



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

135+ Years of Tradition

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www.stmfalcons.com

Events

Feb. 7: VB at
Brimfield at 5:00
Feb. 8: *Midterms*
Feb. 9: 8th grade VB
Me & My Guy dance
Feb. 12: Spelling Bee at
Blessed Sacarament
Scho Bo at Germantown
at 3:30
VB at S, Pekin at 4:15
Feb. 13: VB at Roebein
at 4:30
Feb. 15: *11:30*
Dismissal
Feb. 16: Rescheduled
Chess Tournament
VB at Pontiac at 10:00
Feb. 18: *No School –*
President's Day
Feb. 19: VB at
Riverview at 5:00
Scho Bo vs Eureka
Middle at 4:00
Feb. 21: VB at Peoria
Academy at 5:00
Feb. 23: VB 7th grade
regionals start
Feb. 26: Scho Bo here
vs St. Pat's at 4:00
Mar. 2: 8th VB grade
regionals start
Mar. 4: *No School*
Diocesan Meeting
7th grade VB sectionals
start
Mar. 5: Sch Bo at
Washington Middle at
3:45

Feb. 7, 2019

The E-Falcon Newsletter

Me and My Guy Dance

It's that time again!! Get ready to rock the big hair and legwarmers, rolled jeans and parachute pants!! Spread the word and make sure you don't miss this fun night! Back to the 80's will be on Saturday, Feb. 9 from 6:30-8:00. Light refreshments and snacks will be served. All grades, PreK through 8, are welcome to attend! So grab your favorite guy and have some fun!

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

St. Mary's of Lourdes Men's Club will be hosting an all you can eat pancake & sausage breakfast on Sunday Feb. 10 from 7-12 at Lourdes Parish Center. Sausage can be preordered by calling Bill Kessling at 309-645-7795.

Feb. 15 Update

Friday, Feb. 15, students will be dismissed at 11:30. Buses will run both in the morning and after school. MTHS and MGS are both dismissing at 11:30. There will be no Latchkey in the afternoon.

Lunch Menu

(Subject to change)

All lunches include milk (Feb. 11-15)

- Mon., Feb. 11 – French toast sticks, hash browns, sausage patty, pears
- Tues., Feb. 12 – Chicken strips, mashed potatoes w/gravy, broccoli, pineapple
- Wed., Feb. 13 – Spaghetti, garlic bread, carrots, mixed fruit
- Thurs., Feb. 14 – Baked ham slices, Au gratin potatoes, pea, roll, applesauce
- Fri., Feb. 15 – Early Dismissal – No lunch

Sports Update

Archery: We have two remaining tournaments March 23 in Canton and March 30 in Cuba to qualify for state. There are other tournaments if you wish to take part. Just let me know if there is interest in other tournaments.

Volleyball: The volleyball team competed in the Limestone Walters tournament this past Saturday and competed well finishing in 6th place. Congratulations Lady Falcons! This Saturday the 8th grade team will compete in the Chillicothe tournament playing 4 matches. Good Luck!

Chess News

The Chess Team traveled to Von Steuben School in Peoria for a tournament last Saturday. In the Elementary School Division, Noah Kidder placed tenth, Ethan Stone placed seventh, Sam Eckstein placed fifth. In the Eighth Grade Division Ben Eckstein placed tenth, Jonathan Stalsberg placed seventh, Jay Fitzgibbons placed fourth. Congratulations to all!

First Grade Experiencing New Things

The first grade class is experiencing many new things this nine weeks. For the first time, they will be doing all the reading at Mass on Thursday. Learning to write in cursive is a task usually taught in second grade but they want to learn it now. Another exciting adventure is doing oral book reports to the classroom friends. Being growing boys and girls, they are learning how to prepare and enjoy snacks. So far, we have made apple pie and French toast. If you smell the aroma coming from the room, you may want to stop by. We can't wait to experience all the new things waiting for us the rest of the year.

Did you Know?

Your child can attend a Catholic School Financial Assistance Available

Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2019-2020 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are active members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed.

Information about the grants and application materials may be obtained from any Catholic elementary or secondary school in the Diocese of Peoria or on the Diocesan website www.cdop.org under **Catholic Education** and then under **Financial Assistance**. Consult the detailed protocols and procedures and checklist for all requirements necessary to be eligible for an award.

Parents are encouraged to apply online at: **online.factsmgt.com/aid**. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for the 2019-2020 school year must reapply.

Deadline date for the completed application is **April 15, 2019**. Notification of grant awards will be made by mid-June, 2019.

Another funding opportunity is also available due to the Invest in Kids Act legislation in Illinois. Students may be eligible for up to 100% of tuition and fees under a new program for tax credit scholarships (TCS). Details on how to apply and who qualifies are available on the Empower Illinois website at www.empowerillinois.org. Students who receive a TCS are ineligible to receive a Spalding award.

It's Not Too Late.....

Dear Parents, Benefactors and Friends,

During the current school year, 290 students in the Catholic Diocese of Peoria have received over \$1,104,149 in tax credit scholarships to attend schools within our diocese. This is possible because many generous donors have provided the funding through their Illinois tax credit scholarship donations. We are truly blessed to have had your financial support to help students attend our Catholic schools. Your continued support of the program by making a 2019 tax credit donation now would be very much appreciated because the student application process begins next week. For anyone not familiar with **how you can help support students AND receive an Illinois tax credit on your donation** through the Invest in Kids Act legislation passed in late 2017, watch the short video on [How to Donate](#) on the Empower Illinois website. Empower Illinois is the scholarship granting organization that the six dioceses in Illinois have partnered with.

As the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program moves into its second year, the application process for student scholarships for the 2019-2020 school year begins next week. All students must apply every year, even current scholarship recipients. You are encouraged to apply if you meet the [eligibility requirements](#). You can find answers to your questions and apply on the Empower Illinois website on **Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

That is the official opening of the two-step 2019-2020 Tax Credit Scholarship process. Begin at <https://empowerillinois.org/>. The process is described in a [short video](#) in either English or Spanish on the website. It is extremely important that you apply when the process begins to receive a date/time stamp for your application. Empower Illinois suggests using Google Chrome. Briefly, the process is:

Step 1. Reserve: On January 15 at 7:00pm, families will complete a one-page online reservation form with the following information: Parent/Guardian's first and last name , Phone Number , Email address, Household Address (street, city, state & zip), Student's first and last name (families can add additional boxes for all children for whom the family is applying)

Additionally, there will be three legal disclaimer checkboxes at the bottom of the page. Once the page is submitted, the family will receive a timestamp for the first-come, first-served scholarships. The reservation system will be accessible from mobile devices. Any questions can be directed to the Empower Illinois hotline at **(309) 416-0741 (receiving calls until 9:00pm on January 15th) or scholars@empowerillinois.org.**

Step 2. Apply: After reserving a place in line, families will be emailed a link to login to the parent portal to complete the application. The application phase will open on January 18th. **You can view a sample reservation and application by accessing this [link](#).** Families are encouraged to complete the application before **January 28, 2019** for the best chance of receiving a scholarship. If a family does not submit their application before January 28, another applicant may receive a scholarship before them, even if the family has reserved a place in line in front of them. Additional information for donors and applicants may be found on the [Empower Illinois](#) and [Catholic Diocese of Peoria](#) websites, or contact your local school. May God continue to bless our schools and Catholic education in the Diocese of Peoria.

Junior High Religion

In January the Junior High prayed a novena to three American Saints for a respect for life. They prayed to Elizabeth Ann Seton for married couples, children in the womb, little children, teen agers, those dying, widows, all those in religious life. Then students prayed three days to John Neumann, asking for his intercession for all parents, immigrants, missionaries, government leaders to protect lives of all, and for doctors to cherish all lives. Finally, students prayed to Frances Xavier Cabrini, asking her to intercede to bring justice and protection for the oppressed, for all those who are lonely and have been forgotten, including the elderly and homeless, and for children who are afraid.

Science/History Fair

The St. Mary's Science Fair was held Tuesday, Jan. 29th. All of the classes, K-5, participated by displaying classroom projects in the gymnasium. Grade 6 created individual science fair projects. As sixth graders, they are not eligible for regional and state competition, but many plan to continue researching this year's project for next year's fair when they will be eligible.

Grades 7 and 8 created history fair projects. Four students have chosen to take their projects to Springfield for the Illinois History Fair on March 9th. Those students are Bayleigh Matthews, Natalie Durbin, Anna Schnetzler, and McKenzie Jordan.

The award ribbons will be presented at next Monday's all-school morning prayer in the gymnasium. All are welcome to join us. The awards are as follows: third place - none; second place - Kaylenn Looper, Gabe Schmitz, Grace Behringer, Josh Tobben, Jack Behringer, and Jay Fitzgibbons; first place- Isaac Kidder, Sierra Spradlin, Madison Burnett, and Olivia Baldwin; outstanding - Isabelle Adams, Cora Huss, Ben Eckstein, Bayleigh Matthews, Anna Schnetzler, Natalie Durbin, Noah Adams, McKenzie Jordan, Emma Berta, and Jonathan Stalsberg. Congratulations to all!