

2018

**ST. MARY SCHOOL SYSTEM**  
ANNUAL REPORT

2019



# DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Families and Friends of St. Mary School System:

The 2018-19 Annual Report allows us to highlight the wonderful accomplishments of our students, faculty and staff. It has been an exciting year as enrollment continues on an upward trajectory with new students enrolled at every grade level and a student retention rate of 90 percent. Our academic focus has been on adhering to our rigorous religious and content benchmarks and standards developed by the Diocese of Owensboro. We consistently use data from NWEA MAP, ACT Aspire, and ACT to set instructional goals and strategies to support higher student learning. We are embracing Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) projects within our instruction across all grade levels. Our classrooms are filled with joyful faces and engaged learners.



The past year's improvements include completion of the exterior maintenance and updating project at all schools and painting of classrooms with additional splashes of color added by the teachers. The dedication of the elementary playground culminated the three year project to add new equipment and surfacing of the play areas. We were afforded an amazing gift allowing us to offer daily Spanish instruction to all elementary students. In addition, the St. Patrick's Blarney Bash with a \$25,000 match challenge supported STEM initiatives at all grade levels. Our Annual Fund giving, along with additional grants, provided 40% more in tuition assistance awards than last year. All these accomplishments have been made possible only through the commitment of donors.

At St. Mary, we work daily to equip students—spiritually, academically, and athletically—to fulfill God's purpose for their lives. We are ever grateful for our parents, parish members, and pastors who provide spiritual and financial support. The commitment to our mission, our schools, and with fundraising is crucial to who we are as a community and the impact we have on our students.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Eleanor M Spry".

Eleanor Spry, System Director



## FAST FACTS

- 90% Retention Rate
- 11:1 average student to teacher ratio
- 81 New Students Enrolled
- 1 in 3 students (K-12th) receive need-based financial aid
- 17% Diverse Populations:
  - 3% African- American
  - 5% Asian
  - 6% Bi-racial
  - 3% Hispanic

### 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 EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2018 - 2019 members

Fr. Brad Whistle (Episcopal Vicar)

Chris Haas

Stefanie Suazo

Chad Willett (Chair)

Ayana McKenzie

Janet Vannatter

Stephen Chino

James Paxton

David Wells

Susan Curtsinger

Pat Roof

Kelli Yazigi



FAITH



MASSES  
OFFERED:

68



SPIRITUAL  
RETREATS  
ATTENDED  
(4th - 12th Grade)

10



SERVICE HOURS  
COMPLETED  
(9th - 12th Grade)  
**3989**

SERVICE PROJECTS  
ACCOMPLISHED  
(PK - 12th Grade)  
**28**

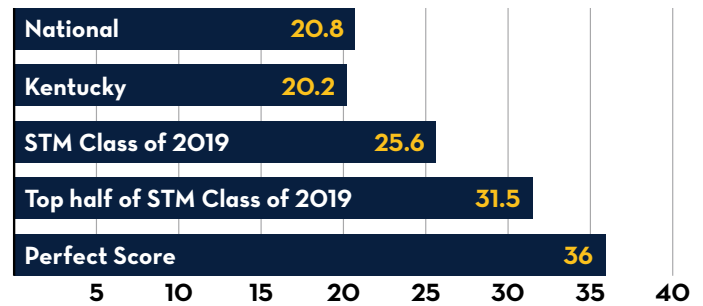




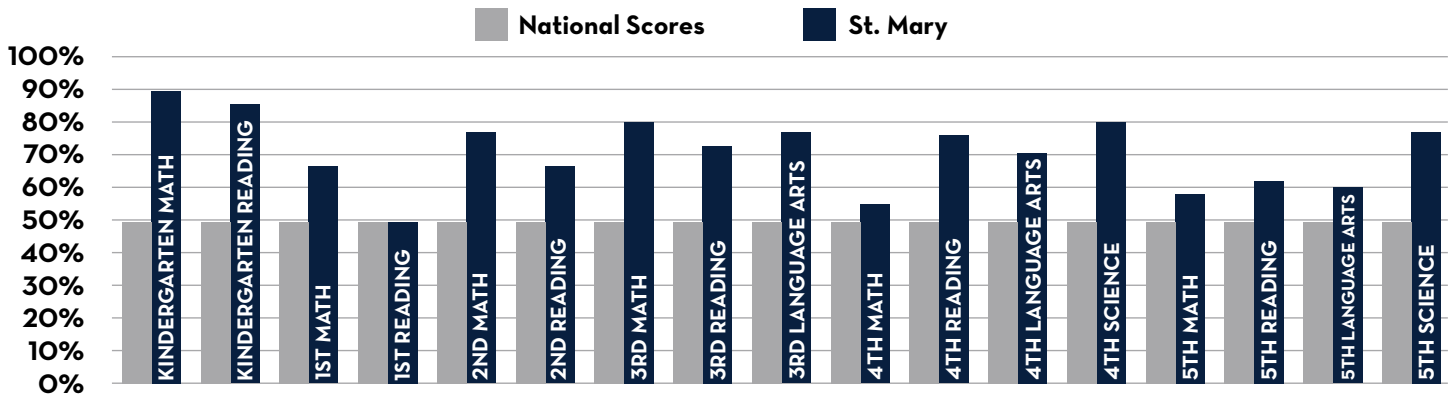
# ACADEMICS

St Mary Elementary School uses NWEA Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) to assess the learning levels in reading, language, science, and mathematics for each student. MAP is a norm referenced assessment taken by over 8 million students a year. Our teachers use this individualized information to drive instructional decisions specific for each student. Additionally, MAP allows us to compare St. Mary results to national results. **In 2018-19, St. Mary students consistently scored above the national average.**

## ACT AVERAGES



## PERCENTAGES OF MAP SCORES COMPARED TO NATIONAL AVERAGE



## VIKINGS VOYAGE

St. Mary students and faculty participate in numerous local, state, and national competitions and events every year. We are pleased to present a sampling of our student and faculty efforts.

Middle School science reading teacher, Kambria Spoden, was selected to participate in a three day professional development STEM training in Huntsville, AL at the Marshall Space Flight Center and the U.S. Space and Rocket Center through a grant from the Challenger Learning Center of Paducah and the NASA KY Space Grant Consortium.

Principal Doug Shelton was selected into the Leadership Institute for School Principals. Mr. Shelton received training over the summer in Greensboro, North Carolina, as well as continued trainings in Frankfort, Kentucky as part of this executive-level leadership program.

St. Mary students competed and won at the 4-H State Speech Competition in Lexington, KY. Kate Morrow came in 1st Place in the State in the 13 year-old division and Daniel Nunley placed 1st in the state in his division with his demonstration on the science of pitching. Both Alex Horbovetz and Sophie Stratemeyer placed 3rd.





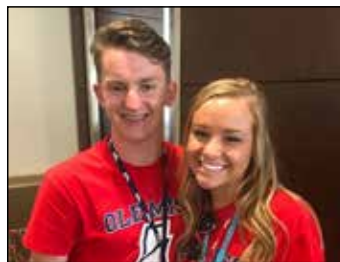
William Seay was selected to the Governor's School for the Arts. Over 1,400 students applied for this summer intensive arts program at the University of Kentucky and only 256 were selected to participate.

Emma Kerr and Madeline Kerr were selected to participate in the Governor's Scholar Program (GSP). GSP was created in an effort to retain the state's top students in the Commonwealth after high school. GSP is highly selective and offers students the opportunity to spend the summer at one of three Kentucky college/university campuses focusing on in-depth courses, civic leadership, and unique learning opportunities.



Allison Shockley's "Citrus" won 3rd place at the 2019 Kentucky High School All-State Art Competition in Covington, Kentucky. "Citrus" also took first place at the Murray State University Regional Competition.

John Ryan Curtsinger and Abby Hatton were selected for and completed the highly competitive APEX Leadership Summit at the University of Mississippi.



Chiara Doran completed the Commonwealth Honors Academy at Murray State University. This selective program is designed to academically enrich and challenge outstanding high school students who have completed their junior year.

St. Mary Elementary expanded its foreign language program in 2018-19. All students in kindergarten through fifth grade receive Spanish daily.



## CLASS OF 2019 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE

The Class of 2019 was offered \$2,565,244 in scholarships, averaging more than \$150,000 per student.

**100% graduation rate and 100% college bound!**

- Bellarmine University
- Belmont University
- Centre College
- Georgetown College
- George Washington University
- Indiana University
- Morehead State University
- Murray State University
- Southeast Missouri State University
- St. Louis University
- Transylvania University
- Union University
- University of Louisville
- University of Kentucky
- University of Mississippi
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Tennessee
- Webster University
- Western Kentucky University
- West Kentucky Community Technical College
- Xavier University



Valedictorian, Dorian Record and Salutatorian, Reid Courtney



# ATHLETICS

St. Mary School System is proud to offer 33 sports teams and 29 clubs/organizations for students to participate in throughout the year. St. Mary provides a unique opportunity for students to build a diverse resume that showcases their leadership and athletic ability on and off the field. The number of students who not only participate in sports and clubs, but also excel academically, speaks to the motivation and focus of our students.

**74% of high school girls play a sport**

**84% of high school boys play a sport.**

**79% of high school students played 1 sport**

**57% of high school students played 2 sports**

**33% of high school students played 3 or more sports.**

The 2018-19 school year saw the return of a longtime tradition with the Junior Vikings Basketball and Cheer! St. Mary Elementary had basketball teams for 1st through 5th grades and cheerleading squads comprised of kindergarten through 5th grade students.



Elementary Cross Country and Track and Field teams continue to grow strong with students from kindergarten through 5th grade participating and competing in 2018-19!



St. Mary Middle School Track Team had a great season and made it to the State Championship at the University of Louisville. Vanessa Becker, Kaitlynn Burrus, Milleah Smith, Miranda Gartner and Brandon Quigley proudly represented St. Mary!



Kaitlynn Burrus won the State Champion and ranked 1st IN THE NATION in the Girls Turbo Javelin and Miranda Gartner, came in 5th at the State Championship in the Turbo Javelin and ranked 7th nationally.



Middle School Vikings and Lady Vikings soccer teams went undefeated during the 2018-19 season and the Lady Vikings went on to become District Champions!



St. Mary had 83 high school athletes named to the Academic All-State Team (3.75 GPA or higher) or received Honorable Mention (3.25 to 3.74 GPA). In fact, every high school student on the varsity boys and girls soccer teams made All-State Academic or Honorable Mention Academic Team, affirming the St. Mary commitment to excellence both on and off the field!



2018 Lady Vikings won the cross country Regional Meet and both boys and girls cross country teams advanced to KHSAA State competition.

Margaret Butts qualified for All A State Golf and KHSAA State Golf, was selected to the KHSAA All State Golf team and won Region Player of the year for Golf. John Wilson and Ellie Roof qualified for All A Golf.



Middle School and High School Cross Country Coach. Bill Halicks, was named All-Area 1 Girls Class A 2018 Coach of the Year!



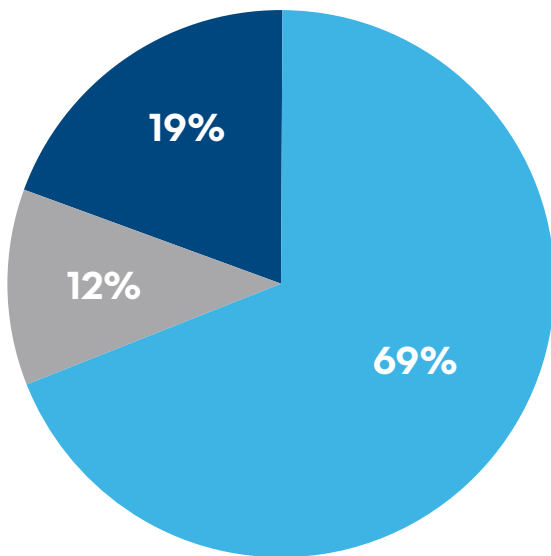
## ST. MARY FUNDRAISING

St. Mary School System continues our commitment to keep the cost of Catholic education affordable while still providing a rigorous academic experience for our students. Tuition alone only covers about 80% of the true cost to run our school system. It is due to the generosity of individuals, families, businesses, and our community that we raise the additional funds needed each year.

Below are the main fundraising and community building events that were held in 2018-19:

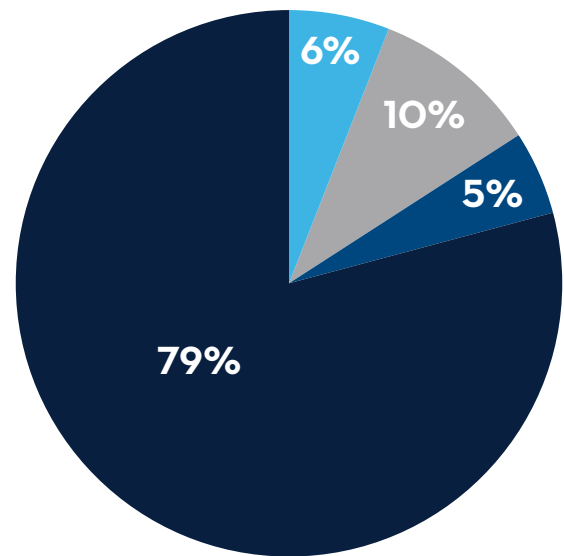
### OPERATING REVENUE \$2,574,832

- TUITION, SUBSIDIES, AND FEES
- FUNDRAISING
- TUITION ASSISTANCE AND ENDOWMENT EARNINGS



### EXPENSES

- PERSONNEL
- BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS
- BUSINESS OPERATIONS
- INSTRUCTIONAL EXPENSES



### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

St. Mary Schools have undergone extensive renovations to maintain and improve our buildings and grounds over the last two years. We finished repairing and painting the exteriors and portions of the interiors of the elementary, middle, and high schools. In addition, we have improved drainage, roofing, exterior doors, and gutters. The elementary playground has been completely overhauled

with new equipment and surfacing. The middle and high schools have new computer and business labs. A new concession stand and bathrooms have been built for the athletic complex. We have invested \$1,200,000 into these projects with \$748,669 of that being spent on projects during the 2018-19 school year. We thank our donors who have made these continued improvements possible.



## ANNUAL FUND

The 2018-19 Annual Fund commemorated the school system's 160 year anniversary by setting our goal at \$160,000. With great support from our alumni, parents, grandparents, local organizations, and our community we reached \$191,765. We exceeded the 2017-18 Annual Fund by over \$70,000! The Annual Fund revenue goes toward tuition assistance and general operating expenses of the school.



## BINGO

In 2018-19, St. Mary Bingo raised \$103,000 to support the operating expenses of the school. Bingo is a volunteer run program and would be impossible without the support of our parents and community volunteers. Thank you!

## BLARNEY BASH

The first (but not the last) St. Mary Blarney Bash was a great success! We raised over \$50,000 for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) initiatives across the school system and had a blast doing it!

## OKTOBERFEST

Every other year the school system holds an Oktoberfest with live music, games, auctions, great food, and lots of family fun. This year we raised \$15,000 to support the school system.

## 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 their 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. In 2018-19 the scrip program earned \$21,000. To learn more about this program, please call 270.442.1681.



St. Mary Middle and High Schools  
1243 Elmdale Road, Paducah, KY 42003

St. Mary Elementary and Preschool  
377 Highland Blvd., Paducah, KY 42003

270.442.1681  
[www.smss.org](http://www.smss.org)



*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.*