



# ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

135+ Years of Tradition

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Apr. 4, 2019

## Events

**Apr. 5:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> to Ballet  
Archery State  
Gr. 5-8 go to Springfield  
**Apr. 8:** Track at Eastside  
**Apr. 9:** Scho Bo at Roebin at 4pm  
**Apr. 10:** Track  
Tazwood Co meet at Eastwood at 9:00  
Scho Bo Tazwood conference meet at Blessed Sacr. at 4:00  
**Apr. 11:** Track at Tremont at 4:00  
**Apr. 15:** 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade to Snyder Village  
**Apr. 16:** *Christm Mass for grades 5-8*  
Track at MTHS at 4:15  
**Apr. 18:** *Midterms*  
Track at Tremont at 4:00  
**Apr. 19-. 22:** *No School – Easter break*  
**Apr.23:** DARE/Chiefs game  
**Apr. 24:** Grades 5-8 go to Sommer Park  
Track at MTHS at 4:15  
**Apr. 27:** STM Relays Pre-K & K Carnival  
**Apr. 28:** *First Communion – 2:00pm*  
**Apr. 29:** Clean Water grades 4-8

## *The E-Falcon Newsletter*

### Multiage Classrooms

Do you want to know more about multiage classrooms? Mr. Sanderson, Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Peoria, gave us some information about some of the benefits of multiage education that Catholic schools in the Diocese of Peoria have experienced. Be sure to read the article at the end of the newsletter!

*Congratulations to the 8th grade class on their Confirmation last Saturday! May God's blessing be with you always!*

### THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to those students, parents and teachers who gave of their time and talent in sprucing up the school grounds over spring break! Amy Eckstein, Ben and Sam Eckstein, Jonathan Stalsberg, Josh Tobben, Rob and Nicole Matthews, Bayleigh Matthews, Carissa Schmitz, Breyden, Gabe, Anna and Clara Schmitz, Collin and Sophia Grebner, Linda Adams, Ted and Ann Cowling. Your hard work did not go unnoticed and was very much appreciated. However, we are not finished as we still have some raking and cleaning up to do plus we need to spread mulch. We will try and get a date to finish our project and once again all will be invited! Thank you!

## Lunch Menu

(Subject to change)

All lunches include milk (Apr. 8-12)

- Mon., Apr. 8 – Corn dog, fries, peas, peaches
- Tues., Apr. 9 – Chicken fajitas, cucumber ranch salad, mandarin oranges
- Wed., Apr. 10 – Spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, applesauce
- Thurs., Apr. 11 – Chicken patty sandwich, tater tots, corn, fruit mix
- Fri., Apr. 12 – Tomato soup, grilled cheese, carrot sticks, pineapple

## Sports Update

**Achery:** Congratulations to our archery team as we conclude our season. They were busy over break participating in two tournaments in Canton and Cuba. This Fri., Apr. 5, Tommy Casey qualified for the NASP State Tournament in Springfield shooting at 8:00 am. Good Luck! Team members this year were Gabe Schmitz, Tommy Casey, Ben Cronkhite, Claire Noe, Anna Schmitz, and Noah Merrill. Thank you parents for all your time and effort this year transporting kids to the high school for practice, getting them to the tournaments, practicing with your student athlete outside of school and your support of the archery program. All the time and effort does pay off and does not go unnoticed.

**Track:** Please mark April 27 on your calendar as this is the day of our annual St. Mary's Relays. All parents will be asked to work if your child was involved in extra curricular activities this year. This is a major fund raiser for our programs. If you have a particular job you would like please let me know or we will just sign you up. Thank you!

**Bowling:** Bowling sectionals are this Sat., Apr. 6 in Bloomington starting at 9:00 am. Everyone will bowl 3 games with a chance to qualify for state next weekend. Good Luck to Jay Fitzgibbons, Anna Schnetzler, Madison Burnett and Cody Lamkin.

**Music:** IESA Solo and Ensemble is also this weekend in Bloomington with Anna Schnetzler and Bayleigh Matthews performing at 8:00 am in Bloomington. Good Luck!

**Scholastic Bowl:** Our Scholastic Bowl season is winding down with two big meets on our schedule. Tazwood Conference meet is Wed., Apr. 10 at Morton Blessed Sacrament and Regionals Wed., Apr. 24 at Putnam Co. Jr. High. Good Luck team.

## Scrip

The next scrip order will be submitted on Monday, 4/8. Delivery will be on Thursday, 4/11.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade News

As the weather begins to warm up, fifth grade will be leaving the classroom to take advantage of the many learning opportunities that we can find in our local area. In the month of April alone, we will take five different field trips that promote the academic, physical, spiritual, and social growth of our class! We will start off with a trip to Springfield and jump right into both our state and national history. Following this our class will join the junior high to experience the Chrism mass at the cathedral of St. Mary's in Peoria, which is a unique opportunity to participate in one of the traditions of our Catholic faith. Then we will celebrate our decisions to be drug free with the D.A.R.E. Chief's Game, followed by a trip to Sommer Park to enjoy the outdoors and a fun team building experience through a ropes course. We will end our month of field trips with a scientific look at our most valuable resource of water at the Water Expo at the Peoria Civic Center. Despite the fact that we will spend several days out of the classroom, our fifth graders are still aware that we will continue our work here at the school, so this month should be lots of fun and educational!

## Talent Show

Please note that "Jesus is our Treasure" Talent Show will take place on Tues., April 30 beginning at 1:00pm in the gym. Watch for permission slips in the near future.

## Multiage Classrooms

A multiage classroom is NOT a split or combined classroom. A multiage classroom is an educational structure in which children of different ages and abilities are placed together without dividing the curriculum into grade level designations. When curriculum is written, it is put on a continuum that consists of skills, knowledge and experiences in every content area. It is then broken into grade levels. A multiage classroom uses the continuum without breaking it into artificial grade level sections. Multiage classes are appropriate for all students, and the classes are differentiated to meet the needs of differing personalities, abilities, and developmental rates.

## A Few of the Advantages of Multiage Classrooms

- Multiage education immerses students in a flexible learning environment.
- There are fewer student/teacher transitions.
- Multiyear relationships create a cohesive family atmosphere.
- There is increased stability for students as a result of classroom routine and consistency.
- Multiage education provides standards-based, child-centered education based on the specific and unique instructional needs of each student rather than their grade level.
- The multiage format readily fosters the development of 21st century skills including critical thinking, innovation, self-direction, self-discipline, leadership, initiative, teamwork, technology, and collaboration.
- Instruction is tailored to support all students using differentiated questioning, a variety of activities and methods, peer-to-peer learning, technology, scaffolding and support, challenge and enrichment, and open-ended activities.
- Classrooms are structured to foster responsibility, respect, and accountability in order to promote a Christian, positive learning environment.
- Multiage education develops students that are ready to take on more difficult academic challenges while providing remediation in a nonthreatening environment for those who need it.
- Peer tutoring and collaborative learning opportunities are significantly enhanced.
- Research shows that on achievement tests, children in multiage classrooms perform as well as or better than children in traditional classrooms.

Diocesan schools in Odell and Nauvoo have always used multiage education. It has also been used successfully in a number of other diocesan schools including Mendota, Philo, Kickapoo, and Chillicothe. St. Thomas School in Philo saw a significant increase in enrollment after they converted their school to multiage. Even though their enrollment is high enough to switch back to a regular grade level configuration, they elected to retain the multiage format of instruction due to its many advantages. Including preschool, their overall enrollment now stands at 164 students.

## Shadow Day

St. Mary's invites all your friends, going into K-8, to our "Shadow days". This is an opportunity for your friends to come see what our school is all about and experience what it would be like to be a part of our "Falcon Family". Our shadow days will be Friday, April 26 and Thursday, May 2. You can contact our school secretary, Mrs. Harper at 367-25228 to schedule the day that works best for you. We look forward to meeting your friends and family.

## Third Grade News

The third grade ladies are becoming experts at division problems with remainders! Way to go, girls! I am SO proud of you!

In science, the class is learning about panda bears and will be writing a report about them soon after completing research.

The second and third grade classes will be heading to Five Points Washington on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> to view a ballet entitled, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Paquita!* Both classes are looking forward to this VERY special experience.