



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Margaret Mary Fifth Graders will Learn on the Go

Thirty-one fifth grade students from St. Margaret Mary Elementary School will celebrate Bike Safety Week (May 15-19) on Thursday, May 18, 2017 with a five-mile bike ride and field trip. With the intent of seeing science lessons in action and promoting access to local trails and recreational opportunities, the students will don their bike helmets and “Loop the Lake.”

Members of local parks and recreation departments, along with city and village leadership, have been invited to participate. To date, Mayor Dean Kaufert of Neenah and Mike Keating of Neenah Parks and Rec are slated to join in, and Mayor Don Merkes of Menasha will meet the group at their Tayco Street Bridge stop.

Students will gather at St. Margaret Mary Elementary School at 7:30 a.m. and then ride to downtown Neenah where Steve Pratt of Cranked Bike Studio and parent volunteers will conducting bike and helmet checks in the parking lot of Ascension Healthcare from 8:00-9:00 a.m.

At 9:00 a.m., the group will head out on the trail from Arrowhead Park and ride to Fritse Park where they will enjoy a short break with a snack and a restroom/body break. Then they will ride across the trestle bridge on the Friendship Trail to the Menasha Locks, and on to the Tayco Street Bridge and museum. Their final leg will be via First Street and the Oak Street Bridge and back to campus.

The activity is more than just a bike ride. It is a collaboration between fourth grade teacher Mrs. Karie Ann Zeinert and physical education teacher Janet Loughrin to provide the opportunity for students to apply what they have learned, to promote health and wellness and bike safety, and to encourage students to explore the local trail system in Fox Crossing, Menasha and Neenah.

"This bike ride will give students the opportunity to see their learning in action in the local community," stated Zeinert. "We have studied human body systems and the importance of protecting our heads to prevent concussions and skull fractures. Currently we are learning about how mechanical engineers use simple machines to do big jobs with very little energy, and the Tayco Street Bridge is a perfect example. It is exciting to inspire students to look ahead and think of future careers in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math!"

In preparation for the event, students viewed an excellent video about the Loop the Lake project that was produced by the City of Neenah and can be found on the city's website.

St. Margaret Mary Elementary School , located in Neenah, Wisconsin, is part of [St. Mary Catholic Schools \(SMCS\)](#). The system also includes St. Mary Elementary in Menasha, St. Gabriel Elementary in Neenah and St. Mary Catholic Middle School and St. Mary Catholic High School in the Village of Fox Crossing. SMCMS is dedicated to the individual development of each student by providing an education focused on faith, academics and service.

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