

# THE ORBITER



*"Encourage one another & build each other up" - 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

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### Upcoming Important Dates:

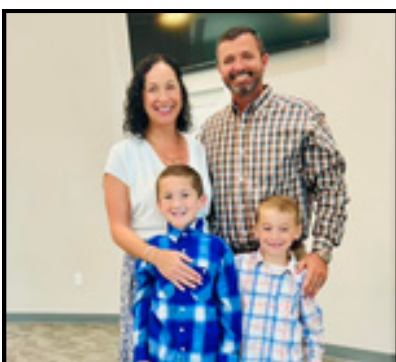
- **June 28th** - Outdoor Movie Night
- **July 4th** - July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade
- **August 14th** - First Day of School

### Happy Summer!

The SMS teachers and staff want to wish everyone a happy, fun and safe summer! Make lots of memories and have fun adventures so there are great stories to tell in the Fall, and remember to say your prayers! Parents, thank you for sharing your children with us day in and day out. Students, what a privilege it is to have you as part of the St. Mary's family. We will be praying for you all throughout the summer. We love you all, class dismissed.

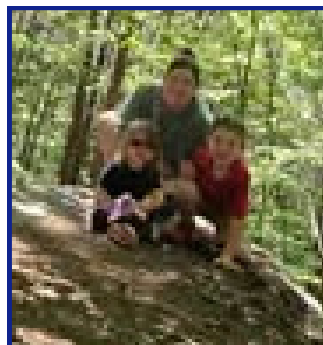
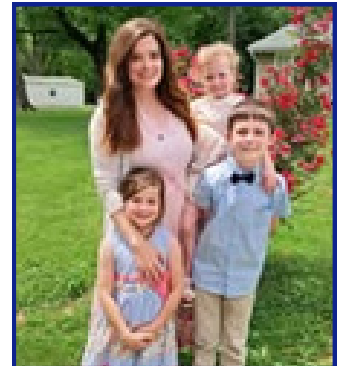
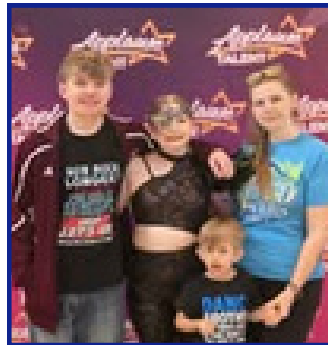


# Happy Easter



# MOTHERS DAY

*We love seeing the amazing moms in our community being celebrated!*



# Buddy Classes and Prayer Partners

6<sup>th</sup> Grade was so proud of their 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade buddies who took their First Holy Communion!



Pre-K and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade buddies enjoyed an Easter celebration!



7<sup>th</sup> Grade always enjoys spending time with their prayer partners, Deacon Steve & Donna Lowe!



The Firsties were so proud of their 8<sup>th</sup> Grade buddies for graduating!



5<sup>th</sup> Grade wants to thank Nana Tina for being such an amazing prayer partner!



# Community

## International Students

Seventh Grade enjoyed a visit from a few WVC International students from the DRC-Democratic Republic of the Congo!



Seventh Grade also had a few WVC International students from Europe! They were from Scotland, Switzerland, and the Netherlands!



## Junior Achievement

Mr. Levi Johnson visited Kindergarten and completed the final lesson in the economics program provided by Jr. Achievement!



## Knights of Columbus

Second grade had Fourth Degree Knight (Sadie Kay's Grandpa) Gary Macke explain what it means to be a member of K/C! The Knights were also present at their First Holy Communion!



## Pets

First and Second grades were excited to see a little Pygmy goat, Gary, for show and tell!





# Ancient Olympic Greek Games

Students participated as a Greek city-state in different events such as: Discus (tortillas), Boxing (memorizing items in a box), Javelin Throw (pool noodles), etc.



## Overall Winners:

- 🥇 1<sup>st</sup> place (Argos): Eliza + Bea
- 🥈 2<sup>nd</sup> place (Corinth): Carter + Alma
- 🥉 3<sup>rd</sup> place (Athens): Lilly + Justiss



# NET Retreat

We are so grateful to the NET (National Evangelization Team) for coming to our school today and leading such an incredible retreat for our middle school students! Your energy, faith, and passion made a lasting impact on everyone who participated. Thank you for taking the time to inspire, uplift, and connect with our students, and teaching them while leading them in prayer in such a meaningful way.



# NET Retreat

## We asked the students what their favorite part of the NET Retreat was!

“As a teacher, having NET at our school was incredible! Seeing young adults invest in our students was amazing to experience. NET came in not knowing any of our students and left that afternoon with a personal relationship with each student. My favorite part of the day was Eucharistic Adoration. Students were able to sit in the presence of Christ and just pray. Not only that, but the NET Team took time to pray over each student and teacher personally. The teachers pray for their students all the time but seeing others who barely know them intercede on their behalf is a memory I will never forget.”

“My favorite thing about the team was that they had King Julian! I enjoyed the key game. I enjoyed their friendliness. I liked the entire thing.”

“I loved the NET Team because it was a different way to praise and be with God. It was also my first time doing Eucharistic Adoration. It helped me understand what God wants me to do to be with him.”

“My favorite part about NET was small group because I liked getting to know people better. I also liked when we had prayer because I got to get some things off my mind. I also liked the baseball game because it was fun and baseball is my favorite sport.”

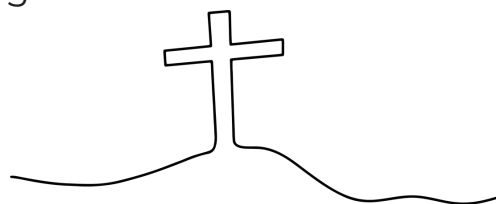
“My favorite thing about NET was the praying in the church. Also, the letter from Jesus. It made me cry because nothing has ever made me feel that much love. It took me 10 tries before I could read without crying. I felt so loved and worthy during that.”

“I liked Eucharistic Adoration. It gave me time to contemplate and really talk to God. The games were fun and insightful also.”

“My favorite thing about NET was the part where we played drop the keys. It was so fun and such a cool way to start the day.”

“I really enjoyed the small groups! The people were very understanding and the privacy was reassuring.”

“I loved how we were able to open up and talk freely with questions. The games were interactive and entertaining. They were nice and made me feel like family.”



# Spring Concert

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Spring Concert!



# Art Show

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Art Show!



# May Crowning

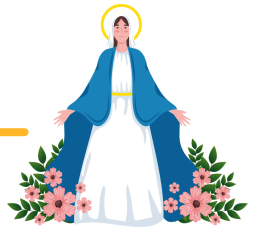
Grades 1-8 joined Father Robert in the celebration of crowning Mary. 8<sup>th</sup> Graders placed the crowns upon her head and each student gave her a flower.



A May Crowning is a traditional celebration that honors Mary, the mother of Jesus, during the month of May, which is dedicated to her like a child bringing their Mom flowers. This event is a way for students to show respect for Mary as a model for us of faith, kindness, and service. The ceremony also emphasizes virtues like reverence, community, and respect, which can be appreciated by everyone as we seek to have these virtues for one another.

# May Crowning

Preschool, Pre-K, and Kindergarten came together to participate in the crowning of Mary inside and outside of our school.



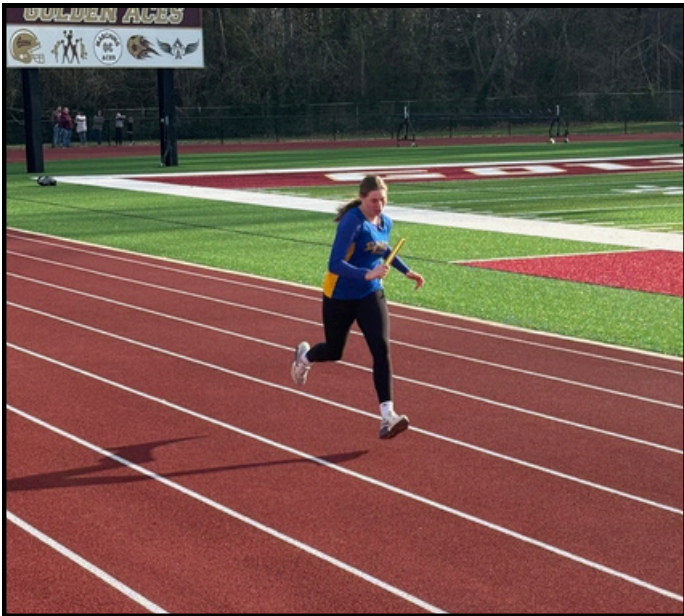


# Sports



## Track and Field

Our track team had a great season this year! Many of our athletes set new personal bests each meet. Track is a quick season, but we make the best of it. The athletes did great this year!





# Sports



## Golf

St. Mary's Rockets made history this year with the schools first ever Boys and Girls Golf Team! They did an amazing job this Golf season, and we can't wait for next year!



Elin Swanson qualified individually for the SIJHSAA State Golf Tournament and placed 10<sup>th</sup> overall and was named an Illinois All State Player with her score!

Congrats to 8<sup>th</sup> Grader Isaac Trapp!



# Dance Time!

St. Mary's hosted the SMS and Allendale Luau Dance! Thank you to all the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade parents, volunteers, and helpers who set up and made the wonderful snacks! It was a great night!



St. Mary's and Allendale 8<sup>th</sup> Graders looked fabulous before heading off to the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance!



# End of School Fun

Thank you to the Rockets Foundation for your continuous love, support and generosity! The students had such a fun day thanks to you!



# Field Day

Field Day was such an amazing day! We can't thank the volunteers enough; it wouldn't be possible without you!



# Park Day

Sno Cones + Park Day = SUCCESS! Thanks to Student Council for the sweet treat!



# Congratulations!



Congratulations on your retirement Mrs. Wissel. We are truly thankful for all you have done for us and our school community. We will miss you so much and wish you the best in this next chapter of life.



Mrs. Steckler, we are so happy for you on your retirement. 25 years of teaching is an amazing accomplishment, and we are so happy for you!



We were so blessed to have Seminarian Terry Marmion here with us this past semester. We will continue to pray for you on your journey to Priesthood!



# Teacher Appreciation

This year, we celebrated Mrs. Karen Waterbury's remarkable 50 years of service to our school. She began teaching here in 1976, during the years when our school was staffed by religious sisters.



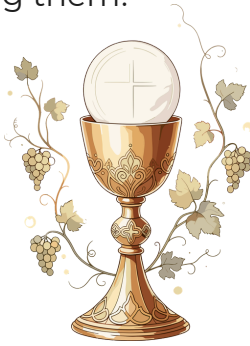
We ended Teacher Appreciation Week with our end of year dinner at Coco's! We truly are blessed with the most amazing teachers!

Teaching  
IS A WORK OF  
THE  
heart



# So Much To Celebrate!

Congratulations to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders who made their First Holy Communion and a special thank you to the Knights of Columbus for joining them!



Congratulations to our St. Mary's Alumni on graduating from high school! We had the Senior walk-through and enjoyed seeing them. We are so excited for all of you, and wish you the best in your future endeavors!

## Special shout out to our 2022 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class:

Elliott Acree  
Ronnie Berberich  
Kasen Dulgar  
William Freeland  
Will Hudson  
Ava Jent

Isabella Jent  
Cortney Jones  
Madeleine Mann  
Brady Porter  
Blake Strine  
Ashlin Trail



# So Much To Celebrate!



Congratulations to our Pre-K and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduates!  
We are so proud of you all!





May 8, 2026

**Dear St. Mary's School Families and Staff,**

My name is Tyler Buss, and it is with great excitement and gratitude that I introduce myself as the new Principal of St. Mary's Catholic School. I am honored to join such a faith-filled community with a strong tradition of academic excellence, service, and Catholic values.

One thing you will quickly learn about me is that I have a genuine passion for education and for people. I bring a lot of energy and enthusiasm into everything I do, and I am thrilled to bring that same energy into St. Mary's. I believe school should be a place where students feel excited to walk through the doors each morning, where staff feel supported and appreciated, and where joy and purpose are part of the daily experience. I look forward to greeting students, building relationships, and helping create a culture where we all feel proud to be a St. Mary's Rocket!

As I begin this new journey, I am eager to get to know each of you and become a more active part of both the parish and school community. The partnership between school, church, and family is essential in helping our students grow academically and spiritually. Together, we can continue building an environment where every child feels supported, challenged, and deeply loved.

I am incredibly excited about the future of St. Mary's and the opportunities ahead. I look forward to listening, learning, and working alongside our talented staff and wonderful families as we continue building upon the strong foundation already in place.

My family and I are so excited to begin this next chapter, and I cannot wait to meet all of you in the coming months.

May God continue to bless St. Mary's School and parish community.

Sincerely,

*Tyler Buss*

Tyler Buss  
Principal  
St. Mary's Catholic School

618-263-3183



[www.smsrockets.net](http://www.smsrockets.net)



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