

Saint Mary School

"Faith in Every Student"



State of the School Update
Parents' Night - September 20, 2011

Our students are our mission

- ❖ **Faith:** Our students learn and practice their faith, ensuring that the love of God in their hearts and souls will sustain them and remain the one constant in their ever-changing lives.
- ❖ **Academics:** Our students are developing 21st century skills to lay the foundation for a lifetime of learning and discovery (e.g., problem solving, critical thinking, analytical decision making and collaboration.)
- ❖ **Community:** Our students are supported by a community (parents, teachers, clergy, peers) with common goals and values, modeled in Christ. In this family atmosphere, they learn about love and compassion for others, cultivated in service for those in need.

***SMS provides academics to last a lifetime
and faith for all eternity.***



SMS has come a long way, with much to be proud of

- ❖ From our re-start in 1996, we have built one of the highest performing schools in the country:
 - National Blue Ribbon School Award 2010
 - 2010 Excelsior Award
- ❖ Our enrollment is strong and we continue to attract new families
 - 174 K-8 students; 80 pre-school students
- ❖ We attract and retain exceptional teaching talent, committed to their dual roles as academic instructors and spiritual stewards
- ❖ Our students are thriving:
 - Sustained high performance on standardized tests
 - Strong placement history at top high schools and colleges
 - Numerous academic and community service awards annually
 - A palpable “joie de vivre” - they’re happy here, just ask them!



Unique programs distinguish SMS

- ❖ Science and technology (e.g., middle school NetBook initiative, NASA science program, smartboards, computer lab)
- ❖ Arts programs (e.g., art exhibits / art fair, concerts, band program)
- ❖ Foreign language for all grades
- ❖ Integrative learning projects, shared across the entire SMS community (e.g., State Fair, Colonial Day, Science Fair, Math Fair, etc.)
- ❖ Sports opportunities (e.g., track & field, volleyball, cheerleading, middle school affiliation with Ridgefield Academy)
- ❖ Buddy / mentoring system that links older and younger students
- ❖ Continuous charitable outreach - giving, caring, sharing
- ❖ Public speaking requirements (e.g., Mass, concerts, special events)
- ❖ After school enrichment (e.g., chess, drama, crafts, phys ed)
- ❖ Full day preschool program with flexible schedule choices



We continue to improve and grow

New initiatives for the 2011-2012 school year include:

- ❖ Ongoing technology upgrade and integration with curriculum, including new tech integrator position
- ❖ Introduction of STEM period for middle school students (science, technology, engineering and math)
- ❖ Integration of Gospel values into curriculum
- ❖ French expanded to K-5 students
- ❖ String instrument program, available from age 3
- ❖ Enhanced after-school enrichment programs, in partnership with 3rd parties
- ❖ Improved parent communication and outreach via new coordinator position, revamped website (year-end), etc.
- ❖ Additional pre-K 4's program with enhanced options



Roles of the SAB and HSA

The School Advisory Board (SAB) advises the Principal on discrete operating issues:

- Development (i.e., annual fund)
- Facilities
- Finance
- Marketing
- Strategic Planning

The Home School Association (HSA) focuses on building the community:

- Communicating with and on behalf of SMS parents
- Providing assistance to SMS staff (e.g., room parents, book fair)
- Organizing social events (e.g., father / daughter dance, golf outing)
- Promoting SMS throughout Ridgefield



2011-2012 SAB and HSA Members

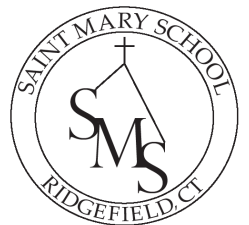
School Advisory Board

Msgr. Bronkiewicz
Principal Anna O'Rourke
Ray Piniella (SAB Chair)
Sean Donovan (Co-Chair)
Brian Douglas
Scott Edwardson
Don Kager
Devin Meenan
Stacey Mullins
Leila Stuhr
Mike Taylor

Home School Association

Stacey Mullins (HSA Chair)
Alison Brown
Amy Dowding
MaryEllen Donovan
Danielle Edwardson
Marcia Giorgio
Wendy Harco

***The SAB and HSA are your representatives - please seek them out,
share your thoughts, and volunteer to help***



We need your help

The SMS community is vibrant and thriving thanks to the devotion and commitment of our parents. Your time, talent and ideas are essential - we need your ongoing support:

- ❖ Every HSA event and project is organized and staffed by volunteers:
 - Book fair
 - Yearbook
 - Father / daughter dance
 - Mother / son event
 - Wine dinners / parent socials
 - Talent show
 - Golf outing
 - Cookbook

- ❖ The SAB has various sub-committees that need assistance:
 - Marketing; Technology; Facilities; Strategic Planning; Annual Fund



Upcoming Events

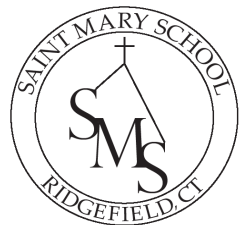
- Thursday, September 22 New family coffee (at Stacey Mullins')
- Thursday, October 6 Mom's night out (at Diane Piniella's)
- Wednesday, November 9 Fall wine dinner at Toscana
- October / November (TBD) Dad's night out
- Friday, January 27 Father / daughter dance (snow date, Feb. 4)
- March / April (TBD) Mom's night out and Dad's night out
- May (TBD) Mother / son event
- May (TBD) End of year parent social
- June (TBD) Golf outing

Stay tuned to the calendar in the “Penguin Postings” section of the SMS website: www.smsridgefield.org/PenguinPostings.html



Summary

- ❖ Saint Mary School is the strongest it has ever been - academically, financially and spiritually
- ❖ We are successfully fulfilling our mission, growing our students' hearts and minds in faith
- ❖ Yet, we have much to do as we continuously strive to improve
- ❖ Thank you for all that you have done
- ❖ And thank you in advance for your ongoing support and essential volunteerism



Saint Mary School

“Faith in Every Student”

