

The Bird Word



July

Saint Mary's Catholic School

101 No. 10th Street
Belen, New Mexico 87002
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www.stmarysbelen.com

Principal: Melodie Good
Pastor: Rev. Stephen Schultz

Guided by Catholic traditions and values, Saint Mary's prepares students for the future and for eternity.

Important Events

Ice Cream social	8/8
1st-8th School Starts	8/12
PreK and Kinder begin	8/15
Early release 1PM	8/16
Build float for Fiesta	8/16
Back to School Night	8/22
Abuse Awareness class	8/29

SAINT MARY'S PREK

Is your child 3½ or 4 years old? If so, we have room in our PreK class for a few more. We offer half day and full day sessions, a certified teacher and rich curriculum.

Saint Mary's Catholic School—Where New Mexico Students Rank at the TOP

Every spring, just like in public schools, Saint Mary's takes a standardized test to make sure our students are achieving. Our 2013 May test scores indicate that not only are Saint Mary's students making the grade, nationally, our students are scoring well above the average. When our 8th graders leave us for high school, they are going into advanced high school classes. Several of our graduates have been Valedictorians at their high schools in recent years. We do the same short cycle reading and math assessments that many New Mexico public schools do throughout the year. These also show our students average far above the predicted year end growth per grade level for New Mexico kids. The reasons for our successes are many. Saint Mary's offers a curriculum that is now aligned to National Common Core standards with a faith base fully integrated in every subject. Besides daily religion, math, language arts, science and social studies, our curriculum offers computer, PE, and art regularly, and this year, a new Spanish Arts, Language, *see pg. 2*

NEW GYMNASIUM AND CAFETERIA WILL BE READY FOR ACTION IN LATE AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER

RAILRUNNER AVAILABLE FOR LOS LUNAS STUDENTS

Students from Los Lunas will be able to meet a Saint Mary's supervisor at the LL terminal every morning and catch the train to Belen where Rio Metro will pick up students and bring them directly to Saint Mary's. This service is available after school as well.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

After school each day this year, a different club, project or meeting will be offered for students. Last year students met after school for a weekly book club. This year that idea has been expanded to include chess, 4-H, Robotics, and Faith Challenge Bowl.

Check out Saint Mary's and see what we have to offer

Cont. pg. 1 and Culture class for 1st-8th graders.

Teachers at Saint Mary's have been recognized by the Archdiocese as outstanding instructors. Most recently Ms. Charlene Baca, first grade teacher, was awarded 2013 outstanding teacher by the NM Catholic Foundation for her innovative classroom strategies. All teachers are highly qualified and 75% have advanced degrees.

Classes are small at Saint Mary's. Most classes average fifteen students and we have a cap of 20 to 22 depending on grade level.

The biggest reason why our students do well is because the formation of a Catholic identity is important and our parents want their children to have that relationship with God while getting the highest quality of education possible for their children.



2013 8th graders and their Kinder buddies.

New Student Financial Aid Still Available

Students who are new to Saint Mary's are able to apply for financial aid from the Friends and Alumni Association. Students must be registered for the upcoming year. Information is available in the office.

OLB Student Masses Begin in Aug.

Students will once again be participating in Wednesday Masses. Beginning with 8th graders, students will be proclaiming the liturgy and bringing the offertory gifts along with serving at the 9 AM Wednesday Masses. Parents look forward to attending this weekday Mass during the year when students read the liturgy. It is especially heartwarming when our first graders finally do their first Mass. They can barely see over the pulpit, but they can really read those BIG words!

Student Retreats Part of Faith Formation at SMCS

At the beginning of Advent and Lent, students have an opportunity to get closer to God through a day-long retreat. These days are often the memory makers that our students take with them when they go on to high school. Special prayers, projects, sharing, and talks by Father Steve mark a day of inspiration and living the faith. This year, we hope to involve the SOLT Sisters from Bosque.

Think you can't afford tuition to a Catholic school? Can you afford not to? Just like a car payment, tuition can be budgeted for monthly installments. Make this investment in your children-- For their faith, their family and their education.

Before and after school care will be offered.