

Annual Report  
2017-18  
*St. Mary School System*



# Mission Statement:

*St. Mary, a Christ-centered community rooted in Catholic tradition, empowers students academically, encourages selfless sacrifice, and nurtures learners to become a positive influence on others.*

## **St. Mary Education Committee**

### **2017-18 Members:**

Fr. Brad Whistle (Episcopal Vicar)  
Chris Haas (Chair): St. Thomas More  
Stephen Chino: St. Francis de Sales  
Susan Curtsinger: St. Thomas More  
James Paxton: St. Thomas More  
Pat Roof: St. John the Evangelist  
Janet Vannatter: St. Francis de Sales  
David Wells: St. Francis de Sales  
Chad Willett: St. John the Evangelist  
Kelli Yazigi: Non-Catholic representative

## **St. Mary Supporting Parishes**

We are grateful to the area parishes that work in partnership with St. Mary Schools to provide the school system with financial and spiritual support, ensuring their parishioners can choose a Catholic education:

- St. Thomas More Catholic Church
- St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church
- St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
- St. Mary Catholic Church
- Rosary Chapel Catholic Church
- St. Jerome Catholic Church
- St. Joseph Catholic Church

## **St. Mary Schools**

St. Mary Preschool (PK3-PK4)  
377 Highland Blvd.  
Paducah, KY 42003

St. Mary Middle School (6th-8th grade)  
1243 Elmdale Road  
Paducah, KY 42003

St. Mary Elementary School (K-5th grade)  
377 Highland Blvd.  
Paducah, KY 42003

St. Mary High School (9th-12th)  
1243 Elmdale Road  
Paducah, KY 42003





## A Message from our System Director

On behalf of the St. Mary Education Committee, faculty and staff, I am pleased to present our 2017-2018 Annual Report to summarize the highlights of our previous year.



This was another exciting year for St. Mary School System as we saw a growth in enrollment and a successful capital campaign which has allowed us to renovate and improve many areas of our schools and campus. Most importantly, we continued to see our students mature and grow-spiritually, academically and athletically.

From its very beginning, St. Mary has existed to partner with families to provide a rigorous, Christ-centered, Catholic education. We continue to be proud of the college scholarships awarded, ACT scores achieved, service projects completed, and the athletic successes of our students each year. However, the true test of success is whether our students are living out the mission of St. Mary, long after they graduate.

It is my prayer that as you read through the 2017-18 Annual Report, you will get a glimpse into the work God is doing in our students and community through the St. Mary School System. We hope you will see beyond the photos, stories, and statistics, and also see that God continues to use St. Mary to build committed and faithful young men and women who are making a difference in the world.

*Eleanor M. Spry*  
Eleanor Spry

System Director

# 2017-18 Demographics

92% Retention Rate

**92%**

**10:1**

10:1 average student-to-faculty ratio

68 New Students Enrolled

**68**

**1 in 5**

1 in 5 students receive need-based financial aid

3 % African-American, 5% Asian, 7% Bi-Racial,  
1% Hispanic, 1% other

**17%**

Diverse Populations







# SPIRITUALLY



Our students' spiritual growth is central in all that we do at St. Mary. We believe this is what sets St. Mary apart. Whether in the classroom, on the stage, or at an athletic event - we focus on building up our students to be compassionate servant-leaders who are equipped spiritually to face the world around them.

St. Mary students participated in a wide variety of activities this past year, including assisting in weekly Masses, Adoration, daily prayer, attending and leading annual retreats for all grade-levels, completing service projects throughout the community, participating in See You At The Pole and attending the National Catholic Youth Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

St. Mary High School students must have 75 hours of Christian service completed in order to graduate. *In 2017-18 our graduating seniors had an average of 147 hours each.* We are proud of their desire to serve far above what is required.

Students in every grade participate in daily religion classes that challenge them to understand their faith and how to apply it in daily life.







Elementary students present the Stations of the Cross as students prepare for Easter.



Students from preschool to 12th grade spend time in daily prayer.

Bishop Medley celebrating Catholic Schools Week at St. Mary.



(Above) High School students spend time serving in our community.



Mass is celebrated each week in the elementary, middle and high schools.

(Right) St. Mary students attending NCYC in 2017.





# ACADEMICALLY

Academically, St. Mary equips students to think critically and independently in an environment that encourages excellence. Our goal is to prepare "Christ-Centered, College-Ready" students. We want our students to graduate with significant scholarship opportunities, prepared for their next level of education. From our 5 Star Rated preschool to the highest composite ACT scores in our community, St. Mary School System strives to live out our mission to "empower students academically. . . and nurture learners to become a positive influence on others."

## Academic Highlights



Abigail Vannatter was accepted to participate in the **2018 Governor's Scholar Program (GSP)**. (St. Mary consistently has students selected for GSP, GSA and GSE. )



Maddie Kerr placed 2nd and Dorian Record placed 10th in Composition at the **2018 Governor's Cup State competition**.



St. Mary Middle School Students **won the Murray State Stock Market Games**.

Emily Hodges was selected as a **National Merit Finalist**. Nearly 1.6 million students in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program. Only 15,000 advanced to the Finalist level.



**43% of St. Mary High School Students and 30% of St. Mary Middle School Students** are eligible to be members of the National Honor Society and the Honors Assembly based on GPA, teacher recommendations, and service.



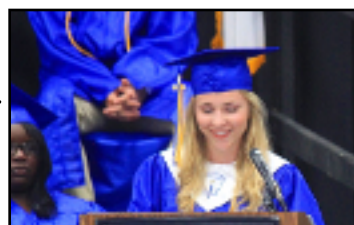
With a gift from an alumni donor, St. Mary High School began an Investment Club in 2018. Students are gaining first hand experience with investing and financial literacy. **St. Mary has the only school Investment Club offered in the region.**



# CLASS OF 2018 REPORT CARD



Salutatorian:  
Hanna Lurtz



Valedictorian: Emily Hodges

## Post Graduation Plans:

- 100% of St. Mary graduates attend college and 1 entered the military.
- St. Mary graduates are attending 15 Colleges/Universities in 6 states and 2 countries.

## ACT Composite Scores

Top Half of St. Mary Class of  
2017-18 Average 26.8

St. Mary Class of 2017-18  
Average 23.6

National Average  
20.8

Kentucky Average  
19.9

## Advanced Placement Program:

St. Mary High School offers a number of College Board Advanced Placement (AP) courses, which allows our students the opportunity to engage in college-level work with the potential to earn college credit.

St. Mary is proud to recognize those students who have been named **AP Scholars** for receiving a 3 or higher on 3 or more AP tests in 2018:

Emily Hodges

Clarissa McGregor

Dorian Record

## Dual-Credit Program:

The St. Mary Dual-Credit Program allows high school students the opportunity to graduate with transferable college credit. Through our partnerships with Brescia University and WKCTC, our **2018 seniors graduated with an average 13 hours of college credit!**

In fact, 85% of our graduating class participated in the Dual-Credit program .



# Athletically

77% of high school students played 1 sport.

77%

50%

50% of high school students played 2 sports.

17% of high school students played 3 or more sports.

17%

With 32 sports teams and 29 clubs/organizations, St. Mary students have the unique opportunity to be involved and grow as participants and leaders.

During the 2017-2018 school year, our student-athletes competed and won many times! However, we also believe that being a St. Mary athlete is more than just the score, it is how you compete. We are proud that for the second year in a row, the St. Mary Boys Basketball team won the Region 1 **Rex Alexander Sportsmanship award** which is

voted on by the officials and awarded based on conduct on the court.

In addition, St. Mary High School was recognized by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) as **one of only 49 schools across the state who had zero disqualified players or coaches during the 2017-18 academic year.**

Congratulations to our athletes and coaches on a great year and for striving to live out the St. Mary mission even in competition.





# Athletes Sign Letters of Intent

Hale Sims-

John A. Logan College-Baseball



Madelyn  
Waltmon-

Georgetown  
College-Track  
and Cross  
Country



Austin Wetherington -

Pikeville University-Baseball



# St. Mary Fundraising

St. Mary School System is committed to keeping the cost of a Catholic education affordable for families while still providing outstanding learning experiences for our students. In order to do this, St. Mary relies on many financial resources. St. Mary School System's income is made up primarily of tuition, parish subsidies, and third-source funding. Third-source funding opportunities include the Annual Fund, restricted donations, and significant fundraising events such as the Auction, Oktoberfest, Bingo, and Scrip.

## Annual Fund

The 2017-18 "I Aspire" Annual Fund was a success thanks to the generosity of our parents, grandparents, alumni, staff and community members! We set a goal of \$120,000 and we raised \$121,670! We exceeded the 2016-17 Annual Fund by nearly \$9,000!

These funds go toward tuition assistance and to cover operational expenses that are not covered by tuition and parish subsidies.

## Bingo

St. Mary Bingo has been an important source of income for the school since 1981. In 2017-18, \$45,000 was raised through bingo to help support St. Mary. We couldn't do this without the help of our parents and community volunteers who make this significant fundraiser possible!

## St. Mary Auction

The St. Mary Auction, which occurs every other year, attracts over 600 people and it is the single largest fundraising event for the school system.

The 2017 Auction was once again a huge success raising nearly \$250,000 for St. Mary through live and silent auctions!

Countless volunteer hours go into making this such a fun and successful weekend!



## SCRIP

Scrip fundraising is a no-selling program that allows St. Mary families to raise money for the school and for their tuition by using gift cards, or scrip, to pay for everyday purchases. Families order gift cards from St. Mary at face value and earn a rebate. The rebate is split between St. Mary and the student's tuition. It is a win-win for the school and our families!

### 2017-18 Scrip Stats

Total rebate earned \$28,374.32

St. Mary School System earned: \$14,187.20

St. Mary Families earned: \$14,187.12

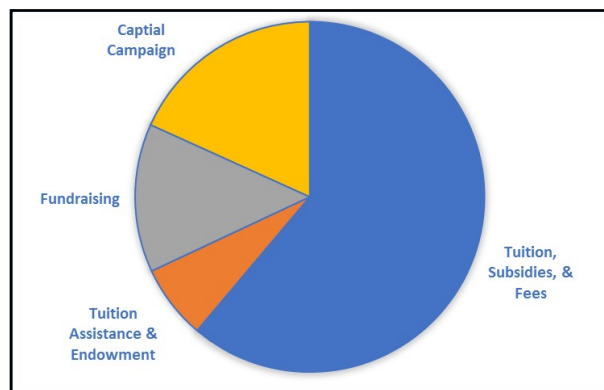
Anyone in the community can use Scrip and support St. Mary! Contact our school offices to learn more: 270-442-1681.



# St. Mary Summary of Finance and Support

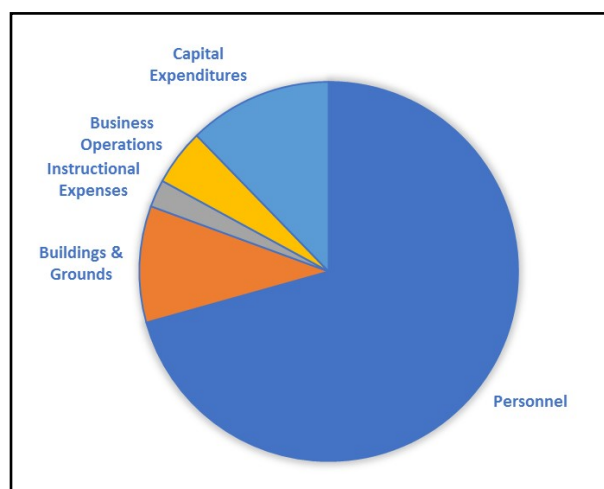
## 2017-18 Revenue

Tuition, Subsidies, and Fees	1,893,667.51
Tuition Assistance & Endowment	212,829.06
Fundraising	424,363.13
<u>Capital Campaign</u>	<u>565,000.00</u>
Total	\$3,095,859.70



## 2017-18 Expenses

Personnel	2,055,739.00
Buildings & Grounds	288,996.00
Instructional Expenses	73,962.00
Business Operations	133,758.00
<u>Capital Expenditures</u>	<u>357,044.00</u>
Total	\$2,909,499.00



## Gifts for Today

Many gifts touch our students' lives the moment you give!

**Prayer:** Your prayer for St. Mary, our students, and our faculty and staff is a true gift. Please keep us in your daily prayers.

**Annual Fund:** This is the easiest way you can support St. Mary. Your donation is tax deductible and directly impacts the school's operational expenses. It provides significant tuition assistance each year to our students.

**Matching Gifts:** Several employers have programs that will match financial contributions their employees make to St. Mary. Please check with your employer or visit the St. Mary website for a list of companies that match.

## GIFTS FOR TOMORROW

If Catholic education has played an important role in your family's life, consider ways that will allow you to leave a legacy for future students to benefit from St. Mary Schools.

**Wills, Trusts or Bequests:** Please consider St. Mary in your estate plans. When you do include St. Mary, please let us know of your plans.

**St. Mary Endowment:** A gift to the St. Mary Endowment helps to sustain our school for years to come. Gifts to the endowment allow for future tuition assistance, special initiatives, and overall quality of education.

**Life Insurance:** When St. Mary is named as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, premiums become eligible as a tax-deductible gift.



**ST. MARY SCHOOL SYSTEM**