



ST MARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE BOARD AGENDA

March 26, 2025

St. Mary School System SMEC Meeting

5:30 PM HS Library

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.

Opening Prayer

Approval of Minutes Action item
February 26, 2025 Meeting

Episcopal Vicar Updates - Fr. Gary

Administrative Updates

Director - Monica Hayden

ES - Mary Smith

MS/HS - Doug Shelton

Committee Reports

Advancement - Ashley Wright

Enrollment - Ashley Wright

Finance - Robin Mowers

Strategic Plan Committee Reports

Academics - Doug Shelton

Advancement - Kristen Stone

Catholic Identity - Colleen Stovesand

Enrollment - Blake Cvengros

Facilities - David Gavin

Finance - Matt Durbin

Governance - Andrew DuPerrieu

Student Life - Krista Lea

Old Business - Finance - budget update and 25/26 tuition

New Business - 25/26 Calendar to be approved

Next Meeting – April 23, 2025

Closing Prayer

St. Mary Education Committee

March 26, 2025 – 5:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Amanda Wurth, Colleen Stovesand, Lynn Thompson, Andrew DuPerrieu, Matt Durbin, Austin Smith, David Gavin, Blake Cvengros, Paul Humm, Fr. Gary Clark

Members Not Present: Krista Lee, Kristen Stone

St. Mary /Diocesan Staff Present: Monica Hayden, Mary Smith, Ashley Wright, Doug Shelton, Robin Mowers

Meeting Called to Order – 5:45 pm

Opening Prayer

Approval of Minutes – Approved by consensus

Episcopal Vicar Update – No Report

Administrative Updates

Director Updates – No Report

Elementary School – Written

High/Middle School – Written

Committee Reports

Advancement/Enrollment – Written

Finance –

The finance committee, Monica, and Robin have met to discuss the budget. The discussion included controllable costs and uncontrollable costs. 80-85% of the budget is allocated to salaries and benefits. Salaries are fixed based on pay scale. Other benefits conform to policies set by the Diocese. We have control over headcount, but there is very little room here because we already operate with a small staff.

Based on the financial review the recommendation is to raise tuition by 7%. This is lower than what would be required to break even on the budget but is as high as the committee believes tuition can be increased in one year without negatively impacting enrollment. Over the next few years additional increases similar in size will be necessary.

There are 3 major factors driving costs that necessitate this increase.

1. Inflation
2. Increased teacher pay
3. Increased maintenance costs

Inflationary impacts were delayed due to the Covid funds the school received. This money offset operational expenses. Teacher pay has been increased over the last several years to move teachers up from the minimum recommended by the diocese up to the maximum. In order to recruit and retain the best possible employees the pay needs to be more competitive. Even at the current levels, teacher pay is still far below area public schools. Increased maintenance costs are due in large part to an aging campus. These costs will continue to run higher for the foreseeable future.

The 7% increase roughly corresponds to an increase of \$40-45 per student per month. The tuition increase needs to be properly communicated so stakeholders understand why there is an increase in this amount. It is understood that the impact of the increase will fall on families unless the parish subsidy is increased. Discussions are still ongoing to see what can be done to increase the subsidy. Part of the communication will be to let families know that there is tuition assistance available for those who apply and qualify.

Multiple ways to minimize the amount of future tuition increases are being explored. Efforts are ongoing to increase enrollment, increase the parish subsidy, reach more donors, and increase giving from existing donors. As an example, the current increase could be offset by the enrollment of 40 additional students.

The cost to educate a student is approximately \$13,000 per high school student, \$10,000 per middle school student, and \$8,000 per elementary school student. Future tuition increases may be allocated differently based on the above costs.

A communication on the tuition increase will be sent out to families soon. This will include information on why this increase is necessary, the cost to educate, and ideally, will include a cost comparison to other private or catholic schools.

In the future the budget may need to be considered over a multiple year time frame, recognizing that the biggest fund raiser (the auction) is held every other year.

Additional communication to families on ways to offset costs will be communicated. Scrip is available to anyone who chooses to participate and generates money for the school and savings for the family.

February financials approved by consensus.

Strategic Plan Committee Reports – Dashboard to be updated

Academics – Doug Shelton
Advancement – Kristen Stone
Catholic Identity – Colleen Stovesand
Enrollment – Blake Cvengros
Facilities – David Gavin
Finance – Matt Durbin

Governance – Andrew DuPerrieu
Student Life – Krista Lee

Old Business – Finance – budget update and 25/26 tuition

New Business – 25/26 Calendar to be approved

After a discussion around Holy Days of Obligation, the calendar is approved as presented, pending Fr. Gary's review and ultimate approval.

Next Meeting – April 23, 2025

Closing Prayer

ST MARY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL
Principal's Report – Douglas Shelton
March, 2025

The month of March has been a full one, and we are enjoying the glimmers of Spring, as we push through the third quarter into the fourth quarter and head down the final stretch of the school year! Both our schedules and spirits are still heavy as spring sports season are (literally) in full swing and we navigate this season of Lent. Fish Fries, Fundraisers, and Final Trips--it's definitely *that* time of year in the St. Mary community! There's been a lot happening at St. Mary MS/HS, and here's a few of the highlights from this month....

Academic / Culture Accomplishments

- St. Mary Middle School was represented well in Academic team state competition with 8th Grader Emma Dee placing 2nd in the state in writing composition, and 6th Grader Reynash Beljum finishing 6th in individual quick recall. It has been quite an exciting year for both academic teams, and first year moderator Rodney Holt, deserves a ton of credit!
- Senior twins Sydney and Alex Seibert represented St. Mary for the first time ever by performing with the Paducah Symphony Academy Honors Orchestra.
- The Senior Class took an all around memorable trip to Gatlinburg, TN this past week, and had a fantastic time with each other over the 2.5 days together!
- High School Teacher, Tamara Berry, was named the Rhodes Teacher of the Month for March.
- The Middle School raised well over \$3000 for their FundRun efforts, and were treated to a color run as a surprise. This money will be put back in for future enrichment activities involving Student Life in the middle school.
- All 5th grade students were able to spend two classes and the lunch period shadowing at the Middle School last week. By all accounts, ALL of the 5th graders are ready to be St. Mary Middle Schoolers!
- Students from Dr. Lewis' Anatomy/Physiology class went to St. Louis to visit the cadaver lab at St. Louis University School of Medicine.
- Senior, Natalie Wielgos, won the Distinguished Daughters of the American Revolution award for the state of Kentucky, which netted a \$1000 scholarship and qualified her for National competition.
- Sophomore, Ryan Goins, was accepted into the Gatton Academy at Western KY University, a competitive program where students attend the Academy for their JR/SR years in exchange for tuition free college in the future!

Athletic Accomplishments / Notes

- Both tennis teams continue to have fantastic seasons, winning many single, doubles, and team matches against various area high schools.
- The track team has a few early season results to be proud of, including a win for Gabby Ault at McCracken County's meet.
- The basketball season finally came to an end, with our boys bowing out at the regional level to Calloway County. Both teams and the cheerleaders had a well attended banquet this past weekend.
- Head Girls Coach, Sherri Diccico, was named All-Purchase Coach Honorable Mention--players Mason Clements and Katie O'Neill were both named to the All-Purchase Honorable Mention team, as well.
- Luke Sims was named to the All Purchase Basketball Team for a third year in a row and Griffin Mayes was named to the All Purchase Honorable Mention team.
- The baseball team is a perfect 4-0 on the young season, already meeting high expectations already around them!
- Each MS Soccer team picked up a win against Lone Oak girls and Paducah Middle boys, and are gaining some momentum as their season progresses.
- Gracie Capps was hired as the new softball coach, and will conduct a practice/learning/JV style season ahead of returning a Varsity team next season to St. Mary High School, and hopefully a MS team this Fall.
- Liz Mason and Colleen Stovesand were hired in tandem to take over the St. Mary Volleyball program, and bring a wealth of experience, knowledge, and loyalty to this position.

Spiritual / Service Notes

- The 8th Grade had a Class Retreat at Kentucky Lake (LBL), getting out to appreciate God's natural wonders, and the 6th, 7th and 11th have had their retreats at St. Thomas More. A special thanks to Ann Morrow and Craig Willett for their assistance for these special trips!
- The Student Senate held their Spring Blood Drive, and earned enough contributions to present a High School Senior with a scholarship later this Spring.
- The MS held Mass with Bishop Medley this past Tuesday, and afterwards he visited classes, and allowed students to pick his brain about all things, the Bishop welcomes this opportunity annually.
- A group of seniors came in early many times (almost daily) this month to pray the Rosary with religion teacher, Chris Hrdlicka.
- Each school has celebrated 2 masses this month, a System-wide Ash Wednesday Mass, and will have Reconciliation and Stations of the Cross services next week.

St. Mary Elementary Principal SMEC Report

March 2025

Faith/Spiritual

- Ash Wednesday system mass held March 5th. Father Basilio carried ashes over for our preschool students as well.
- Classes have utilized our elementary and middle/high school chapel spaces this Lent to pray the Stations of the Cross.
- Our 5th grade students are beginning to prepare for the Living Stations that they will present to our families and students during Holy Week.
- Our weekly mass is showing improvement each week. We are working to prepare appropriate hymns from approved hymnals as well as the focus to teach the Mass parts.

Academics

- The third quarter wrapped up in early March. Report cards went home via email last week.
- 4th quarter academics are underway to finish out the school year.
- Administration, resource staff and homeroom teachers have met to discuss all elementary students, their growth and their needs.
- Our 4th & 5th grade students participated in the school level 4H speech and demonstration competition. The students did a wonderful job! We have several who moved on to the county competition on Tuesday.
- Read Across America Week- The week was a fun week highlighting our love for reading! Mrs. Lang had several guest readers to visit.

After School Activities

- Academic Team competed at the regional level.
 - Noah Crane - 3rd place mathematics
 - Alexander Gavin - additional advancement in mathematics
 - Anant Bhatia - 2nd place in social studies
 - St. Mary Elementary Quick Recall team: 2nd place
 - St. Mary Elementary - 4th place overall standing!
- Elementary choir is beginning to plan for the remaining mass schedule as well as closing mass.
- We have 5th grade students playing on the middle school soccer team.
- Alice in Wonderland Play- Mrs. Lyles has this scheduled for May. The group is practicing weekly in preparation. There will be a morning and evening performance.

Additional Highlights

- 5th Grade Transition Days- Our 5th grade students went over to the middle school in small groups earlier this month. The students had the opportunity to sit in 2 rotations as well as lunch. It is a great way to get some of the nerves out of the way before next year's transition.
- Spring fundraiser- We moved the fundraiser up this year to avoid the busy end of year activities. It was a great success! We are wrapping up final incentives next week.
- Celebrated National Down Syndrome Day in crazy socks.
- Long term sub for 4th/5th grade Math has transitioned in and doing well.
- Second semester observations and feedback meetings are in process for all teachers.

- New 1st grade student started this month. 2nd grade student transitioned out.
- Bluegrass Cleaning quote approved- custodial service to start soon. Hired 2 highschoolers to help with needs until then
- Open position- lunch coverage and aftercare still posted
- Cafeteria manager posted- Paula Hudson retiring- Additional kitchen staff expected to retire in August.

Upcoming

- We have reconciliation planned for grades 2nd-5th grades next week for this Lenten season.
- 2nd Annual- Students vs Faculty Quick Recall match is scheduled later this week.
- We have several retreats planned from now until the end of the quarter as well as field trips.
- Academically we are in the final quarter of instruction. We will be doing the final MAP testing & Preschool Screenings after Spring Break to again review student progress.
- Preschool will have end of year conferences. K-5 families may schedule a meeting upon request.
- We are already looking to next year. If you know of anyone looking for employment within the school system, send them our way.

Blessings,

Mary Smith

Advancement Report for SMEC
March 2025

Annual Fund and Tuition Assistance:

2024-2025 Goals:

- Annual Fund includes Viking Society contributions and runs from July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025.

Fundraising 2024-25 (July 1-June 30)	Goal	As of 03/26/2025
Annual Fund (Including Viking Society)	\$300,000	\$290,953
Fr. Lew White <i>(Catholic Only Tuition Assistance)</i>	\$40,000	\$57,982
General Tuition Assistance <i>(Catholic and Non-Catholic Tuition Assistance)</i>	\$100,000	\$108,009
Total	\$440,000	\$456,944

- As of 03/26/2025, we have raised **\$349,627 in Restricted Gifts** (Weight Room Renovation, maintenance funding, grant funding for an audit, Adopt-a-Class/Adopt-a-Subject, funding for drama club, etc.)
- As of 03/26/2025, **Booster Club has received \$39,002** in sponsorships and team specific donations.

Upcoming New Annual Fund Events:

Alumni Giving Challenge - May 1-May 15

Viking Society Gathering for Prospective Donors - April 24

Viking Society Gathering for Prospective Donors - June 12

St. Mary School System

2025-2026

Jul-25						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 PD	26
27	28	29 PD	30 PD	31 PD		

Aug-25						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4 PD	5 PD	6 1	7 2	8 3	9
10	11 4	12 5	13 6	14 7	15 8	16
17	18 9	19 10	20 11	21 12	22 13	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	14	15	16	17	18	

Sep-25						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1 Labor	2 19	3 20	4 21	5 22	6
7	8 23	9 24	10 25	11 26	12 27	13
14	15 28	16 29	17 30	18 31	19 32	20
21	22 33	23 34	24 35	25 36	26 37	27
28	29 38	30 39				

Oct-25						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1 40	2 41	3 42	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Fall Break					
12	13 43	14 44	15 45	16 46	17 47	18
19	20 48	21 49	22 50	23 51	24 52	25
26	27 53	28 54	29 55	30 56	31 57	

Nov-25						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	58	59	60	61	62	
9	10 63	11 64	12 65	13 66	14 67	15
16	17 68	18 69	19 70	20 71	21 72	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	73	74	Thanks Break			

Dec-25						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1 75	2 76	3 77	4 78	5 79	6
7	8 80	9 81	10 82	11 83	12 84	13
14	15 85	16 86	17 87	18 88	19 89	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Christmas Break					
28	29	30	31			
	Christmas Break					

Jan-26						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	90	91	92	93	94	
11	12 95	13 96	14 97	15 98	16 99	17
18	19 MLK	20 100	21 101	22 102	23 103	24
25	26 104	27 105	28 106	29 107	30 108	31

Feb-26						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	109	110	111	112	113	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	114	115	116	117	118	
15	16 Presid	17 119	18 120	19 121	20 122	21
22	23 123	24 124	25 125	26 126	27 127	28

Mar-26						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	128	129	130	131	132	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	133	134	135	136	137	
15	16	17	18	19	20 SML	21
	138	139	140	141		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	142	143	144	145	146	
29	30	31				
	147	148				

Apr-26						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
			149	150	GF	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Easter	Spring Break					
12	13 151	14 152	15 153	16 154	17 155	18
19	20 156	21 157	22 158	23 159	24 160	25
26	27 161	28 162	29 163	30 164		

May-26						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
					165	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	166	167	168	169	170	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	171	172	173	174	175	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Jun-26						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				