

ST. MARY CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

*Preparing and inspiring students to lead meaningful lives,
rooted in the teachings of Christ in our Catholic tradition.*

ACADEMICS

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

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

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

MATH AND SCIENCE COURSES

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

WORLD LANGUAGES

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

TECHNOLOGY

Our one-to-one laptop program is integral to SMCMS's strong curriculum. Instructors deliver technology-integrated instruction, collaborating with students as they use their laptops for class work, group projects, and homework. The basic computer curriculum places an emphasis on commonly used communication, analysis, presentation software and online programs. Through Project Lead The Way (PLTW), seventh and eighth grade students complete an

interactive design module, creating their own mobile apps.

The STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) Center provides students with the high-tech resources needed to apply math and science knowledge using engineering technologies, including computer-aided design (CAD) software.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

Parent engagement is important to a student's success at the middle school level. Consequently, SMCMS requires a certain level of parent involvement. Volunteering in the lunchroom, chaperoning field trips or socials, and attending parent meetings or conferences can all be counted toward the requirement.

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

FACILITIES

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

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



CO-CURRICULARS

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

ATHLETICS

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

Basketball
Cross Country
Football
Softball
Tennis
Track and Field
Volleyball

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

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

BUSING

Busing is available to the SMCMS campus from many area communities! Call 920-727-0279 for details.



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



OUR COMMITMENT TO FAITH

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

Most students exceed the 12-hours per year service requirement. They do so through group service projects, school-sponsored programs, parish involvement and independent volunteerism.

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

AN INDIVIDUALIZED EXPERIENCE

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

Comprehensive Counseling

A certified counselor oversees the counseling program and is available to all students on an individual and/or small group basis. This

program includes education for students in personal safety and wellbeing. The counselor meets annually with all eighth grade students and their families to focus on academic and personal development, as well as age-appropriate career planning. Students are encouraged to visit with the counselor for personal guidance or to discuss any home, school or social concerns.

Edmodo

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

Naviance

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

PowerSchool

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

Pupil Services

SMCMS has a learning specialist who ensures that each identified student receives necessary educational assistance. Using differentiated instruction strategies and working with classroom teachers, the learning specialist helps to create situations in which students can learn best. Students

benefit from alternative approaches to instruction, modified lesson plans, assessment tools, supplementary materials and new learning strategies. Students are referred in cooperation with family, teachers and administration, and may work with the learning specialist in one or multiple academic areas.

Advisory

Advisory is a teacher/student-based counseling program. Its purpose is to provide students with a teacher advocate who promotes group identity, friendship, a sense of belonging, and pride in self and school. Groups are made up of 12-18 students and meet for 20 minutes four times a week. A typical weekly routine includes school news, individual conferences, planning and practicing for prayer services. Typical discussion topics include careers, conflict resolution, kindness and respect.

SAFETY

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

COURSES OFFERED AT SMCMS

6TH GRADE CURRICULUM

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

7TH GRADE CURRICULUM

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

8TH GRADE CURRICULUM

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