



SAINT MARY SCHOOL

FALL 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



“CATHOLIC EDUCATION AIMS NOT ONLY TO COMMUNICATE FACTS, BUT ALSO TO TRANSMIT A COHERENT, COMPREHENSIVE VISION OF LIFE, IN THE CONVICTION THAT THE TRUTHS CONTAINED IN THAT VISION LIBERATE STUDENTS IN THE MOST PROFOUND MEANING OF HUMAN FREEDOM.”

SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL II

INTRODUCTION

At St. Mary School, our mission is to be Christ-centered to all, to share the traditions of Catholicism through faithful service to our parish and local communities, and to build enduring academic foundations that foster growth-mindset and critical thinking in our students in an uplifting and nurturing environment.

Our school is steeped in rich history and tradition combined with innovation and high-quality education, and we are proud to share information about the current state of our school.

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SPIRITUAL LIFE

- Daily Prayer and Saint Story
- Weekly Mass
- Monthly Benediction
- Sacramental Preparation for First Communion, First Reconciliation, and Confirmation
- Penance Services
- Retreats for 5th-8th Grade Students
- Living Stations of the Cross
- Liturgical Season Activities

HOUSE SYSTEM

Our Middle School Houses are named after a saint and are each comprised of 8-10 sixth through eighth grade students who come together monthly to perform various service activities. The Houses are:

- Saint Stephen
- Saint John
- Saint Thomas
- Saint Therese
- Saint Peter
- Saint Joan of Arc
- Saint Bernadette



CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Our Catholic faith is the heart of who we are and all that we do. We believe that teaching the children to love as Christ has loved them will yield positive fruits in their lives and in the lives of those they meet. Ultimately, we want to help them become saints.

The goal of our catechetical efforts is to foster an environment that helps a Catholic Christian develop in knowing, practicing, and continuing to grow in the understanding of and teachings of Jesus and of the Catholic Church that we inherited from Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. It is in the Catholic Christian community, in its prayer and sacred liturgies and in its lived experience, that students will continue to learn how to live the challenge of the Catholic faith so as to help build God's Kingdom of justice, peace, and love.

The Diocese of Columbus Religious Course of Study offers standards in the areas of Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship, Knowledge of Faith, Liturgy and Sacraments, Morality, Christian Prayer, and Community Life.

By sharing the truths of the Catholic faith, our students grow both academically and spiritually.

Additionally, the Basilica of Saint Mary offers many faith enrichment opportunities that are available to Saint Mary School families. These include:

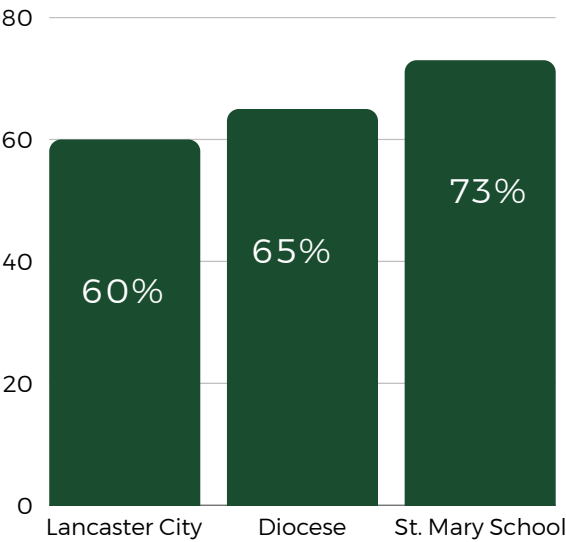
- Middle and High School Youth Groups
- Men's Group
- Women's Group
- Adult Faith Formation
- Book Studies
- Outreach Ministries
- OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

ACADEMICS

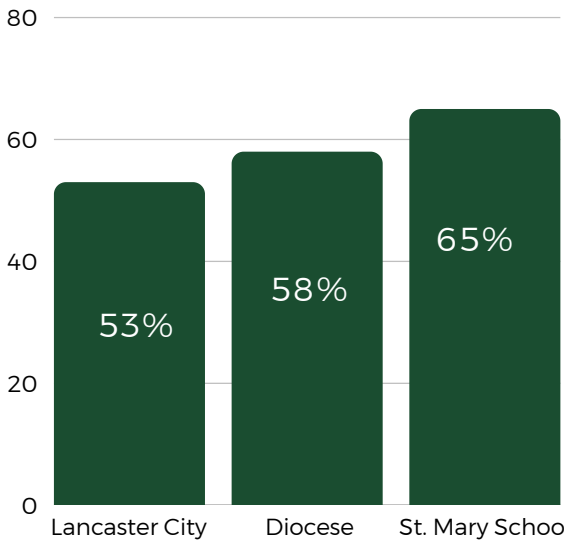
At Saint Mary School, our innovative and rigorous academic programs help to form not only critical thinkers, but also responsible citizens. Our teachers use a variety of methods to help each student achieve his/her full potential.

The scores below are from the Spring 2025 assessments.

STAR READING PROFICIENCY RATE

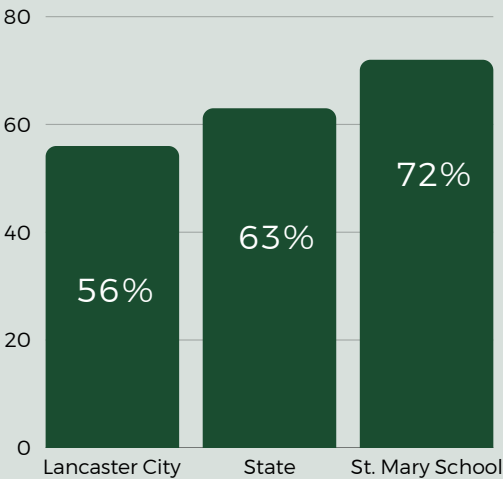


STAR MATH PROFICIENCY RATE



This rate is defined as the percent of students at or above the state proficiency level on the STAR Reading and Math Assessments.

In 2022, the Diocese of Columbus transitioned to measure proficiency based on the state benchmark instead of the diocesan benchmark in order to effectively compare our results to that of students across the state of Ohio.



STATE OF OHIO SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

This rate is defined as the percent of students who scored proficient or higher on the state science assessment, which is given to students in fifth and eighth grade annually.

ALGEBRA

100% of Saint Mary School students passed the Ohio Algebra End-of-Course Exam in Spring 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

100%

98%

THIRD GRADE READING GUARANTEE

All schools in the state of Ohio are required to administer a third grade reading guarantee assessment. 98% of our students during the past two years have passed this assessment.

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

Our average class size for the 2025-2026 academic year is projected to be 23 students

23

STUDENTS

S.T.E.M. AT ST. MARY

S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) instruction is a focal point at Saint Mary School. Each year, our seventh and eighth grade students participate in our local Science Fair. Students then have the opportunity to participate in the District Science Fair where many of our students who have attended have received high ratings. We also offer a S.T.E.M elective for our middle school students, and our younger students explore robotics in their technology classes.

In addition to these efforts, Saint Mary School is proud to announce that it has been the recipient of the Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in S.T.E.M. Education and Student Research. First established in 1985, the Governor's Thomas Edison Awards recognizes Ohio schools and teachers who stimulate scientific student research and technological design and extend experiential opportunities beyond traditional classroom activities.



DEMOGRAPHICS

20

ZIP CODES

The students in kindergarten through eighth grade reside in twenty different zip codes.

15

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Our kindergarten through eighth grade students reside in fifteen different school districts.

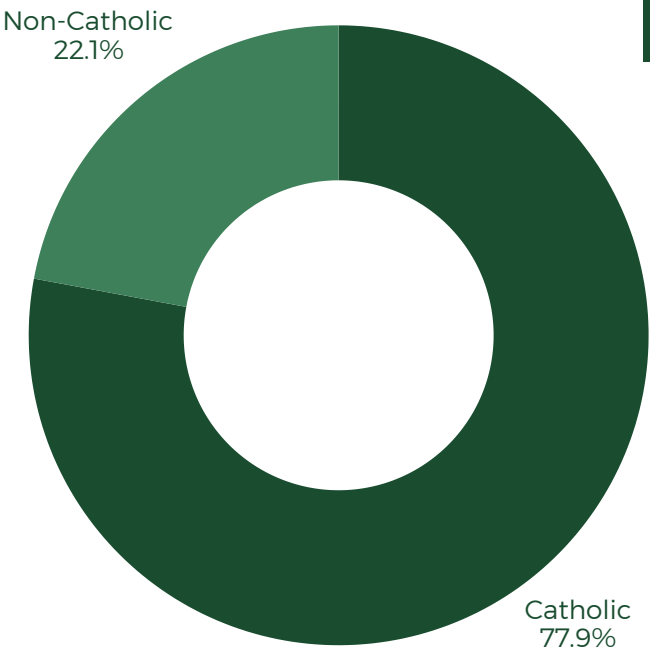
STATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Due to the expansion of Ohio's EdChoice Scholarship Program, every family in Ohio, regardless of their address or household income, can utilize state scholarship dollars to help fund tuition at the Catholic school of their choosing. The total number of students who receive state scholarships at Saint Mary School are listed below:

- EdChoice Traditional: 6 students
- EdChoice Expansion: 192 students
- Autism/Jon Peterson: 17 students

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

In our kindergarten through eighth grade classes, 173 students are Catholic and 49 students are not Catholic.

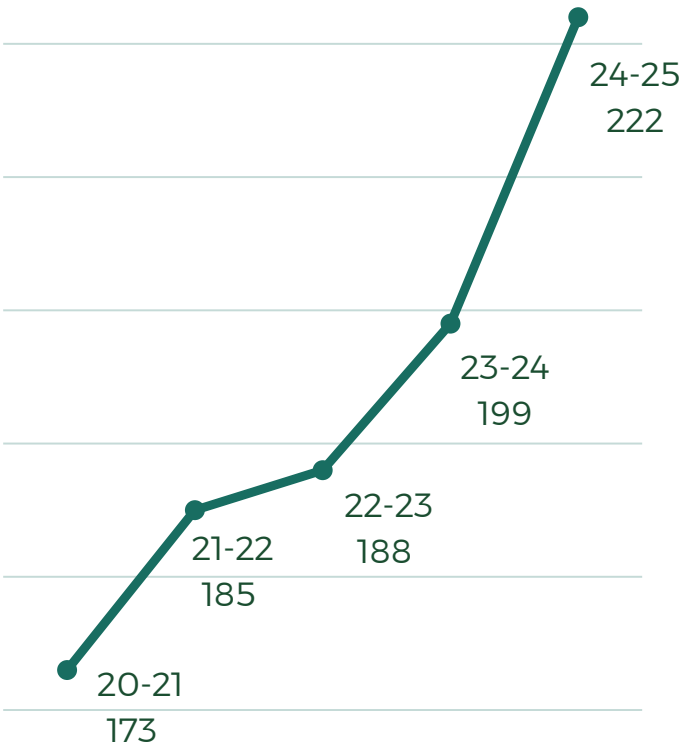


222

STUDENTS

There are 222 students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade.

K-8 ENROLLMENT TREND



63

STUDENTS

There are 63 students enrolled in our preschool program.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

237
YEARS

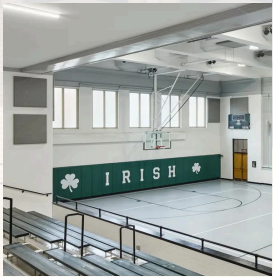
Our teachers have 237 years of combined teaching experience. At St. Mary School, our staff is committed to our mission and works to provide individualized instruction that is engaging, forward-thinking, and innovative in order to meet the needs of all of our learners.

“Teaching is a divine vocation, for it is God’s way of transforming hearts and minds through the gift of knowledge.”

-St. John Baptist de La Salle

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

ATHLETICS



St. Mary School competes in the Mid-State League (MSL) and offers a variety of sports for our seventh and eighth grade students including volleyball, football, track, and basketball. Club sports including soccer and baseball and Biddy sports for our younger students are also offered.

CHOIR, BAND, AND DRAMA

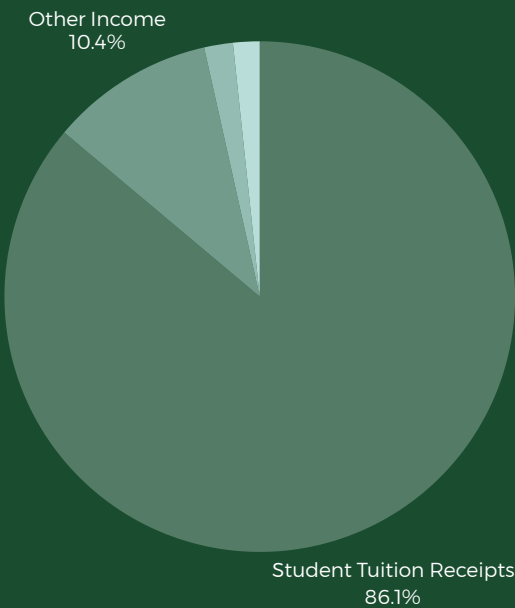
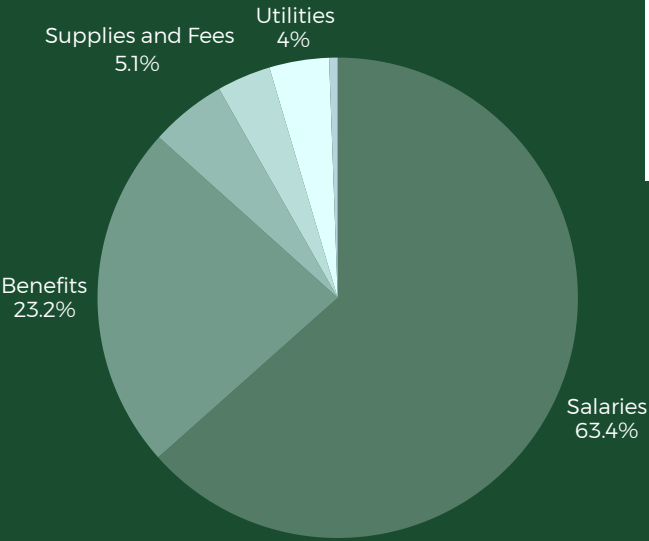


St. Mary School has a robust music program, which includes general music instruction, band, and choral instruction. Additionally, our middle school students’ talents are showcased each year in our Spring Musical.

FINANCES

24-25 EXPENSES

SALARIES	\$990,859.00
BENEFITS	\$362,483.00
SUPPLIES & FEES	\$80,252.00
MAINTENANCE	\$56,724.00
UTILITIES	\$62,732.00
INSURANCE	\$8,969.00



24-25 INCOME

STUDENT TUITION RECEIPTS	\$1,452,386.00
OTHER INCOME	\$175,199.00
OUTSIDE PARISH SCHOLARSHIPS	\$30,681.00
BASILICA SCHOLARSHIPS	\$28,324.00



100%

ELIGIBLE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

All students are eligible for at least one type of scholarship. Scholarships include EdChoice Expansion, FACTS Grant and Aid Scholarships, Jon Peterson Scholarships, and auxiliary scholarships.

MAINTENANCE



GYMNASIUM RENOVATION

Through the generosity of private donors, the Saint Mary Foundation, the Saint Mary Home and School Association, and the Basilica of Saint Mary, our gymnasium renovation has been completed. The end result was a functional, modern, and aesthetically-pleasing gymnasium for our students, staff, and visitors.

The total cost of the project was approximately \$580,000.00 and was completed May 2024-August 2024.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Removal of acoustic ceiling treatment, installation of new acoustic panels, and painting
- Purchase/Installation of new:
 - Adjustable backboards
 - Flooring
 - Projector and screen
 - Scoreboard
 - Motorized stage curtain
 - Tables and chairs
 - Updated sound and lighting



SPIRIT CENTER RENOVATION

Renovation of the Spirit Center began in June 2025. The scope of work includes burying utility lines, repaving the Spirit Center parking lot, reconstructing the Spirit Center retaining wall, renovating the Spirit Center restrooms, enhancing the Spirit Center and primary building entrances, and adding a Preschool Discovery Center. We look forward to sharing updates as this project progresses.

SAINT MARY HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Every parent/guardian at St. Mary School is a member of the Home and School Association. The Association's objectives include promoting communication and interactions between parents/teachers/school administration, providing opportunities for social interaction among parents and families, providing programs/activities for students, and assisting in providing financial support for the school through fundraising efforts.

All parents are invited to the Home and School Association meetings. Dates/times are listed on the HSA webpage on the Saint Mary website.

HSA CONTRIBUTIONS TO SAINT MARY SCHOOL

We are incredibly grateful for all that the Home and School Association does for our students and staff members. Below are a few of the many contributions of this organization:

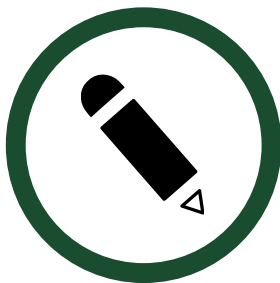
- Student agenda books
- Science Fair funding
- Uniform Exchanges
- Irish Pride rewards
- Honors Choir performance
- Teacher appreciation experiences
- Field Day
- Graduation Dance
- Transportation for field trips
- Tuition assistance for all students
- Refreshments at school events
- Father-daughter & mother-son events
- Grandparents' Day
- Welcome gifts for Middle School Visit Day
- Family Directory books
- Donations to local Catholic school fundraisers



ALUMNI

St. Mary School has a rich history of providing Catholic education in Fairfield County for over a century. In 1847, Fr. Young, Pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption, asked Eliza Gillespie to start a parochial school for the parish. She became the first teacher at St. Mary and instructed older students. A second teacher was then hired to instruct younger students. The first St. Mary School building was opened on September 7, 1907 and continues to serve as part of the school today. By 1929 a newer facility was built, which initially served as the St. Mary High School and graduated 27 students in its inaugural year.

To date, it is estimated that St. Mary School has “graduated” over 2,800 students. Our alumni represent an invaluable piece of our school history and our community, and we actively seek and appreciate their involvement. Below are three tangible ways for our alumni to continue to stay connected to our school community long after they leave our campus.



CONNECT

To update your contact information in our alumni database, please visit:
www.saintmarylanaster.org/alumni

Click:
“Alumni Form”



VISIT

To schedule a tour or inquire about upcoming events, please call our school office or visit our school website.



GIVE

In-kind gifts and monetary donations can be made by calling our school office or mailing donations to the address below:

Saint Mary School
Attn: Alumni Donation Fund
309 E. Chestnut Street
Lancaster, OH 43130

“THE MISSION OF THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS THE INTEGRAL FORMATION OF STUDENTS, SO THAT THEY MAY BE TRUE TO THEIR CONDITION AS CHRIST’S DISCIPLES AND AS SUCH WORK EFFECTIVELY FOR THE EVANGELIZATION OF CULTURE AND FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF SOCIETY.”

SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL II





SAINT MARY SCHOOL

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