



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMCHS Students Perform Well on College Readiness Exams

Fox Cities: Students in the St. Mary Catholic High School (SMCHS) Class of 2016 outperformed their peers in Wisconsin and the nation on the ACT, according to results released on August 24 by ACT, Inc., the organization that administers the college-readiness exam. With 96% of the class taking the test, **SMCHS's average composite score of 24.9** is 1.5 points higher than the school's average last year, and is 4.4 points above the state's average of 20.5. This year's national average is 20.8.

The ACT is a curriculum-based achievement test designed to measure college readiness and preparation. Scores are based on a scale of zero to 36, and the ACT includes four separate exams in English, reading, mathematics and science. There is also an optional writing portion.

The ACT college readiness benchmark scores help determine whether students are likely to be successful in core college courses such as English composition, algebra, social science, and biology. A benchmark score is the minimum score needed on an ACT subject-area test to indicate a 50% chance of earning a B or higher, or a 75% chance of earning a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college course. The table below compares the SMC Class of 2014's scores with the national benchmark scores.

Subject	Benchmark	SMC Average Score
English	18	25.6
Mathematics	22	23.9
Reading	22	24.8
Science	23	24.6

St. Mary Catholic High School (SMCHS) a regional high school, is part of [St. Mary Catholic Schools \(SMCS\)](#). The system also includes St. Mary Elementary Schools (St.

Margaret Mary and St. Gabriel in Neenah, and St. Mary in Menasha), as well as St. Mary Catholic Middle School in Neenah. SMCHS is dedicated to the individual development of each student by providing an education focused on faith, academics and service.

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