



# ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

## 2023-24 State-of-the-School Report

*Mission Statement: St. Mary's School in Bird Island serves the area students in Preschool through eighth grade by providing a Christ-centered Catholic education where academics, excellence, self-worth and faith development go hand in hand in a nurturing environment.*



Dear Parents, Family, Friends, Supporters, Parishioners, and Alumni of St. Mary's School,

During the past year, our school has certainly been through a variety of transitions, but our core mission remains strong. Working together, students, faculty, staff, parents, and parishioners have come together with a spirit of cooperation and collaboration to help ensure the best possible experience of learning for our students each day.

At the heart of our school are the children we serve. As I have said countless times over the course of my time at St. Mary's School, our students are simply the best! They are intelligent, self-motivated, inclusive, and filled with the spirit. They bring with them a variety of interpersonal, intellectual, and spiritual gifts they share with one another as well as the parish community. In the process, they are instilled with the competence and confidence to be thoughtful people to possess critical thinking skills so they are able to take on whatever academic or personal challenge may come their way.

Much of our student success is tied to the commitment and hard work of our dedicated and talented faculty and staff. We are blessed at St. Mary's School because our teachers understand the importance of nurturing, meaningful relationships, and challenging students with high expectations. Our students are the beneficiaries of the outstanding commitment and experience that our faculty and staff offer.

Our parents and parishioners are to be commended for their continued commitment and support during the year. The strong spirit of dedication that is apparent among the stakeholders has helped forge a strong partnership that allows us to go from simply achieving the ordinary to achieving the extraordinary. We are richly blessed by our parents, supporters, and parishioners who share their time, talent and treasure with our school community.

As a school we have accomplished a great deal and have much to be proud of over the past year. With pride we look back at the exciting highlights and accomplishments of the year as listed in the following pages of the Annual Report. From a renewed sense of optimism about the direction our school is headed together we will continue to move our school forward. Because of the partnership, we have developed St. Mary's School continues to be a center of academic excellence, student empowerment, and Christian service to others.

As we look forward to the 2024-2025 school year, we plan to continue the good work. We look forward to working in partnership with you for the benefit of our school children. May God continue to bless your life!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Tracy Bertrand Sigurdson  
St. Mary's Principal

### **Tuition Rate/Cost comparison for the 2023-24 School Year**

Average Annual Tuition	\$3750.00
Average Tuition per Day	\$22.32
Average Private Tuition MN	\$7625.00

### Average Cost to Educate a Student

St. Mary's	\$8411.00
District School	\$16,009.94

The average public school per pupil cost \$16,080.00 as reported by the Education Data Initiative, this includes both elementary and secondary schools. Catholic schools save the US billions a year in educational costs.

## Catholic Identity Theme for 2023-24: United in Faith and Community

St. Mary's School's tagline is "Where Faith and Academics go hand-in-hand". We at St. Mary's School focus upon the importance of focusing on our faith. Service and living out our faith are a recurring action in our school classrooms, in addition to weekly liturgies, prayer services, Stations of the Cross, Adoration and visits from the priest, students were prepared for Sacraments of First Eucharist and Reconciliation and May Crowning. Here are a few highlights from last year's service projects.

**School Marathon:** Since 2018 we have taken this fantastic fundraiser and turned it into a service project that we can give back to the community by raking leaves, picking up sticks and pulling weeds. It has been a huge success getting to know members of the community and coming closer to Christ by serving others.

**Adopt a Family:** This year the families of St. Mary's School adopted 9 families from Renville County we were in need during the Christmas season. Each class adopted a family and collected the needed items from the list provided by Renville County Social Services.



**Bags of Blessings:** This year the 8<sup>th</sup> graders delivered the bags of blessings to the Renville County Walk in the Park organization. The bags provide comfort to Renville County patients who are under-going treatment such as chemotherapy. 55 bags were donated this year bringing a total number of bags given over the past 9 years to 353 bags.

## Accredited through MNSAA since 1988

Accreditation is a framework for the best possible educational program for learners. In addition to delivering recognized credibility of the quality of a school program in the eyes of stakeholders and the public, accreditation also offers outside objective validation that a school has met high standards and is actively seeking a quality educational program.



## Strategic Plan Goals Achieved for 2023-24:

- Establish transparent guidelines and expectations for a successful preschool and prekindergarten program
- Incorporate a Catholic Identity component in the area of the MN state standards
- To transition to a new Math curriculum (Reveal)
- Embrace and incorporate the Believe and Read program in grades K-2.

## Strategic Plan Goals for 2024-25

- Develop and implement the strategies to an effective classroom and school-wide management structure.
- Incorporate a transparent coaching program to support the needs of the staff.
- Form a plan that will allow staff to study data and reflect on effective teaching strategies.
- To ensure and update the Crisis Plan to ensure the safety of all students and staff.
- Continue to improve the quality, appearance and functionality of the school which includes cosmetic repair to enrich its original character.



## Financials

School Revenue	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (Projected)	Average 24-25 projection not included
Tuition	\$337,931	\$364,700	\$382,220	\$449,550	487,265	\$571,248	\$643,259	\$432,152.33
Fundraising & Donations	\$249,103	\$262,503	\$261,213	\$286,473	610,646	\$288,300	\$288,300	\$234,873.00
Parish Subsidy	\$228,101	\$159,831	\$173,329	\$175,640	0	\$294,616	\$278,748	\$171,919.50
Other Parish Subsidy	\$19,050	\$14,350	\$15,000	\$15,000	19,248	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$16,2734.67
Endowment	\$38,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$42,000	52,058	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,343.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$872,185</b>	<b>\$841,384</b>	<b>\$871,762</b>	<b>\$968,663</b>	<b>\$1,169,217</b>	<b>\$1,211,164</b>	<b>\$1,267,307</b>	<b>\$989,062.50</b>
School Expenses	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Average
Salaries	\$607,887	\$591,255	\$559,995	\$723,422	\$814,740	\$911,673	\$948,486	\$701,495.33
Plant & Operations	\$108,515	\$109,392	\$110,080	\$123,270	\$145,804	\$154,895	\$158,426	\$622,876.83
Instructional	\$53,836	\$59,586	\$56,305	\$45,438	\$162,298	\$72,901	\$72,901	\$75,060.67
Other Administrative	\$101,947	\$81,150	\$145,382	\$76,533	\$46,375	\$71,694	\$87,494	\$87,180.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$872,185</b>	<b>\$841,384</b>	<b>\$871,762</b>	<b>\$968,663</b>	<b>\$1,169,217</b>	<b>\$1,211,164</b>	<b>\$1,267,307</b>	<b>\$989,062.50</b>

## Enrollment Trend:

	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
Kindergarten Thru 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	121	138	149	147	131	136	121	122
Preschool	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20			
	23	26	16	25	17			

## Assessment Results

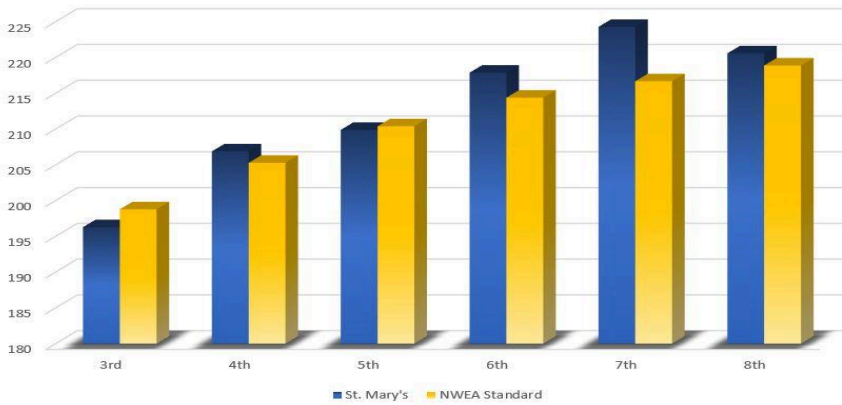
St. Mary's School believes an effective assessment system motivates students to grow and take responsibility for their learning goals, communicates with stakeholders, promotes school improvement, guides instructional decisions, and shares a common vision. Assessment tools and practices are varied, ongoing, authentic, and aligned with specific learning targets. Regular and descriptive feedback is provided to students, and all parents to positively promote learning. Assessments are used to understand and positively motivate the students as individual learners. Information gathered is used to understand the relationship between the learner and his/her progress toward achieving learning targets

### NWEA Testing (MAP- Measures of Academic Progress)

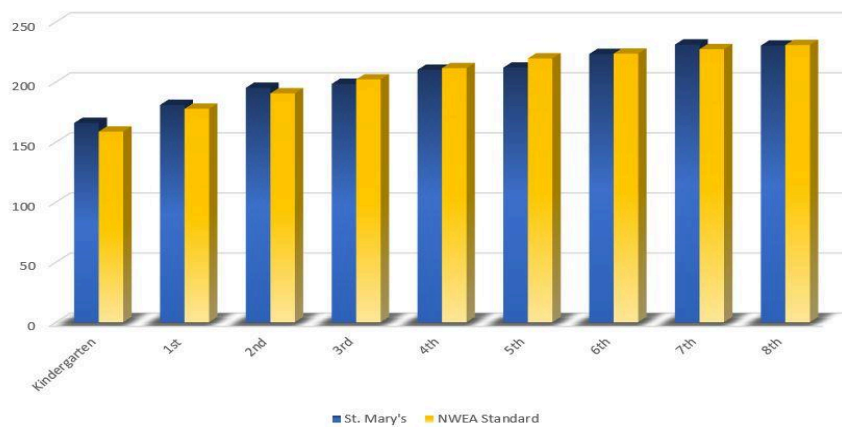
Students in grades kindergarten through 8 are tested 3 times during the school year. This test measures academic progress and is used to give individual student information to parents and teachers. The tests measure student progress and growth from one test session to the next. This test is used to evaluate the school curriculum, the particular needs of an individual, class, or a need of the entire school. NWEA Tests taken are in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Students have individual goals for improvement. NWEA gives students a projected growth based on their ability levels. The goal is for students to move toward their projected growth goals as they work on meeting the curriculum standards.

The following are results from spring testing. NWEA is designed to help teachers as they plan instruction for individual students. It also supports school staff and administration as they focus on allocating resources and it empowers staff as they work to improve all educational outcomes. All schools within the New Ulm Diocese have now implemented NWEA with the goal to have comparative data in the future. The “Blue” bar represents the students of St. Mary’s. The “Gold” bar represents the national norm from the schools who also tested in the same window.

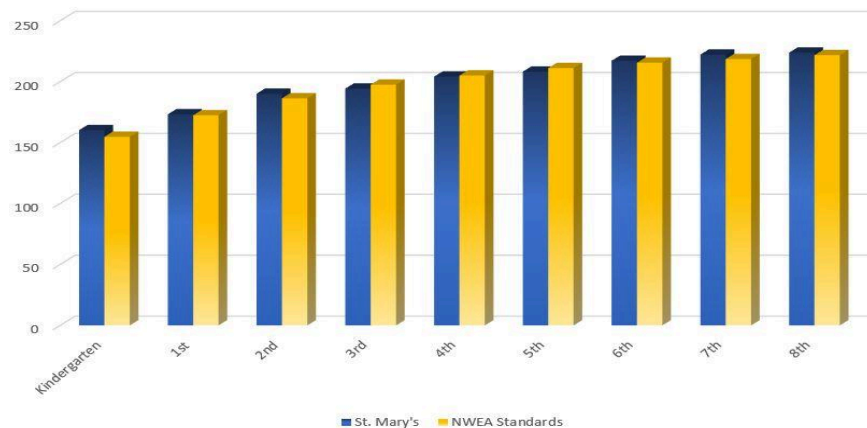
**NWEA Spring LA Results 2023-2024**



**NWEA Spring Math Results 2023-2024**



**NWEA Spring Reading Results 2023-2024**



*A special thank you to Mrs. Kathy McRell, Mrs. Carren Frank, Miss Annie See, Jean Athamnn & Laura Kivi for serving St. Mary’s School.*

**2023-24 Education Committee Members:**

Sene Zupke, Jamie Kubesh, Malissa Everson, Steph Lerud, Rob Thurston, Kelsie Aeikens and Steve Herdina

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Mrs. Bertrand Sigurdson at 320-365-3693 ext 215 or via email at [tsigurdson@stmarysbi.com](mailto:tsigurdson@stmarysbi.com)