



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Mary Catholic Schools Expand Pupil Services to K-12 Program

St. Mary Catholic Schools (SMCS) is proud of the educational support provided to middle- and high school students by the system's learning specialists. Based on the importance and success of that program, SMCS is expanding its pupil services offerings into a comprehensive program to serve students from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

SMCS's new elementary pupil services program will proactively help educators assess student needs and apply learning strategies at a critical stage of educational development. The program is expanding with the addition of two elementary-level learning specialists. Ms. Ann Heinrich will work with students at St. Margaret Mary Elementary in Neenah. Mrs. Tara Gagne will work with students at St. Mary Elementary in Menasha and St. Gabriel Elementary in Neenah. Mrs. Gagne will also begin assisting students at the middle school after a planned maternity departure by the current teacher. Heinrich has a master's degree in speech and language pathology and is a certified speech pathologist. Gagne holds a bachelor of science degree in special education (K-9) and a graduate degree in educational leadership with an emphasis in communication.

These professionals will work as a team with the guidance counselor and reading specialist to develop and implement a wide-reaching elementary learning assistance program. This program will support student achievement, and will allow for a successful transition of services from one school level to the next. The pupil services team is committed to joining forces with classroom teachers and parents to support and enhance students' individualized education experience. We are confident that the expansion of our pupil services team will strengthen our ability to help every student succeed to his or her highest potential.

"We are very blessed to bring these two professionals into our schools, as the need for expanded pupil services is becoming more evident everywhere," says St. Mary Catholic Schools President Helen Englebert. "Our expanded program will allow us to proactively work with students at a younger age, when foundational skills, study habits and attitudes toward learning are formed. We are confident that creating a coordinated K-12 program will strengthen our ability to help every student succeed to his or her highest potential."

St. Mary Catholic Schools (SMCS) includes St. Mary Catholic High School and the new St. Mary Catholic Middle School in the Town of Menasha and St. Mary Elementary Schools (St. Margaret Mary and St. Gabriel in Neenah, and St. Mary in Menasha). SMCS is dedicated to the individual development of each student in grades Pre3-12, by providing the highest quality education focused on faith, academics and service in a rapidly changing world.

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