



# St. Mary Catholic Schools

St. Mary  
Catholic Schools  
Grades P-12

# Fine Arts Newsletter

Vol. 1: December 2016



## SMCHS Zephyr Players

### *Notes from Director Mr. Kraus*

This year's fall play "Murder Can Be Habit-Forming" was the Zephyr Players' premiere performance in the Miron Forensic Theater. Providing as many laughs as chills, "Murder Can Be Habit-Forming" is a lighthearted mystery comedy that reveals the very human side of a group of nuns as they attempt to stay one step ahead of a killer.

The black box venue allows our student designers, actors and artists to work in a flexible theater, with endless possibilities. The intimate setting gives the audience a unique chance to engage with the action happening on stage. Actors took on a new challenge of staying focused in a tight space, with scenes happening feet away from spectators. Our designers were able to craft fine details into the props and scenery to help create a realistic common room of St. Mary Convent, where the story takes place. This murder mystery was a perfect introduction to the black box theater and we are excited for students and theater-goers to experience more in this inventive venue. More play photo can be found on the SMCS Shutterfly page ([stmarycentraltccesphotos.shutterfly.com](http://stmarycentraltccesphotos.shutterfly.com)).

### SMCHS Spotlight Night

SMCHS hosted its first Spotlight Night in the Black Box theater with high school students performing musical numbers for a packed house. This was a great informal performance opportunity. Highlights can be watched on the SMCS Fine Arts Facebook page ([facebook.com/smcsfinearts](https://facebook.com/smcsfinearts)).



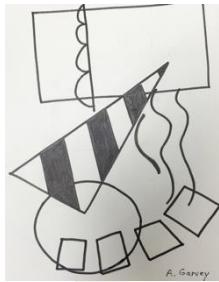
# Chance and Art

## Mrs. Koskinen's Middle School Art Assignment

Roll the dice and draw the Wassily Kandinsky shape from the chart (see chart in the photo on the right).

### What Does This Teach?

Making art by utilizing “chance” removes the artist’s hand from the process and gives the artist over to randomness. The goal is to subvert the preconceived notions that art must be made by someone with artistic talent and training. Rolling the dice introduces a little anarchy into the art process, freeing the artist from decision making and control.

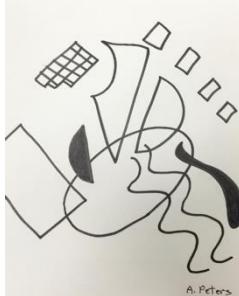


**Kandinsky**

**Designs**

**With a  
Shake of  
the Dice!!!**

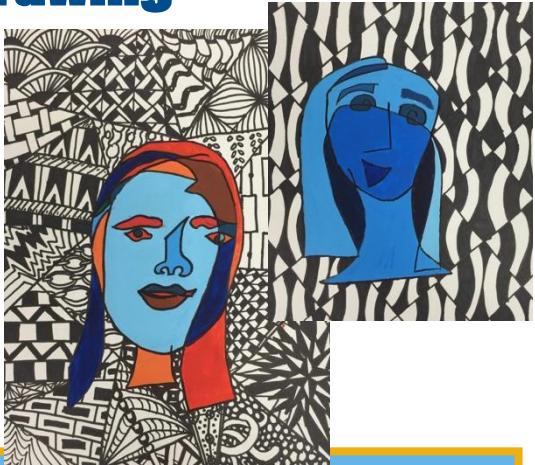
Grade 7 Art



# Blind Contour Drawing

## Mrs. Ott's High School Art Assignment

Blind contour drawing is the process of drawing the edge of an object without looking at the paper. Students were instructed to draw themselves while looking only in the mirror and to be mindful of not picking up the pencil and losing their place. Then the students were asked to fill the background with “zentangle” designs to give a contrast to the portraits.



### What Does This Teach?

Blind Contour Drawing is a drawing technique that helps students overcome stereotypical ways of seeing and drawing. The point of the exercise is to learn how to access and make more assertive the right side of the brain, which helps students accurately observe when they are drawing. The goal is to really *see* what they are looking at, to almost spiritually merge with it, rather than retreat into a mental image of the object, which may or may not be accurate. The brain wants to simplify — to reduce the turmoil of the world into order. Blind contour drawing trains students to stare at the chaos and to honor it.



# SMCS Marching Band in the Appleton Christmas Parade



## Pep Band Schedule

Dec 16	Boys Basketball – Grade/Middle School Night
Jan 5	Boys Basketball
Jan 10	Girls Basketball
Jan 13	Girls Basketball – Parent Night
Jan 24	Girls Basketball – Zephyr Basketball Club Night
Jan 31	Boys Basketball – Senior Night
Jan 31	Boys Basketball – Senior Night

For the second year in a row, the SMCS middle and high school marching band students graced the streets in the Appleton Christmas Parade. If you didn't hear them play in person, you can watch them and the dance team at [smcatholicschools.org](http://smcatholicschools.org) (48:30 on the video).

## Color Bells Introduce Tones



### Mr. Arboleda's Elementary Music Assignment

While standing in line each student takes a turn ringing his or her bell. Then the students figure out how to create a scale by putting their bells in order from high to low.

### What does this teach?

This kinesthetic (hands-on) activity develops auditory discrimination. Students learn to distinguish between different types of sound (environmental, noise, and musical), tones (high to low), and timbre (in this case metallic). Also, students use problem solving and teamwork to discover for themselves the correct order of the bells.



# Clash of the Choirs



*SMCHS Soul Tones Vocal Ensemble*

## High school choir teacher Spencer Jones asks: Are you ready to hear high school choirs compete head-to-head for cash?

Then don't miss the Clash of the Choirs on Saturday, January 28th at 6 p.m. in the Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center! The competing choirs will sing three selections of their choice - one sacred, one secular, and one "something else"- for a panel of three judges. In this Sing Off/American Idol-style competition, the judges will give fun, interesting commentary to each group. Also, audience members can enter a drawing to win an autographed Jordy Nelson Packer jersey and a Big 10 basketball autographed by Wisconsin Badger Head Coach Greg Gard. Be sure to join us, with our host, Cami Rapson, news anchor from WBAY Action 2 News. Tickets cost \$3.00 in advance or \$5.00 at the door. Get your early-sale tickets at the SMCHS office starting on January 3. No promises that there will be any tickets available at the door, so get them soon!

## SMCS Christmas Concert Schedule

- Dec 5 Middle & High School Choir Concert
- Dec 12 St. Gabriel Elementary Concert
- Dec 13 St. Mary Elementary Concert
- Dec 15 St. Margaret Mary Elementary Concert
- Dec 19 Middle & High School Band Concert
- Dec 20 Elementary School Band Concert

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