



# A Letter from the Principal

Parents,

The last Friday of summer break- As I am looking around the building and watching it come back to life, I am filled with excitement-it has been an extremely busy and challenging summer and a most productive summer.

From a facilities standpoint, Fr. Stuart and I decided early on that our response to all the chaos would be “progress as promised.” I think we have delivered on that promise in spite of unexpected plumbing challenges, power outages, and shipping delays. A huge thank you goes to Melissa Barrett and her crews. All were outstanding to work with and the renovated spaces look fantastic.

From a staff standpoint, again, lots of work with schedules and coordinating of resources to create for our young people the very best educational opportunity we can. Each of the homeroom assignments is the same as last year with the addition of Mr. Garrett Shilling into the mix. Mr. Schilling will share 8<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom responsibilities with me. Also, Mrs. Kim Dionisio has accepted a new position as instructional aid for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. We are very happy to have her in this role.

There have been two faculty changes that impact all grades. Margaret Acevedo resigned her position in late July leaving vacancies in both our after school care program and in our Spanish program. Mrs. Janet Renberg, who has worked as part of the ASC staff for three years and knows the program well will be our new after school care director. The position of Spanish teacher is, at this point, still vacant. We have already begun the work of redefining the Spanish program to make it a stronger and more vibrant part of our curriculum. This work to build a strong program will continue throughout the year with the goal of being fully implemented again for the start of academic year 2024-25. We will not start the school for this year with Spanish instruction in our 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grades. We will, however, be offering Spanish for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Mr. Brian Balaskovits will remain as a kindergarten teacher, but has agreed to take on this one Spanish class as well. I am most appreciative of Mr. B’s help with this.

Our physical education teacher and athletic director, Mr. Kent Gilliam, resigned this week. Consequently, as we work through this transition, we are continuing to evaluate and understand our needs in athletics for the coming fall and beyond and will immediately begin the search for a new PE teacher and athletic director. We will continue to have PE classes at all grade levels and will do our best to put in place, as quickly as possible, a plan for handling the duties of the athletic director. We have track and three volleyball teams ready to go, and will work quickly to establish and communicate a new routine as we begin to schedule for basketball. If you have any questions, please contact myself or Father Stuart.

Finally, I apologize for the lateness of this letter. It was my plan for this to go out August 1<sup>st</sup>, but since the end of July, the series of unexpected changes certainly altered that plan. Thank you for the grace and patience shown.

To close back where I opened-it has been a work filled summer for sure, but I am excited about where we are going. We have a new reading series in kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade; a new science series in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>, and a new textbook and online resources for 8<sup>th</sup> Spanish which will expand down into 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> as we grow that program back. In summary, we are ready and excited to see everyone Monday for registration, looking forward to welcoming the students back on Wednesday, and eager for the opportunity for everyone to meet with the teachers at Back to School Night, Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Suzanne Nelson*

The School of St. Mary exists to carry out the educational mission of the Church  
by teaching children to live, love, learn and walk with God.

# For Your Information

SCHOOL OF SAINT MARY

[www.schoolofsaintmary.com](http://www.schoolofsaintmary.com)

August 11, 2023



## August/ September 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
13	14 7:15-11:45 School Registration (parents only)	15 Teacher Inservice	16 1st Day of School First Day of After School Care	17	18 9am Mass—8th	19
20	21	22	23	24 6:30pm Back to School Night in Church	25 Back to School Picnic 9am Mass— 7th	26
27	28	29	30	31	September 1 9am Mass-5th 1PM Early Dismissal	2
3	4 Labor Day / No School	5 Free Dress	6	7	8 9am Mass-6th	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 9am Mass-4th	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 9am Mass-3rd	23



## Emmaus-Becoming Catholic

“Emmaus- Becoming Catholic” is the Church of Saint Mary program for adults to prepare to join the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. “Emmaus- Becoming Catholic” is a perfect fit for people in three different stages of their faith journey:

- Those who want to become Catholic. Emmaus sessions include all of the content, discernment, and liturgical rites for you to enter the church. Emmaus includes the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, what we used to call RCIA.
- Those who are rooted in the Catholic faith and joyful in devotion. If the Holy Spirit has ever nudged you to accompany someone else who is beginning or returning to relationship with God, this is it. I need you at Emmaus!
- Those who need a refresher on the basics of Catholicism to grow deeper or who wish to return after time away. Emmaus is a safe place to begin again, to ask questions, and to renew your conviction.

“Emmaus- Becoming Catholic” will be held on Thursday evenings, from 6:30 until 8:30, in the St. Joseph Parish Hall, beginning September 7, 2023. Childcare and lessons will be provided for children twelve and under.

I hope you will join me on this journey to encounter God’s love through fellowship, learning, and prayer!

Register for Emmaus at [www.churchofsaintmary.com](http://www.churchofsaintmary.com) or contact me with any questions!

Emily Kamp  
Adult Faith Formation Leader  
Church of Saint Mary  
<mailto:ekamp@churchofsaintmary.com>



Calendar is subject to change due to weather or other related causes. Additional information is available at [school website](#) or please contact us at 918-749-9361. Late start could be used in certain inclement weather situations.

### School of Saint Mary 2023-2024 Calendar

**Calendar Key**

- (Green) Early Dismissal – 1PM
- (Yellow) First Day
- (Blue) Teacher Work Day
- (Red) No School

August 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 14.....Registration (7:15-11:45am, parents only)  
 August 15.....Teacher Inservice  
 August 16.....First Day of School/First Day of Aftercare  
 August 24.....Back to School Night

September 1.....Early Dismissal, 1pm  
 September 4.....Labor Day / No School  
 September 5.....Free Dress Day  
 September 18.....First Quarter Progress Reports  
 September 28.....Parent Teacher Conferences (after school)  
 September 29.....No School / Parent Teacher Conferences

October 3.....Free Dress Day  
 October 7/8.....MaryFair Dinner/Picnic  
 October 12.....Diocesan Inservice / No School  
 October 13.....Fall Break / No School  
 October 20.....End of First Quarter (Report Cards, 10/26)

November 3.....Early Dismissal – 1PM  
 November 7.....Free Dress  
 November 22-24.....Thanksgiving Break / No School  
 November 27.....Second Quarter Progress Reports

December 5.....Free Dress  
 Dec 18– Jan 1.....Christmas Break / No School

January 2.....No School / Teacher Inservice  
 January 3.....First Day of School  
 January 5.....Re-Enrollment Forms Home  
 January 9.....Free Dress  
 January 12.....End of Second Quarter (Report Cards, 1/18)  
 January 15.....No School / MLK Jr. Day  
 January 26.....Re-Enrollment & Kindergarten Apps Due

Jan 28– Feb 3.....Catholic Schools Week

February 6.....Free Dress  
 February 12.....Third Quarter Progress Reports  
 February 14.....Parent Teacher Conferences (after school)  
 February 15.....No School / Parent Teacher Conferences  
 February 16.....Diocesan Inservice / No School  
 February 19.....President’s Day / No School

March 5.....Free Dress Day  
 March 15.....End of Third Quarter (Report Cards, 3/28)  
 March 18-22.....Spring Break  
 March 28.....Early Dismissal – 1PM, Holy Thursday  
 March 29.....No School / Good Friday

April 1.....No School / Easter Monday  
 April 2.....Free Dress  
 April 22.....Fourth Quarter Progress Reports

May 3.....Early Dismissal – 1PM  
 May 7.....Free Dress  
 May 16.....8th Grade Graduation, 7pm  
 May 24.....Field Day  
 May 24.....Last Day of School

January 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	