



St. Mary
Catholic Middle School
— *Grades 6-8* —

St. Mary Catholic Middle School
1000 Zephyr Drive
Neenah, WI 54952
920-727-0279



Mission Statement

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St. Mary Catholic Schools, in partnership with family, Church and community provides a quality Catholic education focused on faith, academics, service and personal development from pre-school through high school to influence a rapidly changing world.

We believe the students in St. Mary Catholic Middle School (SMCMS) will:

- Show a desire to grow spiritually, which requires involvement, experiences, guidance, assurance, and encouragement in their faith journey.
- Have a need for social belonging and opportunities for interaction.
- Have the freedom to express wide ranges of physical differences, which need to be accepted and respected.

We believe the staff at St. Mary Catholic Middle School (SMCMS) will:

- Make a positive difference in students' lives through modeling Catholic values and building Christian community.
- Be committed to developing a sensitive, caring, and supportive learning environment that will help the students in their transition from late childhood to adolescence.
- Provide a program of planned learning experience, which incorporates growth in the faith community, subject content and essential life skills.
- Be sensitive to the young adolescents' increasing need for socialization and independence, and provide purposeful opportunities for its expression.
- Create a safe environment that allows students to feel comfortable exploring the changes taking place in their lives.

We believe the St. Mary Catholic Middle School (SMCMS) community will:

- Encourage the learning experience of its students.
- Support the staff in educational endeavors.
- Share a responsibility in developing positive and enriching relationships based on unconditional acceptance of students and adults.
- Be a unique group of people who have chosen to be actively involved in the growth and continuing development of SMCMS middle-level students.
- Maintain open communication as a priority for the successful implementation of the middle school program.



Goals

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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.

We, the SMCMS community will work together to develop our students with an emphasis on the following:

- Knowledge in a personal love of God
- Character and values that are Christ-centered
- Respect for humanity that will foster service
- Understanding and appreciation of the uniqueness and diversity of individuals
- A sense of community
- Respect for self, others and property
- Self-esteem and self-confidence
- Students' beliefs, values and actions
- Social interactions amongst peers, staff, families and the world community
- Organizational and study skills for life-long learning
- Independent learners
- Communication skills
- Exposure of students to a variety of opportunities and interests
- Opportunities to express opinions in a safe environment
- Creative thinking
- A strong knowledge base
- Transitional curriculum that will encompass all SMCS schools
- Effective problem solvers
- Manners and social skills
- Preparation for the future



Curriculum

6th Grade Curriculum:

Religion-Old Testament	Art
Mathematics 6 <u>or</u> Intensive Math	Computer
Science <u>or</u> Intensive Science	Physical Education
Social Studies	Health
Reading/Language Arts	Band <u>or</u> Chorus <u>or</u> General Music **
German/Mandarin Chinese/Spanish <u>or</u> Literacy	Show Choir <u>or</u> Jazz Band (optional)

7th Grade Curriculum:

Religion-New Testament	Art
Mathematics 7 <u>or</u> Pre-Algebra	Computer (PLTW Computer Science)
Science <u>or</u> Intensive Science	Physical Education
Social Studies	Health
Reading/Language Arts	Band <u>or</u> Chorus <u>or</u> General Music **
German <u>or</u> Mandarin Chinese <u>or</u> Spanish <u>or</u> Literacy	Show Choir <u>or</u> Jazz Band (optional)

8th Grade Curriculum:

Religion-Jesus' Life and Catholicism Today	Art
Pre-Algebra <u>or</u> Algebra 1	Computer (PLTW Computer Science)
Science <u>or</u> Intensive Science	Physical Education
Social Studies	Health
Reading/Language Arts	Band <u>or</u> Chorus <u>or</u> General Music **
German <u>or</u> Mandarin Chinese <u>or</u> Spanish <u>or</u> Literacy	Show Choir <u>or</u> Jazz Band (optional)

**There is a \$200.00 yearly fee for band and a \$75.00 fee for chorus.



Science Placement

Two science classes are offered at each level -- science 6, 7, 8 and intensive science 6, 7, 8.

Science classes are not intended to replace or guarantee placement in certain high school classes, but 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 in science.

These intensive classes cover the same standards as the other classes, but are condensed to allow teachers to explore relevant enrichment activities. These classes require more work outside of class and more writing, as well as participation in class discussions, rigorous tests, difficult reading materials, and independent research. The Intensive Science class is intended for those students who show aptitude and motivation in those areas. **MAP scores should generally be in the 75th percentile or above in math and reading.** Final decisions for placements will be based on spring MAP scores, grades, and teacher recommendations.

Students should be able to work independently in and out of class and have strong time management and organizational skills. They should possess higher-level thinking and problem solving skills. They should be able to work well with others and contribute to class discussions. Please consider your child's activity schedule before making the decision to take an intensive class. We expect students in the classes to maintain good work habits and adequate preparation for tests and class, which includes turning in work on time.

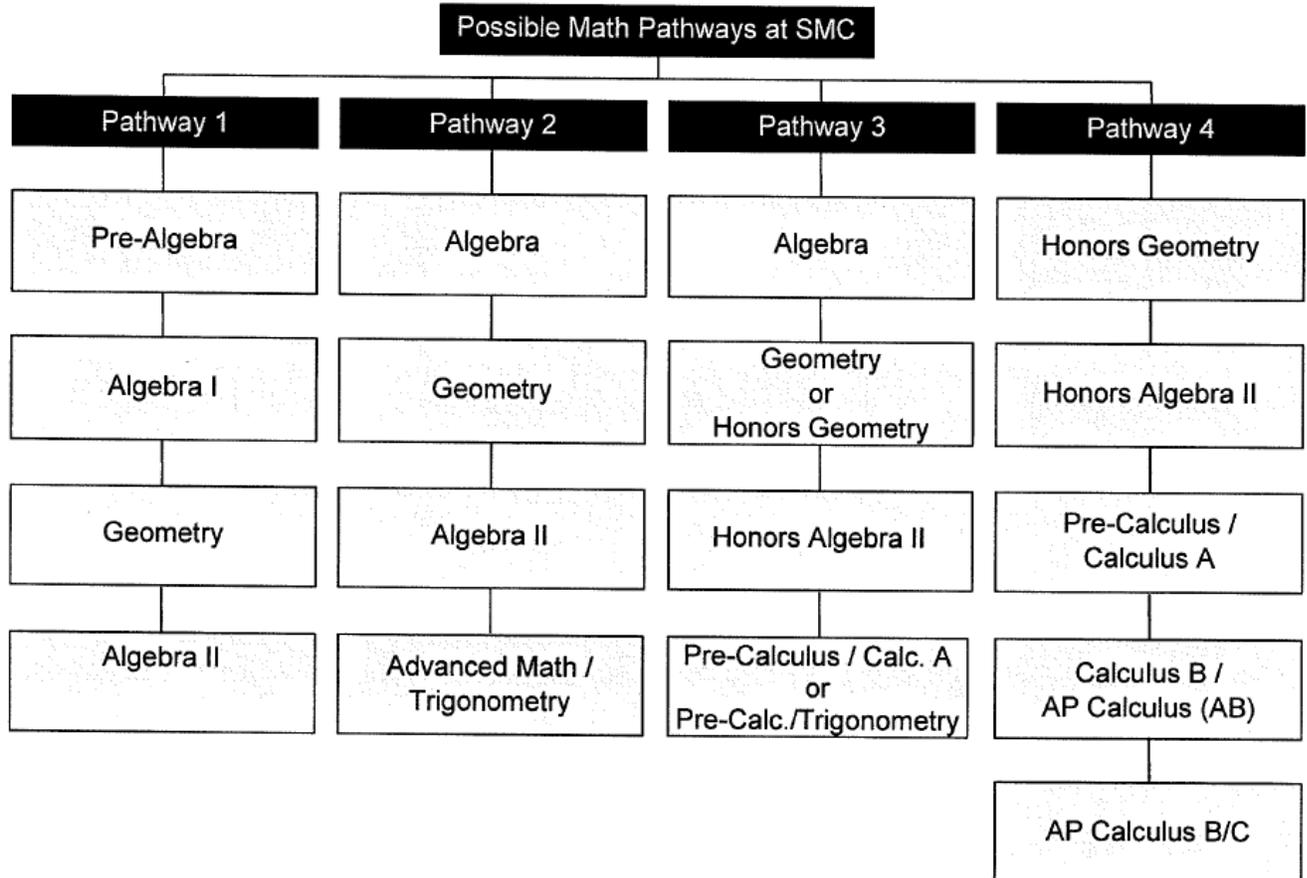
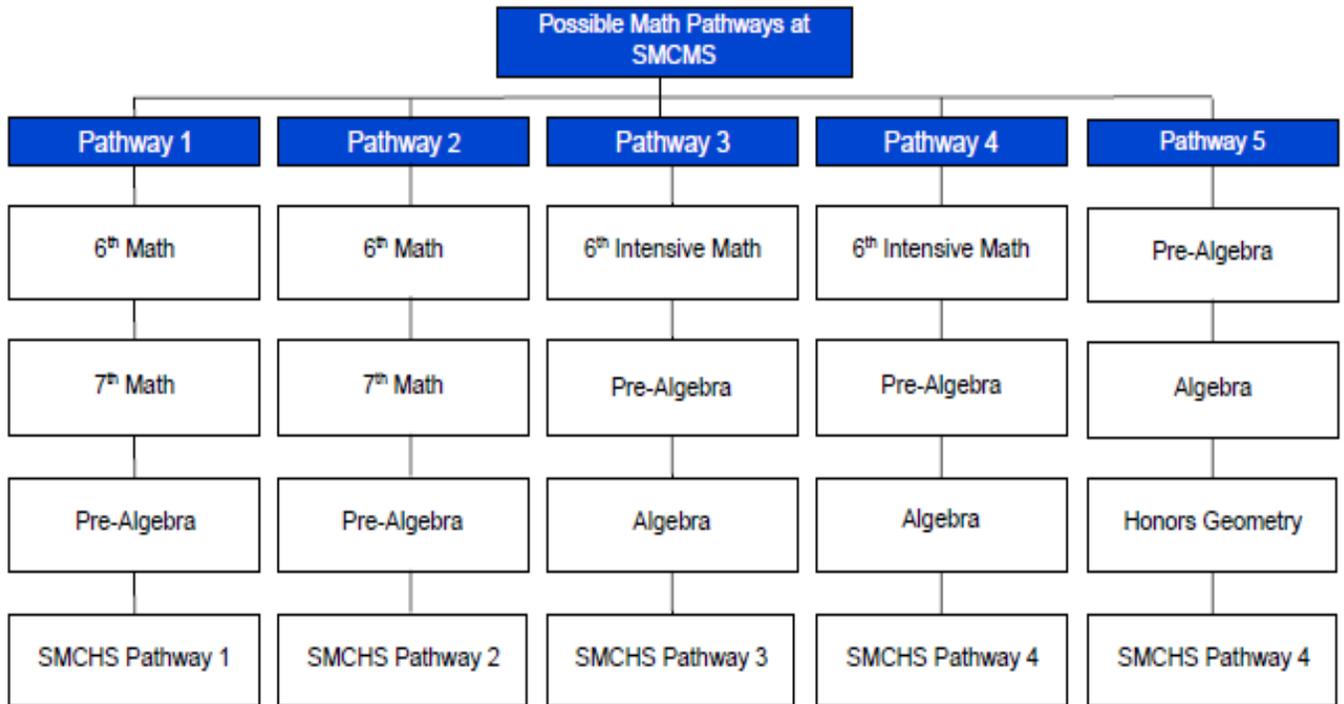
Math Placement

Two math classes are offered at each grade level – grade 6 or intensive grade 6, grade 7 or Pre-Algebra, grade 8 (Pre-Algebra) or Algebra.

The objective of **intensive grade 6, Pre-Algebra, and Algebra** is to introduce new material so that at successful completion of grade 8, students will be recommended to be placed in an honors geometry course as freshmen at SMCHS. Students will have covered Algebra 1 standards in middle school and will spend little time reviewing math facts. There is an understanding that students in these classes will have mastered basic math facts prior to 6th grade. **MAP scores should generally be in the 75th percentile or above.** Final decisions for placements will be based on spring MAP scores, grades, and teacher recommendations.

Math 6, 7, and 8 are designed for those students who might need more review of math facts as they learn math concepts. These classes will move at a slower pace than the other classes to allow for more practice.

The possible Math Pathways for SMCMS and how it will affect the pathways offered at SMCHS is on the next page.





World Language and Literacy

6th grade students will be able to experience all three languages (Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, and German) that we offer at SMCMS. These classes will be every other day and taught on a trimester basis rotating between all three languages. There will be some homework and assessments in these classes and students will start to learn the basics of all three languages. Students will experience/learn the alphabet, entry level words, and verb forms in order to make an informed decision when they choose a language in 7th grade.

Students who do not take a world language in 6th, 7th and 8th grade will take a literacy class. Many students who do not take a world language need help with reading informational text, study skills, organization, writing skills, and research skills. The literacy class will help them better understand reading material that is assigned in their science and social studies classes. The literacy class may also help prepare them to study a world language later in their academic career.

In 8th grade, many students will have an opportunity to take a level I World Language class and receive a high school credit! If students wish not to take a level I class, we still offer 8th grade World Language classes. Students who complete 8th grade World Language classes, may be able to test into level II as a freshmen.

We are extremely excited to offer all three World Languages in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade to our students at SMCMS.

Band, Choir, and General Music

Students may choose to take band, jazz band, choir, show choir, or a combination. However, students must be in band to take jazz band, and may not just take show choir. Band and jazz band are offered at different times, as are choir and show choir. A student could choose to take band and show choir, band and jazz band, choir and show choir or general music and show choir. However, students must choose between one of the three music classes: band, choir, or general music. If they would like to add jazz band or show choir also, they may do so.

S.T.A.R.

S.T.A.R. is an acronym for Student Teacher Advisory and Recreation and is a teacher/student-based guidance 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. The goal is to develop an understanding and value of self, others, and life experiences. S.T.A.R. groups are made up of 12 to 18 students. They meet formally 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, planning and practicing for prayer services, discussions, and activities on a monthly theme. Themes include careers, conflict resolution, friendships, getting along with others, kindness and respect, as well as other character education or guidance themes.



Technology

SMCMS students benefit from a one-to-one laptop program that uses computer software and applications to enhance the curriculum and promote higher-order thinking through problem solving. Seventh and eighth grade students are assigned a laptop for use during school and at home. The laptops are used in classroom lessons, for group projects and for homework assignments. Each sixth grader is assigned a small laptop that he or she uses every day during school hours for classwork and in-school group projects. The entire system is fully supported by the SMCS technology department, with strong filtering programs. A dedicated technology teacher expands on the foundation students learned in elementary school with emphasis placed on Word documents, Excel spreadsheets, PowerPoint presentations, Publisher templates, internet research and safety, Windows Live Movie Maker and Google Docs. Students also participate in Project Lead The Way with an Introduction to Computer Science 1 course. In this course, students focus on their creativity and the interactive design process as they create their own basic apps using MIT App inventor. A nominal fee is required for each student's laptop.

Character Development/Expectations/Honor Card

SMCMS has adopted the Pillars of Honor from SMCHS to help teach the character traits of *faith, honesty, respect, responsibility, and trust*. We also use a positive approach to discipline and expectations. We have posted throughout the school our expectations of behavior in relation to these Pillars of Honor. Lastly, we do have an honor card that lists our expectations for the students. The 7th and 8th grade begin this honor card on the first day of school, with 6th grade starting it a couple months into school. *Our goal is a shared partnership between school and home to create a positive learning environment for everyone at St. Mary Catholic Middle School and help students better understand their responsibility as students of SMCMS.*



SMCMS Honor Card

Expectations

- I will...**
- 1 point:** A. Pay attention in class.
B. Remember my materials for class.
C. Produce my card/planner when asked.
D. Get my card signed on 15th and end of month.
E. Arrive to class and/or detention on time.
F. Abide by school's gum and food policies.
G. Raise my hand silently to speak in class.
H. Be in dress code at all times.
- 2 pts:** I. Follow playground, hallway, & cafeteria rules.
J. Turn my homework in on time.
K. Participate fully during prayer, pledge, prayer services, and liturgies.
- 3 pts:** L. Show respect for other classmates and teachers.
M. ONLY use a cell phone/iPod/other electronic devices during school hours when given permission.
N. Always display appropriate behavior in class, especially after given a warning.
- 6 pts:** O. Use respectful language/behavior, follow the Golden Rule, practice honesty at all times.
P. Not lose my honor card and/or planner.
- 10 pts:** Q. Keep my hands to myself, stay at school, attend class, keep school property clean and working, and use/view appropriate materials.
R. Practice honesty on homework and school work.
S. Other: _____

Examples:

A	1	1 MZ 9/9
MZ	9/1	

Credits

Detentions: _____ **Final Point Count:** _____

I can earn 2 points back on my Honor card by going 5 full school days without a point. I can earn 2 points back attending Power Hour on Thursdays to work on my homework after school.

0-5 Points = Reward
10 Points = Lunch time detention and parent contact
15 Points = Before/After school detention and parent contact
20 Points = 2 lunch detentions & school service and parent-principal conf.
25 Points = In-School Suspension and parent-teacher-principal conference

Name: _____ Month: _____

Parent Signature: _____ (15th of the month)

Parent Signature: _____ (end of the month)



Grading Scale

A	95 - 100	C	82 - 79
A-	94 - 93	C-	78 - 77
B+	92 - 91	D+	76 - 75
B	90 - 87	D	74 - 72
B-	86 - 85	D-	71 - 70
C+	84 - 83	F	Below 70
P	Makes sufficient progress for student's ability but is working below grade level		
I	Incomplete		

Honor Roll

Highest Honors -- GPA of 3.75 to 4.0

High Honors -- GPA of 3.5 to 3.74

Honors -- GPA of 3.0 to 3.49

Quality points for grades are figured as follows:

A	=	4.00	C	=	2.00
A-	=	3.67	C-	=	1.67
B+	=	3.33	D+	=	1.33
B	=	3.00	D	=	1.00
B-	=	2.67	D-	=	0.67
C+	=	2.33	F	=	0.00

A student with an "F" in any subject is not eligible for Honor Roll.

Faith Formation Program

Curriculum

- 6th grade – Old Testament
- 7th grade – New Testament
- 8th grade - Jesus' Life and Catholicism Today

Service

- Minimum of 12 hours per year required (three per quarter)-church, community, school
- Counts as part of the religion grade
- Based on scripture - Christ's actions of service are examples to us all. (He said, "I have come to serve, not to be served.")
- Weekly collections are taken for selected charities (e.g. Catholic Charities, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Fox Valley Warming Shelter)
- Thanksgiving, Advent, Lent shared activities with our supporting parishes



Liturgies/Prayer Services

- All-school liturgies and prayer services occur on alternating Thursdays (with the exception of holy days)
- Holy days are celebrated with St. Mary Catholic High School
- Each S.T.A.R. group prepares and leads one liturgy annually, which take place in the FAEC.
- Religion classes plan and lead prayer services, which take place in the commons

Reconciliation

- Students celebrate this sacrament twice during the school year (Advent and Lent)
- Many area priests celebrate the sacrament with us

Retreats/Days of Reflection

- 6th – usually November and April
- 7th – usually September and April
- 8th – usually September and May
- 7th and 8th grade classes combine a team-building day with a retreat day and go to a camp. It is an overnight experience for 8th grade. This is done within the first 2 weeks of school.

Seasonal Activities

A. Advent Projects

1. School-wide service project
2. School-wide visual project (wreaths, ornaments, Jesse trees, etc.)
3. Reconciliation
4. Connect and encourage families to participate in parish programs

B. Lenten Projects

1. Service project
2. Visual project of some type showing the liturgical season
3. Reconciliation
4. Connect and encourage families to participate in parish programs



Co-Curricular Activities

Academic

Book Club	Parent-led, after school meetings every four-six weeks
F.I.R.S.T. Lego League	Open to all grades; encourages creative, critical thinking; local competition in a nationally sponsored tournament; a fee is charged
Forensics	Open to all grades; December through March; students participate in approximately three meets per year; a fee is charged. Some of the categories include play-acting, group interpretation, etc.
Math Counts	Open to all students; selected teams compete in a nationally sponsored math tournament
Musical Theater	SMCMS Players present a musical play each spring. In the recent past, SMCMS has performed “Bye Bye Birdie” and “Godspell.” Past productions include “Annie, Jr.,” “Fiddler on the Roof, Jr.,” “Into the Woods, Jr.,” and “Godspell, Jr.,” all of which were specially adapted for middle schools.
SPIRITUS Drop-In	Occurs one or two Fridays per month at SMCMS
VEX IQ	Open to 5 th -7 th grade students only; students will work in the STEM Center and compete against area middle school teams
VEX Robotics	Open to 8 th grade students only; students will work in the STEM Center with SMCHS robotics teams to compete against area middle school and high school teams
Voyagers	Small group discussion and activities relating to prayer service theme; occurs after prayer services for about 20 minutes; open to anyone interested

Leadership

Builder’s Club:	Open to all grades; meets once a month after school; service club projects have included Toys for Tots and Give-A-Kid-A-Book programs, Easter baskets for hospitalized children, and more; Membership dues are collected. The club is sponsored by the Kiwanis and is the middle school version of Key Club.
Student Council:	Open to all grades; no elections; meets weekly during X-period; members plan socials, work to make school environment better, etc.



Athletics

Fall

Cross Country	Open to all students, grades 6, 7, 8
Football	Open to all students, grades 6, 7, 8
Volleyball	Open to all girls, grades 6, 7, 8

Winter

Basketball	Open to all students in grades 6,7, 8; separate teams for girls and boys at each grade level. Boys play November-January; Girls play December-February
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Spring

Softball	Open to girls in grades 6, 7, 8
Tennis	Open to all students in grades 6, 7, 8; intramural play
Track and Field	Open to all students, grades 6, 7, 8; students will compete against their own gender

- No-cut, everyone plays policy
- A non-refundable fee is charged for each sport
- Parents of participating students are expected to help at home games in the concession stand, at the gate, and/or at the scoring table.

Academic / Athletic Probation

- Academic eligibility for all students is determined by a grade check at the mid-quarter and nine-week grading periods.
- Students must maintain a minimum of a C- average with no failing grades.
- If the GPA is below a C- average (1.67 GPA), student will meet with an academic advisor and an individual plan will be decided upon and shared with the student's parents and teachers.
- Should a student fail to complete his/her individual improvement plan, social and/or athletic restrictions will be imposed.



Parent Involvement Program

SMCMS requires 40 hours of parent involvement as part of having a child enrolled at SMCMS. Research has proven that parent involvement and student achievement go hand in hand. Parents may choose to pay the fee or give 40 hours of their time to SMCMS. Parents are billed \$200 as parent involvement fee. This fee may be worked off through volunteer activities (\$5.00 per hour). Parents are responsible for [keeping track](#) of the hours they work and hours are credited on a quarterly basis. **Please provide all dates and specific in the details.** Service needs to benefit SMCMS, but only 10 hours can come from Scrip or Z-Night. Some possibilities include:

- Meet Me In The Middle
- Serving lunch
- Lunch supervision
- Concession/gate/scorebook/clock at home games
- Coaching/assistant coaching
- Retreats/field trip chaperoning
- 6th grade teambuilding
- Socials
- Building cleaning/organizing
- Forensic coaching
- Math Team Help
- VEX/VEX IQ/FIRST team mentors
- Teacher appreciation lunch/supper
- Classroom help (contact your child's teachers)
- SMCS Committee or Board members
- Helping in the Library
- Student Council or Builder's Club (formerly Jr. Optimist) parent helper
- Attending parent meetings
- Student/Teacher Conferences
- Working the forensic/ Solo & Ensemble Performances
- Z-Night

Not parent Involvement:

- Attending band/choir concerts
- Attending sporting events
- Attending forensic/ Solo & Ensemble performances

*Can you work **SMCHS games** and count them as your 40 parent involvement hours for the middle school?

We have determined that you can count up to 10 hours of involvement volunteering at the high school events towards your middle school involvement hours. The purpose of the middle school involvement hours is to help increase parent involvement at the middle school level. However, you will still be expected to complete the necessary hours asked by the Booster Club.

Parents can work as many middle school events as they want to count towards both their middle school parent involvement hours and Booster Club volunteer hours, even if your child is not in that sport.



General Information

Originally, Seton Catholic Middle School was established in 1989 as a result of the formation of Twin City Catholic Educational System (TCCES). Five parishes, St. Gabriel and St. Margaret Mary, Neenah; St. Mary, St. John and St. Patrick's, Menasha shared the support of Seton under the TCCES umbrella. In the summer of 2015, TCCES changed its name to St. Mary Catholic Schools (SMCS), and Seton Catholic Middle School became St. Mary Catholic Middle School (SMCMS) when it occupied its new location. Centered in a Catholic, Christian atmosphere, SMCMS offers curriculum focused on meeting the needs of its students--spiritually, academically, socially, psychologically, and physically. Concerned with the education of the whole person, SMCMS staff members bring an added dimension of knowledge and care.

Within St. Mary Catholic Middle School there are presently 14 full-time and eight part-time faculty members, including a full-time counselor/campus minister and a part-time learning specialist. Teachers at SMCMS have an average of more than 10 years of experience in education, ranging from 38 years to first-year teachers. All teachers have a minimum of a bachelor's degree. All teachers meet DPI guidelines for licensing and renewal. All staff members have completed and are keeping current with Protecting God's Children training (the Diocesan program sometimes referred to as VIRTUS).

In keeping with the middle school philosophy, St. Mary Catholic Middle School teachers have team meetings on a weekly basis to plan lessons, discuss teaching strategies, focus on solutions to problems, and brainstorm ideas for how to best meet the needs of all students. At this time they also share ideas for different areas of the curriculum and plan joint projects together.

More flexible scheduling, including the requirement for every middle school student to take art, computer, and health and the opportunity to receive high school credit in a world language and in some cases Algebra 1 are not usual middle school offerings.

Financial grants for tuition are available, and are strictly confidential. Contact Shelley Wautlet at the SMCS business office for more information at 722-7796 ext 851 or swautlet@smcatholicsschools.org.

Busing is available in Menasha and Neenah when a student lives more than two miles from school. We also offer an SMCS bus that runs to the Darboy/Sherwood area.