



State of the School

May 16, 2022

State of the School Agenda

- Prayer
- School Advisory Board
- Strategic Plan Update
 - Catholic Identity
 - Curriculum & Academics
 - Technology
 - Finance & Fundraising
 - Facilities
 - Marketing & Enrollment
- Q & A

School Advisory Board

2021 - 2022 School Advisory Board

Rani Dabbs (2017) Chair

Jennifer Brandt (2019) Vice Chair

Katie Bright (2019) Secretary

Courtney Chianello (2020)

Jennifer Ree (2021)

Catherine Wenzel (2019)

Lisa Carlson, ex officio (2019)

Guy Karm (Parish Finance Council Liaison)

School Advisory Board Committees

Thank you to the following Committee Members:

Catholic Identity

Katie Wenzel

Strategic Plan

Rani Dabbs

Grant Writing

Courtney Chiannello

Carolyn Wojtowicz

Fiscal Management

Katie Bright

Courtney Chianello

Guy Karm

Marketing

Rani Dabbs

Christa Miller

Heidi Murphy

Paola Nacci

Jennifer Ree

Jim Sunny

Marianne Sutcliffe

Facilities

Tom Healy

FSO Liason

Lisa Carlson

Bison Fund

Jennifer Brandt

Katie Bright

Lisa Carlson

Courtney Chianello

Rani Dabbs

Christa Miller

Paola Nacci

Jennifer Ree

James Sunny

Marianne Sutcliffe

Katie Wenzel

Membership

Jennifer Brandt

Family School Organization (FSO)

Thank You for Your Service:

President

Lisa Carlson

Treasurer:

Kim Lyszczarczyk

Vice President, Special Events:

Paola Nacci

Secretary:

Nicole Diaz

Vice President, Fundraising:

Marie Clark

If you'd like to help on the FSO, please email fso@stmarybg.org.

School Advisory Board Changes

Please join us in thanking our Board Members ending their term this year:

- Jennifer Brandt
- Rani Dabbs
- Catherine Wenzel

We are excited to welcome our new Board members joining for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Mike Murphy
- Marianne Sutcliffe
- Vince Vasquez

School Board Overview

Advisory Board to Pastor and Principal on...

- *Strategic Planning, Finances, Facilities, Marketing/Communication, Enrollment, Mission Effectiveness, Advancement (fundraising, grant writing)*

Board Composition

- *10 - 12 members*
- *Maximum of Two Three-Year Terms*

Interested in Learning More?

- *New Committee members to be added for 2022 – 2023 School Year*
- *Contact schoolboard@stmarybg.org*

Strategic Plan Update

Catholic Identity Goals

Goal One: Infuse Catholic identity into all facets of the school

- Support parents in their role as the first spiritual educators of their children through continuing education ([Ongoing](#))
- Evaluate the Saint Mary School current Mission Statement to ensure alignment with Strategic Plan ([Complete](#))
- Design and implement a school-wide program that promotes leadership and value driven behavior within our school community ([Complete](#))

Goal Two: Live our Catholic faith through service outreach and youth involvement

- Increase service opportunities by creating relationships with other Saint Mary parish ministries and community organizations in need of support ([Ongoing](#))
- Enhance the relationship with the current youth ministry group and the Religious Education Program ([Ongoing](#))

Catholic Identity Update - 2021-2022

- Continue utilizing school-wide prayer for Mary, patroness of our school
- Virtues program through the Dominican Nashville Sisters (Ongoing)
- Monthly emails/reminders to faculty members to help teach and incorporate our mission, school theme, liturgical seasons and virtues regardless of content area
- Began discussions with school board, Catholic Identity team and faculty about re-evaluating our mission statement (Complete)
- Send email communications sharing ways to celebrate and live out our faith including Advent, Christmas, Catholic Schools Week, Lent and Easter (Ongoing)
- Began collaborating with Religious Education and Youth Ministry to align communications, service and worship opportunities for families (Ongoing)
- Family Mass once a month to promote community (Ongoing)
- Weekly school masses (Ongoing)

Saint Mary School Service Projects

October:	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry
November:	Little Sisters of the Poor - Palatine
December:	Saint John de la Salle Feed My Starving Children Orphans of the Storm
February:	American Heart Association - Kids Heart Challenge
March:	Operation Rice Bowl
April:	NJHS Ukraine Fundraiser for the Red Cross
May:	Textile, Shoes, Clothing Recycling Program - USAgain

Curriculum & Academic Goals

Goal One: To support instruction in order to enhance student achievement by leveraging new opportunities for personalized instruction and learning across all disciplines and extending the scope and reach of student learning

- Director of Student Services to help coordinate services/help for students (Ongoing)
- Define Intentions of Technology Use at Saint Mary School in each learning community (Complete)
- Assess the specials curriculum to ensure the value it provides in developing the whole child (Ongoing)
- Create a defined rubric amongst all specials including both expectations of skill and effort (Ongoing)

Goal Two: Improve Parent/Child/Teacher Academic Communication

- Teachers to provide a syllabus each trimester indicating "what we are doing," "why we are doing it," and "when we are doing it" (Ongoing)
- Develop a defined system of communication required of all teachers (Complete)
- Standardize communication requirements within learning communities between teachers and parents (Ongoing)

Curriculum & Academics Goals continued

Goal Three: Educate the whole student in a developmental program alive with academic excellence and proactively responsive to varying learning needs.

Curriculum Review Results

Improve curriculum in science, math and 6th grade social studies by eliminating outdated programs and aligning with programs that meet benchmarks and improve student learning through continuity between grade levels.

- New science program in K to 8 **(Complete)**
- Align STEM focus with science benchmarks **(Ongoing)**
- Align mathematics in grades 1 to 5 with series currently used in junior high. **(Complete)**
- Replace 6th grade social studies with Discovery Learning to align with 7th and 8th grade social studies. **(Complete)**

Curriculum & Academics Goals continued

Goal Three: Educate the whole student in a developmental program alive with academic excellence and proactively responsive to varying learning needs.

Review of Student Learning Needs

(1a) Establish a Student Resource Center under the direction of a learning specialist
(Complete)

(1b) Devoted to meeting the learning needs of students with accommodations and students who need accelerated options (Ongoing)

(2) Reorganize the learning communities to accommodate the social/emotional/learning needs of students and to facilitate improved communication and readiness for next grade levels.

- Align Kindergarten with primary grades K, 1, 2 (Complete)
- Expand elementary to include grade 5 in addition to 3 and 4 (Complete)
- Move from junior high model of grades 7 and 8 to middle school school model of 6,7, and 8 to better suit learning needs as well as to improve on the transition aspects of moving from grade school to high school (Complete)

Curriculum & Academics Goals continued

Goal: Educate the whole student in a developmental program alive with academic excellence and proactively responsive to varying learning needs.

Review of Student Learning Needs, cont'd

(3) Adjust calendar and student schedules to allow for increased instructional time, life skill development for middle school students and individual support for learning.

(Complete)

(4) Expand technology integration in order to strengthen differentiated learning in the classroom. (Complete)

Specials

School Year 21/22

Art (PT)

STEM (PT) - no applicants

Technology K-3 (PT)

Music (PT)

PE (FT)

Spanish (FT)

Library (PT)

School Year 22/23

Art or STEAM

STEM or STEAM

Tech part of STEM or
STEAM

Music (PT)

PE (FT)

Spanish (FT)

Library (PT)

Reading Results iReady Spring 2022

Reading			
Grades	Fall Mean i-Ready Scale Score	Winter Mean i-Ready Scale Score	Spring Mean i-Ready Scale Score
Grade 4 (Class of 2026)	570	572	581
Grade 5 (Class of 2025)	591	603	604
Grade 6 (Class of 2024)	606	621	632
Grade 7 (Class of 2023)	629	640	637
Grade 8 (Class of 2022)	640	651	654

Grades	Readiness Range
Grade 4	557-629
Grade 5	581-640
Grade 6	598-653
Grade 7	609-653
Grade 8	620-684

Math Results iReady Spring 2022

Math			
Grades	Fall Mean i-Ready Scale Score	Winter Mean i-Ready Scale Score	Spring Mean i-Ready Scale Score
Grade 4 (Class of 2026)	468	471	483
Grade 5 (Class of 2025)	477	484	In process
Grade 6 (Class of 2024)	499	508	518
Grade 7 (Class of 2023)	521	526	532
Grade 8 (Class of 2022)	534	547	555

Grades	Readiness Range
Grade 4	465-526
Grade 5	480-540
Grade 6	495-564
Grade 7	508-574
Grade 8	518-585

Technology Goals

Goal One: Actively manage and develop the school's infrastructure and equipment to maintain excellence, maximize access, and plan and deliver on future needs

- Ensure internal wifi networks and technology staff are ready to support a large number of wireless devices (Complete)
- Research equipment options, costs and appropriateness for various learning communities (Complete)
- Establish a staff position for teacher/student support of technology (Complete)

Goal Two: Set consistent expectations among the faculty and students and provide support

- Determine the appropriate personnel structure to support these initiatives (Ongoing)
- Provide professional development for teachers on how to reasonably and appropriately infuse technology in every class (Ongoing)
- Employ Web-based productivity, collaboration and communication tools for teachers and students (Ongoing)
- Create clear rules on how devices can and should be used for learning purposes (Complete)
- Establish security measures for devices or internet and ensure those security measures are strictly adhered to (Complete)

Common Sense School

Common Sense Education

*Provides teachers and schools with research-based classroom tools to help students harness technology for learning and life.

*The Digital Citizenship Curriculum and interactive games teach students how to make safe, smart, and ethical decisions in the digital world. Ms. Smeja met with K-5 once a week from December to April to earn this badge for SMS.

*Our students and teachers worked diligently this year to earn the Common Sense School badge as a symbol of their dedication and commitment to think critically and use technology responsibly to learn, create, and participate.



Spanish Accolades

In the past 5 years 90% of Saint Mary Students have been placed into Spanish II at their local high school



Finance and Fundraising Goals

Goal One: Support strong communication and transparency to increase awareness among both the school and parish about the financial needs and status of the school

- Create and define a communication model including content, format, and schedule for financial reporting to all stakeholders (Ongoing)
- Regularly communicate to all stakeholders the breakdown of the school's income, expenses, and future financial needs (Ongoing)

Goal Two: Manage, promote, and increase revenue sources to Saint Mary School

- Implement a business partnership model in the surrounding community (Ongoing)
- Establish a grant writing committee (Complete)
- Re-invigorate fundraising efforts (Complete)

Fundraising

2021-2022 School Year - Bison Fund

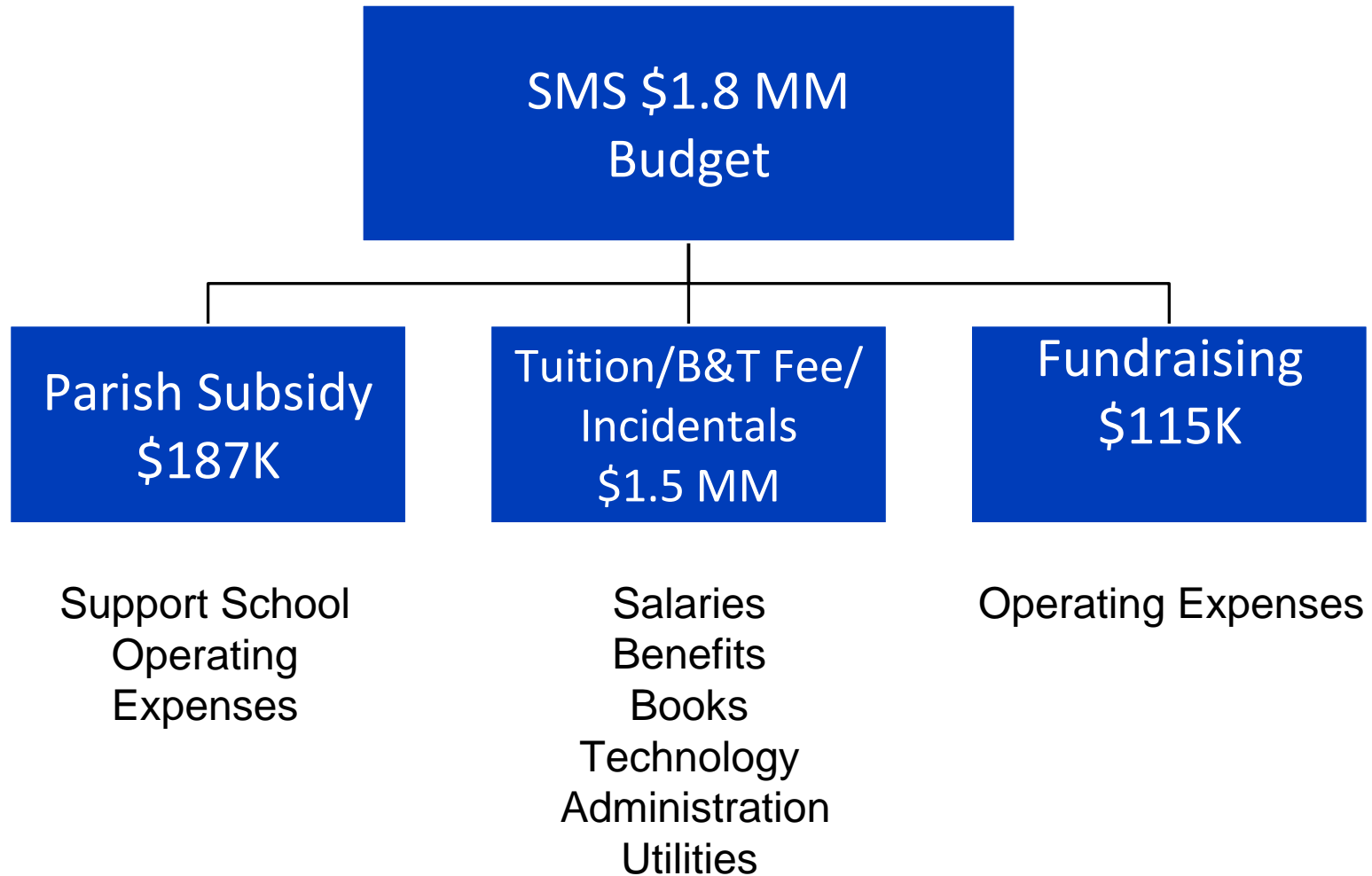
The Bison Fund ran from October 17th through December 31st

- School families and Parishioners were asked via email to donate online, by check, or through employee match programs
- Events included a Food Truck Festival, fashion show, online poker tournament, and a variety of Tasty Tuesdays at local restaurants
- Additional funds raised through the purchase of experiences (i.e., dress down days, principal for a day, teacher sponsored events) and Black Friday basket sales
- Past local business sponsors were also approached for support
- **We raised a total of \$110,000 (goal: \$100,000)!**

2022-2023 School Year Fundraising Plans

- We are pleased to announce that one of our Saint Mary School families has stepped forward to plan a **Saint Mary School Bison Benefit** for the coming school year!
- Stay tuned for details in the coming months
- If you are interested in volunteering your time, please reach out to **Janella Vasquez** or schoolboard@stmarybg.org

SMS School Budget for 2021-2022



Tuition 2021-2022

- Tuition covered the education of our 255 students & associated costs
 - Teachers' and Instructional Assistants' Salaries
 - Benefits
 - Administration
 - Professional Development
 - Maintenance & General Operating Expenses
- Received \$136,212.00 in Tax Credit Scholarships SY 2020-2021
- Received \$45,743 in Tax Credit Scholarships SY 2021-2022
- Received \$57,699 in Tax Credit Scholarships for SY 2022-2023
- Tuition for SY 22-2023 is \$6,335 per one student contributing parishioner family
- Cost to educate a student at Saint Mary School is \$7,500

Book & Technology Fees

Technology hardware and software upgrades

Curriculum upgrades & Textbooks

i-Ready Diagnostic & Lessons

Technology Consultant Fees

Novels

Infrastructure Updates

Consumables K-8th Grade

Religion

Novels & Bibles

Vocabulary/Workbook

Handwriting

Jolly Phonics

Grammar

Spelling

Math

Scholastic News

Science

Facility Goals

Goal One: To create a facilities Master Plan to improve and maintain Saint Mary School

- Establish a Facilities sub-committee on the School Board to become a regular conduit of school facility needs to the Parish (ongoing)
- Conduct a thorough assessment of the condition and remaining useful life of our parish buildings and building systems (ongoing)
- Forecast our need for new and/or expanded facilities, based on space utilization and expected enrollment (ongoing)
- Develop a phased program of improvements based on their relative priority to the Saint Mary School mission (ongoing)

Goal Two: Establish security upgrades and protocols to further ensure the safety of our students

- Create an avenue to clearer transparency of the school safety and security plan (ongoing)

Courtyard Revitalization Committee

Purpose: To revitalize the existing courtyard area located by Saint Mary School by addressing and including the following:

- All necessary drainage, concrete, and other repairs in the courtyard area
- Enhanced playground safety by removing and replacing current equipment
- Opportunities for learning through play
- Prayer and reflection area to be used by the Saint Mary School and Parish Community
- Garden area to be maintained by the students as a part of their STEAM curriculum

Committee Members:

Carolynn Wojtowicz (Chair)

Courtney Chianello (Board liaison)

Laura Georgen

Joanne Greenbaum

Michael Sutcliffe

Karen Lazaro

Jennifer & Bob Olsen

Deborah Pitts

Doreen Potter

Cathy Sacco

Marianne &

Paul Vance

Pauline Vance

Marketing & Enrollment Goals

Goal One: Within the parish and local community, enhance outreach, make connections, and communicate to build school support and brand, and drive enrollment

- Utilize core values and mission to develop Saint Mary's story and define communication strategy of Marketing team (Ongoing)
- As a vehicle for public relations, leverage technology and other existing communication channels to execute strategy (Ongoing)
- Build partnerships and network with parish, local parishes, high schools, and alumni (Ongoing)

Goal Two: Improve communication and transparency within the school community

- Set expectations at the beginning of the year for communication plan – cadence, “forward look” timing, resources, etc. (Ongoing)
- Establish a uniform vehicle for regular communications for all school related information – including extracurricular activities, sports, volunteer opportunities, etc. (Ongoing)
- Enhance Leadership communications (from Principal and Pastor) to build transparency and trust, and to provide context and clarity on critical or sensitive topics (Ongoing)
- Expand parent-teacher communications to further build home-school connection (e.g. room parents, volunteer postings, Parent Academy Series, etc.) (Ongoing)

Thank You Class Advocates

Sara Blangiardo

Sofia Buckley

Marie Clark

Nichole Coutts

Anna Cortes

Kim Griffin

Laura LoVerde

Lori Mackey

Juanita Martin

Rowena Michuda

Paola Nacci

Bob Olsen

Christine Ponka

Ana Ruiz

Jane Shim

Marianne Sutcliffe

Jeanie Tavenner

Janella Vasquez

Katie Wenzel

Enrollment Update Spring 2022

- Preschool = two and three class sections
- Kindergarten through 8th Grade = one class section each with a good possibility of a 2nd section for 8th grade.
- Section sizes for K-8 range between 13 and 28 students. Average class size as of May 16 is 19. Instructional assistants will be hired as needed for large class sizes.

(as of May 16, 2022)

New Saint Mary School Principal

Mr. John Fuja, Current Dean of Students at Saint Viator High School

- B.A. in Spanish/Political Science from the University of Delaware
- M.A. in Spanish from Middlebury College
- Professional Educator's License from National Louis University
- M.A. in Educational Leadership and Principal Endorsement from North Park University



Thank You and Farewell!

Thank You to Principal Kris Gritzmacher for all of your hard work, leading us through a very challenging time. We wish you the best of luck!



Q & A

Please email your questions to:

schoolboard@stmarybg.org or lgeorgen@stmarybg.org