



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Mary Catholic Schools celebrates Catholic Schools Week 2021

Excellence in learning, service and faith, enrollment growth and in-person instruction highlighted in celebratory week

NEENAH, Wis. (February 1, 2021) – St. Mary Catholic Schools (SMCS) joins nearly 6,000 Catholic schools across the United States to celebrate National Catholic Schools Week from Jan. 31 – Feb. 6, 2021.

The week celebrates the legacy of excellence of Catholic school education; recognizes the contributions graduates make to the Catholic Church, local communities and the world; and highlights Catholic education's commitment to the development of the whole person – mind, body and spirit.

During the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic, nearly 80 percent of Catholic schools in the U.S. have safely offered in-person instruction and expanded virtual options, according to the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). SMCS too has maintained in-person instruction and expanded virtual programming; seen continued enrollment growth; offered ongoing athletic, cocurricular and faith formation opportunities; and given back to the community through service.

SMCS will celebrate with activities throughout this week, including food drives, community service, special Masses and faith formation opportunities, snowshoeing and other outdoor activities, themed dress-down days and spirit cheer rallies. SMCS serves more than 900 students in grades Pre 3 – 12th grade at five campuses across the Neenah and Menasha area: St. Gabriel Elementary School, St. Margaret Mary Elementary School, St. Mary Elementary School, St. Mary Catholic Middle School and St. Mary Catholic High School.

This week, and throughout the year, NCEA showcases the success of Catholic schools across the country with 99 percent of Catholic school students graduating high school, 86 percent attending college and students' proficiency on the National Assessment of Educational Progress nearly double that of public school counterparts.

SMCS students mirror these academic, involvement and service trends – posting ACT scores consistently above local, state and national averages and more than a third of recent graduating seniors earning Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar designation. Recent graduating classes have recorded tens of thousands of hours in community service, and nearly 100 percent of high school students participate in one or more cocurricular activities.

SMCS serves a diverse student body with nearly 30 percent of SMCS students coming from a faith tradition other than Catholicism and more than 160 students who enroll via the statewide school choice voucher program, all while remaining rooted in Catholic tradition and mission.

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St. Mary Catholic Schools ([SMCS](#)) serves more than 900 students in grades Pre3-12 at five campuses – St. Mary Catholic High School and St. Mary Catholic Middle School in the Village of Fox Crossing, Wisconsin, and St. Mary Catholic Elementary Schools (St. Margaret Mary and St. Gabriel in Neenah, Wisconsin, and St. Mary in Menasha, Wisconsin). SMCS is dedicated to preparing and inspiring students to lead meaningful lives, rooted in the teachings of Christ in our Catholic tradition.