

5/21/2026

Saint Mary Catholic Elementary School 2025-2026

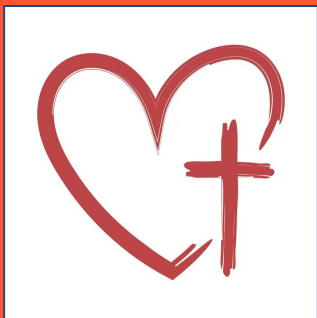
Called to Educate Minds & Nurture Souls

Lisa De Core

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*The Spirit of Jesus:
Heavenly Father,
Send the spirit of Your son
To remain with us during our meeting.
Let Him guide us, and inspire us
To think and speak accordingly to the mind of Jesus.
Fill us with Your joy and love.
And help us to put our plans into practice.*

Amen.

School Mission & Yearly Theme

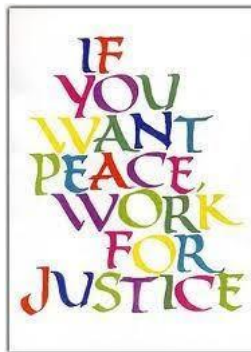
The St. Mary School Mission

Mission Statement: *As followers of Christ we live as a Catholic family to learn and teach in ways that will help to educate our minds, grow in our faith, and live as disciples of Jesus.*



Catholic Identity Goal:

- Students will grow their knowledge and understanding of social justice principles and vocabulary through real-world projects.



Theme: My goal in life is to grow closer to Jesus

- Each day students, faculty, and staff focus on what how Jesus wants us to live our lives and to keep that in mind through each action and interaction that we have with others throughout our day at school and outside of school
- By being kind to others & living The Gospel, we will grow closer to Jesus.



A Year of Growing Together as a Catholic Community

- We set a goal for 2025-26 school year to grow closer to God as a school community through prayer, celebration in Mass, prayer services, and Faith Family activities.
- We have enjoyed celebrating our culture, commitment, and collaborative spirit together this school year!

Faith & Catholic Identity

Deepening Our Faith & Catholic Identity

Faith in Action Every Day

- Students and staff embrace Catholic values throughout school life.
- Events and traditions reflect our spiritual mission.

Service and Spiritual Growth

- Enhanced service opportunities foster compassion and community.
- Opportunities for spiritual development and reflection through:
 - Faith Families, religion lessons and extension activities, Easter Project Based Learning Activities, PTO events, PSR service hours requirements, etc.
 - Lessons taught by Deacon Tom Culley to our second graders

Faith & Reflection

- Learning about Catholic Social Justice Teaching and how we as educators and students can make a difference in the world.
 - This is our Accreditation Catholic Identity Goal
- Participation in Lenten and Advent Retreats, Jesus Day, Penance Services, May Crowning, Stations of the Cross, Thanksgiving Prayer Services, Seder Supper, Holy Thursday Service, and other spiritual opportunities.
- Spiritual Retreats for The SMS faculty & staff throughout the school year.



***Peer Mediation &
Conflict Management***

Building a Caring Community Social skills incorporated into our religion curriculum fostering empathy and positive relationships Peer mediation empowers students to resolve conflicts constructively. Started in 2024-2025 & will be reinstalled in 2026-2027.

***Social Emotional &
Mental Health Supports***

*This year we have been introduced to
Carrie Jancar
Mental Health Therapist &
Clinical Director of
Family First Solutions
216-299-1978
cjancarfamilyfirstsolutions@gmail.com*

***Cont. Social Emotional &
Mental Health Supports:***

*A few SMS students have had intake observations already, private family insurance coverage, and counseling/therapy sessions can take place at school.
Don't delay if you know your child/ren can benefit from counseling.*

Compassion Care, and Concern, Cont.

Social Media: Friend or Foe?

"The Amazing Generation"

*SMS 6th, 7th & 8th graders are enjoying
this graphic novel*

By Jonathan Haidt

w/Mrs. Fedak

Parents Helping Parents Tackle Raising Children Together

SMS has been hosting a Book Club on

The Anxious Generation

*Great, informal conversations around
how to navigate and manage raising
children in a society that is very much
"phone-based" & the effects on our
children.*

Making Time For Mass & Spiritual Formation:

Weekend All School/Grade Leveled

Masses & Sports Masses

*Taking time to celebrate and worship
our faith together is THE best way for
us to stay connected as a faith-based
community.*

*Let's continue to be in The Lord's
House TOGETHER!*

School Safety & Enhancements

Safety of Our Students is Our Primary Concern:



Building a Caring Community

- Social skills incorporated into our religion curriculum fostering empathy and positive relationships
- Peer mediation empowers students to resolve conflicts constructively. Started in 2024-2025 & will be reinstalled in 2026-2027.
- NED Assembly - Building Resilience
- Safety Talks for students: First responders, Crimes Against Children,
- Digital Citizenship Curriculum in Kdg.-8



Enhanced Safety and Security

- Routine safety meetings with first responders to ensure proper safety measures are in place.
- Upgraded security systems and crisis alert protocols
- Administrators annual safety training - OSSCA (Ohio School Safety Center Assoc.)
- SMS Faculty & Staff Annual Safety Training: Multiple sessions each year w/local law enforcement, OSSCA & 3rd Party.



Reassuring Students and Parents About Safety

- Students and staff practice safety drills and discuss the importance of the drills.
- Teachers & Admin. Discuss safety at age appropriate levels
- The installation of high resolution cameras - internal and external.
- Parent Safety Meeting w/Berea Police Dept. - Review Safety Protocol & Training

Compassion, Care, and Concern



Enhanced Safety Plan for Mass

- Berea Police Department escort us to and from the Church.
- Practiced drill at the Church.
- Fr. John Singler & Mrs. De Core along with Berea Police have a formal safety plan for the Church.
- Updated plans shared w/families & posted on SMS website.



School Safety Committee

- Established School Safety Committee meets at the onset of the school year. Includes members of the SMS faculty, admin., maintenance, first responders, and parents.
- Meet multiple times per school year to maintain and review our safety plan, as well as to discuss state and federal updates and mandates.

Building Vulnerability Assessment & Grants



- The Ohio School Safety Center has done an official Vulnerability Assessment at SMS.
- Recommendations made to enhance school safety features.
- We received a few grants already and started to make improvements based on the VA: Cameras, Barricade Buckets, Nightlock Door Stoppers, additional AED for Preschool wing, landscaping to improve visibility for first responders.

Commitment to Academic Growth

Commitment to Academic Growth

Personalized Learning Initiatives.

- Wonders Language Arts Program (K-5) program boost foundational skills & enhance writing & reading abilities.
- Aleks Math (4-8) enhances individual students' math skills. Students are challenged to reach individual goals, while working with math teachers at their skill level.
- Intervention Team & Small Group Work in classrooms to meet students where they are to ensure academic success



Professional Development Focus

- The SMS Team received professional development on Wonders this year and will continue to receive additional PD in August and throughout the 2026-2027 school year to sharpen their skills on the program.
- NWEA MAP professional development
- Hacking Project Based Learning: 10 Steps to Transforming Your Classroom

Academic & Behavioral Intervention Coaching

- Gina Castelli an Intervention Specialist contracted through The Diocese of Cleveland/Julie Billiard has worked with SMS teachers to share ideas and plans to help support SMS students who need both academic and lower level behavioral interventions.
- Response to Intervention - August Professional Development & Coaching



Academic
Excellence

MAP Growth

Achievement Report

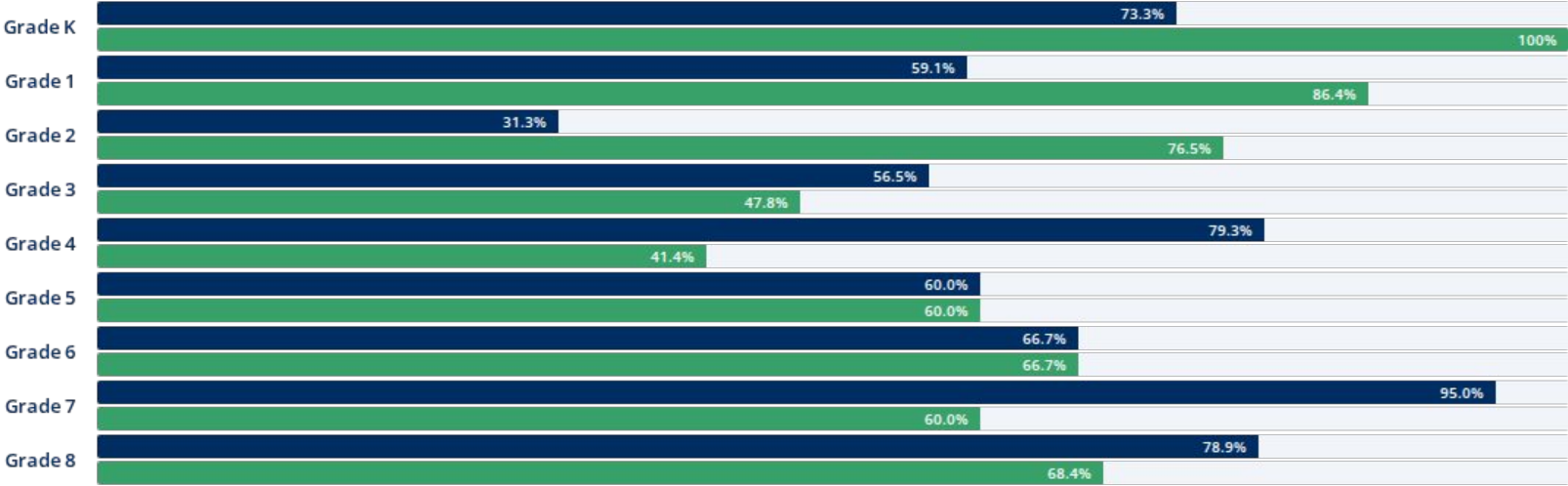
2025-2026 Academic Performance Summary



MASTERY: % MET GROWTH GOAL (K-8)

2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Academic Excellence

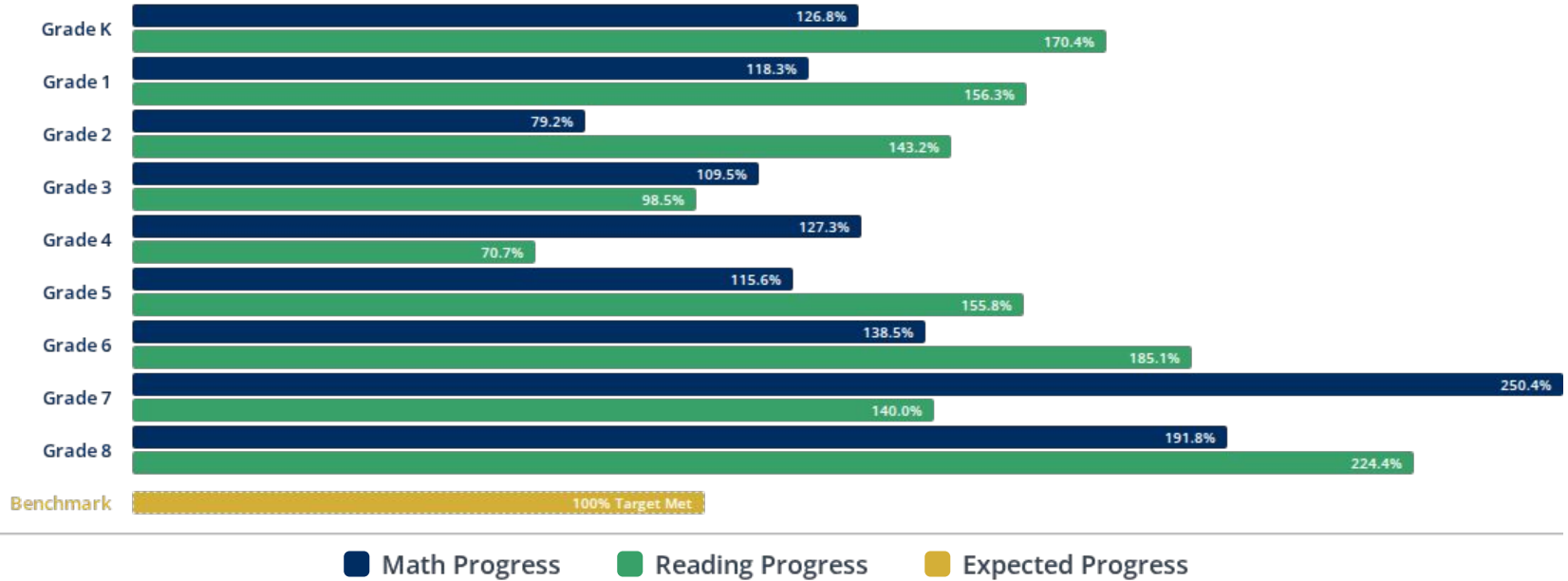


■ Math Achievement ■ Reading Achievement

% PROJECTED GROWTH MET (K-8)

2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Academic Excellence



PERFORMANCE STANDOUTS

2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Academic Excellence



Kindergarten & First Grade

Exceptional primary growth. Kinder reached **170.4%** in Reading growth, while 1st Grade followed brilliantly at **156.3%**.



7th & 8th Grade Surges

7th Grade Math shattered records with **250.4% growth progress**, and 8th Grade Reading excelled at **224.4%** of their target.



Right on the Doorstep

Importantly, many students were **just one or two points away** from their goal, representing massive readiness for next year's challenges.



Widespread Growth Success

Nearly every single grade level cleared the 100% benchmark in both subjects, proving our students are moving forward significantly.

Celebrating Student Achievements



Academic Excellence Recognized

- Principal's Honor Roll awarded to 79% of students
- Merit and Honor Rolls highlight outstanding achievement



Arts, Science, Fine Arts, and Special Athletic Success

- Students excel in coding, essay competitions, Brain Brawl, etc.
- Not to mention fine arts: music, dance, drama, ice skating, and much more.

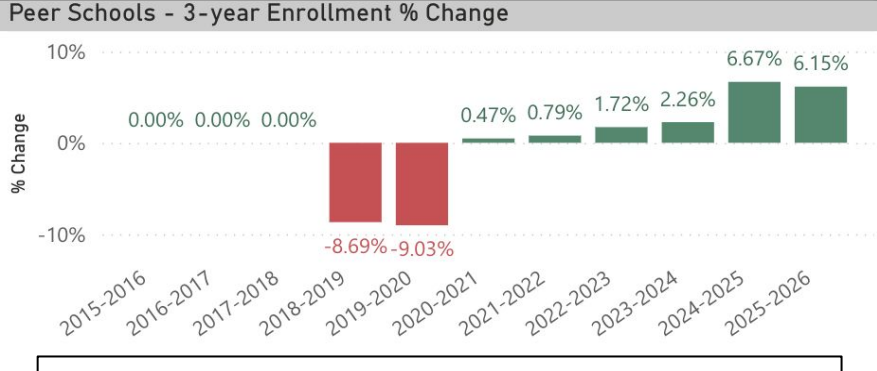
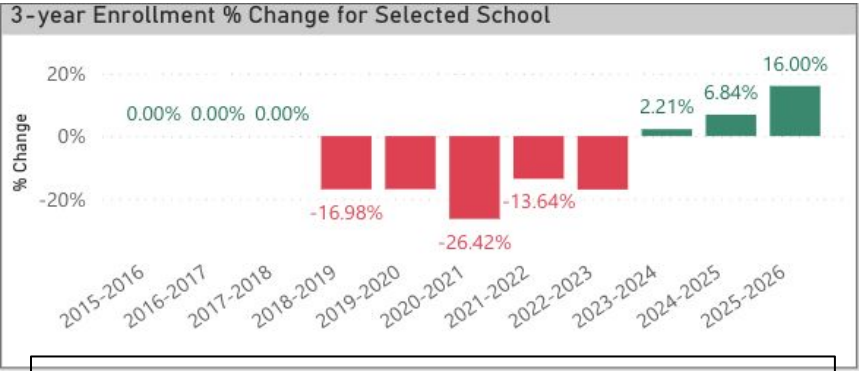


High School Admissions & Scholarships

- Several students receive academic scholarships from Catholic high schools each year based on their academic performance, leadership & stewardship each year. This information will be shared after graduation on June 4, 2026
- Graduates admitted to top Catholic and public high schools

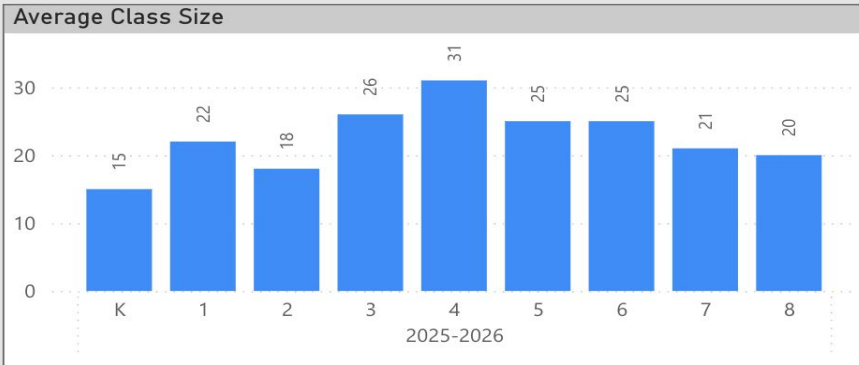
School Vitality

School Growth & Sustainability

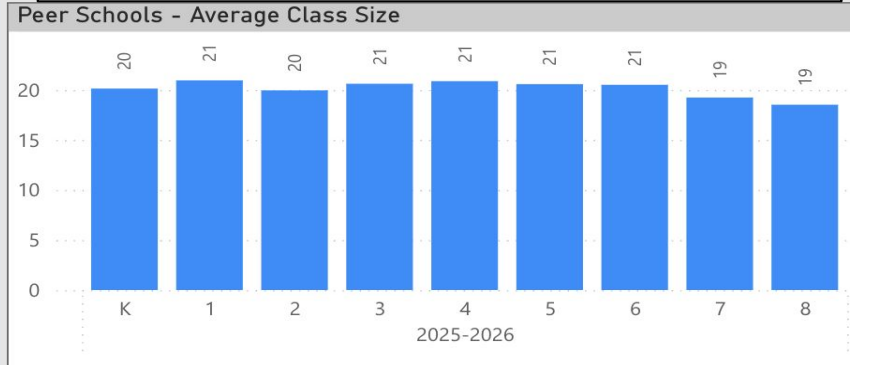


SMS has had a 16% increase in enrollment over the past 3 years.

Peer school is Grindstone. Western Catholic Schools increased 7.37%



St. Mary School



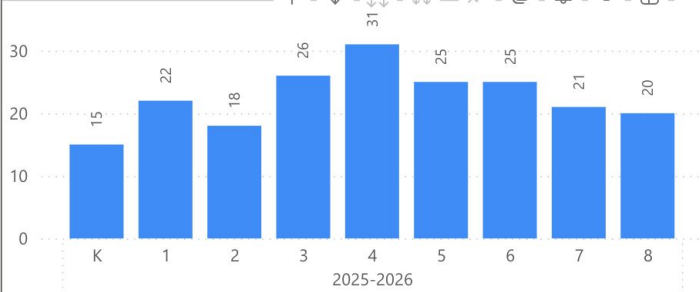
Neighboring School - Grindstone

St. Mary School Berea

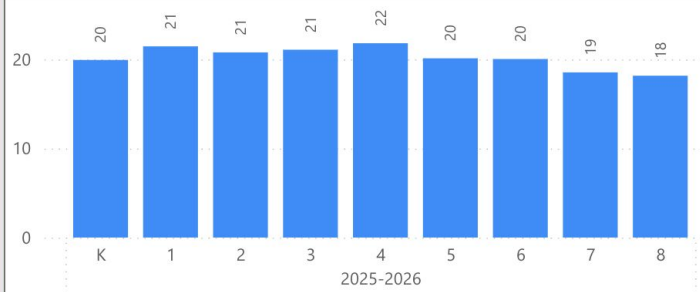
Western Area Catholic Elementary School Avg.

School Vitality

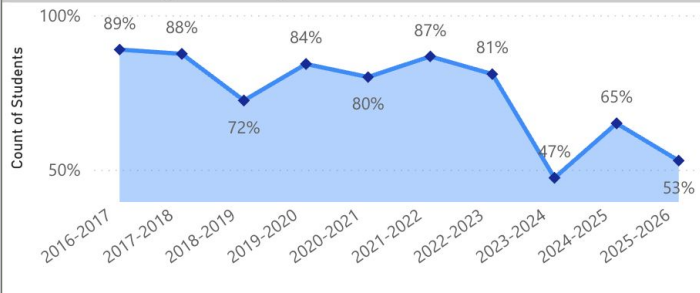
Average Class Size



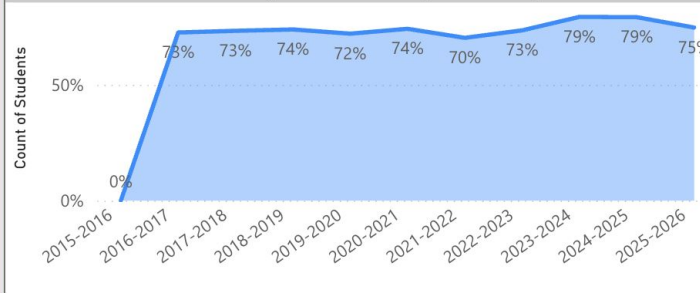
Peer Schools - Average Class Size



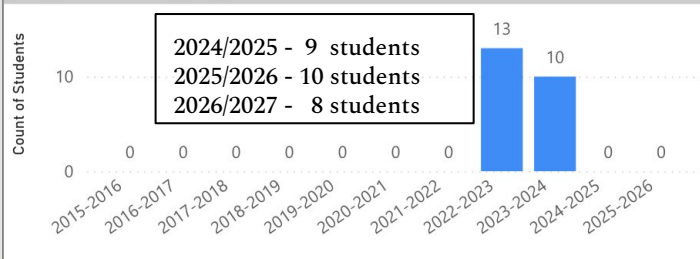
Students Entering Catholic High School



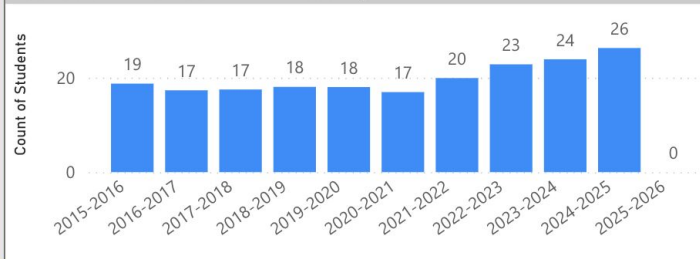
Peer Schools - Students (Avg. Count) Entering Catholic High School



Students with Disability



Peer Schools - Students with Disability

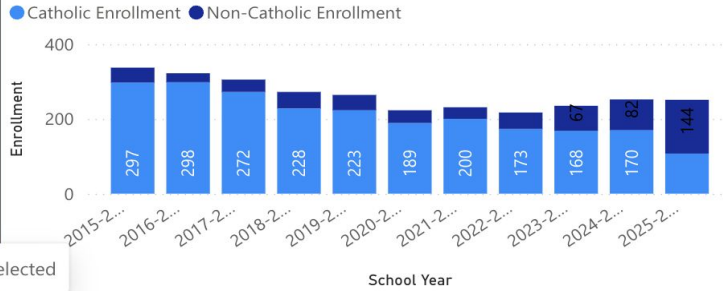


St. Mary School

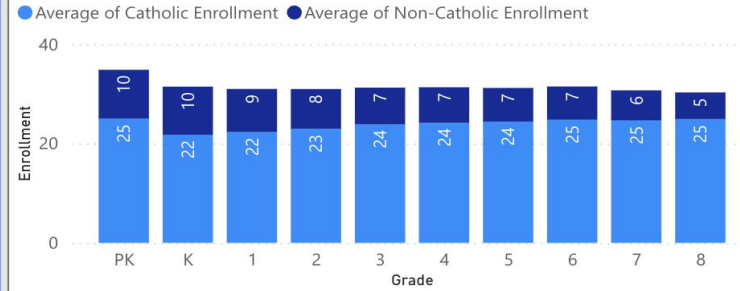
Western Area Catholic Elementary School Avg.

School Vitality

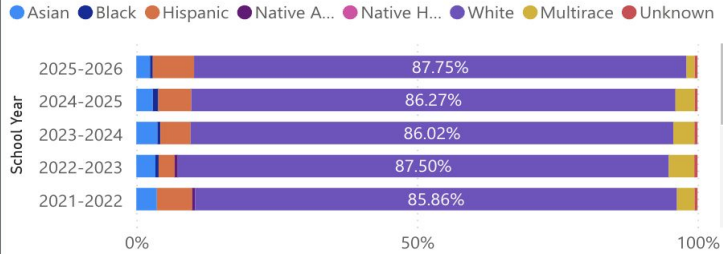
Enrollment By Religion By Grade



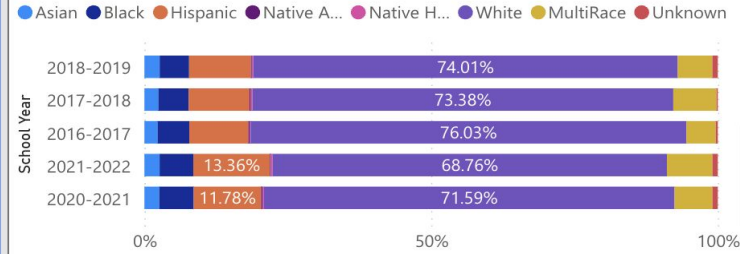
Peer Schools - Enrollment By Religion By Grade



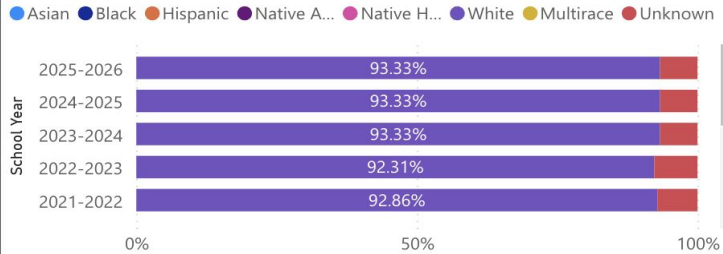
Student By Race and Ethnicity



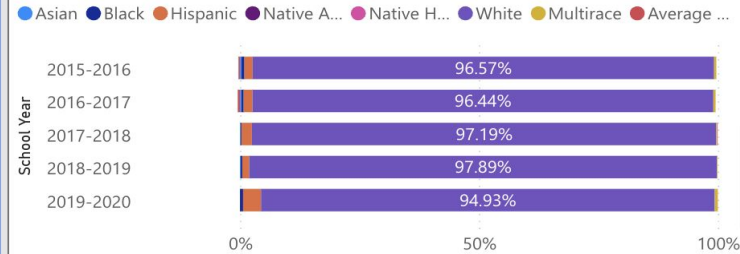
Peer Schools - Student By Race and Ethnicity



Staff By Race and Ethnicity



Peer Schools - Staff By Race and Ethnicity



St. Mary School

Net Actual vs Budget Deficit (Surplus)

School Year	Net Actual Deficit (Surplus)	Net Budget Deficit (Surplus)
2023	(\$120,289.25)	\$0.00
2024	\$173,458.78	(\$57,826.00)
2025	\$194,759.73	(\$57,826.00)
2026	\$0.00	(\$57,826.00)

Net Actual vs Budget Deficit (Surplus) By Student

School Year	Count of Students (K-8)	Actual Deficit (Surplus) By Student	Budget Deficit (Surplus) By Student
2025	203.00	\$959.41	(\$284.86)
2024	203.00	\$854.48	(\$284.86)
2023	185.00	(\$650.21)	\$0.00

Actual vs Budget est. by Account Type

● Actual from This Yr ● Budget est. from Prev Yr



Western Area Catholic School Peers

Peer Schools - Net Actual vs Budget Deficit (Surplus)

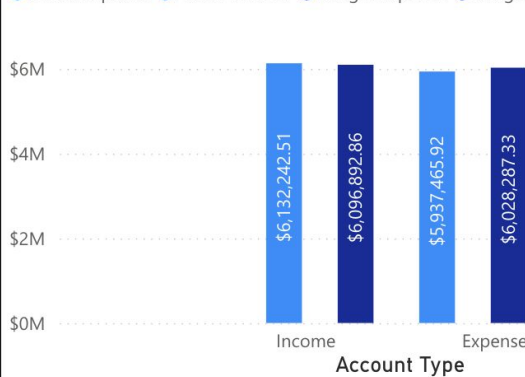
School Year	Net Actual Deficit (Surplus)	Net Budget Deficit (Surplus)
2023	\$859,418.33	\$0.00
2024	\$2,446,541.92	\$452,850.60
2025	\$979,124.76	\$431,780.51

Peer Schools - Net Actual vs Budget Deficit (Surplus) By Student

School Year	Count of Students (K-8)	Net Actual Deficit (Surplus) By Student	Net Budget Deficit (Surplus) By Student
2024	8414	\$290.77	\$53.82
2025	8439	\$116.02	\$51.16
2023	8124	\$105.79	\$0.00

Peer Schools - Average Actual vs Budget est. by Account Type

● Actual Expense ● Actual Income ● Budget Expense ● Budget Income



School Vitality

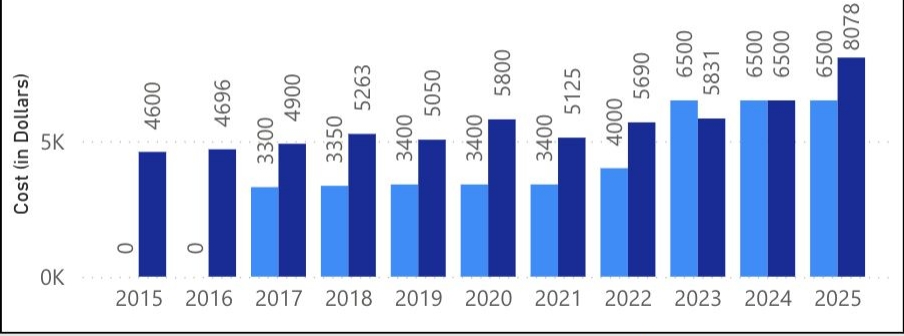
St. Mary School

Western Area Catholic School Peers

School Vitality

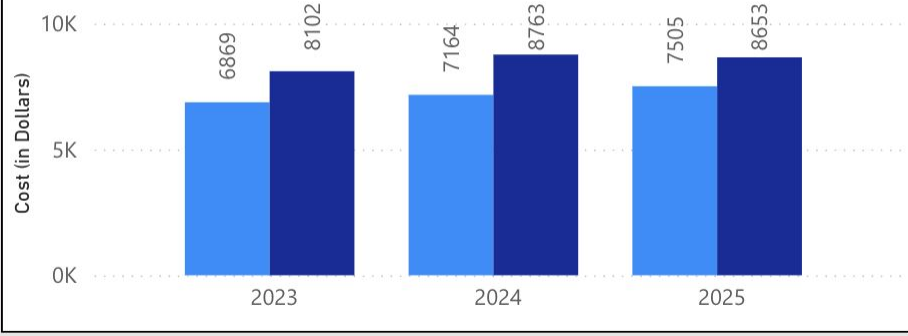
Published Tuition vs Per Pupil Expenditure

● Published Tuition Rate ● Per Pupil Expenditure



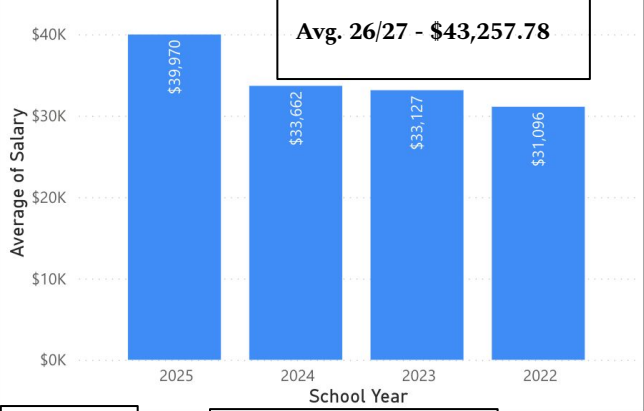
Peer Schools - Published Tuition vs Per Pupil Expenditure

● Published Tuition Rate ● Per Pupil Expenditure

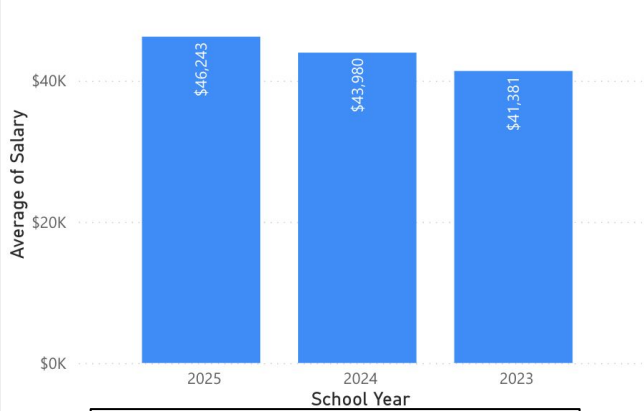


Average Teacher Salary by School Year

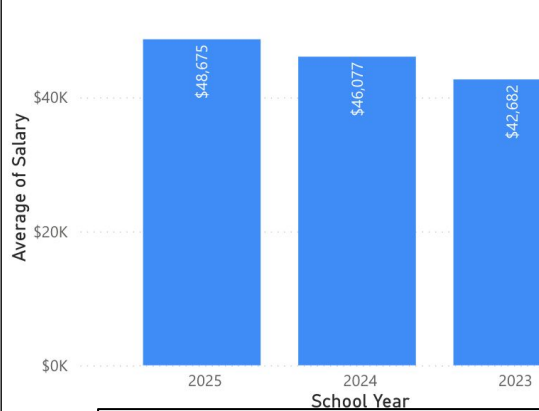
Avg. 26/27 - \$43,257.78



Peer Schools - Average of Salary by School Year



Peer Schools - Average of Salary by School Year



St. Mary School

Western Catholic School

Non-Public Peer Schools

Parent Volunteers & New
Organizations Benefiting SMS





SMS School Advisory Association

- A team of invested parents, parishioners, administrators, pastor, etc. that meet monthly with the Mission & Purpose of:

“To support and advance the mission of St. Mary Parish School, educating our minds, growing in our faith, and living as disciples of Jesus, through structured collaboration, transparent engagement, and faithful stewardship.”



The SAC serves in a consultative and advisory capacity. It provides recommendations and insight to inform leadership decisions but does not hold governing or binding decision-making authority.



Council Members:

- Fr. John Singler, Lisa De Core, John Crawford, Brad DeAngelis, Jen Hooley, Sarah Mueller, Spencer Shaw, Sandi Ziegler, Dennis Ziegler,

SMS PTO

The St. Mary School PTO has been an exceptional organization over the past two years.

Thank You

*The Board Members:
Jackie DeAngelis, Jen Hooley &
Sarah Mueller*

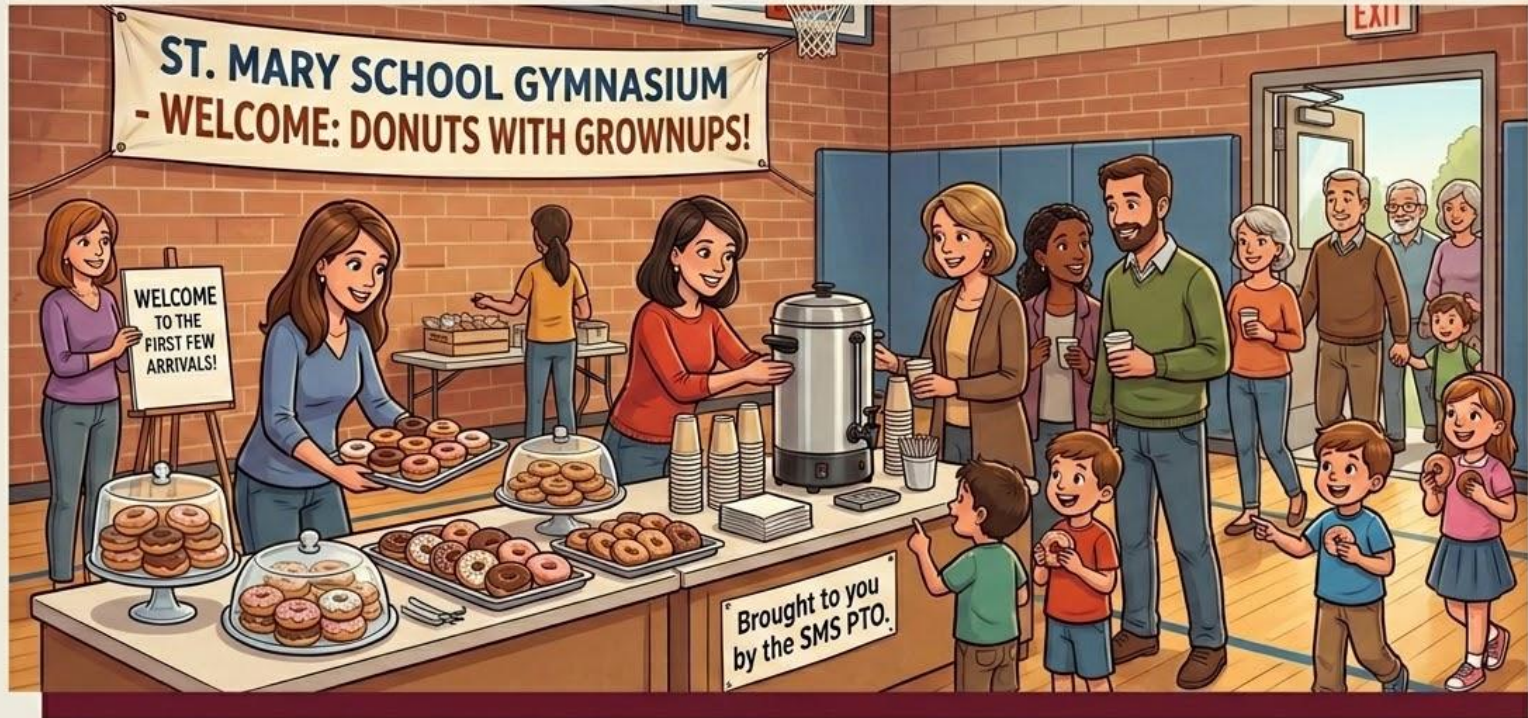
This team, plus the many volunteer parents and grandparents that have helped to organize and run the events and fundraisers deserve a HUGE round of applause!

Everything that they do is for the children and the faculty & staff at SMS!

Your support and energy does not go unnoticed!

All of the events, specials treats, gifts, ALL of the food, Why Cook Wednesdays, etc.

Have made The 2025-2026 very SPECIAL!



School Programming & Enhancements – PTO Initiative





SMS Alumni Association

The goal of The SMS Alumni Association is two-fold:

We want to have annual gatherings to celebrate our St. Mary School Community and get our alumni, family members, friends, and parishioners together on a Saturday in September.

The second goal is to begin raising funds to help with expenditures that the school endures.

One of our primary goals is to continue to retain quality educators, and continuing to increase their compensation is one of the ways that we can do that, the Alumni Association Fund Raising will help specifically with this goal

In addition, our alumni association is a great way to build a mentorship network for our students, staff, and alumni.

Finally, there have been many alumni that have been known to say that they wished that they could see their classmates, or that they tried to get a reunion together and it just did not come to fruition. Now The SMS Alumni Association can make those dreams come true!

Enhancing Facilities and Resources



Preschool Expansion

- A new full-day preschool classroom for the upcoming school year is an asset to our school community. This is an opportunity for our preschool and kindergarten teams to work together and to continue to enhance our early childhood program.
- Enhanced storage and learning spaces for early childhood education



Technology & Learning Enhancements

- Addition 3D Printers
- Two New ViewSonic Panels to enhance the instructional and learning experiences, for both the teachers and students.

Algebra Program

- The SMS Algebra program will take place during the school day. It will NO longer be a before school program.



Staff Workroom Upgrade

- Over the summer the unused classroom across from the PSR room is going to be transformed into a Staff Work Space. This work space will include items and materials that every teacher dreams of, such as a Cricut machine, laminator, a dye press, oversized paper cutters, community paper, writing materials, and much more.



Summer Maintenance Focus Items - Scheduled

- School Roof Replacement - Funds from Capital Improvements Fund SMS/SMP
- Phase I - Heating & Cooling Replacement - Funds from WeGIVECatholic Campaign



Enhancing Facilities and Resources



Algebra Program

- The SMS Algebra program will take place during the school day. It will NO longer be a before school program.



Scheduling - Intervention/Enrichment Opportunities

- Scheduling for the upcoming school year for grades 4 - 8 will allow for a double/block type schedule in Language Arts and math. This type of schedule allows for students to receive enrichment and or intervention time with their math and Language Art teachers.



Expanding Extracurricular Opportunities



Vibrant Athletic Opportunities

- CYO sports offer opportunities for all students to play, learn, and grow together.
- Summer Camp
- Day Care, Extended Care AM & PM



Jr. High Electives & Publication Club

- Students shine in Jr. High Electives: Advanced Band, Art, Coding, Gardening & Cooking, and Publication Club by building skills and confidence.
- Book Club for students in grades 4 and Up



After School Clubs:

- Encouraging teamwork and involvement helps every child discover their strengths & talents: Craft Club, Crochet Club, 3D Print Club,
- And we look forward to new clubs next year.

Addendum: Key Items Based on Parent Survey in 2025/2026

Current Enrollment for the 2026-2027 School Year

By Grade

Grade	Student	Male	Female	Not Specified	Youngest and Only
PreKindergarten	16	5	11	0	0
Prekindergarten 3	12	7	5	0	0
Prekindergarten 4	15	7	8	0	0
Kindergarten	21	10	11	0	0
Grade 1	16	10	6	0	0
Grade 2	25	11	14	0	0
Grade 3	18	8	10	0	0
Grade 4	27	16	11	0	0
Grade 5	28	15	13	0	0
Grade 6	23	13	10	0	0
Grade 7	24	10	14	0	0
Grade 8	19	10	9	0	0

Total:	244	122	122	0	0
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Questions and Inquiries from the Parent Survey: Answers to those questions and more clarity around inquiries.

- 1. *Why has tuition increased \$500.00 for the 2026-2027 school year?*
 - *As you can see on slide 22 - The tuition vs. cost per pupil this year has a gap of \$1,578.00 per student.*
 - *Next year will be greater*
 - *2025/2026 Total School Salaries + Benefits = \$1,122,813.00*
 - *2026/2027 Total Income to Date w/202 students in K-8 Students = \$1,423,000.00*
 - *2026/2027 Total School Salaries + Benefits = \$1,414,000.00*
(\$ 9,000.00)
 - *The \$500.00 will go toward the general expenses it takes to run the school above and beyond salaries and benefits for our faculty and staff, plus the deficit w/the increases that we begin our year.*
- 2. *If cost per pupil has increased due to an increase in teacher salaries. Benefits also increased 7%.*
 - *Cost of benefits did increase by 6% for the 2025/2026 school year*
 - *They are increasing another 6% for the 2026/2027 school year*
 - *We did inquire w/The Diocese of Cleveland about whether or not SMS can look into other health care benefits*

3. What happens if EdChoice goes away?

- Many people have asked and worried about this questions for well over 20 years when The Cleveland Scholarship was first rolled out. The public districts and public officials fought the Cle. Scholarship for years all the way up to The Supreme Court. And what happened.
 - It went from a scholarship for families that must live in Cleveland, and must be considered low income. To ALL families qualified for the Cleveland Scholarship NO matter what their income was.
 - It also first started out with only elementary schools, and then included high schools in The City of Cleveland.
 - When it comes to EdChoice, it started off in failing suburban, school districts ONLY.
 - Then to the EdChoice Expansion Scholarship all suburban schools qualified, this however was/is based on a poverty level, which determines the amount given to the recipient.
 - Fr. John, The SMS Finance Council, and School Administration have discussed this prior to making a leap with large salary increases, to ensure sustainability.
 - If EdChoice were to go away, scholarship funds, (Angel, DTA, any Endowment, etc.) would be relied upon, as well as out of pocket tuition payment.

4. Why is the school charging for an elective fee for 6th - 8th grades?

- There will not be a study hall built into the scheduled elective schedule for the upcoming school year during the elective period. Teachers feel that the students who use their time wisely are not in need of the study hall. Also with the intervention/Enrichment blocks built into the new schedule, this will allow more student support time during the day for students.
- Currently Art, Coding, and potentially band will be hired by a 3rd party next year. This is not built into our school budget at this point, therefore the funding will help to support the electives.

5. Is there going to be an additional 5th grade teacher for the 2026/2027 school year?

- Yes. Several candidates were screened and we agreed upon a hire. Madelyn Wilson, a second year teacher. Coming to us from Garfield Elementary from CMSD.
 - She has her Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education PreK-5 & Intervention Specialist.

6. *Is the school hiring a new physical education teacher?*

- *Yes. We have interviewed and hired, Brent Edmonds. He is a seven year veteran teacher, coming to us from St. Francis in Cleveland.*
- *Mr. Edmonds graduated from Baldwin Wallace College with a degree in Physical Education and Health.*

7. *Will Algebra be taught during the school day?*

- *Yes, Algebra will be taught during the school day next year.*

8. *Update on SMS Preschool Program:*

- *See the attachment for the program details: [SMS Preschool Program](#)*
-

THANK YOU, SMS FAMILIES!

- Your support is our foundation.
- Thank you for being part of tonight's meeting.
- Together, we educate minds and nurture souls.

