

The BIRD WORD

Monthly Newsletter



AUGUST EVENTS

7 BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

11 FIRST DAY GRADES PREK & 1-8

14 FIRST DAY KINDERGARTEN

15 HOLY DAY OF OB-LIGATION/1:00 DIS-MISSAL/FIESTAS

29 STAR TESTING

29 1:00 DISMISSAL



Pastor: Rev. John Kimani
Principal: Melanie Chavez

AUGUST 2025

FIESTA BURGER BOOTH FUN!



Each year during the Fiestas our amazing St. Mary's parents and families volunteer their time and energy in the Burger Booth—our school's second largest fundraiser. Families work side by side, not only serving up delicious burgers, but also building lasting friendships. A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who supported us by purchasing a burger this year!

August 11: The First Day of School for Preschool and Grades 1-8

Our first day of school was a wonderful success! Smiles filled the classrooms and laughter echoed through the hallways. We are especially excited to welcome many new faces to our Roadrunner family this year. May God bless our students, staff, and families with a joyful and successful school year ahead.



August 14: The First Day of School for Kindergarten



On August 14, we joyfully welcomed our kindergarteners to St. Mary's! While there were plenty of nervous smiles from our little ones (and a few tears from parents), the transition was made easier thanks to our 8th grade buddies. Each kindergartener is paired with an older student who helps guide them through their first year of St. Mary's. This tradition not only eases any jitters our kindergarteners may have, but also fosters special bonds and lasting friendships.



Bus service to and from Los Lunas available. Call for more information.



101 N Tenth Street
Belen, NM 87002
505.864.0484
stmarysbelen.com



One of the greatest blessings of attending St. Mary's Catholic School is the opportunity to celebrate weekly Mass together as a school community. Each week, a class takes on the responsibility of hosting. Our first school Mass was on August 15, which was also the Feast of the Assumption, a holy day of obligation. Our 8th graders did a beautiful job leading with the readings, serving at the altar, and presenting the gifts. We are truly blessed!

2025-2026 THEME

At the end of each school year, our 7th graders are given the special responsibility of selecting the theme for the following year. This year's 8th grade class chose the following theme for 2025–2026:

My GOD; My Rock!

Radiant, Obedient, Courageous, Kind. Trust in the LORD with all your heart! For the LORD is an eternal rock! (Isaiah 26:3–4). We are excited to embrace this faith-filled theme as we journey through the school year.

Every Vote Counts!

Our Student Council is off to a great start this year! We are proud to introduce our officers: President – Aria Duran, Vice President – Katarina Sisneros, Secretary – Kepha Sanchez, and Treasurer – Amrie Tellez. Serving as class representatives are Marcelino Cordova, Apollonia Sanchez, Lucia Sanchez, Isabeya Medina, Archer Carney, and Draven Armijo.

This year's speeches were outstanding, and the presidential race was especially close—decided by just five votes! It was a wonderful real-life lesson in democracy and the importance of voting. Our students now understand more than ever that every vote truly counts.

GA-GA- Ball Fun!

Have you heard of Gaga Ball? It's the latest playground craze! Gaga Ball is fast-paced, easy to learn, and fun for all skill levels. It encourages both social and physical development in a safe, enclosed space that feels much less intimidating than traditional dodgeball.

Last year, some of our middle school students asked Mrs. Chavez if the school could get a Gaga Ball pit. Recognizing the need for more active options during middle school recess, she made it happen—and it has been a huge hit!

It is **GREAT** to be a **ROADRUNNER!**



Have you ever considered giving your child the gift of a Catholic education? A 2013 study found that 43% of perpetually vowed men and women in religious life attended a Catholic elementary school. A Catholic education provides not only strong academics, but also faith formation and a foundation that lasts a lifetime.

If you'd like to learn more about St. Mary's Catholic School, we invite you to visit our website at stmarysbelen.com or call us at (505) 864-0484.

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe and St. Mary's school comply with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) by providing access for the review of the management Plan at the school. The plan is kept in the principal's office and is updated as various situations develop and inspections are completed. Arrangements may be made with the principal to review the materials. Any questions may be directed to the Executive Director at ASF.

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St. Mary's Catholic School prepares students to be leaders in worship, work, and the world; through Roman Catholic teachings, rigorous academics, and service to others.

