



## *MEDIA RELEASE*

---

March 4, 2019

***FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:***

Jennifer Miller  
Director of Communications  
St. Mary Catholic Schools  
1050 Zephyr Drive  
Neenah, WI 54956  
Phone: 920-722-7796 ext. 206  
[jmiller@smcatholicschools.org](mailto:jmiller@smcatholicschools.org)

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

### **St. Mary Catholic Schools Successfully Implements Units of Study in Reading, developed by Lucy Calkins and Colleagues from TCRWP**

**Fox Cities** –The rollout of the Lucy Calkins Units of Study in Reading for grades K-8 has been very successful workshop approach for St. Mary Catholic Schools (SMCS). Nearly 4,400 books have been purchased, over the last two years to support the program giving every K-8 classroom a complete library. These volumes cover a wide variety of subjects over a spectrum of reading abilities for each grade level. Teachers are pleased with the quality of the leveled book sets and the Fountas and Pinnell Word Study supporting materials for spelling, vocabulary and phonics. The Units of Study 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.

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 system and how students are responding. The investment will result in SMCS students having stronger reading, writing, listening and speaking skills (4 components of literacy), which will ultimately contribute to their academic success, personal enjoyment and productivity.

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

\*\*\*end\*\*\*