

Welcome back for another great school year at St. Mary's! It has been a long spring and summer, but it was wonderful to welcome students back into the building. I hope your child(ren) had an awesome first week and from the looks of it, they are happy to be back! We are all so excited to see all these faces back at St. Mary's. It will be another great year filled with learning and fun in an environment of faith. Please contact the office with any questions (367-3669), sarah-zook@cdolinc.net, jeri-truksa@cdolinc.net.

God Bless, Mrs. Sarah Zook, Principal, St. Mary's

I'd like to **welcome** some new staff members to the St. Mary's family:

Mr. Marc Beller, joins us from St. John's Catholic Elementary in Lincoln, is teaching 4th grade.

Mrs. Kelly Tvrdy, just graduated from UNL and a Neumann alum, is teaching 1st grade and head coach for Aquinas Volleyball.

Mrs. Mary Lou Smith, grandmother to the Jared and Paula DeWispelare children, is helping out in the kitchen.

Mrs. Alice Jane Behrens, left 1st grade at DC Pub. to take on Title I for both schools.

Fr. Michael Ventre, left teaching middle school at Lourdes Central Catholic to help as Assistant CAO to Fr. Timmerman.

Welcome to new students!

★ All our new **preschool** and **Pre-Kindergarten** students!!

- ★ Braylon Hinrichs, K
- ★ Ayleen Leon, K
- ★ Jacob Storm, K
- ★ Anahi Leon, 1
- ★ Charlie and Chase Janak, 3
- ★ Elizabeth Storm, 3
- ★ Natalia Lopez, 5
- ★ Rebekah Masek, 5
- ★ Sarah Storm, 5

The **Open House on Tuesday, Aug. 18 has been postponed.**

We hope to do an activity in conjunction with conferences in October. It seemed too close to Supply Drop-off night where most families visited rooms and teachers. Open House will be more useful after a little more time has passed.

Parking Lot: To allow for more space during recess, outdoor breaks, and PE, **the main parking lot will be closed off during the day (8:30-2:30)** when weather is nice. If you visit the school during the day, please park in the spots along the west side and walk up to the main doors. **Preschool/Pre-K parents:** Please pick up morning and drop off afternoon kids in the same area and Mrs. Rachel will walk your kids in. In **wet or snowy weather**, the parking lot will be open for drop-off.

School Notes and Reminders:

The first week went really well! Students are learning to keep themselves spaced and are wearing their masks when needed. Please **remember to wash and return masks**—I suggest just keeping them in the backpacks so they always have them. Also, remember to **send water bottles back** on Monday.

***If you have any extra masks or water bottles that you could donate, we would keep them in the office as extras when needed.**

Baptism Mass will be on Aug. 21, 8 AM, for the students listed. It will be at the END of Mass. We would ask for only **one family member per child** to attend. You may sit in the vestibule or up in the choir loft. Students are seated out through the wings and all the way to the back. You are welcome to come for all of Mass or just the baptism ceremony (about 8:30). I will take pictures and share in the next Friday Note.

Paperwork - We need the following if you haven't returned them, yet:

- ✓ Kindergarten Physical
- ✓ Free and Reduced Lunch (green form)
- ✓ Acceptable Use Agreement for technology (yellow form)
- ✓ COVID screening release (white form)
- ✓ Registration card (white half-sheet card)

August	Baptism	Celebrants		
John	Meysenburg	5	A	9-Aug
Emmett	Kadavy	5	B	9-Aug
Jozlynn	Weldon	5	A	17-Aug
Rilley	Lowe	5	B	30-Aug
Danica	Romshek	4	A	29-Aug
Elijah	Parker	4	B	4-Aug
Josue	Chavez	4	B	6-Aug
Lucy	Podolak	3	B	21-Aug
Carter	Banholzer	3	B	28-Aug
Esther	Meysenburg	3	B	14-Aug
Joshua	Lowe	2	A	25-Aug
Caleb	Parker	2	A	4-Aug
Adam	Fozzard	1	A	26-Aug
Heston	Meysenburg	1	A	24-Aug
Ulysses	Kovanda	K	A	23-Aug
Michael	Collins	K	A	9-Aug
Sam	Scheele	K	B	24-Aug

Dress Code clarifications: Navy and light blue are fine for this year. We will start next fall in black, gold, and white. The only items that need to be purchased through Tommy Hilfiger are the plaid jumpers and skorts and cover-ups (except black/white sweaters—may be purchased anywhere). Previous year uniform cover-ups are fine. We just don't have to coordinate bulk orders for them anymore since you can order as needed through Tommy Hilfiger.

Summer Notes:

It was a busy (and long) *summer*. Here are some of the things we worked on:

- ✓ We had over 100 students in and out for **camp**: **academic prep** (reading/math), continued 3rd year of **Reading Clubs**, (K-1) Bootcamp became (K-2) Boredom Busters, added **Story Time** for Pre-K/K, added **Taekwondo**, and **robotics** branched into **STEM camp** (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, and **M**ath). It was a pretty busy summer, getting kids ready for the return to school.
- ✓ The staff (Holy Family, St. Mary's and Aquinas) spent several days working on a **new SEL (Social Emotional Learning) program** that will be implemented birth-grade 12. (More on this program next week).
- ✓ Technology: we **increased our up- and download speeds** on our internet service. Added a **smart board** to the speed/SPED support room, and won a **\$25,000 grant for a new set of iPads** to improve our technology access and writing opportunities from K-5. We will also use **\$18,000 of federal grant** funding to purchase **additional iPads and devices** for classroom use. This will allow for several devices to stay in each classroom for easy access.

Through St. Mary's Fundraising (fall Spirit shirts and spring Soup Supper):

- ✓ We reviewed and selected a **new music curriculum** for K-5. It is a very fun, web-based program with solid music content. (split cost with St. Mary's textbook budget)
- ✓ We **repainted** and repaired tiles in the **Gym**. New wall mats will be coming soon.
- ✓ We replaced remaining touch faucets and soap dispensers for touchless ones in all the restrooms.
- ✓ We **repainted the entry, the Kindergarten bathrooms, and 3 classrooms**. Now everything is up-to-date until we start the cycle again next year.
- ✓ Teachers invested in **needed classroom supplies and equipment**.
- ✓ All of this outside of our usual **maintenance, cleaning, painting, and floor waxing**.

IMPORTANT EVENTS NOTES:

High School sports scrimmages are coming up this weekend. Sat. Aug. 15 Volleyball at 10 AM, FB is at 8 PM (at Aquinas), Cross Country is on Thurs. Aug. 20 at 5 PM at Timber Point. **REQUIRED: children need to stay with parents** and are not allowed to run around. (rules from the NSAA).

Wahoo Flag Football: Only Household members are allowed to spectate. To ensure we do not have to resort to a "one spectator per child" policy please follow this with the utmost strictness. I also ask whenever possible limit the number of household members you have attending games. Coaches, spectators, and children are to arrive no earlier than 10 minutes prior to your court time. Doing this will help control crowd sizes (a necessity to ensure we can continue to play the season)!

Please note we will have designated Player/Coaches only areas and they are as follows:

North East Field= the entire grass area that is between the north side of the field and the ditch. **North**

Central/North West Field= the grass area that is between the two fields.

It's also worth noting if inclement weather occurs please call the WPR hotline 30 minutes prior to your Childs game to confirm games are being played as scheduled.

Grades 2-6 Volleyball Sign-up included—**Due Tue. Aug. 18**

This week at St. Mary's

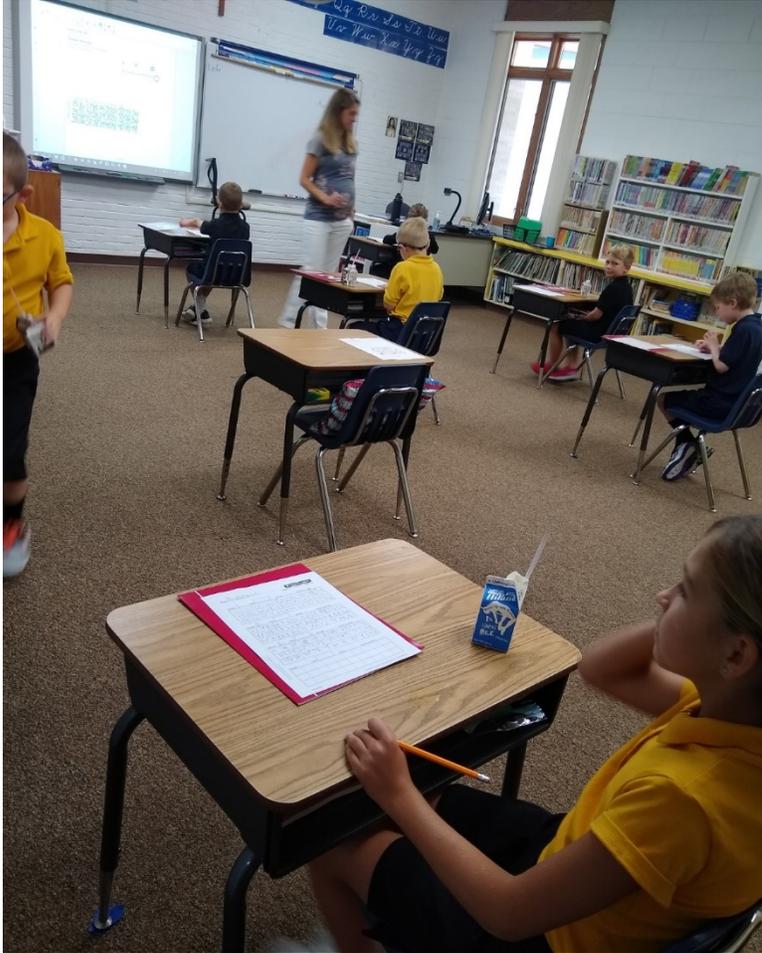
(a few glimpses into school this week):



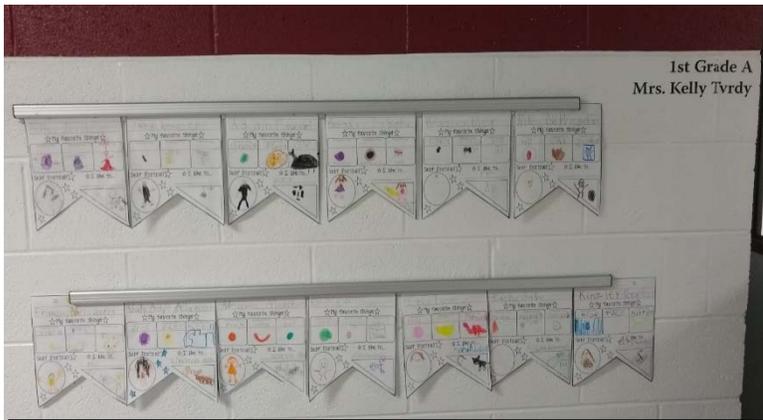
Mrs. Roh created this beautiful bulletin board in the hallway.



A lovely day for a "Mile Friday" with Mr. Pipal and Mrs. Vavrina's class. (Even though they didn't really run a mile ☺).



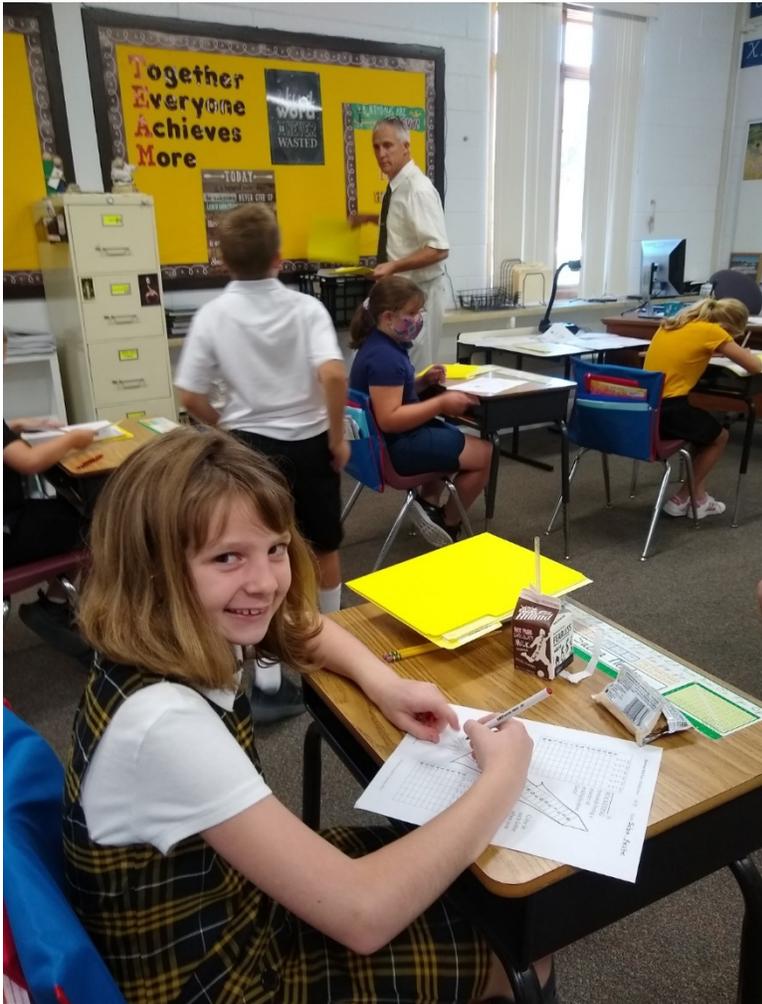
Practicing math in Mrs. Eller's. They say their facts are all coming back to them!!



Mrs. Tvrdy's class introductions with awesome self-portraits.



Miss Healy's Kinders started the day with some exciting bowling in PE.



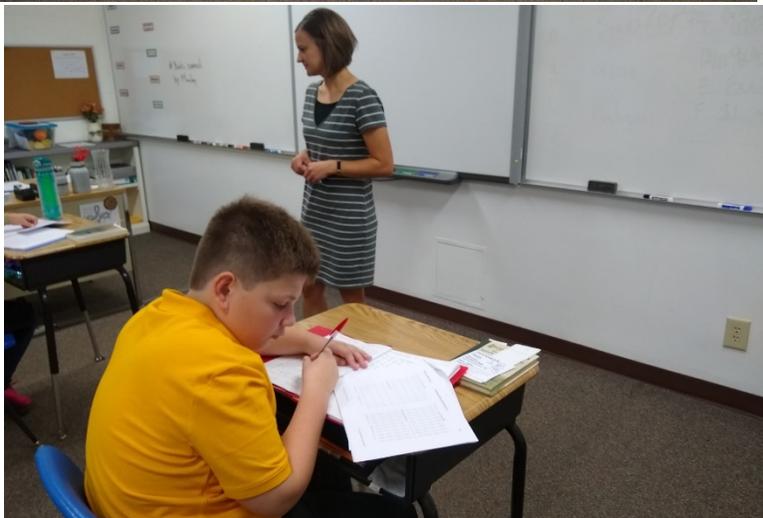
Shooting up the Rocket Math with Mr. Beller (and morning snack after Mass).



Your child may come home with some of these free books!



Mr. Weiss's 2nd graders warm up their math skills.



Miss Koranda's class finishes a lesson.