



July 30, 2026

Dear St. Mary's Families,

It's getting to be that time again! While we're all a little sad to see summer winding down, there's also a lot of excitement as another school year approaches. I hope you've had a wonderful summer filled with family, fun, and a little time to relax. We can't wait to welcome everyone back to St. Mary's for another great year!

As we begin another school year together, we're reminded how blessed we are to be part of a school where faith is woven into everything we do. Our mission is not only to help students grow academically, but also spiritually, socially, and emotionally. Thank you for allowing us to partner with you in that important work.

This year, we're excited to welcome two new members to our school family.

Miss Homolka joins us as our new Spanish teacher for both the grade school and high school. She is originally from Chambers, where much of her family still lives, and comes to us after teaching Spanish in Kearney. We are excited to have her join our faculty and know she will be a wonderful addition to our school community.

We're also excited to welcome **Mrs. Skylar Eby** as our new grade school secretary. Miss Skylar is taking over for Miss Patty and may already be a familiar face to many of our families. She and her husband, Kyle, have three children, including two St. Mary's students—Matthew, who will be in first grade this year, and Charli, who will be in eighth grade. If you have a chance during Open House, please stop by the office and introduce yourself. I'm sure Miss Skylar would enjoy meeting all of our school families.

Open House

Our Back to School **Open House** will be held on Monday, August 17, from 6:30–8:00 p.m.

This is a wonderful opportunity for students to reacquaint themselves with their teachers, visit their classrooms, and bring any additional school supplies that might not all fit into backpacks on the first day of school. Parents can stop by the office to pick up their beginning-of-the-year folders from Miss Skylar, complete any remaining paperwork, and ask any last-minute questions before the school year begins. We hope to see all of you there!

A/C

As many of you may know, Kayl Heating and Air spent the summer working through the startup of our new HVAC system. While they've made some progress, they're still working through a few issues. At this point, the upstairs floor of the high school, both gyms, the Commons, the HS offices, the northeast and southeast quads of the GS and the Parish Hall all have working air conditioning. The remaining areas of the building are still being addressed.

We're hopeful everything will be fully operational by the time school begins, but we simply don't know. We'll continue to monitor the situation and we'll be sure to keep everyone updated as we learn more. Make sure you are signed up for Flocknote notifications, as that is the primary vehicle we use to announce early outs, as well as late starts and cancellations.

First Day of School

The first day of school is Thursday, August 20. To help everyone ease back into the school routine, we will dismiss at 1:30 p.m. that day. Beginning Friday, August 21, we will follow our regular school schedule of 8:00 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.

Afternoon Pick-Up

We'll continue using the one-way traffic pattern on Benton Street during afternoon pick-up. This system worked very well last year, and we appreciate everyone's cooperation.

For our new families, vehicles should approach the grade school traveling west on Benton Street and continue south on 3rd Street after picking up students. We ask that all vehicles travel east to west on Benton Street during this busy time of congestion and avoid traveling west to east. While Benton Street is not officially designated as one-way during school dismissal, this courtesy helped traffic move safely and efficiently last year, and we'd like to continue that practice this year.

After School

Remember that there is no supervision on the playground or in the GS gym after school. To minimize distractions for our high school students, grade school students may not go to the high school until the HS students are dismissed at 3:30. **GS students waiting for the high school to dismiss will meet in the corridor next to the GS office and wait quietly by the bench.** Miss Skylar or I will dismiss them to the high school when the 3:30 bell rings.

School Mass

Our first All-School Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, August 26, at 8:10 a.m. Students should report to their classrooms as usual and will walk to church with their classmates and teachers. Parents, grandparents, and family members are always welcome to join us for Mass. We love having you celebrate with us whenever you're able.

A Few Quick Reminders

Flocknote: We use Flocknote for immediate communication with families. Important announcements, weather-related school closings, schedule changes, reminders, and other school updates are sent through this platform. If you're new to St. Mary's—or if your email address or phone number has changed—please take a few minutes to make sure your contact information is up to date. To sign up for Flocknote, visit the St. Mary's website, click on Current Students, and then select Flocknote Sign Up. Staying connected through Flocknote is the best way to ensure you receive important school information throughout the year.

New Kindergarten Families: We're excited to welcome our newest Cardinals! Please remember that a **certified birth certificate, current immunization record, physical exam (within the last six months), and vision evaluation (within the last six months)** must be on file in the office *before your child's first day of school*. If you have any questions, please give Miss Skylar a call in the GS office (402)336-2664 after August 3.

School Handbook: Please take a few minutes to review this year's handbook with your child before school begins. We ask that all handbook acknowledgment forms and beginning-of-the-year paperwork be returned promptly (these will be in your folders that you pick up at the Open House). Our handbook can be found here: <https://www.stmarysoneill.org/student-handbook>

Attendance: If your child will be absent or arriving late, please notify the school office as early as possible.

Cell Phones & Smart Watches: Grade school students are encouraged to leave phones and smart watches at home whenever possible. If a student must bring a phone to school, it should be turned off and checked into the office or with your child's classroom teacher upon arrival. Phones may be picked up at the end of the school day.

Athletic Events: As our fall activities get underway, we'd like to remind families of our expectations at school-sponsored events. **School-age students** are welcome to enjoy the game with their friends in the **student section**, but parents remain responsible for supervising their children throughout the evening. We ask that students demonstrate good sportsmanship, remain in appropriate areas of the building, and represent St. Mary's in a positive manner. School events are an extension of the school day, and we appreciate your help in making our athletic contests safe, enjoyable, and family-friendly for everyone.

Looking Ahead

Every school year brings new opportunities, new friendships, and new adventures. Whether this is your family's first year at St. Mary's or your fifteenth, we're grateful you've chosen to be part of our school family.

As always, thank you for your patience as everyone settles into new routines during the first few weeks of school. Whether you're a new family or a returning one, don't hesitate to ask questions—we're here to help. The beginning of the year can be busy, but before long we'll all be back into the rhythm of another great year at St. Mary's.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children each day. It is a responsibility we never take for granted, and we look forward to another wonderful year of learning, growing, and celebrating our faith together.

We hope to see all of you at **Open House** on Monday, August 17, and we can't wait to welcome our students back on **Thursday, August 20!**

Here's hoping that the remainder of your summer is wonderful!

Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Pray for Us!

Sincerely,



Jennie Schneider
Grade School Principal

ST. MARY'S GRADE SCHOOL

SUPPLY LIST 2026-2027

PRESCHOOL

- 8 glue sticks
- 1 box of Crayola primary crayons
- 1 regular sized book bag
- 1 Crayola water paint
- 1 box of Kleenex
- 4 containers Play-Doh
- 2 Expo dry erase markers

KINDERGARTEN

- 2 boxes of 16 regular Crayola crayons
- 6 #2 plain yellow pencils (not fancy)
- 1 rectangular pink eraser
- 1 pencil box
- 6 glue sticks
- 1 box of Kleenex
- 1 book bag
- 1 small dish rag (to be used as an eraser)
- 2 dry erase markers (black)

FIRST GRADE

- 1 box of 16 or 24 regular Crayola crayons
- 1 book bag
- 1 paint shirt
- 6 glue sticks (not liquid)
- 6 pencils (#2 lead, yellow, not fancy)
- 1 scissors (Fiskars)
- 2 pink rectangle pencil erasers
- 1 pencil box
- 2 boxes of Kleenex
- 1 yellow Highlighter
- 1 orange Highlighter

SECOND GRADE

- 10 pencils #2 (no mechanical)
- 1 box of 24 crayons
- 1 pencil box (no lock or key ones and no bags)
- 8 glue sticks,
- 1 scissors
- 1 pink rectangle pencil eraser
- 2 two pocket folders
- 8 dry erase markers
- 1 pair headphones or earbuds (no wireless/Bluetooth)
- 3 highlighters
- 1 spiral notebook.
- 1 box of Kleenex
- 1 container of Clorox wipes
- 1 box of gallon or quart size Ziploc bags

THIRD GRADE

- 10 pencils (#2 lead, yellow, not fancy)
- 1 pink rectangle pencil eraser
- 1 box of 24 crayons (no larger)
- 1 pencil box
- 8 glue sticks
- 1 scissors (Fiskars)
- 2 boxes of Kleenex
- 2 red pens
- 1 box of colored pencils (optional)
- 3 highlighters (different colors)
- 1 spiral bound notebook
- 1 pair of headphones or earbuds
- 1 container of Clorox wipes
- 1 ruler (hard not flexible)
- 6 dry erase markers (any color)

FOURTH GRADE

- 10 pencils #2 lead
- 3 glue sticks
- 1 scissors
- 5 two pocket folders
- 1 pink rectangle pencil eraser
- 1 highlighter yellow
- 1 pencil box
- 6 dry erase markers (any color)
- 1 box of crayons and colored pencils
- 1 pack of loose-leaf paper – college Ruled
- 1 pair of earbuds (no wireless/Bluetooth)
- 1 ruler (hard not flexible)
- 1 expo marker eraser (can be an old rag or sock)
- 1 box of markers
- 3 boxes of Kleenex
- 2 roll of paper towels
- 2 containers of Clorox wipes

FIFTH GRADE

- 2 red pens
- 12 pencils (#2 lead, yellow, not fancy)
- 1 glue stick
- 1 box of crayons
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 1 box of markers
- 3 spiral notebooks
- 1 scissors
- 2 boxes of Kleenex
- 4 pocket folders
- 3 highlighters
- 4 dry erase markers (any color)
- 1 pencil box
- 2 packages of loose-leaf paper
- 1 container of Clorox wipes

SIXTH GRADE

- 1 three ring binder (1" size)
- 2 pkgs reinforced loose-leaf paper
- 1 blue pen
- 1 red pen
- 2 yellow highlighters
- 12 pencils (#2 lead, yellow, not fancy)
- 1 glue stick
- 1 box of Kleenex
- 1 spiral notebook
- 1 scissors
- 3 pocket folders
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 3 large book covers
- 1 box of washable markers
- 1 pkg of four dry erase markers
- 1 pair of headphones or earbuds (to leave at school)
- 1 container of Clorox wipes