org
Orchestra	David Cason	dcason@stmarys-sch.org
Music	Lisa Mitchell	lmitchell@stmarys-sch.org
K-8 Art	Katherine Hearn	khearn@stmarys-sch.org
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