



St. Mary  
Catholic Schools  
Grades P3-12

# ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

St. Mary Catholic Elementary Schools: St. Gabriel • St. Margaret Mary • St. Mary  
St. Mary Catholic Middle School • St. Mary Catholic High School

2016-17  
VOLUME 2

## Project Lead The Way is Underway!

Since Project Lead The Way was announced last spring, an advisory group composed of teachers, parents and community leaders has been meeting to develop the framework for community connections and support of the initiative. And, beginning in Fall 2016, SMCS teachers and technology staff have been working to execute the first phase of the three-year implementation plan in the classrooms. Two representatives also attended the PLTW state convention in November, and a speaker's series, classroom demonstrations and field trips are being discussed.

For 2016-17, Project Lead The Way, a nationally renowned program that supports the existing curriculum at SMCS in grades K-12, incorporated two Launch modules for the 4th and 5th grade students at all SMCS elementary campuses, as well as Gateway units in computer science for grades 7 and 8.

As with the execution of any new initiative (especially when it involves technology) there have been challenges along the way, says Project Director Jill Ahles. "But the elementary program is coming along very nicely," she stated, "and students are learning how to work together to solve problems and turning to each other to figure out answers instead of just asking the teacher."

Two Project Lead The Way modules that were implemented in our schools this year demonstrate the diversity of the lessons offered by the nationally renowned program. Each lasting about six weeks, PLTW lessons focus on STEM-related topics, teamwork and the scientific process.

The Infection Detection module teaches students various ways that germs like bacteria and viruses can be transmitted. Students learned about this by playing a game of Heads Up/7-Up to determine where the "mysterious glow germs" infection began. They examined one another with ultraviolet lights to locate the invisible germs and then set up a lab to test the effectiveness of hand-washing procedures. After testing various types of liquid soap as well as good old-fashioned bar soap, students shared the results via public service posters that were displayed in the school bathrooms so that everyone could benefit from what they learned.

The Robotics and Automation module culminates with the simulation of using robots to remove

A recent project for fourth graders was to design a vehicle restraint to help eggs survive a collision. Students designed restraints, shared their ideas with their group and then redesigned to create their final products. "Test day was great fun! We had many successes and many failures, all of which were reviewed and used as learning experiences," Ahles recalled.



The middle school computer science module supports students learning to create apps, develop websites and make computers work together using text-based programming and a collaborative approach. With the proper tools now in place and students' laptops and the online platform established, instructor Rob Srnka and his students moved forward rapidly.

According to Ahles and Srnka, SMCS students love the PLTW modules. They come into the classroom very excited and ready to learn, and discussion about PLTW and STEM ideas have increased. The teachers agree that the students are "embracing this program with open arms and great energy."

hazardous waste from a disaster site. Groups of four students began by building a standardized chassis and testing the driver-control



program. They then designed and tested modifications to enable their vehicle to collect blocks and move them across the floor to a collection zone. A friendly competition among teams was held to see which robot and drivers could complete the task in the shortest time. Student groups then worked to design their own "disaster site" while adhering to specific criteria that included water and a zone for the collection of hazardous materials. The same robots were modified and used to simulate the removal of toxic materials within two minutes, while protecting the water. In accompanying lessons, students learned how real robots are used in diverse challenges to perform jobs that are too dangerous for humans to attempt.

### MEMBERS OF THE SMCS PLTW ADVISORY GROUP

Jill Ahles  
Emilie Boots  
Sven Bugge  
Christine Cedergren  
Greg Cheslock  
Helen Englebert  
Molly Griffin  
Dick Hartl  
Pat Hickey  
Michelle Jungbauer  
Phil Kerwin  
Dave Levine  
Linda Meier  
John Misilinski  
Chris Schoeni  
Rob Srnka  
Karie Ann Zeinert

# SMCS Strategic Plan Update

The task forces for the strategic initiatives continue to meet and develop strategies to guide St. Mary Catholic Schools. A brief synopsis of each task force's progress follows.

## **Advance Catholic education as an investment in developing dynamic Catholic disciples through academic and spiritual leadership**

*Board of Trustees Champion: Nancy Braatz*

The initiatives are centered on strengthening parish relationships by fostering student connections and service at their home parishes, strengthening parish ties to Eucharistic Adoration at SMCS, identifying and conquering parish misperceptions regarding our schools and developing media strategies that promote parish ties.

## **Develop and implement recruitment and retention strategies that grow enrollment**

*Board of Trustees Champion: Pam Seidl*

An active group of parents met multiple times to develop a framework of ideas to grow enrollment. Because some of this task force's goals and objectives overlap those of the student experience committee, the two groups are working together to differentiate their efforts.

## **Establish a financially stable business model**

*Board of Trustees Champion: Dan Engelhard*

The task force has been actively working on developing policies with respect to gifts received by the system, as well as endowed funds. Plans for streamlining cash flow, analyzing risk and developing a five-year facilities maintenance plan are in process. Finally, the board has approved creation of a foundation. The structure of the new foundation is being developed and will be submitted to the diocese for approval.

## **Deliver academic excellence**

*Board of Trustees Champions: Kathleen Osland Healy & Kristen Bergstrom*

This task force worked with SMCS principals to develop two teacher surveys and one parent survey, all of which posed questions regarding academics at SMCS. The team was encouraged by the number of responses and the care and time taken by the respondents to reply thoroughly. The findings were presented to the educators. A report of key findings is being compiled for parents.

## **Deliver an exceptional student experience**

*Board of Trustees Champion: Lori Vegso*

Beginning with the high school, this group is committed to understanding and improving the student experience at St. Mary Catholic Schools. "4EverZephyr", a campaign that was initiated to encourage students to attend school events and support their peers, was very successful and will be expanded to other age groups, including alumni, in the future. They are also working with student groups to make school events exciting and enjoyable.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please consider a gift today to the SMCS Annual Fund and help provide a foundation for SMCS students' dreams to grow into a brilliant future for all of us!

**Help us reach our goal of \$200,000.**

Give securely online at [smcatholicsschools.org](http://smcatholicsschools.org) by clicking the SUPPORT US button or send a check to SMCS Annual Fund at 1050 Zephyr Drive, Neenah, WI 54956.

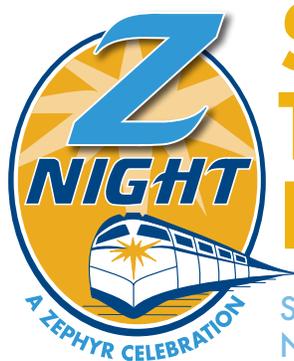


## Alumni Honored



Recently, St. Mary Catholic High School welcomed three alumni to Leadership Day to receive awards and to speak to students. Mary Lou (Niesen '81) Kaluas received the Outstanding Catholic Christian

Service Award, Craig Uhlenbrauck '89 received the Distinguished Service Award and Michael McClone '68 received the Alumni Achievement Award.



# SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 11, 2017



St. Mary Catholic Schools  
Grades P3-12

## MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mary Catholic Schools, in partnership with family, Church and community, provides a quality Catholic education that is focused on faith, academics, service and personal development from preschool through high school to influence a rapidly changing world.

# Student Highlights



Fourth graders from St. Margaret Mary Elementary School did chores or service at home in exchange for rolls of paper towels that were delivered to a homeless shelter.



On the 100th day of school, St. Mary Elementary students had fun dressing up as 100-year olds.



All SMCS third graders took a field trip together to 1,000 Islands Nature Center to learn about animal adaptations.



The high school forensics team took first place in the conference meet, and competed at state in April, winning five gold medals.



Fifth graders volunteer as altar servers at our weekly school liturgies.



Sponsored by the Confucius Classroom, SMCS hosted a Chinese New Year celebration that was attended by nearly 200 guests.



At election time, each elementary school had its own way to teach students about the privilege of voting. At St. Gabriel, students campaigned and voted for their favorite angel.



Students in our elementary schools are typically paired with "buddies" from other classes. These relationships help foster caring in older students and provide role models and helpers for the younger ones.



Alex Rosiejka, a senior at St. Mary Catholic High School was named the High School Lunch Mentor of the Year by Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha.

SMCMS seventh grader Jaiden Campbell won the Catholic Daughters of America education contest in the photography category at the local and state levels, finally moving on to win second place in the national competition.



Senior Kaylie Bittner was selected for the Youth Scholarship Award through the Post Crescent's Celebrating Volunteers program. She was honored with other recipients of community volunteer awards at the gala in Appleton.



# STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



St. Gabriel Elementary band students enjoyed using their talents to give glory and praise to God when they played a prelude for the weekly liturgy.



Second graders at St. Mary Elementary learned about different types of communities and then created their own 3-D versions.



A group of St. Mary Catholic High School students represented our community at the March for Life in Washington D.C. in January.



SMCS welcomed early childhood-aged children and their families to a rollicking performance by performer Randy Peterson.



SMCS third graders learned about cows and dairy farming with visits to Voight Dairy Farm.



St. Mary Catholic High School students shared a moving "living" Stations of the Cross during Holy Week.



Elementary school girls from the Zephyr Basketball Club teams enjoyed a pregame meal with the Zephyrs girls varsity team and assisted during a home game.



Mrs. Koskinen's seventh grade class studied how Germans celebrate the days before Lent, and then created their own celebratory masks.



On a half day of school, the SMCHS dance team hosted a dance camp for elementary-age girls. They learned a routine in the afternoon, then performed at halftime at that night's basketball game.



St. Margaret Mary fifth graders completed the Junior Achievement program they started in kindergarten by attending Kid Biz, a day of real-life work experience sponsored by Junior Achievement.



As part of their weather unit, first graders at St. Mary Elementary School conducted "cloud in a cup" experiments.



St. Mary Elementary School celebrated Veterans Day with special people who have served our country.

# Aquinas Program Update

St. Mary Catholic Schools administrators had hoped to have a new multi-age, accelerated learning elementary school program in place for the 2017-18 school year. Significant efforts were made, including research, site visits and teacher interviews, to establish this opportunity for our students. However, we were unable to secure an instructor with the required qualifications in time to begin this important initiative by the fall of 2017. Instead, administrators, independent consultants and SMCS teachers will spend the next year developing the SMCS Aquinas Program.

We share the enthusiasm and interest of the parents who have contacted us about the Aquinas Program, and we appreciate their understanding as we work to establish a well-developed program led by a passionate and qualified teacher. Although we share the disappointment, this path is preferable to hastily setting up a program that is not yet ready to help students reach their highest potential. SMCS is committed to and fully expects to have an exceptional program in place in the near future.



Many thanks to Bergstrom Automotive and Miron Construction Co., Inc. for their generosity in renovating the chapel at St. Mary Catholic High School. It is truly a beautiful place for our community to gather in prayer or for anyone to stop in for a special intention or moment of peaceful reflection.

# A Year of Servant Leadership

With a new attribute of servant leadership to focus on each month of the school year, the SMCS community developed a deeper understanding of what it means to be a joyful and humble disciple of Christ. The attributes are service, attitude, leadership, kindness, commitment, belief, focus, perseverance, and witness.

SAVE THE DATE!



Zephyrfest 2018

April 21, 2018 at the brand new Fox Cities Exhibition Center!

**Join us for the SMCS Booster Club's Greater Zephyr Open on Friday, July 14, 2017 at Royal St. Patrick's Golf Links.**



A shotgun start at 10:00 begins your day of fun with an 18-hole scramble with carts, lunch "at the turn," hole-prize challenges and hole-in-one prizes. A pasta buffet dinner caps off the day. Register by June 16 to be entered in a drawing for two 18-hole rounds with cart. Visit [smcatholicsschools.org/st-mary-catholic-high-school](http://smcatholicsschools.org/st-mary-catholic-high-school) and click on the GZO box for more information or to register.



St. Mary Catholic Middle School students created cancer-care kits that were delivered to the university hospital in Madison to provide comfort to children fighting the disease.



Sixty-eight students participated in the new 4EverZephyr program that encourages students to attend school events and cheer on their peers. Look for the expansion of the program to other age levels, fans and alumni!



St. Gabriel kindergarten students created time capsules to remind them of the fun they are having there. They will open the capsules when they graduate in 2029.

# Our Flourishing Fine Arts

The SMCS marching band, composed of musicians in grades 7-12, performed during homecoming week at the parade and was the highlight of the halftime show. They also participated in the Downtown Appleton Christmas Parade, and in the Neenah-Menasha Memorial Day Parade.



A new parent group, called ZFAB (Zephyr Fine Arts Boosters) was formed in the fall to provide support for our programs. If you are interested in joining, contact Christina Turner at [cturner@smcatholicschools.org](mailto:cturner@smcatholicschools.org).

The high school's fall drama, "Murder Can be Habit Forming" was staged in the black box theater with an additional performance added to accommodate sold-out shows.



The fine arts department hosted a "Family Feud" that pitted student teams against a team of teachers from their school.



The high school choirs combined to host and compete in the first SMCS Clash of the Choirs in January. SMCHS won two of the three awards!

Our high school choirs welcomed 25 eighth-grade students from three different middle schools to a music clinic this spring.



Congratulations to our SMCHS musicians! Six were selected for the Big East Conference Honors Band or Choir and traveled to Manitiwoc to participate in the beautiful conference-wide concert. At the conference solo & ensemble festival, 14 (including our jazz band) qualified for the state competition

where nine received first place awards and two earned second place recognition. And, the SMCHS concert band performed at the WSMA Concert Festival at Lakeland College, earning unanimous first ratings.

The SMCS band program is growing! This year, we have 61 students in elementary school band, 62 students in the middle school bands and 47 in the high school bands. In addition, our new chamber orchestra debuted at the Christmas performance in December.



The SMCHS visual arts curriculum is strong. In addition, Mrs. Ott's art classes have taken field trips to several venues including the Green Bay Botanical Garden and the Bergstrom Mahler Museum for photography, sketching, painting and glasswork. Many recently design works at the Bergstrom Mahler.



Students in grades 6-12 were treated to an exciting experience at the FAEC that included opportunities for our middle school musicians, singers and dancers to interact on stage with the band Vic Ferrari and do a few pieces of their own. The high school orchestra also played, following a brief workshop with Trans-Siberian Orchestra founder Mark Wood.

All SMCS K-5 elementary school students participate in music class with Mr. Rhex Arboleda. Under the direction of Michael Bailey, 66 students participate in the middle school choirs and show choir. The high school choirs have experienced significant growth under the direction of Spencer Jones, and also participate in the liturgical choir under the direction of Tara Opsteen-VanDyke.



# Arts Core Supports Education's Core Values

Five SMCS faculty and staff members participated in ArtsCore, a yearlong program offered through a partnership between UW-Oshkosh and The Paine Art Center and Gardens. With the theme "Nature and her Tales," the ArtsCore Colony started with a three-day workshop in August, followed by teachers from around the area meeting several times each semester to learn how the arts can be incorporated into the curriculum to enhance instruction, foster creativity and improve students' outcomes.

Designed primarily for teams of teachers who are in their first two to five years of practice, the ArtsCore Colony provides workshops, lesson plans and mentoring that is then taken back to the schools and shared with other teachers, focusing on the power of the arts to engage and strengthen the work of both teachers and learners in all disciplines.

As part of the fine arts team, Fine Arts Technical Director Hayden Kraus feels inspired to make himself more available to non-fine arts activities and classes, observing that "arts integration helps students learn in a more relaxed and creative way."

Stephanie Hoernke agrees, noting, "It make(s) what is being taught more exciting... and helps students make meaningful connections and remember what is being taught." She has seen



this in her kindergarten classroom where she uses songs and painting to help students remember "sight words" (words that are immediately recognized and understood by students). "Sometimes I see students who are stuck on a word humming the song that goes along with it," she says, "then they are able to tell me what word it is."

By integrating the study of a painting into a writing lesson, teacher Stacy Sweetalla gained first-hand experience in using the arts to enhance the curriculum. "(Students) were able to give a lot more details in their second paragraph compared to the first one due to (focusing on) the painting," she stated.

"I used to think it would be hard to integrate the arts, but my views on this changed...and I am excited to learn more and use it in my classroom," says Sweetalla.

She is also enthusiastic about bringing what she is learning back to her peers at St. Mary Catholic Schools. "Since school started, we have shared with our colleagues some of the neat projects and activities we did in the ArtsCore Colony, and helped them out with questions they have regarding how to integrate the arts."

Rhex Arboleda (elementary music), Becky Bartow (elementary art), Stephanie Hoernke (kindergarten), Hayden Kraus (FA technical director) and Stacy Sweetalla (third grade) are the SMCS ArtsCore Colony representatives.

## A Ride to Remember

The fifth graders from St. Margaret Mary Elementary School celebrated Bike Safety Week with a five-mile bike ride and field trip. With the purpose of seeing science lessons in action, promoting health and wellness and learning about access to local recreational opportunities, the students donned their bike helmets to "Loop the Little Lake."

The mayors of Neenah and Menasha met the group en route and shared thoughts about the community, local history and recreation opportunities. Mayor Kaufert of Neenah even joined in for part of the ride! During a stop in downtown Neenah, mechanics from Cranked Bike Studio conducted bike safety checks while parent volunteers checked helmets. The group also stopped on the Trestle Trail bridge, with prayers of peace and healing, to honor the victims of the shooting that took place there two years ago, and

hung a banner signed by the students. Their visits to the Menasha Locks and Tayco Street drawbridge provided opportunities to see real-life examples of their STEM-based lessons.



The event was led by fifth grade teacher Karie Ann Zeinert in collaboration with physical education teacher Janet Loughrin, and many parent volunteers contributed to its success.

# Looking Back on Two

Homecoming is Fun for All Zephyrs, Young and Old





# Special SMCS Weeks

*Catholic Schools Week is a celebration of faith, academics and service!*



St. Mary  
Catholic Schools  
— Grades P3-12 —

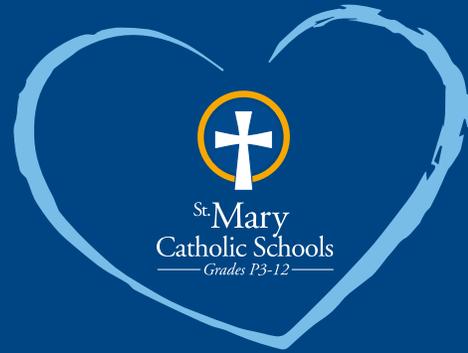


# Nurture What is Close to Your Heart

We at SMCS know that there are ideals and projects that are especially close to your heart. Wouldn't it be wonderful to share that passion with the students who are daily growing in knowledge, faith, wisdom and experience at St. Mary Catholic Schools?

Imagine your gift of financial support, time or expertise sparking a new interest or skill that could impact the future of one student, or maybe even the world!

Join the Purcells, Hartls and other benefactors who support initiatives like those mentioned below to make a vital difference to St. Mary Catholic Schools.



## Patti and David Purcell

For Patti and David Purcell, their passion for St. Mary Catholic Schools can be summed up in two words—Catholic community.

When making the choice of schools for their sons, Nicholas (a sophomore) and Samuel (an eighth grader), Patti and David came to the discussion with very different experiences. Dave and his three brothers attended a large public school, and Patti and her two sisters graduated from the Lourdes Catholic system in Oshkosh. Perhaps surprisingly, it was David who zeroed in on the benefits of Catholic schools and the accompanying shared values and faith-based education, while Patti encouraged exploration of other the options, feeling like she'd perhaps missed out on some opportunities by having gone to a small Catholic school.

As parents who are committed to raising their sons to become leaders in their church and community, it did not take long for them to choose St. Mary Catholic Schools (at the time, TCCES) for their sons. "We had family members and friends who belonged to St. Margaret Mary Parish, and when we toured the school we could just feel the sense of community that we were looking for," Patti recalls. "Things are different than when we were kids, and today it's important to us to have a safe, nurturing atmosphere in addition to strong academics. I realized that I really hadn't missed anything by going to a smaller Catholic school." Now that their sons are older, the Purcells especially appreciate interacting with families, teachers and mentors who have similar ideals and priorities for their children, and they value faith being an integral part of each day—whether in the classroom, at home or on the football field.

For those who are looking at St. Mary Catholic Schools for the first time, the Purcells have wisdom to share that is based on their own experience: SMCS is small enough to offer an immediate and lasting sense of community and connectedness, but big enough to offer a full range of opportunities in faith, athletics, STEM and fine arts (all of which their family is active in!).



Helping out in all of those areas is time consuming, but "We love to volunteer!" the Purcells agree. Patti says, "Our kids are young for such a short time, and we just want to be a part of it all. We volunteer at things that have nothing to do with our kids (such as girls volleyball tournaments), just to be engaged in the community."

In addition to many personal volunteer hours and financial support, the couple makes in-kind donations to the schools in the form of items for school fundraisers and hours of professional services from Patti's business, Writing by Design. For the Purcells, it's all about giving back to the community, a value they are striving to instill in their boys through conversation and by example. Feeling very blessed, the family sees it as their responsibility and privilege to share their blessings with the schools and parish. "It's top of mind for us every day," says David.

The realization of what Catholic education means to their family has inspired the Purcells to think about their role in helping it to continue. "When we look at our school system, we see very generous people who have brought us to where we are today," Patti says, "but we can't rely on just a few families to keep it going forever. People like us need to step up and share our time, talents and treasure; we are the new generation of donors, and we are making an active choice to help make sure that our special community lasts."

## Richard and Joan Hartl

A self-described mediocre student who initially had trouble finding his way in high school, St. Mary High School alumnus Richard Hartl ('55) credits the beginning of his considerable success in life to the influence of Sister Miranda, a School Sisters of Notre Dame nun who taught science at the high school. The "tallest kid" in his freshman class, Hartl recalls with a laugh that renowned coach Ralph "Cyclone" McClone was disappointed in Richard's lack of athleticism.



"I didn't do very well academically in the early years, either," Hartl recounts, "but Sister Miranda noticed that I seemed to have an interest in chemistry. She offered to work with me after school and really opened my eyes to the possible paths I could pursue, and also sparked an interest in physics and engineering." These new passions, combined with success in speech class and drama, bolstered the young man's confidence. Hartl worked hard, with the help of Sister Miranda, to bring his Cs and Ds up to straight As in his last two years of high school, and was admitted to UW-Madison on academic probation where he studied engineering and chemistry. He and his business partners put that knowledge to good use, acquiring a company that developed and produced liquid dispensing devices for consumer and medical products such as trigger sprayers, liquid soap dispensers and nasal aspirators. Hartl, as CEO, built this company into a Fortune 1000 global business.

Eventually, Hartl and his wife of 55 years, Joan, moved to southern California where they raised two daughters. A longtime advocate of charter schools and school choice in California and an active UW Badger alumnus, Hartl has a keen interest in helping students to prepare well for college, especially in the areas of STEM. He reconnected with St. Mary Central High School when he returned to the area to receive the SMC Distinguished Alumni Award in 2007. In his speech, Hartl recounted his experience at the high school and the profound impact of the moral and educational foundation he received in those formative years.

With a strong passion for education and for giving back, the Hartls established a four-year scholarship for seniors who plan to attend UW-Madison to study a STEM related field or education. The Hartls have generously increased the number and value of those academic scholarships, added a needs-based scholarship at the grade/middle school level and recently set up a 10-year funding program that will benefit the scholarships as well as the science department, PLTW and STEM Club for the next 20 years. Mr. Hartl is also consultant for the system's Project Lead The Way advisory team.

Hartl enjoys interacting with SMCHS students and graduates, and makes a point to keep in contact with the students who receive the UW scholarships. He has also been known to attend VEX robotics tournaments in California when SMCS students are competing there!

Donating goods and services for fundraising events



Supporting school libraries with new books and materials



Providing funds for students to do good works



Refurbishing playgrounds and other facilities



Supporting robotics and STEM programs



Teaching second graders how to make rosaries



# ST. MARY CATHOLIC ZEPHYRS

## ST. MARY CATHOLIC ZEPHYRS 2016-17 SPORTS ROUND UP



The sixth grade boys Zephyr Basketball Club team took first place in two tournaments during the season.

The Zephyrs boys tennis team aced the conference tournament this season.



The seventh grade softball team took second in their conference tournament.

Five SMCHS powerlifters competed at the state tournament, and senior Sophia Dionne set a state records and won first place in her weight class. Five also competed at a national tournament and placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 15th.



The middle school volleyball team won the conference tournament champion title.



The SMCHS baseball team continues to forge its place in Zephyr lore, closing an undefeated season as four-time conference champs and with 47 straight wins at press time! They are seeded #1 in the WIAA Division III state tournament.



The varsity girls tennis team was the conference and WCTC tournament champion; three players made first-team all-conference.

The Zephyrs girls soccer team is enjoying a fantastic season, with a record at press time of 16-3-1 and holding second place in the Big East Conference.



SMCHS senior and cross country runner Brandon Wagner competed at the state meet.



Phil Janssen, coach of the undefeated 2016 Zephyrs state champion baseball team was named the Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association's spring baseball co-coach of the year in February 2017.

The boys track and field team took first place in the regional track meet and have set multiple school records. Several athletes from both the boys and girls teams competed at the sectional level and four will advance to the state meet.



## Training and Fitness Center



SMCS is pleased to accept the generous gift of a 6,500 square foot Training and Fitness Center. Bergstrom Automotive is generously funding this enhancement at the St. Mary Catholic Schools main campus, which was designed by Gries Architectural Group and will be built by Miron Construction Co., Inc. as an addition on the north end of the St. Mary Catholic High School building.

Located across from the Riviere Tennis Center, the fully equipped center will provide an array of fitness equipment that supports students in building and maintaining physical fitness and SMCS athletes in cross training, and physical education--whether as part of a physical education class or during supervised workout sessions.

While plans for the facility have been completed, identifying the state-of-the-art equipment that will be made available to students is still underway, with input from collegiate and NFL training professionals, as well as our physical education/health teachers and varsity coaches. Construction on the Training and Fitness Center will be completed in time for the 2017-18 school year.

To mark of the 20th anniversary of the Riviere Tennis Center, which was built in 1997 in honor of former Coach Donald Riviere, the courts will be fully restored this year with resurfacing, net replacement and fence repair. Following the June 2017 completion of the project, the renovated courts will be home to a doubles tournament that will be open to any teams (men, women or mixed), with proceeds going to help offset the \$80,000 cost of the renovation. Those interested in supporting the restoration should contact Michelle Dejno at [mdejno@smcatholicschools.org](mailto:mdejno@smcatholicschools.org).



*The SMCS spring musicals were stupendous!*



Mark your calendar for July 20-23, when the SMCS Zephyr Players Community Theater will present "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." In addition to the all-community cast, a special abridged edition production put on by students ages 7-15 will be offered. The students will enjoy, at no additional cost, drama workshops taught by professional guest artists.



### SMCS SUMMER YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Registration for summer sports camps and the summer daycare program are now open! Information about summer tutoring will also be available, as well as the opportunity for students going into grades 8-12 to earn high school credit.

#### SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

Visit [smcatholicschools.org](http://smcatholicschools.org) and click on the SUMMER PROGRAMS link to see the 2017 selection of summer sports camps offered at St. Mary Catholic High School, to print out the registration form or to register online.

#### SUMMER DAYCARE PROGRAM

Visit [smcatholicschools.org](http://smcatholicschools.org) and click on the SUMMER PROGRAMS link to read about the summer daycare program and to reach the online registration link.

Find us on



## SMCS STEM SATURDAY

SMCS STEM Saturday, hosted by the SMCS STEM Club and our Project Lead The Way advisory team was attended by several hundred guests who learned through demonstrations and hands-on activities including a 3-D printer, quad-copters, several robotics programs, flight simulators and electronics. The first 100 students who came received a really cool robot pen!



## SMCS MATH TEAMS COMPETE AND COMPUTE

The SMCS math teams for grades 6-12 participate in competitions throughout the year, and this year the teams are continuing their record of success.

The sixth graders participated in several online competitions, placing as three teams in 15th, 20th and 39th places among 1,530 classes nationally. Several sixth and seventh graders went to Sheboygan to participate in the MathCounts event, and all three grades contributed to the great performance at the Xavier meet. At that competition of more than 30 teams at each grade level (6-8), SMCMS brought home two 1st place trophies, one 2nd and one 3rd place trophy, and many individuals placed in the top ten, with one first-place winner.

The high school finished its season in second place among nine teams, with an individual earning first place in four of the meets. SMCS junior Erik Meier was named first-team all-conference with the second highest cumulative score among all mathletes, and senior Cece Krautkramer received second-team honors. The junior varsity team took first place in the sole JV competition.



## SMCS ROBOTICS

SMCS robotics enjoyed success at all levels. In their first year, our elementary VEX IQ Robotics team competed at the state level, finishing as one of three teams nominated for the Excellence Award and placing eighth overall in the state. The middle school team, also in its first year, finished 8-0 in qualifying rounds at their first-ever tournament, and went on to captain the tournament championship alliance, winning the tournament and a trip to state. The high school robotics club sent five teams to state with one finishing in second place and one winning the AMAZE award. Five high school VEX teams have qualified to compete at the U.S. Open national tournament, which one attended, and two competed at the worlds tournament this spring!



# Noteworthy at SMCS

For the second year, SMCHS earned recognition with the “Most Collected - Division 3 School” award by the Community Blood Center for the success of their bimonthly blood drives. The 119 units of blood collected during the 2015-16 school year is estimated to have helped save 357 lives. SMCHS Key Club members accepted the award at a half-day high school summit held at the Fox Cities Stadium.



St. Margaret Mary Elementary School received a grant from the National Football League’s Fuel Up to Play 60 program that encourages students to be active. The students are participating in special activities throughout the school year.

The St. Mary Catholic High School football program received a grant in the amount of \$4000 from the Green Bay Packers Foundation. The grant will be used to purchase new protective equipment for the varsity, junior varsity and middle school football teams.



**St. Mary**  
Catholic High School  
*— Est. 1928 —*

The Class of 2016 (last year’s seniors) earned an average score of **24.9 on their ACT** college-readiness test, which is well above the state’s average of 20.5 and the national average of 20.8, as well as being among the highest among Fox Cities schools.

In the fall, eighteen SMCHS students earned **AP Scholar Awards** in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP exams during the 2015-16 school year. This honor was bestowed on 27% of the Class of 2016.

An SMCHS senior was designated a **National Merit commended student** for 2017, having earned a score in the top 50,000 of the 1.6 million students who took the PSAT test in 2016. SMCHS has had finalists and/or commended scholars for each of the past twelve years.

St. Mary Catholic High School’s Class of 2017 collectively recorded more than **8300 hours of service** over the past four years.



As an Advent project, St. Gabriel and St. Mary Elementary School students filled three suitcases full of pencils and pencil sharpeners for the students at a school in the Dominican Republic that is supported by the Diocese of Green Bay. Bishop Ricken himself delivered the collection of supplies!



For the fourth consecutive year, Jostens announced that SMCHS’s yearbook program has been named a Jostens’ National Yearbook Program of Excellence.

The SMCS cross country ski program received a matching grant in the amount of \$1000 from the Birkiebeiner Foundation to help secure an in-kind donation through the Nordic Rocks program, through which SMCS received many sets of skis and poles to supplement our elementary ski program.



The SMCS food service program was the recipient of a deluxe warming oven for the kitchen at St. Margaret Mary Elementary School after winning a sweepstakes with an industrial appliance manufacturer.

The SMCS STEM Club was the recipient of four grants in the amount of \$566 each from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for several SMCHS VEX Robotics teams. The funds are used to offset the cost of competing in robotics tournaments.

Alumnus Matthew Rappl '09 will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, July 1, 2018. May God richly bless Matthew in his ministry!

St. Margaret Mary kindergarten students created “birthday bags”



for a service project that put their faith into action and shared God’s love with others. The birthday bags, which contain a cake mix, frosting and candles were donated to St. Joe’s Food Pantry.

St. Mary Catholic Middle School recently welcomed third and fourth graders to the campus for a special afternoon of tours, mini classes and a peek into middle school life.



St. Mary  
Catholic Schools  
*Grades P3-12*

**St. Gabriel Elementary**

Principal Jeanine Leege  
900 Geiger Street  
Neenah 54956  
920-725-4161

**St. Margaret Mary Elementary**

Principal Eleanor Healy  
610 Division Street  
Neenah 54956  
920-729-4565

**St. Mary Elementary**

Principal Jeanine Leege  
540 Second Street  
Menasha 54952  
920-725-5351

**St. Mary Catholic Middle School**

Principal Mike Zuleger  
1000 Zephyr Drive  
Neenah 54956  
920-727-0279

**St. Mary Catholic High School**

Principal Patrick Batey  
1050 Zephyr Drive  
Neenah 54956  
920-722-7796

**SMCS Business Office**

1050 Zephyr Drive  
Neenah 54956  
920-722-7796  
Fax: 920-722-5940

*We appreciate the support of our  
SMCS parishes*

St. Gabriel • St. Margaret Mary  
St. Mary/St. John • St. Patrick's

*and the parishes that support SMCHS*

Holy Spirit • Sts. Peter and Paul  
St. Mary-Greenville  
St. John-Sacred Heart

*Congratulations*  
to the Class of 2017!

