



Faith Knowledge Service Leadership

221 E. Washington Avenue  
Tomahawk, WI 54487  
Phone (715) 453-3542  
Fax (715) 453-9195  
<http://www.stmaryschool.biz>

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Dear St. Mary's Parishioners and friends,

It is with great joy and excitement that we share wonderful news—St. Mary's School will be expanding to include 6th grade starting in the fall of 2025! Our current facilities allow us to add a 6<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2025-26 school year and a 7<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2026-27 school year. A plan for the addition of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades was presented to the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils and to the School Executive Board as well as to Bishop Powers. There was unanimous support from our councils and Bishop Powers voiced his approval as well.

In preparation for this transition, we plan to hire a 6th-grade teacher and offer a well-rounded curriculum that includes core subjects along with specialized classes such as home economics, technology, cooking, and foreign language—in addition to our existing religion, art, music, and physical education programs. Furthermore, middle school students at St. Mary's will continue to have access to extracurricular activities in collaboration with the local public school.

One of the greatest benefits of this expansion is the opportunity for students to thrive in smaller class sizes, receive personalized attention, and grow academically and spiritually in a faith-centered environment.

At the meeting of the councils, another dream was presented, the possibility of adding an 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the future. The addition of an 8<sup>th</sup> grade would require an expansion of the school facilities, including the addition of more classrooms, a gymnasium, a larger cafeteria and increased storage space. The councils gave support to start exploring the possibility of the addition of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. As part of this exciting prospect, we are looking to form a committee to determine the feasibility of this dream. We are looking for dedicated volunteers to join this committee, with our first session planned for April.

We are grateful for your continued support and prayers as we embark on this journey. If you are interested in being part of our 8th Grade Exploratory Committee, please reach out—we would love your input and assistance in making this vision a reality!

Blessings,

Juanita Skubal  
St. Mary's Catholic School Principal

Father Aloysius Anthony  
St. Mary's Catholic Church Pastor

*We strive to develop the whole child through prayer, family involvement, service, and excellence in education.*