

School Advisory Council (SAC) Monthly Update from Mrs. De Core

Meeting Date: January 7, 2026

...an update on the work of the School Advisory Council (SAC), its purpose, and the strategic priorities guiding our current efforts.

As you may recall, we recently established a collaborative council of parents, parishioners, and school leaders. The School Advisory Council (SAC) exists to advance the mission of “educating our minds, growing in our faith, and living as disciples of Jesus” through structured collaboration, transparent governance, and faithful stewardship. The Council serves in a consultative role to school leadership, offering guidance and recommendations on long-term academic, enrollment, operational, and strategic matters.

The SAC’s work is guided by the five pillars of the St. Mary Strategic Plan:

- Academic: Empowering students to grow through innovative and faith-centered learning.
- Faculty & Staff: Supporting professional growth, well-being, and sustainability for our educators.
- Marketing: Strengthening awareness, community engagement, and alumni connection.
- Finances & Infrastructure: Ensuring lasting financial health, responsible facilities stewardship, and accessibility.
- Brand Recognition: Honoring our core mission while strengthening identity, faith at the center, and community over capacity.

Although the Council is only three meetings in, the group has established a strong working rhythm and has begun making meaningful progress on several important priorities. At this stage, the Council is focused primarily on listening, learning, and planning. Recent work includes:

- Drafting and refining the SAC Governance Charter to clarify the Council’s purpose, scope, roles, and accountability. The Charter is currently under review by Council members and the Diocese legal office, with final adoption anticipated at the March meeting.
- Reviewing enrollment trends, class size patterns, cost structures, and early childhood pipeline dynamics to inform both near-term decisions and long-term sustainability.
- Studying local and regional best practices in Catholic and independent education to understand how St. Mary compares and where growth or adaptation may be beneficial.
- Examining current class sizes and exploring both short-term options for the coming school year and longer-term pipeline strategies to support balanced, healthy classrooms.
- Collaborating on ways to strengthen preschool as both an academic foundation and a sustainable enrollment pipeline into the elementary and middle school years.
- Aligning on how best to ensure families and the broader community understand who we are, what we offer, and what makes St. Mary distinctive.
- Working to better align financial planning with enrollment, staffing, and facilities so the school remains strong, accessible, and mission-aligned over the long term.

The Council is committed to supporting school leadership in providing clear, thoughtful, and regular communication with families and staff. As our work moves from planning into recommendations and action, we will continue to share updates and are also exploring ways to support two-way communication through the school website.

Thank you for the trust you place in the school and in this process. Our shared goal is simple: to ensure that St. Mary’s remains a strong, faith-centered, academically excellent school where children thrive and families feel supported.