

ST. MARY CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

1000 Zephyr Drive • Neenah, WI 54956 • 920-727-0279 • smcatholicsschools.org

"The faith community of St. Mary Catholic Middle School affirms that middle school students are special human beings, unique in their spiritual, intellectual, social, physical and emotional development."

ACADEMICS

St. Mary Catholic Middle School is committed to helping each student reach his or her highest potential. In our small-by-choice school community, a robust variety of classes is taught by caring professionals who truly value a faith-based education as well as each student's growth and educational experience. SMCMS classes are challenging and hands-on, and teaching and learning teams ensure that the curriculum is shared and reinforced across the grade levels.

The middle school principal will work to accommodate qualified students who wish to attend select high school-level courses at St. Mary Catholic High School, many for credit.

LANGUAGE ARTS, MATH AND SCIENCE PLACEMENT

Two levels of language arts, math and science classes (regular and intensive) are offered at each grade level. Intensive classes are intended to offer students who have demonstrated mastery of current grade level math, language arts and reading an opportunity to challenge themselves with more difficult material. Decisions for placement are based on spring Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing scores, grades and teacher recommendations.

The language arts and science classes cover the same standards as the other classes, but are condensed to allow teachers to explore relevant enrichment activities. They require more work outside of class and more writing, as well as participation in class discussions, rigorous tests, difficult reading materials, and independent research. SMCMS science classes integrate a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) component at each grade level.

Math 6, 7, and 8 are designed for those students who might need more review of math facts as they learn math concepts. The objective of intensive grade 6, Pre-Algebra, and Algebra is to introduce new material so that at successful completion of grade 8, students can be recommended to be placed in an honors geometry course as freshmen at SMCHS.

WORLD LANGUAGES

SMCMS is proud to offer three world languages – German, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. Students who successfully complete a world language in middle school may enter the second year of language instruction when they attend St. Mary Catholic High School.

MAP TESTING

Academics is the center of SMCMS's well-rounded educational offerings, and it is reflected in our students' test taking. SMCMS students consistently perform well above average on Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests, with scores ranking above national norms each year, in all disciplines.

TECHNOLOGY

To be competitive in the 21st century, today's students require an engaging and progressive learning environment. SMCS's investment in technology affirms our commitment to our mission of providing a quality education in a rapidly changing world, and the system's technology department provides full technical support. Teachers work diligently to provide educational technology integration.

ONE-TO-ONE PROGRAM

The use of laptop computers is integral to SMCMS's strong curriculum, and they are an essential tool for teachers and students. Each SMCMS student is assigned a laptop that he or she uses every day for class work, group projects, and homework; seventh and eighth grade students may also take their laptops home to complete homework and group projects. In addition, each grade level area ("pod") is equipped with several Smart boards, digital projectors and Smart response systems.

The basic computer curriculum places an emphasis on commonly used communication, analysis and presentation software and online programs. Through Project Lead The Way (PLTW), seventh and eighth graders complete an interactive design module, creating their own mobile apps.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

Parent engagement is important to a student's success at the middle school level. Consequently, SMCMS requires a certain level of parent involvement. Parents may choose to spend 40 hours of time at SMCMS over the course of the school year, or pay a fee. Volunteering in the lunchroom, chaperoning field trips or socials, and attending parent meetings or conferences can all be counted toward the requirement.

The SMCS Booster Club actively supports middle school athletics and activities. Parents of students who are involved in middle school athletics are asked to work a number of shifts over the course of a school year to help support the booster club. A portion of these hours may also count toward the required middle school involvement.



St. Mary
Catholic Middle School
Grades 6-8

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

SMCMS's activities, athletic teams and clubs work hand in hand with the school's academic program to educate each student as a whole person. These activities are a foundation of the well-rounded spiritual, intellectual, physical and psychological development fostered in every student at St. Mary Catholic Middle School.

SPORTS OFFERINGS

Because middle school athletes are at very different stages of development in their skills, SMCMS believes in and enforces a "no cuts, everyone plays" policy.

Basketball
Cross Country
Football
Softball
Tennis
Track and Field
Volleyball

CO-CURRICULARS

Art Fab Lab
Book Club
Builders Club
FIRST Lego League
Forensics
Math Counts and Math Team
Musical Theater*
SPIRITUS Drop-In
STEM Center activities
(robotics, aeronautics, electronics)
Student Council
VEX IQ
VEX Robotics
Voyagers

*SMCMS performs a musical each spring at the Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center with students taking on acting, directing, producing and stage crew roles.

BUSING

Busing is available to the SMCMS campus from many area communities! Call 727-0279 for details.



St. Mary Catholic Middle School
is a Project Lead The Way School.



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AN INDIVIDUALIZED EXPERIENCE

Our faculty and staff are faith-filled, dedicated, knowledgeable and competent in their professions, and strive to meet the individual needs of students. They know students by name, as well their interests, learning styles and social/emotional needs, as appropriate. Discipline issues are rare because students are engaged, involved, known and appreciated.

Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance

A certified counselor oversees the counseling program at St. Mary Catholic Middle School and is available to all students on an individual and/or small group basis. This program includes education for students in personal safety and wellbeing. The counselor meets annually with all eighth grade students and their families to focus on academic and personal development, as well as age-appropriate career planning. Students are encouraged to visit with the counselor for personal guidance or to discuss any home, school or social concerns. In addition, an on-staff mental health professional provides preventative group counseling.

Edmodo

A secure learning network used by all SMCMS teachers and students, Edmodo is an online tool for teachers to communicate with students regarding assignments. Students are able to communicate with the teacher as well as their entire class.

Naviance

As part of the Naviance comprehensive K-12 college and career readiness platform, SMCMS students and their parents are able to access features such as virtual career exploration and interviews. Results of interest assessments and personality surveys conducted with eighth graders carry over to the high school counseling office via Naviance, and help set the stage for each student's development of long-term goals and associated course selection.

Power School

Power School is an online portal for parents to check grades, receive school or class information, verify assignment completion and read notes from their children's teachers.

Pupil Services

SMCMS has a learning specialist who ensures that each student receives the necessary educational assistance. Using differentiated instruction strategies and working with classroom teachers, the learning specialist helps to create situations in which individuals can learn best. Students benefit from alternative approaches to instruction and modified lesson plans and assessment tools, supplementary materials and new learning strategies. Students are referred in cooperation with family, teachers and administration, and may work with the learning specialist in one or multiple academic areas.

STAR/Mentor Groups

STAR (Student Teacher Advisory and Recreation) is a teacher/student-based counseling program. Its purpose is to provide students with a teacher advocate who promotes group identity, friendship, a sense of belonging, and pride in self and school. STAR groups are made up of 12-18 students and meet for 20 minutes three times a week, as well as at the end of every day. A typical weekly routine includes school news, individual conferences, and planning and practicing for prayer services. Typical discussion topics include careers, conflict resolution, kindness and respect.

OUR COMMITMENT TO FAITH

The faculty and staff at St. Mary Catholic Middle School work together to develop students with an emphasis on character and values that are Christ-centered with respect for humanity, commitment to service and a sense of community. A weekly liturgy or prayer service is prepared and led by students at the middle school, and seasonal sacrament and Holy Days are celebrated with the high school community. Class retreats, held twice a year for each grade, provide opportunities for community building and personal reflection.

Most students exceed the 12-hours per year service requirement. They do so through group service projects, school-sponsored programs such as Double Portions food pantry and Builders Club, parish involvement and independent volunteerism.

Each year, students are encouraged to work toward earning the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Service Award. Through a series of validating requirements, students demonstrate their commitment to living a life of service and love of God, as inspired by the pioneering American saint. Recipients of the award are recognized at the end of each school year.

THE BUILDING

St. Mary Catholic Middle School was built to facilitate interactive 21st-century education. Classroom clusters for each grade level promote collaborative learning and technology-based instruction. The campus also boasts a beautiful chapel, band room, art room, science lab, two-stage gymnasium and spacious common areas.

SHARED CAMPUS

Being located on the same campus as St. Mary Catholic High School offers middle school students many unique opportunities, just across the parking lot! They are able to earn high school credits by attending classes at the high school; perform musicals and concerts in the fine arts education center; use the training and fitness center during physical education classes; participate in educational co-curriculars at the STEM Center; explore Jane's Woods, the adjacent three-acre nature area; and use the varsity athletics facilities and training center.

SAFETY

The emotional and physical wellbeing of every student is of primary concern. St. Mary Catholic Middle School is securely locked, and the school community performs fire, tornado and intruder alert drills. Every staff member, coach and parent volunteer has been trained in child protection awareness through the diocese's VIRTUS-Protecting God's Children program.

COURSES OFFERED AT SMCMS

6TH GRADE CURRICULUM

Art
Band, Chorus or General Music**
Computer
Health
Jazz Band or Show Choir (optional)
Math (regular or intensive)
Physical Education
Reading/Language Arts (regular or intensive)
Religion-Old Testament
Science (regular or intensive) (PLTW component)
Social Studies
World Language (German, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish or literacy)*

7TH GRADE CURRICULUM

Art
Band, Chorus or General Music**
Computer Science (PLTW)
Health
Jazz Band or Show Choir (optional)
Math (regular or PreAlgebra)
Physical Education
Reading/Language Arts (regular or intensive)
Religion-New Testament
Science (regular or intensive) (PLTW component)
Social Studies
World Language (German, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish or literacy)*

8TH GRADE CURRICULUM

Art
Band, Chorus or General Music**
Computer Science (PLTW)
Health
Jazz Band or Show Choir (optional)
Physical Education
Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1
Reading/Language Arts (regular or intensive)
Religion-Jesus' Life and Catholicism Today
Science (regular or intensive) (PLTW component)
Social Studies
World Language (German, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish or literacy)*

*Students not enrolled in a world language take a literacy course **An annual fee is assessed for participation in band and/or choir