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## ST. MARY'S SCHOOL FAQ

### **Does my child have to be Catholic to attend St. Mary's School?**

No. Currently, 22% of our student population is non-Catholic. All students will participate in religion classes and all spiritual activities as part of our curriculum.

### **Are scholarships available for tuition?**

The full cost of educating a student at St. Mary's School is approximately \$5,700 annually. By the generosity of our parishioners, the parish invests in each student resulting in a base tuition rate (before parishioner and/or multiple student discounts) of \$3,250. Additional financial assistance is available. Information is available on our website. Please call the school office for complete details.

### **Are there any other tuition discounts?**

All new families receive a one-time, new-family tuition discount. Any family referring a new family to SMS will receive a referral discount.

### **Are payment plans available?**

Yes. Tuition and fees may be paid in one, two, ten, or twelve installments.

### **How do I get up-to-date information or calendar changes?**

A weekly bulletin is emailed to each family every Thursday. You can also opt-in to receive texts and emails from our broadcast alert system.

### **What are the hours of the school day?**

Our day begins at 8:00 with announcements and prayer in the old gym, a.k.a. the multi-purpose room (MPR). The school day ends at 3:00.

### **What door do I drop my child off at in the morning?**

Parents may enter the parking lot on Chicago Street, stop at the gym doors to drop off their child, and exit onto Howard Street. Parents may also pull over to curb heading northbound on Main Street and let their child out onto the sidewalk to enter through the front doors of the school. Please do not stop in the middle of the street on Main Street or drop children off heading southbound on Main Street.

### **What is the dress code?**

Students may wear navy tops with khaki bottoms or white tops with navy or khaki bottoms.

- Boys will wear pants. Shorts may be worn during hot weather.
- Girls may wear pants or skirts. Girls in grades K – 3 may wear jumpers. Shorts or capri pants may be worn during hot weather.

Please refer to our handbook (available on our website) for a complete list of uniform options.

### **Are P.E. uniforms required?**

P. E. uniforms are required for students in grades 4-8. They consist of navy blue shorts with a light blue shirt. Non-marking tennis shoes are required for all students.

### **What time is lunch?**

Students in grades 5-8 eat lunch from 11:30-11:55 and have recess from 11:55-12:20.

Grades K-4 have recess from 11:30-11:55 and eat from 11:55-12:20.

### **Are hot lunch and milk available to students?**

Students may bring a sack lunch and eat in the MPR or eat hot lunch at Central School. Milk is available for purchase in the MPR. Children eating hot lunch will be escorted by a lunch supervisor to Central School. Hot lunch prices are determined by District 429. All milk and hot lunch money will be paid to St. Mary's.

### **What is required to be a volunteer at the school?**

Three things are required for adults to volunteer at St. Mary's School. You must complete a background check form, complete a fingerprint form, and watch a Safe Environment power point from the Diocese of Peoria. Forms are available in the school office and need to be returned to the office upon completion. The school office can also provide you with information regarding the power point presentation. There are many opportunities to volunteer at St. Mary's School. Some of these include being a room parent, reading to kindergarteners, walking students to speech classes at Central School, supervising at lunchtime, and helping in the library.

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