



## AT A GLANCE

Saint Mary Catholic School provides quality preschool through grade 6 education in a faith-enriched, positive learning community. Our Mission is to form a community of faith and learning by promoting a Catholic way of life through Gospel values and academic excellence.

We welcome you to learn more about how we can help your children thrive in their faith, learning, and school relationships. Whether you are a prospective parent visiting us for the first time, a current family in search of specific information, or an old friend or alum of the school, we are glad you have found us!

We know that one of the most important decisions we make is about the education of our children. At Saint Mary we value that decision and the trust our parents put in us. Every day we renew the commitment to work hard to educate our pre-K through sixth grade students and help them become self-confident, compassionate and committed citizens who will reach their full potential.

As a parish school with over 50 years of history in Sioux Falls, we are proud of our Catholic traditions and practices. Many of the events and activities in our school community have been with us for years. Many of our students have parents and grandparents who attended Saint Mary. New families are welcomed and well received. Our educators are faith-filled men and women who are devoted to the physical, intellectual and spiritual growth of our students. We are graced with over 400 energetic and enthusiastic students, all evolving through a strong Catholic education.

While our traditions and structure are part of the fabric of our school community, so are twenty-first century educational innovations. To keep up with the educational demands of our student population, every instructional classroom utilizes Promethean boards and has access to our portable IPAD lab. Technology plays a role in our student education but so too does

foundational skills and higher order thinking lessons. Our Computer Lab and Library are both constantly being upgraded and improved with significant technology enhancements

We hope you will take time to get to know us by touring our website, talking to friends and parents of our students, and by attending one of our Open Houses. We are a devoted community of educators and parents, committed to our tradition of excellence in education and our mission of leading our children to Christ.

### **Class Size**

Four classrooms in preschool (ages, 3, 4, Junior High Fives, and High Fives)

Two classrooms each grades 1 – 6

### **Academic differentiation**

The classroom, academic services, and SPARKS/gifted instructors tailor instruction to maximize student growth and success. All ability levels are addressed. Our rigor allows for solid preparation for post elementary studies.

### **Tuition**

Specific tuition rates for Parishioners, Catholic Non-Parishioners and Non-Catholics are available on the tuition page.

### **Financial Aid**

Tuition assistance is available through the SFCS and the Catholic parishes of Sioux Falls.

### **School Hours**

7:55 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### **Religion and Catholic identity**

Our Catholic faith is central to everything we do at Saint Mary. It permeates our hallways, classrooms, after-school activities and even our playground and social activities. For our parents and teachers, nothing is more important than the spiritual development of our students and their life-long journey toward Christ.

Religion classes are held every day at each grade level. Teaching religion in a traditional classroom setting is just one part of the strong foundation of faith built at the school. Each school day begins and ends with prayers. Outings to special points of interest, like the Sacred Heart Monastery and the Broom Tree Retreat Center are always favorite field trips for students and their parent chaperones.

Students participate in weekly Adoration and have access to confession at least twice per year. Community service is promoted especially during Lent and Advent. There are beautiful reminders of the Lord's presence in our everyday life at school. The sacraments are also an ever-present part of our days at school. Each week, on Wednesday, the student body attends

Mass together at the church. Additionally, we have Mass on Holy Days of Obligation. On Mondays throughout Lent, students pray the Stations of the Cross together. Second graders are prepared for First Penance and then First Communion.

### **Extended School Program/STRETCH**

Morning supervision begins at 6:50 am

Afternoon supervision is available until 6:00 pm

### **Extra-curricular Activities**

Altar servers, art club, Boys and Girls scouts, safety patrol, Student Council, Walking Club, Jazz Band, Lego League, sports teams, etc.

1949	The year Saint Mary was founded
1950	The present school building opened at 2001 S. 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue
2010	Classroom and MPR addition completed. Exploring next addition to begin 2016
405	The number of students enrolled for 2014-15 (grades Pre-k through 6)
275	The number of families with children enrolled this year
98	The percentage of 6th graders who enroll in Catholic Junior High Schools
54	The number of staff dedicated to your child and family
82	The percentage of faculty who have been at Saint Mary for five or more years
35	The number of all school Rosaries prayed each year
21	The target class size
176	The number of days in our school year
1st	In enrollment--We are the largest elementary school of the SFCS. We have the highest percentage of available families in the parish enrolled. We attract families from all Sioux Falls parishes as well as many non-Catholics too.

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