



# ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

St. Mary Catholic Elementary Schools: St. Gabriel • St. Margaret Mary • St. Mary  
St. Mary Catholic Middle School • St. Mary Catholic High School

2018-19  
VOLUME 1

## New Literacy Program Already Showing Results

After gathering teacher input and researching best practices and potential programs, St. Mary Catholic Schools administrators determined that the Lucy Calkins Units of Study in Reading is the best tool to support literacy instruction at SMCS. Enhanced by the focus on literacy at the monthly teacher in-service meetings and the support of a literacy expert from the CESA 6 Literacy Center, the rollout of this new program for grades K-5 has been very successful. The literacy consultant presented material at several meetings for all SMCS (P3-12) teachers and visited the elementary and middle school campuses to model instructional strategies and provide feedback. In addition, several teachers completed a graduate class (Research-based Best Practices in Literacy Instruction) that complemented the professional development.

For the 2017-18 school year, nearly 1,900 books were purchased, and for the upcoming term more than 3,400 were added. These volumes cover a wide variety of subjects over a spectrum of reading abilities for each grade level. As students begin the 2018-19 school year, every K-8 classroom now has a complete library.

Teachers are pleased with the quality of the Lucy Calkins leveled book sets and the Fountas and Pinnell supporting materials for spelling, vocabulary and phonics. The Lucy Calkins method is differentiated and leveled, allowing instructors to teach in a workshop format to strengthen reading skills and strategies, with each student using a text that is at his or her ability level.

Mini-lessons are followed by sustained reading time with the teacher circulating among individuals and small groups to coach, reinforce and encourage students' efforts.



Based on first-year results, St. Gabriel Principal Jeanine Leege, who spearheaded the research and implementation of the system's new approach to literacy, is enthusiastic about the expansion. She is happy to see how the teachers have embraced the new system and how students are responding.

The initial materials were funded through bequests and the school system's budget, supplemented by the three elementary home and school organizations, for more than \$76,000; the teacher training and consultation were provided using Title IIA funds and the system's budget. At a cost of more than \$88,000 in 2018-19, the program will be expanded to include grades 6-8, and additional materials for grades K-5 will be added. The investment will result in SMCS students having stronger writing, thinking and speaking skills, which will ultimately contribute to their academic success, personal enjoyment and productivity.



*"Students are excited to use materials that are at their own level, often about subjects of their own choosing. Regularly "shopping" for new books keeps them engaged and exposes them to a variety of interesting topics. In today's world where our attention is being constantly diverted, a program that develops stamina in reading is so important. By the end of the school year, our first graders were reading for a half hour at a time or more, and we anticipate seeing the results in individual MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) scores!"*

*-Jeanine Leege, St. Gabriel Principal*



**ZEPHYR CONNECTION ALUMNI NEWS** *inside!*  
SEE PAGES 12-20

# Important Dates

## AUGUST

- 22 HS New Student Orientation/Bootcamp
- 27 K-8 Orientation
- 2 First Full Day of School

## SEPTEMBER

- 3 No School
- 7 Football Grade/Middle School Night
- 13 Soccer Grade/Middle School Night
- 20 Volleyball Grade/Middle School Night
- 22 Connect 5
- 23 Homecoming Week Kick-Off
- 28 SMCS Homecoming Parade, Football Game, STEM Open House and Alumni Events
- 29 SMC Alumni Soccer Game & Homecoming Dance

## OCTOBER

- 1 No School
- 5 Meet Me in the Middle
- 10 STEM Club Open House
- 19 TASTE!
- 25-26 No School

## NOVEMBER

- 1 Remembrance Mass
- 2 No School
- 2-4 HS Fall Play
- 10 Z-NIGHT
- 21-23 No School

## DECEMBER

- 5 MS & HS Choral Christmas Concert
- 7 No School
- 10 St. Gabriel Christmas Concert
- 11 St. Mary Christmas Concert
- 13 St. Margaret Mary Christmas Concert
- 16 Elementary Band Christmas Concert
- 17 MS & HS Instrumental Christmas Concert
- 21-31 No School

# What starts here... Changes the World

Great things have small beginnings! The foundation that begins as young as kindergarten (and even P-3) is the basis for a thriving and successful future. St. Mary Catholic Schools students impact the world and make it a better place!

Through excellent academic opportunities and co-curricular activities-- all available in a faith-based environment-- our SMCS students are well prepared for a bright future. In order to continue the tradition of forming productive and successful alumni, we need your help to cover education costs that tuition and other third-source funding do not cover. Give the gift of success TODAY!

For additional information or with questions regarding the 2018-19 SMCS Annual Fund, please contact the SMCS Director of Fund Development at (920) 722-7796.

Ways you can show your commitment to SMCS students through the 2018-19 SMCS Annual Fund:



### Online

Give securely online at [smcatholicschools.org](http://smcatholicschools.org) by clicking on the SUPPORT US button



### Mail

Mail a check to SMCS Annual Fund at 1050 Zephyr Drive, Neenah, WI 54956



### Other

Make an annual commitment of a specific amount, transfer stock or other securities, or make SMCS Annual Fund part of your estate plan. Call 920-722-7796.

## A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR LIFE *in a caring, positive and faith-based community*

As an alumnus, community supporter or member of an SMCS family, you know firsthand the wonderful things that our schools have to offer. We would love to have you help us spread the word about the Fox Cities' best-kept secret! Tell your friends and neighbors about these important SMCS priorities:

- Academic excellence and relevance
- Amazing facilities and technology
- Affordability for families of all budgets
- Foundation in Catholic teachings, welcoming families of all faiths
- Opportunities to be involved and engaged
- A culture of kindness, personal accountability and safety where every student is valued and his/her learning style and gifts are nurtured

Spread the word! Contact Director of Admissions Kelly Beisenstein Weiss at 920-722-7796 or [kbweiss@smcatholicschools.org](mailto:kbweiss@smcatholicschools.org) for a colorful brochure or a detailed list of SMCS advantages that you can share!



# Inspiring Responsible Citizens

Knowledge of and passion for civic participation and responsibility are imparted through an SMCS education.

We foster a connection with our country's history by honoring veterans in school liturgies, Q&A forums and local events, and by participating in programs like Flags for First Grade and Take a Veteran to School Day. The band marches in the Memorial Day parade and four high school students are selected each year to participate in the day's memorials.



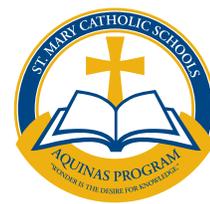
Trips to local, state and national government sites, field trips and civic activities such as the March for Life, Junior Achievement and Mock Trial educate students about our country's history, institutions and opportunities. Nominated high school students participate during the summer in civics seminars including the Wisconsin Leadership Seminar, Badger Boys & Girls State and the World Affairs Seminar.



## Introducing the SMCS Aquinas Program

In accord with our quest for academic excellence, St. Mary Catholic Schools is introducing a new opportunity in 2018-19 for qualified elementary students. The SMCS Aquinas Program, located at the St. Mary Elementary Campus, is designed to meet the educational aspirations of academically talented and motivated students in grades 3-5 who thrive in a self-directed and inter-disciplinary learning environment. The Aquinas Program offers a multi-age classroom that focuses on specialized instruction in the core areas of mathematics, language arts, social studies and science. In addition, its students integrate with their age peers at St. Mary Elementary for specials (physical education, vocal and instrumental music, world languages, library and art), as well as recess, lunch, faith-building activities, liturgy and sacraments.

Stacy Sweetalla, a current SMCS teacher and a certified gifted-and-talented educator, has spent the past school year planning and preparing for this unique addition to SMCS's offerings. To date, of the 27 students who applied, 11 qualified, with seven accepting placement in the Aquinas Program for the fall of 2018. Testing continues, and it is anticipated that a few more students will be accepted.



After two years of research and careful planning, we are proud and excited to offer the Aquinas Program, and we anticipate a fantastic year for Miss Sweetalla and her students!

# Student Highlights



The Zephyrator visits each SMCS elementary school to have lunch with students celebrating a birthday that month!



All SMCS fourth graders practiced **cooperation skills in guidance class**, working in groups to build a house of cards. In addition to the typical cooperation skills, students identified the need to be supportive to group members who may become frustrated with the process. They then discussed how important cooperation skills will be in their future careers.



St. Mary Elementary School enjoyed an **engaged learning partnership** with Heckrodt Wetlands throughout the school year. Students went on multiple field trips to the local nature preserve to explore different aspects of our ecology. Students in grades K-2 focused on animal tracks, wildlife wonders and trees; students in grades 3-5 explored wetlands, water ecology, winter survival, and "Where the Wild Things Live." St. Mary will continue the program with Heckrodt next year, and will also partner with the Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve.



St. Margaret Mary is working with a Master Gardener (who is a parish member) and the parish landscaping committee to create a **beautiful butterfly garden** behind the school. Using their math skills, the fifth graders divided the garden into four plots that will be developed and monitored by groups of classes. The project uses native plants to bring a living classroom to students.



St. Mary Catholic Middle School students and staff are dedicated to **social justice and stewardship**. Last year, they held a Pennies for Patients fundraiser, raising more than \$2300; made fleece blankets for those in need; and participated in Hoops for Heart, through which they learned about being healthy, enjoyed friendly competition and raised more than \$1500 for the American Heart Association.



In May, the 2018 SMCS **Sweetheart Ball** for our three elementary schools hosted 110 girls and their dads.



Eighth grade students took an **educational journey to Washington D.C.** in April 2018. The whirlwind tour included the famous memorials, as well as Ford's Theatre, the Library of Congress, the capitol building and The White House.



St. Gabriel third graders enjoyed an **integrated religion, science, and reading lesson** about the Easter Season. They learned that eggs are symbols of new life, and used their research skills to find information about the parts of an egg.



Members of the high school forensics team competed in the **state meet** as individuals and groups, and earned four silver medals and seven perfect scores with gold medals.



St. Gabriel fourth graders observed the **metamorphosis of monarch butterflies**. After the insects were hatched, students took them to the school prayer garden, said a quick prayer, and then set them free to head to Mexico.



Several SMCHS athletes and Athletic Director Adam Bates attended a conference designed to promote **good sportsmanship** among high school athletes.



The high school's EARTH Club received an eco-school flag from Eco USA, an international recognition program hosted by the National Wildlife Federation. The flag symbolizes the school's **achievements in sustainability**.



SMCS was privileged to welcome Green Bay Packers MVP Quarterback **Aaron Rodgers** to speak with Zephyrs student athletes and coaches from our middle school and varsity teams, along with the Neenah Rockets and Menasha Bluejays varsity players and coaches.



Father Pol, who is pastor of a church and school in Haiti, visited St. Margaret Mary Elementary School. Throughout the year, in collaboration with the parish's Building our Faith in Haiti mission, students **exchange messages with their Haitian friends**, and raise funds through the school's Halloween carnival. This year, they raised \$2000, which was presented to Father Pol to purchase needed school supplies.



The preschool class at St. Mary Elementary enjoyed **developing their pre-writing skills** by searching the school for lines and curves. They discovered that the alphabet contains large, small, slanted and straight lines, as well as curves, and so do their names!



SMCS elementary campuses participated in the **Fuel Up to Play 60** program. Activities include a walking club with pedometers to keep track of steps, recycling clear plastic containers at lunchtime and learning how to be more active and eat healthy while enjoying fun activities including "Smoothie Day," a cheese-tasting party and student advisory committees.



The fifth grade students from St. Mary Elementary researched and **brought history to life** with their reports on influential people including Harry Houdini, Louis Pasteur, Walter Payton, Amelia Earhart, Saint Joseph, P.T. Barnum, Annie Easley, Annie Oakley, Ralph "Cyclone" McClone, Julia Child, Helen Keller and Gertrude Caroline Ederle.

## Zephyrs Gold Winners

## ZEPHYRS GOLD RAFFLE

The following Zephyrs supporters were lucky winners in the first Zephyrs Gold raffle. Purchase tickets in Fall 2018 for a chance to win a prize each month!

**Jason & Annie Lee:** an Igloo 6.9cf upright freezer and \$300 Meat Block gift card

**Pat Breen:** a Toro single-stage snowblower

**Christina Turner:** a \$500 Scheel's gift card

**Mary Straub:** a 13-piece set of Circulon professional cookware and a \$300 Festival gift card

**Lisa O'Brea:** a Yeti Hopper 20 cooler packed with drinkware and a \$250 Pick 'n Save gift card

**Vicki Neuman:** a Weber Genesis II E-310 propane gas grill and accessories

## MISSION STATEMENT



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



# Zephyrs Athletics Highlights

Congratulations to all of our Zephyrs athletic teams! We are impressed by your hard work, commitment and dedication to your sports, and thankful for the way that you make us proud both on the field and off. Here are a few highlights from the 2017-18 seasons.



7th Grade Boys Zephyrs Basketball Club: WI State Invitational Basketball Tournament Contenders



8th Grade Volleyball: Undefeated Conference Tournament Champions



7th Grade Girls Basketball: Conference Tournament Champions



Varsity Girls Tennis: Conference Champions



Varsity Volleyball: Conference and Regional Champions



SMCHS Equestrian Club: Winners of Reserve Championship, Spirit Award, State Contenders



Girls Soccer: Regional Champions



Cross Country: Freshman Tip Hogerty to State



Powerlifters: National Powerlifting Meet Contenders

*Many thanks!*

Thanks to the members of the 1955 Zephyrs Boys Basketball Team who donated funds to purchase this awesome new Zephyrs scoring table!



# Spring 2018 State-Bound Zephyrs



## Zephyrs Baseball

The Zephyrs baseball team ended their stellar regular season by winning the conference championship for the fifth consecutive year. In the post season, following a victory over Coleman in the sectional semifinal and over Marathon in the sectional championship game, the Zephyrs advanced to state! The Zephyrs shut out Mineral Point in the first game of the Division 3 semifinals at Fox Cities Stadium, then succumbed to Webster in the championship game.



## Zephyrs Golf

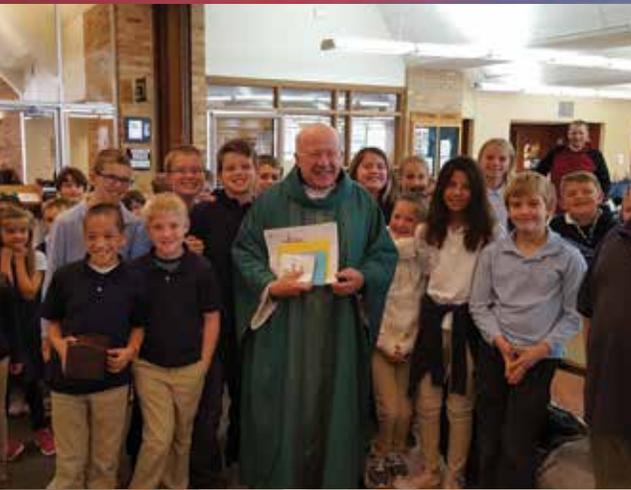
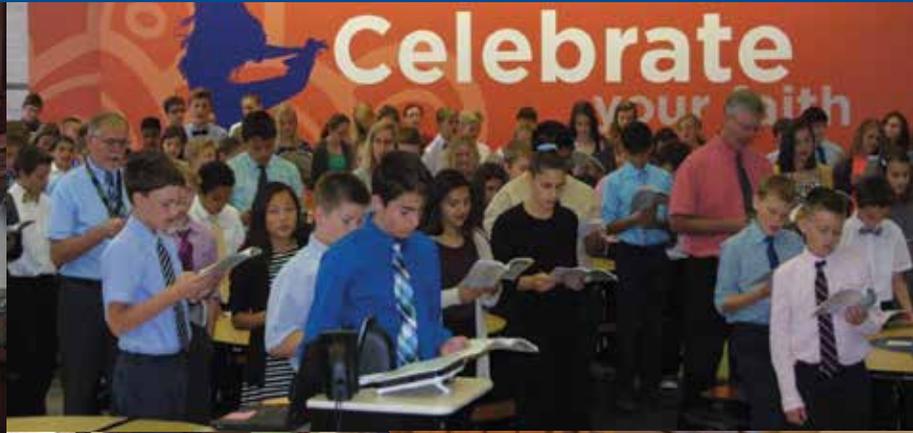
The Zephyrs finished second in the regional competition and advanced to sectionals. Senior Grant Boyson advanced to the state meet where he finished in 6th place at the 2018 Wisconsin Boys D3 State Golf Championship at University Ridge in Madison.



## Zephyrs Track

As a result of their third place sectional win in the 3200 meter relay, the Zephyrs advanced to the state track and field competition in La Crosse. At state, the sixth-seeded Zephyrs 4x800 team (Grant Dejno, Tip Hogerty, Joe Porter and Ethan Unruh) took third place at 8:19:45, earning them a spot on the podium and breaking the school record!



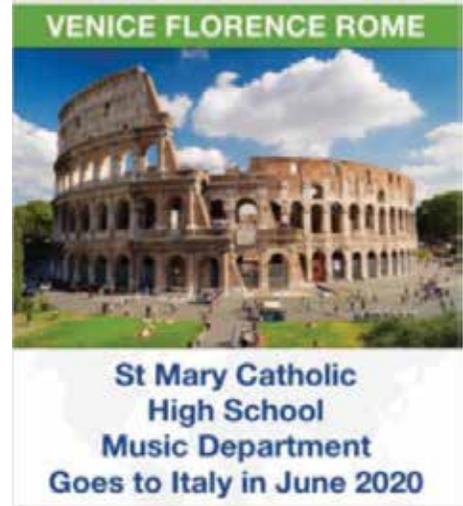


## Zephyrs in the Big Apple

The musicians of St. Mary Catholic High School embarked on a **four-day trip to New York City** in the spring of 2018! The band and choir, under the direction of Mrs. Pamela Barnhill and Mr. Spencer Jones, respectively, both competed in the WorldStrides New York Heritage Festival and won several merit awards, each finishing second in their division. The students also enjoyed a Broadway musical and took in the sights of the city. The trip was so successful that the fine arts department is now planning a trip to Italy in 2020!



## Pack Your Bags, Zephyrs



## Congratulations



Congratulations to SMCHS students who participated in the **State Solo & Ensemble Festival** in April at UW-Oshkosh. Two groups, including the SMCHS Jazz Ensemble, earned a rating of 1, and six musicians

(both instrumental and vocal) earned first ratings on eight solo performances. Way to go, Zephyrs musicians!

Caroline Connolly, Kaylann Adler and Emma Nutini completed a rigorous audition process for the **WSMA State Honors Project** that included sight-reading, selected scales and etudes, and a Class A Solo performance. Two were accepted into the State Honors ensembles, and the third was accepted as an alternate.



## Melodious Musicals

*The middle school cast of **Shrek, Jr.** put on an amazing performance at the fine arts education center!*



*In recognition of their stellar show at the FAEC, the cast and crew of St. Mary Catholic High School's "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" were recognized at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center Stage High School Musical Theatre Awards with nominations for best supporting actor and actress. The cast received the Outstanding Ensemble award!*



## SMCS Faculty and Staff Honored

Each year, parents, students and/or peers submit nominations for the SMCS Faculty & Staff Awards. Then, an administrative committee reviews the essays and selects a winner for each of the four awards. Each employee nominated for an award receives a transcript of the comments about them. Congratulations to the following SMCS faculty and staff members who received special recognition at a year-end prayer service and luncheon on June 1!

The **St. Isidore of Seville Award for Promising Innovation** was given to SMCS Fine Arts Director **Hayden Kraus**. In the short time since coming to work at his alma mater, Mr. Kraus has already impacted the community with his vision for the system's fine arts program. He has implemented new ideas such as Spotlight Nights and Z-Cabaret, while maintaining and growing existing programs and facility rentals. According to supporters, Hayden Kraus is known for his creativity, dedication and resourcefulness, and for leading by example through his strong work ethic. The quality productions that he oversees and his innovative choices in show selection is improving the quality and reputation of the fine arts programming for SMCS: "Mr. Kraus is truly an asset to the system. He positively impacts every campus and every student. His work (helps) make being part of SMCS and investing in its continued advancement exciting."



The **St. John Baptist de la Salle Outstanding Teacher Award** was presented to **Judy Blaney**, the fifth grade teacher at St. Mary Elementary School. After just one year with St. Mary Catholic Schools, Mrs. Blaney is known as "a light, a positive reinforcement, a leader, a force of faithful energy and an incredible educator." Noted for her optimism and kindness, Mrs. Blaney connects with each student personally and inspires all to do their best, both as individuals and as a class. She writes personal notes of recognition or encouragement on assignments, and develops and strengthens students' minds and hearts. One nominator's child told her mom, "She is amazing! Cheerful, so open, loves and respects God, and loves hugs!"

The **St. Frances Xavier Positive Influence Award** was presented to St. Gabriel fourth grade teacher, **Anne Buss**. After 44 years as an elementary level teacher at SMCS, Mrs. Buss retired at the end of the 2017-18 school year. Throughout her career, she dedicated herself to exemplifying what it means to truly live out your calling in all situations in a Christ-like manner. Described as very welcoming and approachable, Mrs. Buss has genuine concern for her students' spiritual, personal and academic needs, and is always willing to work behind the scenes to see that things run smoothly. By example, Mrs. Buss teaches students not only the subject matter, but also how to be kind, generous, and loving people. As one supporter noted, "Anne lives her faith both in and out of the classroom with a smile on her face and kindness in her actions, and a love of every student she has ever worked with over the past 44 years."

The **St. Anne Spirit Award** was given to **Ron DuVernay**, an English teacher at St. Mary Catholic High School. Mr. DuVernay's enthusiasm for the SMCHS community is appreciated by his peers and students alike. He keeps up with all the current team events at the high school and has "extreme school spirit." Mr. DuVernay makes a point of asking students about their competitions, hangs printouts of key statistics from games in his classroom and mails copies of relevant newspaper articles to student athletes. He frequently creates collages from the pictures he takes at events and shares them with the community. That same enthusiasm inspires students in his classroom to think for themselves, be creative and do their personal best!

### Did you know that no child is ever turned away from St. Mary Catholic Schools for financial reasons?

A confidential and welcoming process is in place to help families explore a variety of financial options, and nearly 60% of SMCS families benefit from the available tuition grants and scholarships.



St. Mary Catholic Schools  
— Grades P3-12 —

# SMCS Stays Active in the Summer!

SMCS staff and families stay busy with system activities throughout the summer, including:



CAMP INVENTION



GREATER ZEPHYR OPEN



ZEPHYR COMMUNITY PLAYERS MUSICAL



MAKE IT AT THE MARKET



SUMMER ATHLETIC CAMPS



SUMMER DAY CAMP



MARCHING BAND CAMP

SMCS FLY-IN



# ZEPHYR CONNECTION ALUMNI NEWS

## Be An Alumni Mentor!

The SMC Alumni Mentoring Program was established to promote career awareness among high school students by helping SMC juniors and seniors make connections with SMC alumni who are currently employed in the career area that the students are interested in exploring.

Through a mentorship match, each student will gain an awareness of what it actually takes to become successful in a particular career field. The alumnus, through email, phone calls, and/or instant messaging, helps to advise and guide the student through career exploration, and may continue through the student's career pathway. He or she may also share personal experiences with obstacles and successes that they themselves had along the way.

We are happy to announce that the first alumni/student match through the SMC Alumni Mentoring Program has been established. **Alec Brew '12** was matched with an SMC junior who is interested in a career in physical therapy. Brew completed his undergraduate schooling at Concordia University in Mequon, Wis., and is continuing his education in the PT program at University of Michigan-Flint.

Please consider joining SMC's Alumni Mentor Program by contacting Sue Peters at [speters@smcatholicschools.org](mailto:speters@smcatholicschools.org) or 920-722-7796.



## Reunion Planning

### HEY, CLASS OF 1958, IT'S TIME FOR YOUR 60TH REUNION!

Saturday, September 15, 2018, 5:00 – 10:00 p.m.  
Bridgewood Resort Hotel in Neenah, More details and Cost TBD

We urgently need responses showing interest in attending. Please reply to one of the following:

Tom Eiff (520-869-4721 or [eiff\\_thomas@yahoo.com](mailto:eiff_thomas@yahoo.com))  
Bonnie Plummer (920-582-7281 or [bplummr5@gmail.com](mailto:bplummr5@gmail.com))  
Ray Zelinski (916-961-4222 or [rczelinski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rczelinski@sbcglobal.net))

### ALL ABOARD THE ZEPHYR TRAIN!

We invite potential chairpersons to contact the SMC Alumni Relations Office for all the tools you will need to get in touch with classmates and plan your upcoming reunion." and take off the whole list of 'x4 and 'x9 reunion years.

2014 - 5th reunion	1989 - 30th reunion	1964 - 55th reunion
2009 - 10th reunion	1984 - 35th reunion	1959 - 60th reunion
2004 - 15th reunion	1979 - 40th reunion	1954 - 65th reunion
1999 - 20th reunion	1974 - 45th reunion	1949 - 70th reunion
1994 - 25th reunion	1969 - 50th reunion	1944 - 75th reunion

## UPCOMING ZEPHYRS REUNIONS

### Class of 1953 - 65th Class Reunion

September 14-15, 2018  
Friday night tour of St. Mary Catholic High School  
Friday night fish fry (*location to be determined*)  
Saturday noon luncheon at Waverly Beach Dining Room  
Contact John Binder (414-421-9171)

### Class of 1958 - 60th Class Reunion

Thursday, September 15, 2018, 3:30-7:00 p.m.  
Waverly Beach  
Contact: Tom Eiff (520-869-4721)  
Bonnie Plummer (920-582-7281)  
Ray Zelinski (920-961-4222)

### Class of 1963 - 55th Class Reunion

Contact Tom Heroux (920-734-1097)

### Class of 1968 - 50th Class Reunion

Saturday, September 8, 2018, 5:00 p.m.  
Bridgewood Resort  
Contact Dorothei (Didi) Karisny (920-739-4131 or [didikarisny@yahoo.com](mailto:didikarisny@yahoo.com))

### Class of 1969 - 50th Class Reunion

September 20, 2019

### Class of 1978 - 40th Class Reunion

September 8, 2018, 5:00 p.m.  
Contact Tomas Brooks via the Class of 1978 Facebook page

### Class of 2013 - 5th Class Reunion

Saturday, August 18, 2018, 6:00 p.m.  
Waverly Beach  
Contact Haley Thelen: [thelenhaley@gmail.com](mailto:thelenhaley@gmail.com)

## KEEP US POSTED

Are you a military veteran? It is important to us... If you are a veteran, please provide your name, graduation year, years in service and in what capacity, and any other important information.



To provide new contact information or personal alumni updates, or for help with reunion planning, please contact our alumni relations coordinator, Sue Peters, at [speters@smcatholicschools.org](mailto:speters@smcatholicschools.org) or 920-722-7796 ext 853.

# Alumni Updates



**Bob Larson and Judi O'Connell**, both members of the **SMC Class of 1962**, met while traveling with different safari groups while tracking rhinoceroses in Zambia.

**Maggie Ulrich '73** was featured in an article in *The Post Crescent* for her 35 years of dedication as scorekeeper for the Zephyrs girls basketball team. She is also an active volunteer with the Winnebago County 4-H Club, Best Friends, the Firefighters Bike Tour and the Sheltie Rescue program.

Business partners, **Dan Rippl '77** and **Jeff Luniak '76**, along with their investing group, have purchased and renovated the High Cliff Restaurant building in Sherwood. The pair is pleased to put the restaurant and golf course under the same ownership after decades of operating separately. High Cliff Golf Course was recently voted "Best of the Valley" for the fifth consecutive year.



**The Class of 1977** held their 40th class reunion at Waverly Beach in September 2017. The group used their SMC Alumni Class of 1977 Facebook page to plan and communicate with each other.

**Sue Pawlowski '80** was in attendance when Senator **Roger Roth '96** spoke at the Fox Cities Morning Rotary Club.



**Thomas J. Pier '87** and his spouse finalized the adoption of their two children on their 26th anniversary, with parents and siblings in attendance. After 14 years as an oncology social worker at UCLA, Pier launched a private psychotherapy practice, is an adjunct lecturer at USC, provides clinical supervision to MSWs seeking state licensure and is a clinical consultant for the Ovarian Cancer Project. The family resides in Los Angeles, CA.

**Eric Marcoe '93** is living the dream as a dream coach for his peers at Miron Construction Company, Inc. Employees come to Marcoe to develop strategies to "become the greatest version" of themselves. By providing non-judgmental feedback and strategies, he helps people to find direction and discover the answers they need, which, he says, are already within themselves.

**Roger Roth '96** and wife Rebecca would like to introduce the newest member of the family, Winston James Roth! Winston



weighed in at 6lbs 15oz and is 19 3/4" long. Winston joins brothers Roger Jr., Oliver and Theodore.

**Ryan Roth '98** was named by the Pulse Young Professional Network

and *The Post-Crescent* to the 2018 Future 15. Recipients were chosen based on their professional dedication, strong sense of vision for the future of the Fox Cities and personal commitment to philanthropy. Roth is the community development manager for the Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity.



**Rachel Brown '09** met Ryan Eggert on a blind date on New Year's Eve 2015. Their next date was snowboarding, which they really enjoy doing together. Recently, on the anniversary of that second date, they hit the slopes and became engaged when Ryan dropped to one knee and asked Rachel to become his wife. They are planning a New Year's Eve 2018 wedding.



**Father Matthew Rappl '09** returned to his alma mater to celebrate Mass with the students. Fr. Matthew is an associate pastor at St. Raphael Parish in Oshkosh.

**Sam Koslowski '10** and **Leisa Conn '11 Koslowski** were married on August 26, 2017 in Fort Myers, Florida, and welcomed their first child, Emma Jean Koslowski, just over a year later on July 27, 2018.



Sam and Leisa are both graduates of Marian University, and Sam holds a master's degree from Edgewood College. Now residents of Menasha, Leisa works for Enterprise Car Rentals and Sam is working for Kaukauna Tool and Die while pursuing his long-time dream of coaching, starting this fall as head coach for the Menasha boys varsity basketball team.



Upon retirement after 34 years of keeping the high school campuses and buses (both old and new) in tip-top shape, **Mark Seif** was named an honorary alumnus at the 2018 graduation day festivities.

# Many SMCHS graduates recently completed their college degrees. Congratulations to these Zephyrs alumni!



**Molly Britt '14** graduated with a B.A. in both psychology and family studies from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. She will be attending Creighton University in the fall to pursue a master's degree. Britt is pictured with her sisters, **Anne '13** and **Kate '17**.



**Page Krieck '14**, UW-Oshkosh with honors (pictured with sister, Morgan Krieck '11)



**Haley Davidson '14** graduated from UW-Madison and will attend UW-Stevens Point in the fall to pursue a master's degree in speech language pathology.



**Kimberly Juchinewich '14**, UW-Stevens Point



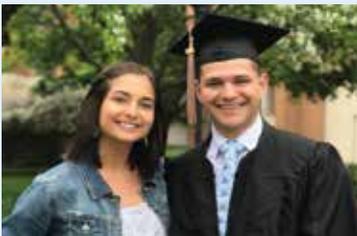
**Erin Butke '14**, UW-LaCrosse (pictured with sisters **Allison '11** and **Maddy '18**)



**Kendra Van Camp '14**, UW-La Crosse



**Ethan Brew '14** earned a bachelor's of science with honors in mechanical engineering and a math minor from the Milwaukee School of Engineering. Following graduation, Brew traveled to NASA in Florida with his design project team to present their project to the engineers and astronauts that will be sending it up to the International Space Station. After returning home, Brew began position as the newest mechanical engineer at Neenah Paper.



**Cameron Butler '14**, Marquette University (pictured with **Paige Krieck '14**)



**Andrew Depies '14** graduated from Marquette University, where he will continue his education to pursue a doctorate in physical therapy.



**Ally Solowicz '14**, St. Norbert College, (pictured with siblings **Jenny '12**, **Sam '17** and Katy-current Zephyr)



**Grace Dejno '14**, UW-Stout (pictured with co-graduate)



**Sarah Braatz '14** was awarded the Cardinal Newman Award at the Stout Catholic Convivium. The award recognizes participation and dedication to discipleship, liturgical services, special events and leadership in the Catholic community at UW-Stout. Braatz recently earned her B.F.A. in Interior Design at UW-Stout, graduating Magna Cum Laude in the honors program. She has accepted a position as an interior designer at HSR Associates in LaCrosse, WI. Pictured with co-recipient.

The following Zephyrs alumni were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in a ceremony held during the Z-FAB celebration at Waverly Beach in Menasha on Saturday, November 11, 2017. Congratulations!



**Emily (Tuchscherer) '02 Stagliano** was recognized for her accomplishments on the tennis court during her years at St. Mary Central. As a four-year MVP, team captain and four years as the

team's #1 singles champion, Tuchscherer-Stagliano dominated the sport during those years. After graduation, she attended Xavier University where she played division 1 tennis and earned a bachelor's degree in finance. She also coached young athletes throughout her high school and college career.



**Mick Kelly '06** was also recognized for his tenacious history in Zephyrs tennis. Kelly climbed the rankings of state division 2 tennis each year of his high school career, finishing in fifth, third,

second and finally first place. As a senior, he won the WIAA Division 2 state singles title despite struggling with cramping issues throughout the tournament. This state victory followed an undefeated season of 25 matches in his senior year. Kelly was also the four-time Wisconsin combined tennis conference champion in #1 singles each year, 2003-06.

Kelly was also an accomplished student, graduating three times as valedictorian of his classes—from SMC, as well as in his studies at UW-Madison in biology and in medical school. He is currently in residency at Rush Medical Center in orthopedic surgery.



**Tess Reddin '06** dominated the Zephyrs tennis courts, qualifying for the WIAA state tennis singles meet for four consecutive years (2002-05) and winning the championship in division 2

state singles in her sophomore, junior and senior years of high school. Reddin was also the four-year MVP on the team, and captain in 2005. She led the team to the state tournament in 2004.



**Patti Houlihan '75**, embraced the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports beginning in her freshman year, the very first year that St. Mary's High School offered girls athletics.

Houlihan excelled in basketball, becoming team captain and MVP as a senior—the year in which she scored 200 points, and in volleyball where she was team captain in her senior year. She also spent two years competing in track and field. Houlihan was recognized as the SMC outstanding senior girls athlete and as an American Legion award winner. In the years since graduation and college, Houlihan has spent more than 30 years coaching a variety of middle and high school sports at St. Mary Catholic Schools, and is a program coordinator with Best Friends of Neenah/Menasha and an active volunteer with the Boys' & Girls' Brigade.



Members of the **1955 Zephyrs Boys Basketball Team** were recognized for their amazing accomplishments under the direction of legendary Coach Ralph "Cyclone" McClone.

Twice in three years, they reigned as the champions of the Wisconsin Catholic High School Basketball conference. Hailed by the News Record for their prowess in "ability, sportsmanship and color," the team was recognized as gentlemen and crowd pleasers in addition to being excellent athletes. Team members were the following (honorees in attendance are in bold): Herb Batley, Bill Bennetts (deceased), John Bradish, Jim DeDecker, John DeYoung, Ronald Dibelius, Don Gosz, James Kersten, Ken Konkol (deceased), Dick Pagel, Raymond Roth and Dick Schurer (deceased). The team was managed by Wayne Humski and Gene Schulz. James Kersten, John Bradish, Herb Batley, Dick Pagel, John DeYoung, Raymond Roth.

Each spring, students and staff of St. Mary Catholic High School gather to recognize student leaders from the community, especially those who will soon be graduating. An inspiring portion of that program is the recognition of SMC alumni with the Outstanding Catholic Christian Award, the Alumni Distinguished Service Award and the Alumni Achievement Award. The alumni who receive these awards are living examples of how future graduates can make an impact on their community.

## OUTSTANDING CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN AWARD

As a student at SMC, **Mary (Jape) '58 Gyrlion** was very involved with the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade, Sodality, Camera Club, Living Rosary and May Crowning. Her dedication carried into her adult years as she has been an active member of St. Mary parish where she worked as the parish secretary for 22 years and still volunteers today. Among many activities, she helps with the food pantry and works every year to ensure the success of the parish's craft sale fundraiser. Gyrlion also led the faith formation program for seven years and always shared her creative skills as Donny Thede's "right hand man."

Passing on her faith to three generations of family, as well as the community, has been a priority. A tangible symbol of that dedication is the baptismal gown that was made by her grandmother more than 100 years ago. Decades ago, Gyrlion refashioned the garment, which has now been used at the baptisms of her own grandchildren and great-grandchildren, carrying on a blessed family tradition. Encouraging her family to "keep Jesus as your very best friend and talk to Him everyday," Mary Gyrlion is an inspiration in faith for us all.

## ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

After graduation from SMC, **James Englebert '59** continued his education at Indiana University and Fox Valley Technical College. Jim and his wife Helen were blessed with three children who are all alumni of St. Mary Catholic Schools.

Englebert served our country in the United States Air Force from 1959-1963 as a Russian language translator in Berlin, Germany. After the Air Force, Jim worked for a division of Menasha Corporation for over 20 years and then the United Way Fox Cities, where he was the Director of Community Services. Jim concluded his professional career as the executive director of the Northeast Wisconsin Labor Management Council, retiring in 2003.

During his career, Englebert was elected and appointed to many community leadership roles in the state, the City of Menasha

and in numerous area charities and veterans organizations, as well as St. Mary Parish and St. Mary Catholic Schools. He is currently serving as chairman of the Menasha Library Board of Directors, a post adjutant for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2126 in Menasha and as a proud member of the Military Funeral Honor Guard.



Englebert's fond memories of St. Mary are those of making lifelong friends, enjoying the Ralph "Cyclone" McClone's sports teams, and serving on the class reunion committee for the past ten reunions.

## SMCHS ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Following graduation from St. Mary, **Mame Schmerein '65 Heaney** continued her education at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, where she graduated with a B.A. in Social Sciences. She was employed as a social worker in the area of foster care and adoptions in Fredricksburg, Virginia, and later as a trust assistant for Northern Trust Company in Chicago. Mame was married in 1972 at St. Patrick's Church in Menasha to Daniel J. Heaney, They have one son, Patrick, a daughter-in-law, Kate, and three wonderful grandchildren.

In addition to Heaney's generosity to our school community, throughout her professional life she served on numerous local boards of directors. Through her hard work and dedication to these many organizations, Heaney has made a significant impact in our community. She continues to be a much-appreciated supporter of Catholic education and St. Mary Catholic Schools.

Heaney's fondest memories of her years at St. Mary Catholic Schools are the friendships she made during high school, which continue on today. "We gather often to share a meal or beverage and catch up in each other's lives," she stated. Heaney fondly remembers some of her favorite teachers at St. Mary's, including physics teacher Sister Verena, and science club mentor Sister Shaun. Heaney also recalls being sent out of the class by the homeroom teacher so she wouldn't disturb other students and the teacher could continue teaching!

# Alumni Employees

One indication that a school has left a positive impression on its graduates is when they later return to work there. St. Mary Catholic Schools is proud to employ many former students who pursued further education and then returned to share their love of learning with today's Zephyrs. Just this past year, three more SMC graduates, who are profiled below, joined the impressive list of alumni who work in our school system.



In 1983, **Judy Riese Blaney\*** was the sixth of her siblings to graduate from St. Mary High School, her father's alma mater. With a B.A. in elementary education from UW-Oshkosh and a minor in reading, Blaney enjoys being a teacher. She just completed her first year of teaching fifth grade at St. Mary Elementary School in Menasha after returning to the Fox Cities with her son and daughter. Blaney enjoys teaching in the school that she attended throughout her childhood, and says she relives great memories every day.

Following the death of her husband from cancer in 2017, she wanted to be near her close-knit family. Her children, who both attend SMCS, now enjoy being close to their cousins and are thriving in the school community. Blaney, whose children are excited to be carrying on the Zephyrs tradition, says, "God is great, and it is good to be back home!"

\*Judy Blaney received the SMCS St. John Baptist de la Salle Outstanding Teacher Award in June 2018 (see the story on page 10).



A 2012 graduate of St. Mary Central High School, **Lauren Jares** is happy to have her first teaching experience in the school system that she attended from first grade at St. Margaret Mary through high school. Now the fifth grade teacher at St. Gabriel Elementary School in Neenah, Jares enjoys working with children and felt called to the field of education as a student at UW-Oshkosh. After graduating from there with honors in 2017, Jares was "ecstatic" to be hired by SMCS, fulfilling her goal to teach in the school system in which she had grown up. Jares will be a Project Lead The Way instructor beginning with the 2018-19 school year.

In June 2018, Jares married **William Zeininger**, a 2011 graduate of St. Mary Catholic Schools and UW-Oshkosh.



**Kelly Beisenstein-Weiss** graduated from St. Mary Central High School in 1995, then pursued further education at the University of Notre Dame and UW-Madison, where she completed her Ph.D. in in educational leadership and policy analysis/ kinesiology. She went on to teach at UW-Oshkosh, where she also worked as the assistant director of student recreation at UW-Oshkosh.

In the fall of 2017, Weiss returned to her alma mater to take on the challenge of becoming the director of admissions for St. Mary Catholic Schools. In that position, she works with school administrators, leading efforts in the recruitment and retention of students and promoting an environment of goodwill and excellence within the SMCS community. She also manages the new training and fitness center on the SMCS main campus.

Weiss' grandmother, parents and siblings are all Zephyrs alumni, as is her husband, **Patrick Weiss '96**. Their three children attend St. Gabriel Elementary School and participate in many co-curricular activities. Weiss says she is honored to be working to promote the community she grew up in. She reflects, "I am incredibly blessed to work for this amazing school system that gives every child the opportunity to grow and succeed in a positive, caring, and faith-filled environment."

## SMCS Alumni Employees

Kathy Marshall '70 Kellermann  
Jeanne Koehn '80 Griffith  
Mary Lou Niesen '81 Kalas  
Don Meier '82  
Judy Blaney '83  
Jill Gyrlion '85 Ahles

Kelly Beisenstein '95 Weiss  
Joe Roth '95  
Rachel Wallace '07 Pociask  
Rachel Brown '09  
Clare Englebert '09 Stefanich  
Jennifer Loderbauer '10 Wautlet

Hayden Kraus '11  
Lauren Jares '12  
Patrick Batey (HA)  
Michelle Jungbauer (HA)  
Mark Seif (HA)

## Senior Sunrise Breakfast

Thank you to our alumni **Kris Lenz '83 Butke, Jeanne Koehn '80 Griffith** and **Scott Zielinski '88**, who came out at 5:00 in the morning to help serve our Senior Sunrise Breakfast and welcome our newest SMC alumni! The tradition, which started in 2017, this year featured watching the sunrise together, sunrise Zumba and fellowship before the beginning of the senior affirmation retreat. Seniors were told, "Don't think of graduation as the sun setting on your SMC experience, but rather as the sun rising on becoming SMC Alumni!"



Jerry Finch (father and grandfather of SMC alumni) presented SMCHS Principal Patti Fouts with a check from the Blue Inn Dance for the high school scholarship fund.



These alumni were among the more than 700 guests at this year's Zephyrfest, which took place at the new Fox Cities Convention Center.



L to R: **Clare Englebert '09 Stefanich, Maggie Pawlowski '09, Molly Rasmussen '07, Rachel Brown '09, Emily Rasmussen '11** Nettesheim



L to R: **Mary Miller '82, Kathy Nettesheim, Ann Miller '80 Rasmussen, Sue Woulf '80 Pawlowski, Paula DeGrace '84 Heimerman, Lori Ropella '80 Vegso**

## ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME



Front: **Patrick Griffith '14, Nick Peters '14, D.J. Lehner '12;**  
Back: **Jordan Lacey '17, Eric Coopman '00, Ryan Peters '12, Seth Wallace '13, Sam Gullick '14, Richard Kobinsky '73**

## ALUMNI SOCCER MATCH



Front, L to R: **Patrick Marcoe '01, Molly Rasmussen '07, Clare Englebert '09 Stefanich, Rachel Brown '09, Regan Andersen '17, Kate Britt '17;** Back, L to R: **Matthew Rappl '09, Sean Ludwig '14, John Houlihan '14, Sam Schultz '11, Nick Peters '14, Ally Butke '11, Leah Marker '13, Calvin Andersen '07, Abby Wisneski '17, Brianna Stilp '17, Coach Gary Kruger**

# ZEPHYR CONNECTION ALUMNI NEWS

# Alumni Volunteer Profile



**Thomas Healy '03** is one of our many alumni who give selflessly of their time to inspire and nurture today's Zephyrs. While a student at SMC, Healy was involved in football, basketball, baseball, tennis, forensics, and Key Club. Following high school, Healy graduated from Marian College with a degree in criminal justice.

Among Tom's favorite memories from his days as a Zephyr are making the football playoffs during his junior and senior year, and playing in the state baseball tournament at Fox Cities Stadium. His best memories, he says, involve spending time with classmates-- many of whom are still good friends today-- in class and at various activities.

Today, Healy shares his experience as mentor and assistant coach for the basketball and football teams. Healy enjoys both teaching about the sports and helping students to build character and a

strong work ethic. He also appreciates that coaches and teachers can help young adults find their faith.

Dedication to Catholic education runs strong in the Healy family. Thomas and six of his siblings graduated from SMC, and his mother, Eleanor, was a teacher and principal in the system for more than 20 years and other family members have served as leaders in various capacities. Today, many of Healy's nieces and nephews attend St. Mary Catholic Schools.

With this strong family legacy, Thomas Healy believes strongly in making a positive impact on students, just as his coaches did during his time as a student. He hopes to instill in them the ideals of treating everyone with respect, working hard in everything they do, and giving back to their communities. He also advises students to say 'thank you' to the teachers that get to know them as individuals and care about their success.

## Alumni Give Back

We are blessed with SMCS alumni who contribute to the legacy of Zephyrs pride by volunteering for committees and as coaches and mentors for various clubs and teams. Many alumni volunteers are listed below. We truly appreciate their commitment, as well as the inspiration they provide to today's students. We apologize if we missed anyone, but please know that you are making a difference and are greatly valued by our school community.

- Board of Trustees** – Mary Rohe '69 Kruger, Kathleen Healy '96 Osland, Dustin McClone '00, Lori Vegso '80
- Boys Varsity Basketball** – Dave Michalkiewicz '73, Mike Buss (HA), Craig Uhlenbrauck '89 and Thomas Healy '03
- Boys 4th and 7th Grade Basketball** – Wade Uhlenbrauck '93
- Boys 8th Grade Basketball** – Brian Beisenstein '88 , Scott Zielinski '88 and Joe Sherry '02
- Girls Varsity Basketball** – David Hahn '86 and Brian Julius '90
- Girls 7th Grade Basketball** – Gary Roth '66 and Patti Houlihan '75
- Best Friends** – Patti Houlihan '75
- Fine Arts** – Annette Brittnacher '82 Hass, Emily Lowney '11, Cliff Uitenbroek '83
- Football** – Thomas Healy '03 and Dan Buss '09
- Forensics** – Jennifer Loderbauer '10 Wautlet
- Golf** – Mike Buss '09
- Math Team** – Jennifer Loderbauer '10 Wautlet
- Boys Soccer** – Bob Houlihan '82 and Ryan Peters '12
- Girls Soccer** – Molly Rasmussen '07 and Clare Englebert '09 Stefanich
- Softball** – Gary Coopman '67 and Jennifer Loderbauer '10 Wautlet
- STEM Club/Robotics** – Greg Cheslock '73, Don Tully '86
- Student Ambassadors** – Kelly Beisenstein '95 Weiss
- Student Council** – Clare Englebert '09 Stefanich
- Girls Tennis** – Lizzy Bergstrom '95 Auth and Rachel Brown '09
- Track and Field** – Troy Wautlet '10

All alumni classes have their own Facebook page! This is a great place to connect with your classmates, plan class reunions, celebrate the past, share pictures and reminisce! Become a member to tell your old classmates about what you are doing now (travel, your job, family, etc). and see what they've been up to! Find your class's Facebook page by searching SMC Alumni Class of \_\_\_\_ (fill in your graduation year).



# MAY THEY REST IN *Peace*

The following alumni and friends who passed away between November 1, 2016 and May 15, 2018. If you know of an alumnus or friend of SMCHS who should be included in the upcoming year's remembrance liturgy in November, please contact Sue Peters at 920-722-7796 ext 853 or [speters@smcatholicsschools.org](mailto:speters@smcatholicsschools.org).



## SMC ALUMNI

- |      |                                 |      |                               |      |                                  |
|------|---------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| 1934 | Virginia (Lippert) Schommer     | 1952 | Catherine (Hietpas) Mayefske  | 1963 | Thomas Johnson                   |
| 1936 | Sr. Mary Jean (Louise) Rechner  |      | Kathryn (Zelinski) Mulvey     |      | Helen (Forbeck) Fink             |
| 1938 | Barbara (Pankratz) Heinemann    |      | Geraldine (Asman) Mayefske    | 1965 | Richard "Rik" Larson             |
| 1939 | Thomas Collins                  |      | Paul Zelinski                 |      | Robert Vissers                   |
|      | Helen (Rooyackers) Metz         |      | Joan (Wright) Pawer           |      | Charles Babbitts                 |
| 1941 | Jone Ann (Farhback) Wonser      | 1953 | Sandra (Brandt) Pakalski      | 1966 | Barbara (Quella) Russell         |
| 1942 | Francis Rechner                 |      | Douglas Schramm               |      | Barbara (Hues) Laemmrich         |
|      | Priscilla Resch                 |      | Anne (Corry) Strasma          |      | Dennis Schmidt                   |
| 1943 | Gladys (Stanton) Klinker        | 1954 | John Reinders                 |      | Patricia (Wilcomb) Weber         |
|      | Donald McGillan                 |      | Peter Liethen                 |      | John Kosiorek                    |
| 1944 | Marvin Voissem                  |      | Dawn P. (Klein) Weisgerberger | 1967 | Milton Wittmann                  |
|      | Lorraine (Patterson) Coopman    | 1955 | Hubert Bartol                 |      | Linda (Tobey) Hoks               |
|      | Margaret (Woulf) Liebhauser     |      | Delores Albers                |      | David Thiede                     |
|      | Mary Jane (Alesch) Schrage      |      | Marilyn (Sawicki) Stilp       | 1969 | David Kolaskinsky                |
|      | Richard Huelsbeck               |      | Kenneth Berner                |      | Barbara Stilp                    |
|      | Diane (Kaye) Pottner            |      | Helen (Knuijt) Hoffman        | 1970 | George Koller                    |
| 1945 | Russell Brantmeier              |      | Herb Batley                   |      | George Rohe                      |
| 1946 | Joan Zelinski                   | 1956 | James Viotto                  | 1971 | Jean (Gross) Hopfensperger       |
|      | George Vogel                    | 1957 | Susan (Lee) Quella            | 1973 | Patrick Dahl                     |
| 1947 | John Spalding                   |      | Donald LaCount                | 1976 | Wayne Conery                     |
|      | Mary (Bodoh) Mueller            | 1958 | Rosemary (Gosz) Kica          | 1977 | Michael Kneepkens                |
|      | Strebe Hillard                  |      | Suzanne (Roebke) Hett         | 1978 | Julie Riese                      |
| 1948 | Mary Margaret (Murray) Schaller |      | Bernice (Malchow) Viotto      | 1979 | Colleen (McMahon) Albani         |
|      | James Wolter                    |      | Joseph Spang                  |      |                                  |
|      | Joan (Arft) Schultz             | 1959 | Robert LeRoux                 |      | Honorary Alumnus Donald Marshall |
|      | Jane (Washbush) Coonen          | 1960 | James Krahenbuhl              |      | Attendee Donald Winarski         |
| 1949 | Ambrose Magalski                |      | Thomas Meier                  |      |                                  |
|      | Dr. Jerome Riese                |      | William Simon                 |      |                                  |
|      | Paul Zimmer                     | 1961 | Jean Ann (Mueller) Thyssen    |      |                                  |
| 1950 | Eugene Hanson                   | 1962 | Judith (Powers) Dachelet      |      |                                  |
|      | Thomas Maney                    |      | Wayne Reinhardt               |      |                                  |
| 1951 | John Miller                     |      | Dr. Thomas Fuller             |      |                                  |
|      |                                 |      | Barbara (Luebke) Schmidt      |      |                                  |

# Healthy Living, Happy Life

A well-rounded approach to education includes commitment to a healthy lifestyle. SMCS efforts in the areas of good nutrition, exercise and positive life choices nurture the wellbeing of students, families and staff. To that end, improvements have been made in the last year in the areas of good health and safety.

Age-appropriate discussions about exercise and diet, drugs and alcohol, morality, mental health and internet/social media are incorporated into the guidance and academic objectives.

SMCS Food Service uses NutriKids software to ensure school lunch menus exceed all requirements, and food service staff are certified through ServSafe, a food safety program.



Free, in-house flu shots keeps employees healthy on the job.

The importance of good mental health is recognized, and P3-12th grade teachers recently received QPR suicide-prevention training.

Employees and students in middle and high school received training in CPR, AED and first aid.



Students are active during the school day, supported by Fuel to Play 60 grants and Move to the Groove (elementary) and supervised use of the training and fitness center (middle and high school).



St. Mary  
Catholic Schools  
Grades P3-12

**ENRICHING LIVES**  
**ENCOURAGING**  
**HEALTHY CHOICES**  
**ENGAGING COMMUNITY**

An independent security audit was completed last year. A \$100,000 safety grant from the Department of Justice is now being used to enhance safety protocols through initiatives such as providing faculty in-service events with law enforcement professionals and installing locked, double-door entry systems at each building.



A large number of students, faculty and staff enjoy using the training and fitness center, and a punch-card incentive program encourages faculty and staff to make using the facility a priority.

## Expand Your World!

Your family can benefit from a great cultural experience by hosting an international student! SMCHS is currently interviewing students who are interested in attending in the fall, and these students will need host homes. The \$575/month stipend and \$1,000 tuition credit (prorated) is a great way to make an SMCS education more affordable! Also, host families do not need to be from SMCS, so this opportunity is for anyone who is willing to open their home.

For more information or to discuss this opportunity in greater detail, please contact Sue Thelen, International Program Director at [sthelen@smcatholicsschools.org](mailto:sthelen@smcatholicsschools.org) or 722-7796.

# The World at Our Doorstep

St. Mary Catholic Schools offers instruction in more world languages than any other area school, and starts them at an earlier grade level. Starting with the 2018-19 school year, German, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese will all be offered beginning in fourth grade. Introductory vocabulary and culture will be the focus during the elementary school years, with one academic trimester of each language during grades 4 and 5.

In sixth grade, students will experience the languages more in-depth, with one academic trimester of each. Sixth graders will focus on forming sentence structures, basic conversation skills, and fundamental reading and writing skills with new vocabulary, which will give them a better understanding

of each language, and help them determine which one best matches their interests and talents. Seventh grade language students will meet daily in their language class of choice as they continue developing their interpersonal and interpretive language skills. In their second full year in the language, eighth graders may choose to take their class for high school credit.

In addition to the availability of CAPP German and language competitions, new opportunities for high school students will include an international business class, national language honor societies, and the option of working toward the State of Wisconsin Global Education Achievement Certificate.



**DAY OF UNITY CELEBRATION**



**TRIPS!  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, CHINA  
AND GERMANY**

**GERMAN  
LANGUAGE  
CONTEST**  
**DIA DE LOS  
MUERTOS**



**INTERNATIONAL  
FESTIVALS**

**INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK AND TALENT SHOW**



**CHINESE NEW YEAR**

# Leading the Way in STEM

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) at St. Mary Catholic Schools includes both academic and co-curricular components. SMCS offers hands-on classroom activities (many through Project Lead The Way), as well as an array of technology-oriented clubs, teams and events. Through these experiences, students gain knowledge and experience in areas that capture their imaginations, stretch their intellects and build strong foundations for future careers and passions.

## STEM IN THE CLASSROOM

In 2017-18, St. Mary Catholic Schools implemented phase two of its three-year plan to incorporate Project Lead The Way, a nationally recognized STEM program, into the curriculum. Additional teacher training prepared faculty to expand the program to second and third grade. Currently, students in grades 2-8 engage in hands-on, project based learning in the areas of physical science, aeronautics, medicine and computer science. In 2018-19, SMCS will expand the program to include kindergarten and first grade, and elective classes in engineering will be introduced at St. Mary Catholic High School.

### 2017-18 SMCS Project Lead The Way Modules

- Grade 2: Material Science (Properties of Matter, The Changing Earth)
- Grade 3: Stability and Motion (Science and Flight, Forces and Interactions)
- Grade 4: Energy (Collisions, Conversions)
- Grade 5: Medical (Infection Detection), Robotics (Robotics and Automation)
- Grade 6: Flight and Space (aeronautics, space travel)
- Grades 7: Medical Detectives (diagnosis, DNA, body systems)
- Grades 7 & 8: Computer Science (interactive design, app development)

### 2018-19 Additions

- Kindergarten: Human Body (Structure and Function)
- Grade 1: Animal Adaptations or Light and Sound
- High School: Introduction to Engineering Design (design processes and standards, 3D design)



## STEM FOR FUN

During the school year, younger SMCS students have the opportunity to discover STEM outside the classroom through our enrichment program. Students in preschool can participate in Invention Playground and math club. Students in grades 1-5 can participate those opportunities as well, and in Wonderworkshop Robotics, Club Invention, VEXIQ Robotics and coding classes. Fifth through seventh graders can join competitive VEX IQ Robotics and FIRST LEGO League teams. During the summer months, SMCS offers Camp Invention, Invention Project, and the SMCS Fly-IN for young students.

Each summer, more than 100 students participate in Camp Invention, through which students participate in hands-on STEM activities using everyday materials to encourage inventing anytime, anywhere. The STEM Club Fly-IN takes place the Friday before the EAA convention in Oshkosh and encourages interest in aviation through hands-on and fun flight-related activities such as racing drones, piloting camera drones and launching model rockets.

Through the STEM Club, students in grades 8-12 field teams in VEX Robotics and explore aeronautics and engineering. The group is also active in community outreach, visiting area schools and gatherings to provide hands-on STEM activities.

# STEM FOR ALL

Opportunities that are open to STEM fans of all ages include STEM Club open house events in the fall and the annual STEM Saturday event each spring.

Dozens of families spend time in the STEM Club building at the open house events each fall, where they visit with team members and get the chance to drive the robots themselves.

STEM Saturday featured a myriad of fun hands-on activities and interesting demonstrations (featuring a candy-packaging demo). This year's event included age-appropriate mini courses in polymers, rocket building, computer coding, roller coaster design and trebuchets.

To read about the success of the SMCS robotics teams, see below!



## Rockin' Robotics



St. Mary Catholic Schools offers co-curricular robotics clubs for students in grades 2-12. All ten SMCS teams that participated in competition in 2017-18 qualified for and competed at the state level! In addition, the eighth grade VRC team and two high school teams qualified for and competed in the U.S. Open in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and one elementary team and one high school team qualified for and competed in the Worlds tournaments in Louisville, Kentucky.



The SMCMS FIRST LEGO League team qualified for and competed in the state tournament in Janesville, Wisconsin, finishing among the top 10 in the State of Wisconsin.



These elementary students are part of the team placed first in the State of Wisconsin in the STEM research division and second in the driver skills/programming category.



This 8th grade VEX Robotics team won the Amaze Award at the State VEX Robotics tournament. They competed at the U.S. Open VEX VRC competition in Council Bluffs, Iowa.



After winning the Design Award at the state tournament, this SMCHS VEX team competed at the VEX Robotics World Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky, making it to the semi-final rounds in both competitions.

# The Finest of Facilities

Recent grounds and facilities projects large and small have contributed to making St. Mary Catholic Schools the premier school system in the Fox Cities. Our elementary schools have benefitted from improvements to their campuses, teachers lounges, cafeterias and safety systems. The campus of the middle and high schools has blossomed into a setting that enhances the educational, physical and spiritual experience of every student and staff member. Watch for the next exciting upgrade to be completed by fall 2018: The Commons at the high school, completely reimagined!



# Zephyrfest

Thanks to our guests, sponsors and community support, 2018 Zephyrfest made just over \$350,000! These funds directly help all five SMCS campuses by providing financial support to several initiatives including curriculum needs and technology upgrades.

Mark your calendar for next year's Zephyrfest on April 13, 2019 at the Fox Cities Exhibition Center!



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Saturday, September 22, 2018**

All proceeds from CONNECT 5 benefit all SMCS students by supporting athletics, clubs and fine arts activities.

To become a sponsor or register, visit [smcatholicsschools.org/connect-5](http://smcatholicsschools.org/connect-5) for details!

# A Fine Year of Fine Arts

The SMCS Fine Arts Department has revealed the big shows for the 2018-19 school year!

High School Play:  
Happy Daze, November 2-4, 2018

High School Musical:  
Sister Act, March 8-10, 2019

Middle School Musical:  
James and the Giant Peach, April 11-14, 2019

Community Theater:  
Mary Poppins, July 18-21, 2019

FIND US ON YOUR DEVICE  
Look for SMCS on



ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



SMCS1050



#SMCSTODAY AND  
#SMC ZEPHYRS

# A Foundation for Success - SMCS Academics

An SMCS student's educational experience is influenced by many factors, such as:

- Instructors who are trained to meet students' individual needs
- The judicious use of technology in the classroom
- A culture of high expectations
- Small class sizes that provide opportunities for one-on-one assistance when needed and the ability to work well beyond grade level when desired
- State-of-the-art facilities for academic and co-curricular pursuits
- A warm, faith-filled environment that instills love of God and neighbor, and a heart for service.



Two SMCS fifth graders took first place in the local Knights of Columbus Knowledge Contest in the math and spelling categories. Both went on to represent SMCS at the diocesan level.



An SMCS sixth grader took first place at the state level in the Knights of Columbus Knowledge contest in math, and a seventh grader placed third.



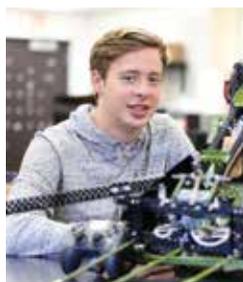
Students from SMCMS competed against schools from across northeast Wisconsin in a math competition. The sixth grade team took first place among 55 teams and the eighth grade team took first place among 39 teams.



Freshman Tip Hogerty was named an individual Academic All-State Award winner by Wisconsin Cross Country Coaches Association.



Senior Erik Meier earned the highest cumulative score in the math league, a monthly competition among 19 high schools from around the Fox Cities! The Zephyrs team finished in fifth place overall. Meier was also named a National Merit Scholar and was awarded a scholarship through the sponsoring organization.



Senior Noah Johnson received the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Initiative Scholarship.



St. Mary Catholic Schools  
*Grades P3-12*

Building on the strong foundation of knowledge obtained by students at our elementary campuses, SMCS's college-preparatory curriculum begins in earnest at the middle school. There, students are able to take classes at an advanced level in math, social studies and science. Eighth grade students may also earn high school credit in math and world languages.

The supportive and knowledgeable school counseling staff at the high school helps students choose the coursework to reach their highest potential, and to plan for life beyond SMCS. The percentage of SMCHS students earning distinction through the Advanced Placement (AP) program has ranked highest in the valley for two years, and many earn Cooperative Academic Partnership Program (CAPP) dual credits as well. And, it is not uncommon for SMCHS seniors to take classes at UW-Fox Valley, Lawrence University, UW-Oshkosh or Fox Valley Technical College.

Many distance-learning classes in unique subjects are available, and beginning in 2018, students may take a Project Lead The Way Intro to Engineering course. All of these opportunities result in outstanding average scores in ACT and PSAT college readiness exams earning significant AP and CAPP college credits.

AP Courses Offered: Biology, Calculus A/B and B/C, Chemistry, Comparative Government, German, Language and Composition, Literature and Composition, Psychology, U.S. Government and Politics

CAPP Courses Offered: Active Lifestyle, German, Speech

# SMCS Announces Administrative Changes

St. Mary Catholic Schools is pleased to announce the following administrative changes, which reflect the system's commitment to academic excellence and advancing the mission of Catholic education in the Fox Cities.

We welcome **Patricia "Patti" Fouts** as our new **St. Mary Catholic High School principal**. With a master's degree in Educational Leadership and certification as a principal and alternative education specialist, Mrs. Fouts' previous experience includes classroom teaching, curriculum planning and development, post-secondary student planning, student assistance programs, professional learning communities and school-wide literacy. Coming to SMCS from Hortonville High School, she is known for her enthusiasm and collaboration, and is a forward-thinking educator who supports a diversified learning environment to meet the needs of all students.

**Peter Post** will move to the high school administrative staff in the role of **associate principal**. In this position, Mr. Post will work collaboratively with the high school principal, system personnel and the board of trustees to ensure efficient staff development and support, and will oversee implementation of faculty and student policies and guidelines. He will contribute to smooth day-to-day operations, research potential program improvements

and strive to energize and support an engaging and relevant learning environment.

**Jill Ahles** is the new principal of **St. Mary Catholic Middle School**. Mrs. Ahles is transferring to the middle school from St. Mary Elementary, where she served as a teaching principal and part-time teacher. Mrs. Ahles, who has been engaged in a broad range of positions at SMCS over the years, is an educator with a passion for STEM integration, collaboration and innovation. She holds a master's degree in educational leadership and curriculum development, and is a lifelong Zephyr.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that **Sandra Piotrowski** is our new **St. Mary Elementary School Principal**. With two years' experience as a principal and sixteen years as a teacher, she is eager to put her master's degree in elementary and special education and certifications in administration and curriculum instruction to use in nurturing the culture of academic excellence and Catholic community at our St. Mary Elementary campus.

Each of these educators, whether new to SMCS or beginning a new position within the system, is excited to forge ahead to invigorate St. Mary Catholic Schools' commitment to educating and inspiring the community leaders of tomorrow.

## Congratulations to our fifth and eighth grade classes for completing another level at St. Mary Catholic Schools!



*We appreciate the support of our SMCS parishes and the parishes that support SMCHS*

St. Gabriel • St. Margaret Mary  
St. Mary/St. John • St. Patrick's

Holy Spirit • Sts. Peter and Paul  
St. Mary-Greenville • St. John-Sacred Heart



**St. Gabriel Elementary**

Principal Jeanine Leege  
900 Geiger Street  
Neenah 54956  
920-725-4161

**St. Margaret Mary Elementary**

Principal Kristin Fairweather  
610 Division Street  
Neenah 54956  
920-729-4565

**St. Mary Elementary**

Principal Sandra Piotrowski  
540 Second Street  
Menasha 54952  
920-725-5351

**St. Mary Catholic Middle School**

Principal Jill Ahles  
1000 Zephyr Drive  
Neenah 54956  
920-727-0279

**St. Mary Catholic High School**

Principal Patricia Fouts  
1050 Zephyr Drive  
Neenah 54956  
920-722-7796

**SMCS Business Office**

1050 Zephyr Drive  
Neenah 54956  
920-722-7796  
Fax: 920-722-5940

*Congratulations to the Class of 2018!*

