



## The Impact of Catholic Schools



During Christmas break, I was taking in some down time and watching a situational comedy. This particular show took place in an inner city. It was about a single mom with two children and a grandmother living in the same apartment. The two children were students who attended a Catholic school. One particular episode had a discussion about the Catholic church. The mom was always occupied with work, trying to support her children. While religion was important to her, her priority was supporting her kids, while the grandmother seemed to be the force keeping the family together through her faith. The children, while attending a Catholic school, were being nurtured through the cultural environment of the school. In this particular setting, the family was experiencing conflicts between secular and religious values. This conflict is common, especially in a fast-paced society. However, as the research shows below, Catholic schools do make a difference in the lives of their students.

### Research on Catholic Schools

In 2014, a study conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate of Georgetown, focused on the impact that Catholic schools in the United States had on their students in future generations. Surveys of these adults, ranging from those born from 1943 to 1982 or later indicate the following:

#### *Church Attendance:*

Adults who have attended a Catholic school sometime in their lifetime are more likely to attend weekly Mass as adults.

#### *Involvement in the Church:*

Adults who have attended a Catholic school sometime in their lifetime are more likely to consider the priesthood, religious life, or more likely to participate as lay ministers in a parish ministry.

**Did you know that the ministry of St. Mary's School educates, feeds, provides child care and after school activities for \$22.00 per day per child (or \$3.85 per hour). All of this occurs; and at the same time the spiritual formation of children is nurtured.**

## From the Executive Director

### **Snap Shot of Activities for Catholic Schools Week**

#### **ST. MARY'S ENDOWMENT FUND**

In 1986 an educational endowment was set up for St. Mary's School. The purpose of St. Mary's Grade School Endowment Fund is to invest funds in which the proceeds of those investments go to support the ministry of St. Mary's School. Funds are invested with financial institutions. Today the total amount of funds invested is close to \$1.1 million. A separate endowment advisory board oversees the investment and recommends disbursements. Information about the endowment will be sent out later this month.

#### **NO SCHOOL**

There will be no school on Monday, January 15th, due to Staff Development.

<http://stmarysalina.org>

This is a valuable resource. There are classroom happenings listed. Daily bulletins can also be accessed from this website.

#### **ITBS TESTS**

Iowa Tests of Basic Skills are given to students in Grades K-6. Testing will begin on Tuesday, January 16th. Standardized tests help measure your children's progress. Their results are compared with those of kids at the same grade level nationwide. Schools also use the scores to see what areas of the curriculum may need to be strengthened. ITBS has completely updated their testing to reflect the new national standards. These tests usually cover many different subject areas. Doing homework regularly is one of the best ways your children can prepare. Results will be shared at PT conferences.

Drink water instead of sugary drinks:

Cut calories by drinking water or unsweetened beverages. Soda, energy drinks, and sports drinks are a major source of added sugar, and calories, in American diets.

After School Pickup

**We really do appreciate everyone's cooperation in** picking up their children at dismissal. With weather getting colder it is very important that students not be left waiting. In case of snow, please drive carefully. Snow banks sometimes leave single lanes to exit the parking lots.

## **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

Catholic Schools Week will be Jan. 28th thru Feb. 4th. There will be many special activities planned for students and parents in celebration, beginning with a special liturgy at St. Mary's Church on Jan 28th at 9:30 am. A breakfast will follow at the school.

## **TAX INFORMATION**

If your child is enrolled at Love 'n Learn Day Care, St. Mary's Pre K Program, or St. Mary's Extended Care Program, you may qualify for a tax credit. Please consult your tax accountant. If you qualify, you will need the school's Federal ID Number. We will be glad to provide the information if you make such a request in writing. Please allow a couple days for processing.  
**We will not give the information over the phone.**



# Come celebrate with our School community

**Sunday, January 28th**  
**Breakfast & Open House at**  
**St. Mary's Grade School from 8am-12:30pm**

Your whole family is invited (if Grandparents are in town - bring them along)

The theme of this year's celebration of Catholic Schools Week is – CATHOLIC SCHOOLS– Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service. There will be a day to celebrate our Catholic School Community on Sunday, January 28th at the 9:30 am Liturgy at St. Mary's Church.

After Mass, families are invited to join us for breakfast. A breakfast of casseroles, cinnamon rolls and fruits will be prepared by Catholic Daughters for a free will donation. *The proceeds go to Catholic Daughters for scholarships, March for Life and missions.* **Do Not send money with reservation form. All donations will be accepted the morning of the breakfast.**

The breakfast will be held at St. Mary's School. Because of the limited space, we are asking for reservations. Please fill out the reservation form below and return it to the school by January 22nd. We are hoping for a large turnout.

## SPECIAL EVENT

### Catholic Schools Week Breakfast



Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

# of Adults \_\_\_\_\_

# of Children \_\_\_\_\_

**Space is limited – please return your reservation form by January 22nd.**

**Catholic Schools Week**  
**January 28, 2018 - February 4, 2018**

# Around the School



# Ten Reasons Why Catholic Schools Matter



## 1. A Faith View of the World

Catholic school students are taught a faith view of the world, there is no such thing as a secular subject, as all learning helps to develop and bring to full bloom that image of God that is in each person.

## 2. Immersion in the Paschal Mystery

Our lives are a series of small and not so small dyings and risings. In union with the Paschal Mystery, we realize that there is redemptive power in suffering, and in the power of the cross.

## 3. The Value of Relationships

**Catholic school students learn to experience God's grace and presence in their lives** through their relationships with family, friends and teachers. We are made for Community.

## 4. A Holistic View of Scripture

Catholic school students are given the opportunity to explore the beauty and richness of Sacred Scripture seen through the lens of faith and lived out in daily practice. They learn to apply Scripture to their own lives as a tool for prayer and the true guide for virtuous living.

## 5. Civic Engagement

In recent research, it has been reported that private school graduates are significantly more likely to actively participate in civic activities..

## 6. Service for the Common Good

Catholic schools promote service as an essential component of their curriculum. Many Catholic schools have service programs from pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade.

## 7. Discipline as a Faith Expectation

Catholic schools promote self-discipline through clarity of moral vision that is based on the Gospel. Students are challenged to be Christ-like in work and action.

## 8. The Centrality of Arts, Ritual, Drama, Music to the Life of Faith

Through Catholic education, students are exposed to the richness of the religious tradition. Music, Art, Literature, Drama and Ritual are rooted in the rich history of the Church.

## 9. The Fullness of the Catholic Identity at the Heart of the Church

Catholic education has always been at the heart of the Catholic mission. Catholic education, and the students who are the product of it, have been called the **"greatest work of the Church"**.

## 10. Personal Excellence as a Spiritual Goal

**Catholic school students learn that excellence is a response to God's blessings. Students** learn so as to help others, and make a difference in the world around them.



## **Assessment Program at St. Mary's School**

**St. Mary's Grade School follows a traditional curriculum. The basic core subjects** of Religion, Math, and Language Arts are integrated with Science, Social Studies, and Data Analysis.

**In today's educational conversations, there is a great emphasis on "academic growth" and preparing students for the next level.**

**For over 40 years, St. Mary's Grade School has been committed to monitoring academic growth in Grades K-6.** Data collected from assessments are for both short and long term academic progress of individual students. The staff utilizes several tools to observe and analyze student advancement.

ACRE (Assessment of Catholic Religious Education) helps schools evaluate faith, knowledge, and attitudes of Catholic School students. This is administered in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades.

DIBELS Reading which is individually administered, measures acquisition of early literacy skills in K-6. DIBELS Math is a brief evaluation of numeracy, computation, and problem solving skills in K-6. These two assessments are done three times a year.

ITBS (Iowa Tests of Basic Skills) is a national standardized assessment and is more comprehensive across the curriculum including Phonics, Reading, Math, Language (Spelling/Capitalization/Punctuation), Science (Life and Physical), and Social Studies (History, Economics and Civics). Results of the ITBS are shared with parents at **mid-year conferences. At the same time, individual student's academic growth** from year to year is also reviewed and shared. Starting in 2017, The ITBS will also provide predictive scores for ACT starting in Grade 6.

Kansas Assessments are summative assessments used to measure student knowledge based on the Kansas College Standards. Summative assessments are given towards the end of the year and can aid in reviewing curriculum and infrastructure.

# January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> New Years Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> School Resumes	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 4-6th Band Concert APR 7 pm	<b>9</b> Group Pictures — Main Day	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Geography Bee	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Used Uniform Sale 10-1
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> No School	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Family Bin-go Night	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
		IOWA Basics Testing Grades Kind-6				
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> School Council 5:30	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Chocolate Fundraiser begins	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9.30am Mass Breakfast 8am-12:30pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	Catholic Schools Week		

## SAFETY CONCERNS—PLEASE READ—IMPORTANT

**MORNING TRAFFIC**—In the morning when dropping off students to enter the All-Purpose Room please drive forward along the sidewalk. **Students from at least six-eight cars back can exit the right side of their vehicles (all at the same time) and walk on the sidewalk to enter the school.** Please do not use the circle drive. This will keep the traffic flowing more smoothly.

Recently there have been many cars entering the parking lot from Cloud St and not going around the loop. Stopping in the middle of the parking lot is **not safe for your child to exit.** It is also difficult for cars entering the lot, as it blocks the flow of traffic on Cloud St.

If you choose to park in a stall and drop off your children, it is the parent responsibility to see to it that students use the crosswalks.

After school, we hope drivers take the responsibility of parking correctly and driving slowly, **but students also need to use the crosswalks** and walk carefully to their cars. Cars should not stop in the driving area to pick up their child(ren). This is why, in the winter, when we get snow—students will not be allowed to be throwing snowballs before or after school; nor be allowed to be climbing on snow mounds. We appreciate parents' support.

Reminder that cell phone use is prohibited when dropping off and picking up children. This is for the safety of our students.

Heavenly Father,

**Bless St. Mary's Grade School and the many people who advance our mission**

May our building be a home for those who seek to grow in faith, knowledge, and service of others.

May our community always support one another and exhibit hospitality to newcomers.

Fill our minds with knowledge and wisdom.

May our understanding of the world help us to grow in appreciation for it.

Fill our hearts with gladness.

May we always turn to you in times of need.

Fill our hands with the tools we need to serve others.

May we show them your unceasing love through our actions.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray for us.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us.

St. Mary Queen of the Universe, pray for us.

Through our Master Teacher, Jesus our Lord.

Amen

*Love of Learning*



*Learning of Love*

*United In Christ - Body, Mind and Spirit*



# St. Mary's Messenger

St. Mary's School  
304 E. Cloud  
Salina, KS 67401

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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