



ST. MARY SCHOOL SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT

2022-
2023

DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Dear St. Mary Families and Friends,

On behalf of the St. Mary Education Committee (SMEC), faculty, and staff, I am pleased to present our 2022-2023 annual report. As you read through, you will see how, despite the impacts that the Covid pandemic had on children, St. Mary students continued to grow academically, understanding the importance of service to their communities, and that faith is an integral part of their personal formation.

As we started the school year, we used the information gathered during our prior year's self study to determine priority areas that we wanted to focus on throughout the year. These included improving facilities, providing additional programs to serve our students, providing the training and resources to allow teachers to meet the needs of all students, and continuing to build on the community spirit that makes St. Mary special. Our schools have made great strides in achieving our Top Priorities, and this report highlights our successes and areas for continued growth.

As we head into the new school year, we once again have determined priorities for our 2023-2024 school year, with the ultimate goal of fulfilling our mission of empowering students academically, encouraging selfless sacrifice, and nurturing learners to become positive influences on others. As we move forward we will be focusing on:

- Improving School Safety for students, staff, and visitors
- Developing a long term strategic plan to ensure that St. Mary will continue to grow as a Christ-centered community rooted in Catholic tradition
- Continuing to work on facility maintenance and repairs system-wide
- Further strengthening our learning resource programs in all schools so that we can best serve as many students as possible who desire a strong Catholic education
- Continuing to offer new professional development opportunities for teachers and staff so that we continue to empower students academically in an atmosphere rooted in the Catholic faith
- Completing capital improvement projects to maintain a welcoming and nurturing environment

To follow the progress we make on these priorities, please visit:
<https://www.sms.org/about/school-priorities/>

We are extremely grateful for the support of our alumni, community supporters, and all St. Mary families. Your efforts make a difference in the lives of every student, and we are grateful for your ongoing commitment to our schools.

Together in Christ,

Mrs. Monica Hayden

Monica Hayden, System Director

OUR MISSION

St. Mary, a Christ-centered community rooted in Catholic tradition, empowers students academically, encourages selfless sacrifice, and nurtures learners to become a positive influence on others.

FAST FACTS FOR 2022 - 2023

93%

Student Retention Rate (K-12)

96%

Teacher Retention Rate

11:1

Student-Teacher Ratio

20

zip codes represented by St. Mary Students

34%

of K-12 students receive need-based Tuition Assistance

17%

diverse student populations (2% Asian, 7% two or more races, 4% Black/African American, 4% Hispanic)

70%

Catholic Student Population



ST. MARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The St. Mary Education Committee (SMEC) meets on a monthly basis to support the operations and goals of the school system. Committee members are appointed by the parish pastors and work in conjunction with the Episcopal Vicar, the System Director, and the Superintendent of the Diocese of Owensboro to lead the school system. The goals of SMEC are to further the Church's educational ministry, foster the mission of the school, provide direction and stability, represent the stakeholders, and support the administration.

Fr. Brad Whistle (Episcopal Vicar)

Andrew DuPerrieu (Chair)

April Dunn

Michael Eck

David Gavin

Beth Kaufman

Krista Lea

Chris Miller

Jamie Paxton

Colleen Stovesand

Stefanie Wilcox

Amanda Wurth



ST. MARY SUPPORTING PARISHES

We are grateful to the area parishes that work in partnership with St. Mary to provide the school system with support, ensuring their parishioners could choose a Catholic education during the 2022-2023 school year:

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

Rosary Chapel Catholic Church

St. Jerome Catholic Church

St. Joseph Catholic Church

St. Mary's Catholic Church

FAITH

6

Advent Ceremonies



2

Living Rosaries



4

Elementary, Middle and High School Reconciliations

2

May Crownings

ST. MARY ACRE TEST RESULTS:

The ACRE (Assessment of Children/Youth Religious Education) helps schools, parishes, and diocesan leaders evaluate the faith, knowledge, and attitudes of students. Students take the ACRE test in 5th, 8th, and 11th grade. The 2022-23 results are a testament to the importance of the ongoing faith education that is provided daily at St. Mary. When comparing St. Mary students' test results to the national average for students who do not attend Catholic school, but do attend Faith Formation classes through their parishes, St. Mary students score 20% higher or better.

Teachers and staff use these results to make improvements in our religion curriculum and our teaching strategies each year.



52

School Masses

2

Blessings of the Pets



5

School-wide Stations of the Cross



13

Spiritual Retreats - All students from K-12th grade participate in a retreat to help them focus and grow closer to God.

2,559

Christian Service Hours Completed (9th-12th grade) - High school students complete service hours as part of their graduation requirements, but students in every grade learn to serve others through service projects that are held throughout the school year.

ACADEMICS

CLASS OF 2022-23:

- 1 set of twins
- 2 graduates received Athletic Scholarships
- 16 - 13-year St. Mary graduates
 - 26 Graduates
 - 66% Honor Graduates
 - 99% Received Scholarships
 - 100% College Bound
 - 1,944 hours of Christian Service completed



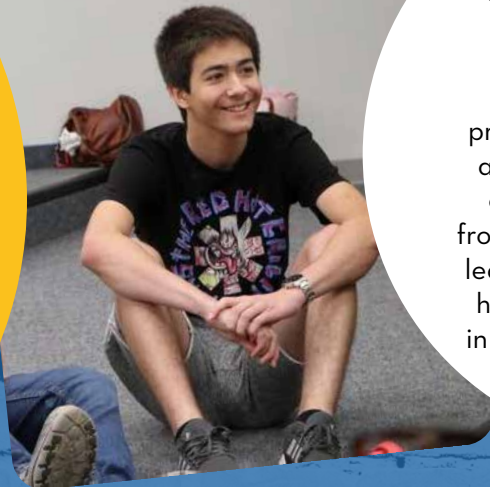
Zayna Yazigi was selected to spend part of her summer participating in the Governor's School for Entrepreneurs at Northern Kentucky University. This highly competitive program brings together high school entrepreneurs from across the state to work in teams to identify real-world problems and create real solutions!



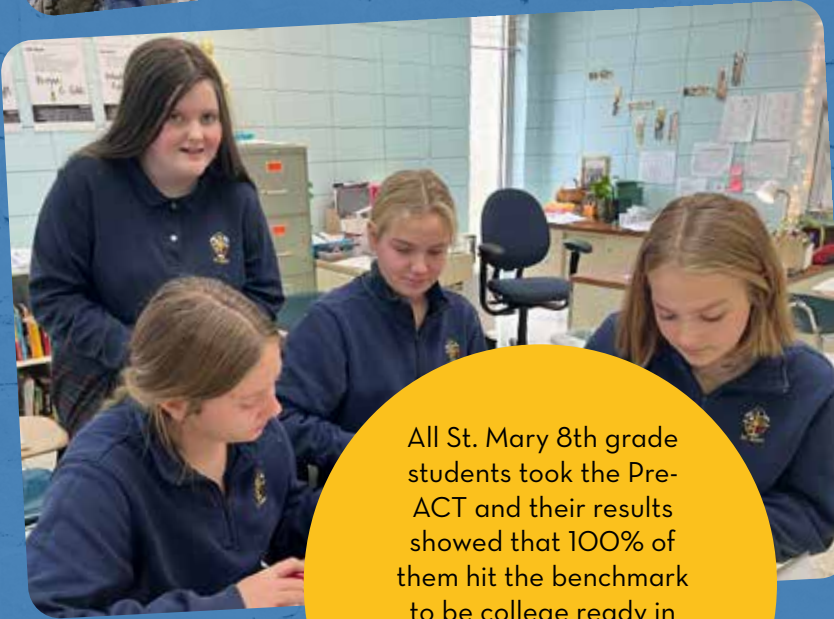
St. Mary students participated in one Christmas musical and three different drama productions this school year (The Velveteen Rabbit, Home Shopping Studios Live!, and The Fairy Tale Network).



Zach Dunn was accepted into the Commonwealth Honors Academy at Murray State University. This competitive and challenging academic program brings together high-achieving students who have completed their junior year from across the state to live and learn while taking college-level honors courses, participating in field trips, and learning from professionals.



High school students Bradyn Barnett and Zayna Yazigi were selected to participate in the HOBY Youth Leadership seminar for four days at Berea College. The mission of HOBY is to inspire and prepare future young leaders for a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation.



All St. Mary 8th grade students took the Pre-ACT and their results showed that 100% of them hit the benchmark to be college ready in Math and 96% hit the benchmark for college readiness in Reading!



The St. Mary Elementary Quick Recall team placed 2nd in the district, 13 students placed at the district level, and 7 students placed at the Regional level. Additionally, 4th grader James Paxton placed within the top 10 students in the state on the arts and humanities test. He was the only student in our region of 16 schools who achieved this!



Middle school student Lucas Lea placed 1st in the State of Kentucky 4-H Speech Competition in the 12-year old division for his speech titled "Life with my uncle with Down Syndrome".



Middle Schoolers Sophie Stratemeyer and Emma Dee competed in the Academic Team Governor's Cup State Finals in Louisville, KY. Sophie earned 6th place in the state in the science assessment category. Emma finished in the top 15% statewide in the written composition category.

ATHLETICS



Both Boys and Girls Varsity Cross Country teams made the KHSAA State Tournament with the Lady Vikings placing 4th in the State of Kentucky.



The St. Mary Track and Field Team advanced to the KHSAA State Track and Field Competition in Lexington, Kentucky.

The Vikings Golf Team was the Region 1 All 'A' Champions. Seniors Palmer Sims and Ellie Roof both advanced to the KHSAA State Tournament.



78%

of High School students played at least 1 varsity sport

55%

of High School students played 2 or more varsity sports

10

Different sports are played across elementary, middle, and high school.



The Vikings were back-to-back Region 1 All 'A' Baseball Champions and advanced to the top 8 of the All 'A' State Tournament.



The 7th and 8th Grade Lady Vikings wrapped up their winning basketball season as the McCracken County District Runner Up!



Left: Ellie Roof signed her letter of intent to play golf for Centre College.
Right: Ella Southern signed her letter of intent to continue her rodeo career at the collegiate level while attending Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

SUPPORT & FINANCIALS



Fund Run

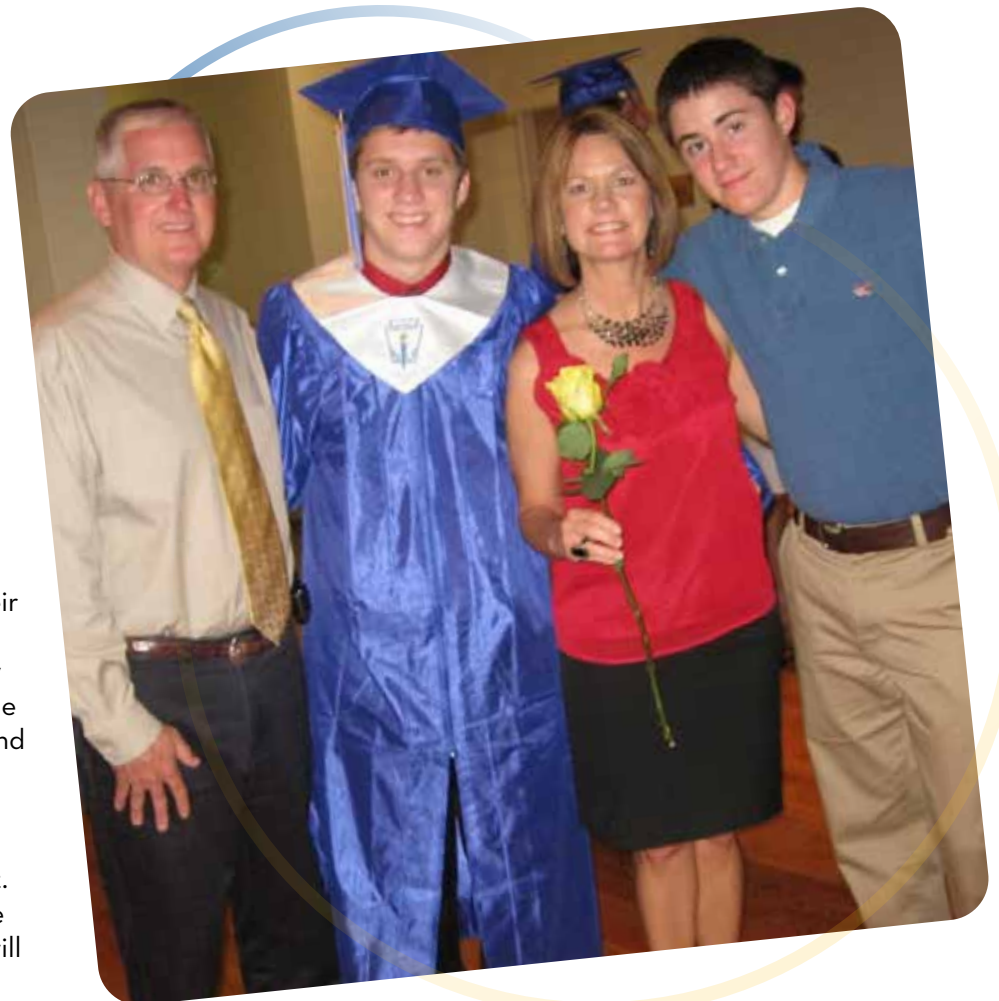
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP HONORS THE LIFE OF DEEDEE WHITTAKER

The DeeDee Whittaker “Leap of Faith” Memorial Scholarship was established by the Whittaker family to support families choosing St. Mary. DeeDee, and her husband Matt, recognized the importance and value of a faith-based education for their boys and made many sacrifices so that both of their children could attend St. Mary from kindergarten through 12th grade. The entire family cherished their time at St. Mary, including the bonds formed with other families that remain unbreakable to this day, and the exceptional education that led both boys to their own paths of success after graduation.

Not only was DeeDee a parent at St. Mary, she also worked in the school office and loved getting to interact with the children at the school. She would go on to say that “Miss DeeDee” may have been her favorite title throughout her career. DeeDee did move on to other roles in her professional career but continued to give back and volunteer at the school in several different capacities.

The Leap of Faith scholarship is designed to offer an opportunity for a family to take a leap of faith for their child with St. Mary School System by paying for a student’s tuition during their kindergarten year and also their senior year. The family’s hope is that “St. Mary will have the life-changing impact on the recipient’s life that it has had on ours and had on DeeDee’s.”

The 2023-2024 school year will be the first year the scholarship is awarded. St. Mary is honored to be one way that the remarkable life of DeeDee Whittaker will continue to have an impact on others.



St. Mary School System is committed to keeping the cost of Catholic education affordable while still providing a rigorous and faith-filled academic experience for our students. Each year, we rely on the support of our alumni, families, parishes, and community to help provide important needs across our school system that are not funded through tuition alone. The generosity of the St. Mary Community is extraordinary and the support we received over the last year is a tremendous example of the Viking spirit!

2022 - 2023 SUPPORT SUMMARY

St. Mary Annual Fund	\$321,584
St. Mary Auction	\$258,126
Restricted Gifts (Adopt-A-Class, Adopt-A-Subject, Elementary Spanish Program, Playground Updates, etc.)	\$190,985
Partners In Education (PIE)	\$43,426
System-Wide Fundraisers (Trivia Night, Scrip, etc.)	\$16,770
Capital Projects (Auxiliary Gym, Locker Room Updates)	\$1,126,000
Total Gifts	\$1,956,891



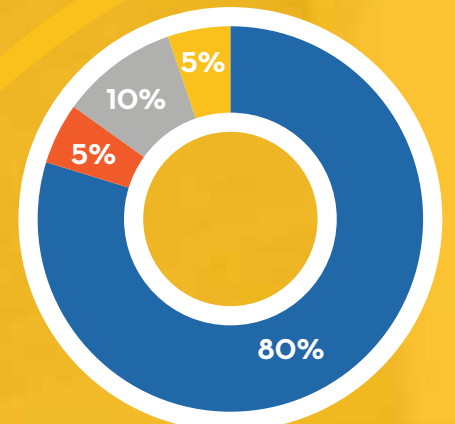
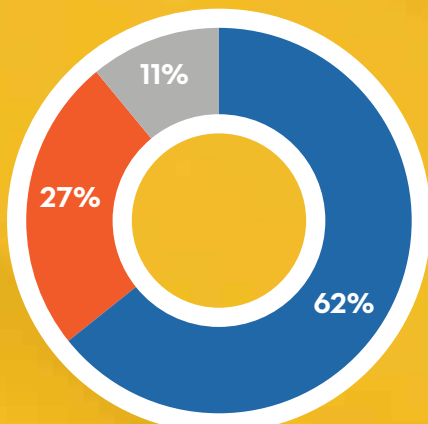
REVENUE • \$3,389,087

- Tuition, Subsidy, and Fees
- Fundraising and Other Revenue
- Tuition Assistance and Endowment Earning

EXPENSES • \$3,433,328

- Personnel
- Business Operations
- Buildings and Grounds
- Instructional Expenses

ST. MARY
REMAINS 100%
**DEBT
FREE**





St. Mary School System
1243 Elmdale Road
Paducah, KY 42003
smss.org

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10 GREAT THINGS ABOUT ST. MARY

- **A Christ-centered environment with 165 years of tradition**
- **Small Class Sizes (11:1 student to teacher ratio)**
- **Rigorous academics that prepare students for college, career, and life success**
- **Individualized Instruction**
- **Opportunities to be a multi-sport student-athlete**
- **Students grow in character and leadership through participation in clubs and extracurricular activities**
- **Positive and caring relationships between students and the faculty/staff**
- **Faith is integrated into all academic classes and extracurricular activities**
- **Family atmosphere with a strong sense of community**
- **Parents are involved and their voices matter**

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