

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL-BELEN, NM 2021-2022 STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK



"Be the Light"

Leader-Inspirational-Generous-Holy-Thoughtful

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are the light. Live as children of light- for the fruit of life is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Ephesians 5:8-10

The Organization of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Catholic Schools

Saint Mary's of Belen

101 N. Church Street Belen, NM 87002

www.stmarysbelen.com

ARCHBISHOP OF SANTA FE

Most Rev. John Wester

SUPERINTENDENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS Ms. Susan Murphy

PASTOR OF OUR LADY OF BELEN PARISH Rev. Clement Niggel

PRINCIPAL OF SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL: Mrs. Melanie S. Chavez

Teachers and Staff at Saint Mary's

Pre-K	Ms. Rose Trent	Middle School Math and 8 th gr. Social Studies	Ms. Vera Gibson
Kindergarten	Ms. Elena Padilla	MS Lang.Art, Literature & 7 th gr. S.S	Ms. Elsie Prevot
1 st Grade	Ms. Charlene Baca	MS Science/ 6 th grade S.S	Ms. Alexandra Carrillo
2 nd Grade	Ms. Melissa Jaramillo	PE/Athletic Director	Ms. Samantha Padilla
3 rd Grade	Ms. Carmen Chavez	Music	Mr. Shawn Lightfoot
4 th Grade	Mr. John Martinez	Educational Assistants:	Ms. Susan Barela
5 th Grade	Ms. Merita Wilsom	Bookkeeper	Ms. Mary Sanchez
Office Manager:	Ms. Janet Montoya	Cafeteria	Susie Armijo and April Foster
Computer Tech:	Ms. Sohaila Lucero	Maintenance and Custodial	Felipe Sanchez

Philosophy: We at Saint Mary's Catholic School actively strive to teach as Jesus taught. In the tradition of our patroness, the blessed Mother, we recognize parents as the primary educators of their children and want to assist them in their role in teaching and guiding their children to live their Catholic faith. We are committed to providing:

- a. activities that allow students to experience prayer and liturgy;
- b. quality educational opportunities for students of varied academic abilities;
- c. financial aid programs to assist those families unable to assume full financial responsibility for tuition;
- d. opportunities for students to serve others in order to fulfill the mandate of the Gospel and the demands of justice, and to recognize that society requires the cooperation and contribution of each of its members.

We believe this will provide the foundation for our students to become faith filled and productive members of our community.

Mission: At Saint Mary's School, we are committed to the growth of our Catholic identity, academic potential and community involvement.

Motto: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians

2021-22 Student Learning Expectations

Faith

I will learn about my faith.

I will pray throughout my day.

I will make good choices.

I will share my faith with others.

Excellence

I will explain what I am learning.

I will track my progress.

I will use technology responsibly.

I will solve problems.

Service

I will learn about social justice.

I will be a peacemaker.

I will serve others.

I will follow the Golden Rule.

POLICY NO. 1050

SUBJECT: THE ROLE OF THE PASTOR/RECTOR IN PARISH/REGIONAL PRESCHOOLS AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The Pastor/Rector is the Canonical leader of the parish/deanery of which the school is a part. In collaboration with the Superintendent, the Pastor/Rector has the responsibility for both the spiritual and administrative leadership of the Parish/Regional school. The administrative supervision of the Parish/Regional school is delegated to the Principal/Preschool Director. In addition to the Pastor's responsibilities, as described in other sections of this handbook, the Pastor/Rector in collaboration with the Superintendent is responsible for hiring and supervising the Principal/Preschool Director of the Parish/Regional preschool and elementary school, promulgating school policies, and approving local school consultative council recommendations. As the primary administrative and spiritual leader for the Catholic school, the Pastor/Rector consults and cooperates with the Superintendent and Principal/Preschool Director in matters concerning educational policy, administrative practices, and formation of the Catholic school community. He works closely with the Superintendent of Catholic schools and Principal/Preschool Director in areas such as law, personnel, and the administration of the school.

POLICY NO. 1060

SUBJECT: THE ROLE OF THE PRINCIPAL

Under the supervision of the Pastor/Rector and the Superintendent, the Principal is responsible for the general administration and operation of the school as specified in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Principal Competencies and in accordance with Archdiocesan and local school policies, applicable state laws and the policies and standards of the accrediting association designated by the Superintendent. S/he functions as the school's spiritual leader and chief administrator and provides leadership in all phases of the educational programs of the school.

A--ADMISSION POLICIES

Enrollment in a Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe (elementary or secondary) is an annual process and is open to students who sincerely seek a Catholic, Christian-oriented education. Although we welcome all students interested in a well-rounded, academic education, practicing Catholics will feel the most at home in our faith-based atmosphere. Students will not be refused admission to Catholic schools because of race, color, gender, or national origin. (FAM-501) St. Mary's Catholic School operates under the direction of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. We also attest that Saint Mary's does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its admission policies, treatment of students, or its employment practices.

Age requirements:

St. Mary's Pre-K accepts children from ages 3½ to 4 years. Students must be 3 1/2 by August 31 of the school year. Children entering Kindergarten must be 5 years old by August 31 of the school year [NM Law 22-8-2M]. (Completion of a pre-school program does not replace the minimum age requirement.) Children entering First Grade

must be six years old by August 31 of the school year [NM Law 22-8-2M].

New students seeking admission to St. Mary's Catholic School and their families will meet with the principal. Screening assessments may be scheduled for kinder through 8th grade. When necessary, these tests may be used as a consideration for admission. Previous behavior records, reasons for seeking admission, and commitment to the rules, regulations and traditions of St. Mary's Catholic School will be considered. A student expelled by another school (Catholic, private, or public) is generally disqualified from admission to St. Mary's. Admission and/or re-enrollment may be denied based on the best interests of the school and its students. Admission may also be denied if a student has special needs that cannot be met at St. Mary's Catholic School.

Re-admission of a student who previously voluntarily withdrew from St. Mary's Catholic School is at the discretion of the Principal. Students who leave St. Mary's and attend another school for a semester or more may be asked to take a placement test upon returning to St. Mary's to insure the grade level status.



AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Saint Mary's seeks to offer after school opportunities for students. We would like to have at least one club, class service project or other activity Monday through Thursday from 3:20 to 4:30PM. Students will be able to sign up for the days of the week that they want to stay and participate. It is possible that there will be a materials fee in some cases, but for the most part, these classes will be just for fun. Saint Mary's now offers **Roadrunners 4-H Club** for K-8th and **Robotics** from 4th through 8th Grade. Chess Club after school times will be determined. Only students signed up for the activities will be allowed to stay after school.

ATHLETICS

Saint Mary's offers competitive team sports for students in grades fifth through eighth. Only students with their physicals up to date and registered in the sport will be allowed to stay after school. Siblings of students in sports cannot be unattended on the premises during practice

and/or game times. Please refer to the athletic handbook for information regarding sports at Saint Mary's.

St. Mary's and APIAL offers elementary sports for first through 4th graders as well. These are not competitive and all students can sign up to play for a fee. The sign up is usually done on-line through APIAL. The games will be scheduled either here in Belen or in Albuquerque. The Athletic handbook will contain more information about sports.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Excused absences are illness, family emergencies, religious commitments, death in the family, diagnostic testing, school sponsored activities and doctor's appointment. All family vacations are unexcused absences.

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to notify the school when the student is absent. Notification is to be made to the school office by 9:00 AM. Absences not reported will be counted as unexcused. If a child has five unexcused absences in a 20 day period, state truancy officers could be notified or other state agencies in accordance with the New Mexico Compulsory School Attendance Law for educational neglect [NM Law 22-12-2].

A student must be present for a majority of the day to receive credit for the day. If a student is out any part of the day, it will be marked a tardy (up to 2 hours at the beginning or end of the day). After that, it becomes a half day.

If a student misses up to ten days excused or unexcused during the school year, a parent conference will be held and the student may be ineligible for continued enrollment.

Twenty (20) days of absence, or the equivalent of 20 days of absence including tardies, early dismissals and or absences in the middle of the day (whether excused or unexcused) can be cause for a student to be retained in the current grade for another year.

Tardies: Excessive tardies are a disruption to the class and are to be avoided at all costs. If a parent signs out a child from an afternoon field trip to take them home, the child will not be counted tardy or suffer any penalty provided they leave the field trip at the same time as the other students.

School Tardy Penalties (By Grading Period):

- 1). First & Second Tardy in a Grading Period: Verbal warning
- 2). Third Tardy: Written Notification

3). Excessive Tardies: State truancy officers could be notified or other state agencies in accordance with the New Mexico Compulsory School Attendance Law for educational neglect [NM Law 22-12-2].

Release of Students during the School Day

Please try not to disrupt your child's school day. If the need arises, you will need to personally come to the office when picking up students early and complete a Student Release Form. If the student returns to school that same day, the parent must accompany him/her to the office and complete the second half of the form. Please, do not just drop the child off without checking into the office and signing him/her in. If someone other than the parent/guardian is assuming responsibility for the student at the time of release, that person must be listed on the student's "emergency contact list and early release" form and the parent/guardian must inform the school ahead of time by phone or email. We cannot legally release your child to someone who is NOT on the list. Students will be released from the classroom once you sign into the office. If a student arrives at school after two hours, attendance is recorded as a half day. If a child leaves before 1:15 PM, the attendance will be recorded as a half day present. Students in sport activities will not be counted tardy, but won't be released before the designated time. **Also, students who are absent from school a full day on the day of a game or practice, may not participate in the sport that day.**

Students who have received Financial Aid from the school for the school year could have that scholarship rescinded if there are excessive absences and tardies.

AWARDS

There will be an all school awards ceremony at the end of the year to recognize outstanding achievements during the 2021-22 school year. Students may also be recognized individually and/or in groups throughout the school year for certain academic, athletic, and/or Catholic/Christian character accomplishments.

B- BIRTHDAYS AND CLASS PARTIES

Snacks and treats will be up to the classroom teacher. Birthday lunches for the whole class are not allowed. Because we have so many students with allergies to various foods, we would prefer that these students do not participate in class party snacks. Parents of students with allergies should provide a safe snack for their child. Please do not hand out birthday invitations to parties in the

classroom. This causes many issues for us when some students are not invited.

BUS

St. Mary's will be offering bus service from the Los Lunas Railrunner depot to the school. All families wishing to use this service must fill out the proper transportation forms and pay a monthly fee of \$50 regardless if used both ways or one way. We prefer that the bus be prepaid and that you stay ahead of your child's fees. If your account falls behind, we will notify you and draw your balance from your account through FACTS.

Bus policies for students: While riding the bus: Students are expected to act responsibly and in accordance with school policies. They should exhibit Christian character and behavior towards each other and the driver. • Obey the driver's instructions. The driver of the school bus is in complete charge of the passengers while they are aboard. The bus driver has the authority to assign seats. All complaints should be brought to the attention of the principal. • Be seated immediately and remain seated while the bus is in motion. • Do not extend arms, legs, head, or objects out of the bus. • In case of an emergency, students shall remain in their seats and wait for directions from the bus driver. Do not tamper with the emergency door, fire extinguisher, or other equipment on the bus. • Do not mark

or deface the bus. Seat coverings must not be damaged in any manner. Offenders will be subject to disciplinary action and/or restitution. • No eating or chewing gum is allowed on the bus. • Only registered and paying students are allowed to ride the bus. • Students are permitted to leave the bus only at their regular designated stop. Any changes must be made with the parent's/guardian's written request approved by school office personnel. • Never cross the road in the rear of a stopped school bus. Responsibility of Parents/Guardians: • Report any alleged misconduct on the bus to the principal. • Encourage your child to observe all safety and conduct regulations established for the safe and efficient operation of the bus. • Observe extreme caution when approaching a bus stop, a moving bus, or a stopped bus.

C—CELEBRATIONS (MAJOR)

Pre-K and Kindergarten end-of-year promotion ceremonies will be held the last week of school. For the most part, the celebration will consist of songs, presentation of certificates and refreshments at the end. The event will be held in the school gymnasium. The teacher is in charge of the event and may ask parents for assistance.

Eighth Grade Celebration

A fee is charged for all 8th graders during registration. This fee takes care of some of the activities for the 8th grade week at the end of May. They will have an important retreat, Buddy Picnic, with the week culminating in the Mass and party. This exciting week has been a tradition for Saint Mary's 8th graders for many years. It is not to celebrate the achievement of completing eight years of school, but the celebration of friendships and memories made over the past years at Saint Mary's. It is of high importance to the staff, administration and the priest that these events reflect the joy and spirituality that they deserve. The eighth grade sponsor and the principal will work together in the planning of the event. Parents who wish to will be asked to assist with decorating our Parish Event Center for the occasion. If the need arises, such as with small classes, to raise additional funds for the event, the sponsor and the principal will initiate the fundraiser.

CELL PHONES, E-READERS, I-PADS and TABLETS

Students **may not** use cell phones during the school day. The teacher collects them in the morning and they are taken to the office until the end of the day. If a student is found to be using a cell phone, or the phone rings during

the day, indicating that they didn't turn it in, the student will receive a referral and surrender the phone until the parent picks it up. If this is habitual, the student will be asked not to bring a phone at all. At no time should a student have ear pieces or headphones other than those distributed by the teachers.

We want to encourage the use of electronic devices such as E-Readers, Nooks, Kindles and so forth. The minimum allowable size is a 7" screen. These are for reading novels only and not accessing the internet. Student devices will be subject to SM filters. At no time will students be allowed on the playground or to photograph other students. The new wearable technology will be limited to devices that do not connect to internet, send texts or emails. Wearable cell phones are not allowed. Students who misuse these devices by emailing, playing games or accessing inappropriate information on their own or on the school's device, will receive a written reprimand which will result in detention (see Discipline). Habitual infractions will mean the student will not be allowed to have the device at school along with other consequences. The school cannot be held responsible for the theft or vandalism of the device. (See acceptable use form for more information which students are required to sign and observe.)



COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

FACTS is the major source of information for our school. In order to maintain open communication, St. Mary's School will provide all parents with log in information.

Parents will be able to access information regarding upcoming school events, calendars, grades, and announcements by visiting FACTS. Phone calls or texts are made through FACTS to notify parents of important events and changes in the school calendar events. Very few hard copies will be sent home with students.

Monthly newsletters will be sent home by hard copy and distributed in the church bulletin.

Every Sunday evening or Monday Morning the principal will send "Monday Notes" to parents via email regarding weekly activities.

Saint Mary's has an active website at www.stmarysbelen.com as well. All newsletters "The Bird Word" will be posted on the website each month.

Since we, as Catholics, want to be good stewards of our natural resources, we want to eliminate paper as much as we can. Please become familiar with FACTS. This will be the place to find daily announcements for things like jeans days, morning sales, emergencies, etc.

Conferences

Parent Teacher conferences will be held twice a year: once in October and once in March. Report cards for these quarters will be given to parents at the conferences as well as important information concerning students' progress. Appointments for these conferences will be scheduled as the time draws near.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

We are always looking for ways to make our children safer. As you know, we keep all school doors locked and secured at all times. We have an entry system that requires parents/visitors to ring the exterior bell for admittance. We put a window in the front office to have a direct line of vision with the front door. All classrooms can be locked from the inside preventing an intruder. We have perimeter fencing with gates that are locked during the school day. Rest assured, we are required to and we will have regular drills to practice these procedures so that in the event of the "real thing" the children will know what to do in each situation. Please communicate to your child that these

drills are normal and necessary and they shouldn't be afraid.

In the event of an emergency, our first response is for the safety of the students. After informing the police department, at the first available moment, we will send out texts and phone messages through FACTS informing parents of our situation. The principal will send a hard copy letter home following any emergency event explaining the details.

D--DISCIPLINE

To accomplish everything we need to at Saint Mary's, a strict code of discipline must be maintained. It's important for students to be aware that **IT IS A PRIVILEGE** attend St. Mary's and know there are boundaries that must not be crossed when it comes to respect of adults and one another. Morals and values are as important, if not more, as math and English. We will do our best to maintain a school and atmosphere that reflects the tenants on which this school was based.

Teachers will be responsible for maintaining discipline in their classrooms. The teacher may utilize, as appropriate, a variety of procedures that are designed to change inappropriate behavior and help students improve their

self-discipline. These measures include, but are not limited to: Verbal reprimand/warning • Assign constructive assignments/tasks • Require a student-teacher conference • Confer or conference with parent/guardian • Require students to serve a lunch or recess detention • Develop, with the student, a contract of behavior or behavior plan • Remove, temporarily, class privilege. • If the student has not responded appropriately to the above action, the teacher will make a referral to the principal who will determine the consequences. Depending on the severity and the frequency of the discipline referrals, students may be held in a mandatory **after school detention** until 4:00PM. Students may not be excused from after school detention to participate in any previously planned after school activity or sport. Difficulty in providing transportation will not serve as a basis for cancellation of the detention.

Behaviors that may result in a **detention or a possible suspension from school** include, but are not limited to: • Disruptive behavior in class • Disrespect for authority figures • Disrespect for or stealing school or other's property • Unauthorized presence in any part of the building • Copying another's work or test, including plagiarism • Giving answers to another student • Talking at any time during a test • Excessive tardiness to school (four or more) • Improper use of computers/laptops • Lying or misrepresenting the truth • Forgery • Crude or vulgar language or gestures • Failure to serve previous detention.

Prohibition of Harassment and/or bullying by Supervisors, Employees, Students, and Parent / Guardians

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe will not tolerate harassment by or toward employees, students, volunteers, or parents/guardians. Harassment/bullying is unacceptable conduct, is prohibited by law, and is contrary to Christian principles. This Catholic school will make every effort to protect its students from harassment by adults and other students. Due care will be exercised to ensure that the school is free from all forms of harassment and bullying. (FAM-518)

DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS

The uniform policy has been outlined, posted on the website and FACTS, as well as printed in the parent calendars distributed to each parent. There is not room in this handbook to post all the do's and don'ts possible with dress code violations. The principal will make the final call on all violations. That being said, please adhere to the following: Students must be in formal church uniform on every Wednesday and other posted formal wear days.

At no time will open toe shoes/flip flops, heelies, high heels, and furry or non-furry fashion boots be acceptable at Saint Mary's. Cowboy boots on all days but Wednesday may be worn if the tops are not visible (pants must cover them).

Accessories are outlined and must be modest and small. Necklaces, bracelets, and colored nail polish are not allowed. Only small post earrings may be worn. Religious necklaces must be worn under the polo's. The new electronic or wearable technologies that send emails or text message and connect to the internet are NOT allowed. Small fitness trackers are acceptable.

No outer wear, including Saint Mary's sweat shirts, may be worn in the classroom. Cardigans may be worn in the classroom and will become part of the formal uniform in November through March. If a student wishes to wear a long sleeved shirt under their polo, it must be the same color as the polo—no two tones.

All polos and cardigans must have the Saint Mary's emblem with Mary in the center. Cardigans may also have a student's name embroidered on the bottom. **No short socks (footies)**--the kind that end at the top of the shoe and look like you don't have a sock on--are allowed. Excessively tight uniform pants are not allowed which means NO leggings and jeggings. Length of skirts and jumpers are going to be monitored closely. They should be no more than 2 inches above the knees cap. Again, the principal will make the final call.

Hair

In recent years girls have tried to get by with highlighting their hair in a subtle color. Teachers notice those changes! Don't color your hair. Boys must keep a short haircut with no hair touching the collar. Hair color must be student's natural color without dyes or highlights.

Jeans Days

Jeans Day means that students can wear plain jeans -not leggings- with a blue, gray, white or other designated Saint Mary's shirt with a logo. No denim shorts or capris at any time are allowed. Jeans should be in good condition without any rips or tears. All shoe rules, accessories, and socks still apply to Jeans Days.

Free Dress Day

This will be limited to picture day and Catholic Schools Week. All the rules regarding shoes, accessories, length of dresses and general modesty will apply. Spaghetti straps/thin shoulder straps or bare shoulders are not acceptable.

Dress Code Violations

Any student who is not dressed in accordance with the dress code and has not brought a written request for an exception is in more serious violation of the dress code. A phone call will be made to the parent to correct the uniform infraction.



DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Drop off and pick up occurs west of the cafeteria and basketball court. Students will be escorted by their teachers at the end of the day to meet parents in line. Parent can enter through the most southern entrance in front of the church and proceed to the back. You can exit immediately onto Reinken. For pick up, student's whose last name begins with A-L will be picked up in the same place as the drop off. However, students whose last name begins with M-Z pick up your students on the east side of the school. PreK parents drop off and pick up at the gate in front of the portable. The front door will not be open for entrance in the morning until after morning prayer. (See also eRivals)

E--ELECTRONIC ACCEPTABLE USE FORM

St. Mary's School provides access to the Internet for students and staff in keeping with its role to provide information and resources to meet the needs of the educational community. The Archdiocese of Santa Fe has

no control over the information on the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. Responsibility for proper use of the Internet rests with the users, and, at St. Mary's, we require students and staff to adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines will be explained more fully in the Acceptable Use Contracts sent home with your students. Basically, tablets, laptops and computers at St. Mary's School, whether student or school owned, are to be used for educational purposes in compliance with all federal and state laws, in compliance with Archdiocesan and school regulations, and with care and consideration for the hardware and equipment.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Students will fill out eligibility forms beginning on each Wednesday during their sport season. It will be turned in to the homeroom teacher at the end of the day. Eighth grade students participating in sports must maintain a 2.0 or higher with no F and be held to the work ethics on the eligibility rubric. All students are eligible in the fall until after Labor Day when the first eligibility will be assessed. Fifth through Seventh grade students will follow the eligibility rubric provided in the athletic handbook and posted in the classrooms. Please ensure that you and your child(ren) are aware of these requirements to participate in sports. If the student does not meet the requirements

stated above then the student can attend practice but **will not participate** in any APIAL sanctioned game during that eligibility week. If the student does not meet the criteria for two weeks in a row, it becomes a liability for the team and the student could be taken off the team.

eRivals

We will no longer administer individual COVID screening of the students each morning; instead will be relying on parents to input the needed information each morning into the eRivals app before you drop your student off at school. The app is free and was developed by alumni of St. Mary's!

F -- FIELD TRIPS



As extensions of the curriculum, field trips can offer valuable off-campus learning experiences. Permission forms are used for all trips, including walking trips. At all times, whether on or off campus, **St. Mary's students represent our school and must behave appropriately.** (Although after-school athletic games are not considered field trips, student behavior is expected to be appropriate and equal to what is required during school hours.) Absolutely no overnight field trips are allowed by the

Archdiocese —this includes no overnight athletic events as well.

Parents will be informed about field trips well in advance. A permission slip must be signed by the parent/guardian so that the child may participate in the field trip. Verbal permission **cannot** be accepted.

If the bus is used for the field trip, a bus fee may be charged based on the distance traveled. You will be informed of the cost when information is first sent home about fieldtrips. (Financial aid for such fieldtrip costs is available, if needed.)

All volunteers to chaperone and/or drive students on field trips must complete the Abuse Awareness class and have a background check. This class may be taken on line through Virtus on the Archdiocese website. All chaperones on the field trip are expected to assist the teachers in maintaining discipline and a safe atmosphere. If, for some reason, you are not comfortable in that role, there are other events that you can participate in with your child. Also, our insurance does not cover siblings of students who do not attend St. Mary's. Siblings attending Saint Mary's will not be going on each other's field trips unless the whole class is going.

The bus is the preferred mode of transportation for field trips, but if parents/guardians provide the transportation, proof of automobile insurance will need to be provided to the school office beforehand and waivers must be signed by all parents. A sample of this form is in Appendix 5 and may be obtained from the office.

When the bus is used for a field trip, all students will ride the bus to the destination. The parent is able to sign a release for their child to return home with them. In most cases, chaperones will not be able to ride the bus.

If a student is late to school and misses the bus for a field trip, he/she will miss the field trip. The student will be put in another class for the day.



G--GRADING PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Report Cards are issued at the end of each 9-week grading period through FACTS. The focus at St. Mary's is on the

learning. Work done at home is always monitored for understanding but scores will not show in the grade book. The student assessment at school is what will be visible to parents and counted toward proficiency. There will be no excuses for not doing the required work. Without a work product, there is no basis for assessing a student. Students who fail to complete the required work will not participate in their daily specials. After school opportunities will be provided for students who are consistently struggling to produce work. Students who are struggling with a concept and don't score proficient on assessments will have an opportunity to be taught the skill again and re-assessed while students who are proficient will be receiving enrichment activities in the same standard that will engage, encourage and motivate our students to work hard to achieve highly proficient.

Report cards for the first and third quarters will be available at conferences at the end of each quarter. The parent portal will be turned off at the end of the grading period so that teachers can grade exams and final work. It will then be made available to you at report card time to see the final report card. If student fees are in arrears, the fees will need to be paid before the parent portal will be available to that family. Parent / Teacher conferences are held twice a year, at the end of the first and third grading periods. With the availability of grades through

FACTS, there will be no progress reports sent home. At any time during the school year, parents may request a conference with teachers by calling the office to schedule an appointment before or after school hours. (see Conferences and Meetings) In order for education to continue in the classrooms until the last possible days in May, grades will not be available until the week after school is out, and then they will be available to parents and can be printed at home. Eighth graders may get a hard copy in the office.



H--HOMWORK (PRACTICE)

Setting aside time each evening to study concepts and/or practice skills taught during the school day is necessary for success in all grades. Homework is given for this purpose. Students should be reading every night. Reading is a separate expectation in addition to extending the practice of the work they did in class. Time allowances for total homework vary from grade to grade. Generally, students will have 10 minutes of homework per night

multiplied by their grade level. For example, students in First Grade: 10 minutes, Students in second Grade: 20 minutes, etc. Homework is nothing more than the practice before the game. Practicing skills is the only way to master them and must be done. It's like learning the piano or a sport. You won't make the team or do well at a concert if you don't practice.

I--INSTRUCTION

Saint Mary's follows the Archdiocese Curriculum Standards which incorporates National Common Core Standards. All students have language arts, math, social studies, science and religion every day. Students have art class, music, technology or makerspace, PE. Instruction at the highest level is an expectation at St. Mary's. That is why most Saint Mary's teachers are highly qualified in their teaching area and seventy percent hold advanced degrees.

Saint Mary's School is aligned K-8 using Wit and Wisdom for English and Literature, Eureka math, and LabLearner science. Our middle school social studies utilizes McGraw

Hill and a myriad of other resources available to our teachers and students.

L--LUNCH

Hot lunch in our cafeteria is available daily. Again this year EVERY student will be eligible to receive a free lunch. That being said, please continue to fill out the free and reduced lunch applications because this information is used to receive other funding. If you send lunch with your students, please do not send anything that needs to be refrigerated, cooked, heated or micro-waved. No soft drinks or fast food (lunch from Mickey D's) are permitted in the lunch room. If you wish to take your child out for lunch, they may be signed out at their lunch time and signed back in when you return.

Three times a year, (Grandparents Day, Thanksgiving and Spring Lunch) we invite family members to join us for a special lunch (this year depends on COVID safety protocols). Because we pay our kitchen staff for extra hours on those days, the price for these special lunches are \$6.00 for adults and \$3.25 for visiting children.

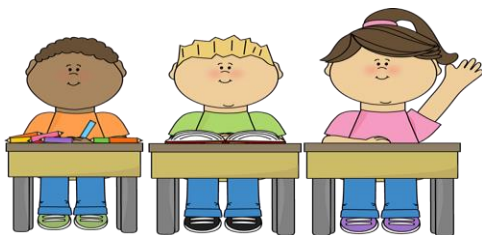
M--MAKING UP MISSED WORK DUE TO ABSENCES

Since the important work of school occurs in the classroom, a student can never "make-up" what is lost in an absence. All students are expected to complete assessments missed due to excused or unexcused absences within a week of the absence. For the 3rd through 8th graders, they must assume responsibility for meeting with their teacher to arrange for a makeup lesson and an assessment time. For the primary students, parents must arrange with the teachers for missed lessons. If a student has a prolonged illness (more than 3 days) teachers can provide the practice to students with 24 hours' notice. Teachers will **not** give advanced assignments for trip/and or vacations.

Teachers will work with students who have been absent due to surgery, prolonged illness, hospitalization, or contagious disease

Family Trips During The School Year: Parents are strongly encouraged not to plan family trips to include school days, because they are unexcused. Regular school attendance is very important. Parents are asked to consider that when a student is absent, it is impossible to make up teacher presentations, classroom learning activities, classroom discussions, and class interaction.

Teachers are not required to prepare work in advance to accommodate vacations. If a student is absent due to a family trip, they will be required to make-up assignments and missed tests within the week that they return from their trip. Students are not allowed to make up work for family trips scheduled after May 1. Class time will not be used to make-up work once the student returns. However, students needing to make-up work, or tests, must make arrangements with the teacher(s).



MASKS

As per the direction from the Archdiocese, masks have to be worn by **EVERYONE**; regardless of your vaccination status.

Allowable Masks Include:

- Face masks made of two or more layers of cloth
- Face masks with a clear plastic window

- Surgical, procedural, N95 or KN95 masks approved by the FDA to use by staff during medical duties or similar close contact assignments

Masks that are NOT allowed include:

- Masks that have exhalation valves or vents
- Bandanas
- Scarves
- Neck gaiters
- Face shields

MEDICAL AND HEALTH POLICIES

Health Regulations

School personnel may **not** administer medications of any kind to any student without appropriate consent forms. The following **requirements must be met** for a student to receive medication at school:

The medicine must be in a prescription bottle or original container.

There must be a written request, signed by the student's parent or legal guardian, and by the student's doctor, specifically authorizing school personnel to administer any medication sent to school. That request must contain the following information:

- a. The dates and times when the medication is to be administered;
- b. Instructions as to proper dosage; and
- c. The original signature of the student's parent or legal guardian and the original signature of the prescribing doctor.

Principals **may not** accept general, on-demand or standing orders for students to take over the counter (OTC) medications for non-specific conditions. We cannot give a student ANY medication without Doctor authorization. We will not clean wounds with any astringents, or administer sunscreen or bug spray.

All medications must be kept in a secure place to which students do not have access. (Exception: School personnel may keep back-ups of inhalers or Epi-pens in the classroom, as well as in the school office, if such inhalers or Epi-pens are properly secured.) Because of the risk of students sharing medication, no student may carry his or her own medications on school campus or at any school-related event. If a student would be seriously at risk if they were not able to personally carry an Epi-pen or inhaler, and the student's parent or legal guardian requests that the student be permitted to do so, the school may grant an exception to this policy if the student's parent or legal guardian, and the student's doctor document the following: That there would be a risk to the student if the students

were not able to personally carry the medication; and That the student has been instructed on the indications for use of the medication, on the administration of the medication, on the possible side effects, on the student's responsibility not to share the medication with anyone, and the student's responsibility to notify the teacher of the use immediately after such use.

The person designated by the Principal to administer medication to students shall keep a log of all medicine administered. Where reasonable and feasible, a student's medication is to be self-administered in the presence of the Principal/Preschool Director (or designee).

Glucose testing and insulin administration is to be coordinated by the student's parent or legal guardian, in collaboration with the school's Principal/Preschool Director (or designee).

At the end of each school year, all medications shall be returned to the students' parents or legal guardians, or disposed of in an appropriate manner.

These requirements apply to over-the counter drugs as well as to prescription drugs. Other than as specifically permitted above, school personnel **shall not** furnish any medication, including acetaminophen, cough drops, medicated lip balm, etc. to any student, at any time, for any reason.

Students with Food Allergies

Parish/Regional schools and the Archdiocesan high school do not have a legal obligation to accept a student with a food allergy. It is acceptable for a Parish/Regional school or the Archdiocesan high school to deny enrollment to a student if the school cannot reasonably accommodate the student's food allergy. If a Parish/Regional school or the Archdiocesan high school knowingly accepts a student with a food allergy, the school will follow the following guidelines provided by the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network ("FAAN"):

1. Family's Responsibility

- a. Notify the school of the child's allergies.
- b. Work with the school to develop a plan to accommodate the child's needs **which includes classroom party snack alternatives**.
- c. Provide written medical documentation, instructions and medications as directed by the child's physician.
- d. Provide properly labeled medications and replace medications after use or when expired.
- e. Provide the school, at the minimum, with at least two (2) Epi-pens for school or student use.
- f. Educate the child in the self-management of the food allergy. This would include strategies for avoiding exposure; safe and unsafe foods; symptoms of allergic reactions; how to tell an adult when having allergy symptoms; and how to read food labels (age appropriate).

- g. Review procedures with the school, the child's physician, and the child after a reaction has occurred.
- h. Provide up-to-date emergency contact information.

2. School's Responsibility

- a. Notify parents and the student that the school cannot guarantee an allergy-free environment.
- b. Ensure that all staff understand food allergies; can recognize symptoms; know what to do in case of an emergency; and work with other school staff to eliminate the use of allergens in the student's meals, educational tools, arts and crafts projects, etc.
- c. Create and review the Food Allergy Action Plan before an allergic reaction occurs to ensure the plan is efficient.
- d. Ensure that medications are appropriately stored, and be sure that an emergency kit is available containing the physician's standing order for epinephrine. If student is seven (7) years old, or older, the student may carry an Epi-pen on his/her person if properly trained.
- e. Designate and properly train school personnel to administer medications.
- f. If a student needs or has self-injected with an Epi-pen, call 911, the parents and the student's doctor in that order.
- g. Ensure that a trained staff member is available during school operations.
- h. Discuss field trips and other special activities with the family of the child to decide appropriate strategies for managing the food allergy.
- i. Discourage children from "trading" food.

- j. Ensure all surfaces such as tables and toys are washed clean of contaminating foods.
- k. If needed, designate a specific table in the cafeteria for children with food allergies.
- l. Encourage all students to wash hands after handling food.

3. Student's Responsibility

- a. Do not trade food with other students
- b. Do not eat anything with unknown ingredients or known to contain the food allergen.
- c. Be proactive in the care and management of food allergies and reactions (age appropriate).
- d. Notify an adult immediately if they believe they have eaten or been exposed to the food allergen.

Saint Mary's does not have a nurse on staff. For that reason, students with certain illnesses might not be best served at our school. We reserve the right to make that decision based on our ability to provide the safest environment for a child. The school is required to maintain a current health record for each student, which documents immunizations, emergency information, release forms, medication, allergies, and other pertinent health information. These records are confidential. Immunization records will be checked yearly. Students not having up to date vaccinations will be given a grace period

to get current. Disenrollment is possible for non-compliance.

The New Mexico Department of Health tracks outbreaks of confirmed or suspected communicable diseases and school administrators are expected to comply with the reporting requirements for conditions that indicate such a disease. A student suspected of having a communicable or infectious disease will be excluded from the classroom. Parents will be notified to come and take the child for the necessary doctor's examination. If a student is absent due to a communicable disease, the school reserves the right to require doctor's release for return to school.

Because of close contact with other children and the possibility of communicability, it is recommended that children who show any of the following signs or symptoms be kept at home: a cold, sore throat, swollen glands, excessive coughing, discharging nose, skin eruptions, excessive sneezing, red or watery eyes, stiff or rigid neck, vomiting, or other obvious signs of illness.

MORNING CARE

Saint Mary's offers early morning care for students beginning at 7:30 AM. Students can go to the art room before school to be supervised until 7:55 when Staff will

escort them to the gym for Morning Prayer and Pledge. The cost of this service is \$2.00 per day per child. Students should not arrive prior to 7:30 AM.

P --PARENTS (Volunteers)

Student/Parent Handbooks

All families will receive an updated handbook at the beginning of each school year. It is the responsibility of the family to be aware of all policies and information provided in the handbook. Included in the handbook is a form that must be signed by the student and his/her parent or guardian signifying that they have read and discussed the policies, that they agree to adhere to the policies and procedures, and that they commit to support the school's curriculum and programs. This form must be returned to the school by the last day of August. Only one form per family needs to be returned. Each child on the form will get credit for his/her class.



SMPA

Saint Mary's Parent Association is the parent group that supports the students and teachers. The SMPA also sponsors the parent-child Saturday activities, Family Nights, and the Christmas shop in December. Teachers also receive door prizes and occasional gift cards for their classrooms from the SMPA. The SMPA also runs the spirit store in our gym concession stand. The store will be open periodically for the students to purchase St. Mary's items including PE uniforms. Times will be posted for the hours of the spirit store.

Volunteer Hours

As a parent of a St. Mary's student, you will have the opportunity to contribute not only your "treasure" through tuition, but also your time and talent. Unfortunately, tuition only covers around 80% of our operating budget. The other 20% must be raised through our annual fund drive and major fundraisers. I hope you will consider this an opportunity to have a vital stake in your child's education and to grow personally by sharing the fun, challenges and fellowship of knowing other caring, kind parents who want only the best for their child.

Families are required to work at the Fiesta Burger booth and contribute ten (10) hours of service over the school year. At the beginning of the year, you will receive a list of the current year volunteer needs (this list may come

later due to COVID protocols). You will be asked to look at this list and pick one event that you would like to help with. We will then ask you to get on sign up genius sometime in September to sign up for that event. A chairman for that event will call you to remind you prior to the event. That way everyone helps and you get to pick the event and time that works for you. Besides the major events, there are other after school activities where parents can give their time to teach students a new skill. Please let the office know if you would be interested in volunteering to do an after school activity.

We are offering the incentive that if you bring a \$500 sponsorship for Fall Fest, you buy out your 10 hours (except for the burger booth). If you get a \$200 sponsorship, you buy out half of your hours (except the burger booth).

All volunteers are required to take the Abuse Awareness class in order to work with our students. This class may be taken on line through Virtus on the Archdiocese website or you may take it live.

IMPORTANT:

In accordance with Policy PER-403 of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, regular volunteers and all volunteers who have unsupervised contact with students are required to have a criminal background check. This does not require fingerprinting. In addition, such volunteers must attend the Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures Workshop.

A list of events will come out once CDC and PED guidelines have been set. They will be posted on our school website.

In addition to your time, every year we ask parents to contribute \$20 or a large item for the class basket at Fall Fest. The classroom parent will contact you to let you know the theme of the class Fall Fest "Basket." You can decide then if you have a new item to donate or will contribute money.

Meetings between Parents and Teachers

Parents who wish to meet with teachers may make an appointment through the front office. Regarding questions or concerns that may arise during the school year, please contact your child's teacher first using their preferred method of communication. The teacher will have the most information about issues involving her/his classroom and procedures. This may be all that is needed to clarify or resolve any problems. If more discussion is needed,

meetings will be set up with the parent, student, teacher, and principal. Appointments will be scheduled as soon as possible—usually before or after school so as not to interrupt instruction.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding school procedures, please address them with the Principal.

PE UNIFORMS PURCHASED THROUGH SMPA STORE

Students in grades four through eight will be required to dress out for PE. The blue shorts and white SMS T-shirt can be purchased through the SMPA store this year. No other shorts are allowed. After the third week of school, students who do not have the proper attire will receive a dress code violation.

R -REGISTRATION

Registration for returning families begins the first Monday in February. The registration fee is **\$200**, if registration is completed by April 1st. After that time, registration will be **\$350.00. (These fees may change for 2021-22 registration)** Registration is not complete until the fee is

paid. Registration for returning students is completed on line.

The following items are required for admission and must be presented at the time of registration of new students:

Birth certificate

Baptismal record and other sacramental information
(Catholic students only)

Current record of immunizations

Most current grade report

Record of IEP (if applicable)

The name, address, and telephone number of the previous school's administrator

Parental Agreement

At the time of registration, a copy of St. Mary's Catholic School Parental agreement is included in the registration packet. Enrollment in the school indicates acceptance of all St. Mary's policies even though a signed copy is kept in the office.

Emergency Information pages are created on FACTS from the information you provide at registration and must be current for each child in the school. In case of a change of

address or phone number, either home, work, or cell, the new information must be sent to the school immediately.

Tuition (2021-22)

One child	\$4600	Second child	\$4100
Third child	\$3600	Fourth child	\$3600
PreK Half Time	\$2300	Full Time	\$4600

Subsidy: A subsidy fee of \$500.00 per student is paid by the family's parish if the family has been registered at their parish for at least a year. Families who do not meet the parish requirements are responsible for payment of the subsidy, which will be added to the FACTS immediately since all subsidies must be paid no later than December 31 of the current school year.

Payment Options:

Tuition may be paid through the following options:

1. 100% paid no later than August 1 of the school year. Even though you pay in full, the Archdiocese is asking that all parents open a FACTS account.
2. 1 to 12 payments made through FACTS (electronic debit system)

Delinquent Payments

Tuition that is not prepaid must be paid in monthly installments through FACTS. Tuition is considered delinquent 10 days after payment is due. Should the tuition remain past due for two consecutive months, on the 10th day after the due date in the second month, the student is considered ineligible to return to classes until the tuition and fines are paid in full. Should the tuition remain past due by the 15th day after the due date in the second month, the student is to be disenrolled from the school.

Every precaution will be used to ensure that the student is neither implicated by nor overhears any discussion about the family's payment status. Under no circumstances will such issues be discussed with faculty members, nor are they to be informed of any reason for a student's disenrollment.

If FACTS is not able to draw a tuition payment at the agreed upon time, a \$30.00 late fee is charged. (In addition to what your bank charges) Facts will attempt to draw each payment two times. A \$30.00 fee will be charged by FACTS for each attempt that is not successful. After two attempts, the payment will have to be made directly to the school for the amount of the payment plus the accumulated late fees. In the meantime FACTS will be

drawing the next month's payment at the agreed upon time. If a payment cannot be collected within ten days of the attempted draw, it is considered delinquent.

Pre-paid registration fees are non-refundable. Pro-rated tuition may be refunded if a student withdraws due to extenuating circumstances, such as relocation by the family. Extenuating circumstances do not include expulsion of a student or withdrawal of a student due to a parent's dislike of St. Mary's School, its staff, or its policies. If a check is returned for insufficient funds, we will assess a \$30.00 fee.

Financial Aid through Archbishop's School Fund:

Application for financial aid may be completed when registration begins. Applications are filed through FACTS (whether or not you use this service for tuition), must be filed by the given deadline, and all the required information and documentation must be provided. Note: If the applications are not completed in full by the given **deadline, the applicant will NOT be considered for financial aid.** Please begin the application process as soon as you get the forms so you have time to confirm that everything is complete. The amount of financial assistance is related to the Archbishop's fund distribution. **NOTE: Financial assistance must be repaid to the school if the**

student is disenrolled for any reason before the end of the school year.

Pastor Scholarships and St. Mary's Scholarships:

Financial aid for qualified students may be available through our Pastor Scholarships. Applications for this assistance may be picked up at the school. Information should still be uploaded to FACTS for verification. These scholarships are ongoing on a first come first served basis.

Withdrawal Policy

Parents who move or transfer their children to another school must pick up a WITHDRAWAL OR TRANSFER checklist from the school office. The checklist must be completed before any transcripts of grades will be forwarded to the student's new school. Registered students who withdraw at any time (including before school starts) must pay a \$175.00 withdrawal fee. Families of students who withdraw or are disenrolled for any reason before the end of the school year must repay any financial aid they were awarded for that school year. The bookkeeper will update the withdrawing family's account. If money is owed to the school, this amount must be paid before the student's records can be cleared. If the account shows a credit, a check will be issued as soon as possible.

T -TESTING

Students will be tested three times a year on the STAR standardized test for their progress in reading and math. The Assessment for Catholic Religious Education will be given to 5th and 8th graders in March as well.

V -VISITORS

In compliance with the recommendations of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and law enforcement agencies, the doors to the school will remain locked and secured during the school day. Visitors, including parents and other family members of students enrolled, must ring the front exterior doorbell to be admitted. Due to the pandemic we are limiting the amount of people being admitted into the building.

W -Website (www.stmarysbelen.com) Friends

and family can keep abreast of school happenings through our website. Registration information, recognition,

important happenings and other information that we want the community to know will be posted on our website. If you know of events that we should be publicizing, let us know and we will put it on the website.

Water bottle

Please make sure you send your student with a water bottle daily to school. With COVID safety protocols, we no longer have drinking fountains, but we have installed bottle filling stations for our students.

