

Dear Parent,

I am the Kindergarten teacher at St. Mary School, and I would like to tell you more about the great learning environment our school can provide for your child. Upon entering the doors of St. Mary's, your child will encounter a world of learning that emphasizes development in the Catholic faith, academic excellence, and diverse co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Kindergarten is a special year at St. Mary School, and we pride ourselves on being able to meet the individual needs of each child.

First, faith is not only taught at St. Mary School, it is caught. That's right. Your child's faith will spread and expand throughout the total experience of each and every day:

- Students begin learning about prayer, the Rosary, the sacraments, the Bible, the Trinity, Saints, the Holy Family, the Liturgical Year, and other key aspects of our faith.
- Each kindergarten student is matched with an 8th grade prayer partner, whom they meet throughout the school year to share faith, fellowship and special activities.
- Each month one student from each class is recognized for demonstrating Christian attributes throughout the school day through our Student of the Month Award Program.
- As of January, the Kindergarten classes attend Mass every other Friday to enhance their Religious beliefs and values within the church.
- During Lent the Kindergarten students walk through the Stations of the Cross in church then proceed to make a book about the Stations.

Secondly, at St. Mary School, academic excellence is more than just words in our marketing material—we are serious about guaranteeing you superior academic instruction that touches the mind, body, and spirit:

- Our Math curriculum reflects the standards established by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Problem solving is embedded in the teaching of all math concepts and skills. We also allow them to participate in Mathletics.
- Our Integrated Language Arts program helps students to develop skills that allow them to unlock the sound and meaning of words, increase vocabulary, comprehend ideas, read, and write. We have themed units that go along with our ELA program.
- Social Studies, Science, Creative Arts, and Physical Health are integrated into our curriculum to further stimulate curiosity and learning about the world around us.
- Weekly ICPS (I Can Problem Solve) lessons help our students become great thinkers while learning about consequences through hands-on lessons.
- The Kindergarten students are taught empathy by getting involved in community service projects. During the school year, the students will sell lemonade to each grade to raise money for Alex's Lemonade Stand.

Kindergarten provides a firm academic foundation for later learning. Our students are well prepared for academic pursuits in the years that follow as evidenced by their

performance on standardized tests. On the Terra Nova tests administered during the most recent school year, St. Mary School students scored 27.5 points above the national average for language, 26.0 points above the national average for reading, and 23.7 points above the national average for math. Overall, St. Mary School students achieved a total score 26.3 points above the national average.

Of course, learning that is confined to the traditional classroom can stifle creativity. At St. Mary School, your child will not be bored. Diverse co-curricular activities support and enrich formal instruction:

- Special activities, such as a trip to the pumpkin patch, cooking on Johnny Appleseed Day, breakfast with Santa, a traditional Thanksgiving feast, Grandparents Day and other field trips are scheduled to help students make real world connections with the curriculum content.
- Technology is used routinely in our classroom, and our students attend a dedicated Technology class weekly. Smart Boards enhance our daily lessons with real-time interaction between the students and the world around us.
- Music is enjoyed by our Kindergarten students once a week. The students brim with pride as they learn seasonal and religious songs.

Finally, at St. Mary School, we want your child to create the kind of atmosphere that spurs your child to not only like school, but to love it. Fun-filled extra-curricular activities include:

- Kindergarteners can join Science Club, Spanish Club, and Scouting. Older students can participate in private music lessons, Student Council, Lego Club, Game Club, Art Club, or one of seven sports offered through CYO.
- A Fun-filled Friday Night Lights CYO Basketball program that promotes teacher, student and family involvement. The gym brims with excitement!
- Regular Home and School Association events to encourage family involvement and promote long-lasting friendships.

I believe that the community of close-knit teachers and families, the dedication of the faculty and staff, the curriculum coupled with the commitment to excellence, and the pledge of faith will help to ensure the success of our children as they prepare for high school.

As you can see, St. Mary School can offer your child many opportunities for growth. We would be more than happy to discuss all the wonderful experiences that await your child at St. Mary School. Please contact us at (610) 287-7757 to learn more. Registration is now being accepted for the 2016-2017 school year. I would love to have your child be part of our community!

Sincerely,

Angela Wizimirski  
(Kindergarten Teacher)