



Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!
ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 3
August 31, 2016



MISSION: To provide a Catholic education that nurtures students' hearts and minds to become servant leaders in an ever changing world.

Front Office Corner

Office hours 7:30am-3:30pm and by appointment.

School Mass every Wednesday at 8:30am (or Fridays for the First Friday of each month)

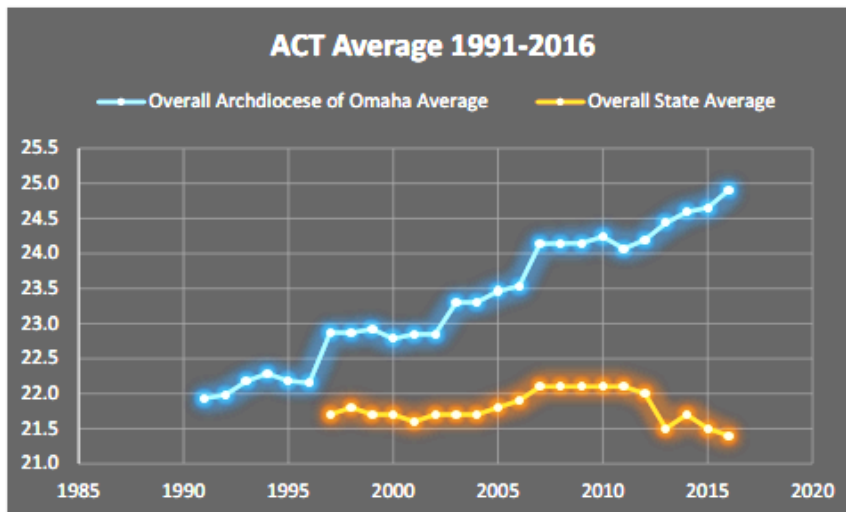
Upcoming:

- Sep 1: Picture Day**
- Sep 2: Mass @8:30am**
- Sep 3: Archdiocese Prolife Mass**
- Sep 5: NO SCHOOL Happy Labor Day!**



We received some great news from our Superintendent. The 17 Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of Omaha have once again beaten their previous ACT composite high score. Setting a new archdiocesan record, our schools scored a composite 24.9, up from a 24.6 last year. The state average dropped a tenth of a point to 21.4. The below chart outlines the average scores over the indicated period.

Although performance at public schools is not reflected in the chart, the trend of strong academic success holds true. As we visit with our Alumni, we hear about their positive experience in high school. They are honor roll students and student leaders at their high schools. They are taking advanced classes. There is much to celebrate and it all begins with the foundation students receive here and at other Archdiocesan schools.



In closing, we look forward to seeing all our students tomorrow in their "Sunday Best" or wearing the uniform proudly for picture day. I hope you and your family enjoy this Labor Day weekend with family, friends and fun. Be safe and we will see you all on September 6th.

Patricia Wallinger

Dr. Trish Wallinger, principal

St. Mary's Parent-Student Handbook. The 2016-2017 Parent-Student Handbook is available electronically on Sycamore and the school webpage at:

[http://stmarysschoolbellevue.com/images/stories/project/2016-2017 St Marys Parent Student Handbook.pdf](http://stmarysschoolbellevue.com/images/stories/project/2016-2017%20St%20Marys%20Parent%20Student%20Handbook.pdf)

If you would like a hardcopy, please email the office at cathy.braxton@stmarysbellevue.com and we will send one home with your student.

Service Hours Opportunity. The Development committee is looking for a parent volunteer to manage our baptism anniversary campaign. The school office would provide contact info and volunteer would label postcards and mail out monthly (estimated time commitment 1 hour month; task can be done completely at home). If interested, please call the office @291-1694

Lunches. For planning, we wanted to ensure you knew the lunch times for students.

Pre-K through 4th grades: first lunch from 11:25 - 11:55am
5th, 6th 7th and 8th have second lunch at 12:18 - 12:40pm

Drop Off / Pick Up Reminders:

In the morning, when the students are in the parking lot, we have a few parents pulling in the lot and dropping off students. Please don't pull in the lot, but use the Clay St drop off point for safety of all students.

In afternoon, please do not pull out of lot until directed to by parking lot monitor/teacher. This is the best way to keep our students safe. The monitors have better visibility than the drivers in vehicles.

Safe Environment (SE) Training. All St Mary's School volunteers need to be SE Trained. The next session at St Mary's is Sept 15th from 6pm-8:30pm. Thanks to our parents who signed up for August's session. There are only 20 slots and you must pre-register at the archdiocesan website and click "Safe Environment" (www.archomaha.org).

Certification is for 5 years. Recertification is an online training for those already trained and whose certification date is near expiration. Background checks are required with recertification. This recertification is good for five years.

Baby Drive. The 6th grade class will be holding a baby drive to collect items for the Essential Pregnancy Services. The EPS is located across the street from our school. The drive will run the first 2 weeks of September.



Pacifiers and onesies are needed but any baby items are greatly appreciated. Please send items to the 6th grade room. Thanks for supporting Life (For questions, please contact Mr. Kastl and Mrs. Sjostedt).

Pro-Life Prayer Vigil Mass. Join Archbishop Lucas in a pro-life prayer vigil Mass and rosary procession Saturday, September 3, 8:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Church, 2302 Crawford St., Bellevue. The procession will lead to the local abortion

**Handbook Highlight
Medication at School**

If a student is required to take medications during school hours, here are some guidelines:

- No medication may be kept in a classroom by a student. *With the exception of an epi-pen or asthma medication as ordered by a physician*
- All medication must be brought to and from the school office by a parent/legal guardian.
- Prescription medications will not be administered without a completed medical authorization form
- signed by both the physician and the custodial parent/legal guardian.
- Prescription medication must be in the original container, with the pharmacy label.
- Over the counter medicines also need a signed authorization by both the physician and the custodial parent/legal guardian. Medication must be in original container with manufacturer's directions clearly legible, and student's name written on container. See page 30-31 for full explanation

facility under the supervision of the Bellevue Police Department. Exposition of the Eucharist with the rosary will be offered in the church for those unable to process. A reception will follow the closing Benediction.

RCIA. The Rite of Christian Initiation is an invitation: · to come and see what our Catholic faith is all about · to learn and experience scripture · to share faith and prayer and community · to become a disciple of Jesus For Adults! For Children! Adults and high school students meet on Wednesday nights beginning September 7th from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. at St. Mark's Hall. Children's group (3rd through 8th) and families meet on Monday nights beginning September 12th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Hall. For more information please contact Sr. Ellen at ellen.dolan@stmarysbellevue.com or the liturgy office at 402-291-5395.

Sports Registration. If you have any sports program related questions please call Jen Kreps, the Sports Program Coordinator (402) 881-2576 or megjen992000@yahoo.com or the coach for your child.

Volunteer Opportunity. If you and/or your family would be interested in helping prepare a family event for those children who are preparing for Eucharist or Reconciliation and their parents, please contact the RE office. We are in the very beginning stages of planning an event for our 2nd grade students and their parents. We would love your ideas and suggestions; call the RE office at 402-291-7222.

School Pictures. Picture day will be Thursday, September 1st. Order forms went home with students last week. Students are encouraged to wear "Sunday Best" for our school pictures. Students can wear their uniform or appropriate dress following "free dress" day guidelines. Jeans are acceptable for picture day if appropriate and without holes.

From Lifetouch:

Pre-Order online or by order form before picture day and up to only 48 hours online after picture day. When you pre-order shipping is a free benefit. Any order form turned in after picture day is considered a late order. Late orders will be received 2 weeks after everyone gets pictures back at the school.

After Picture Day: Proof will come in with all other orders placed for those who didn't order, allowing parents to go online and order. A Proof order will come with a portrait ID and access code. Please note: there will be a shipping fee.

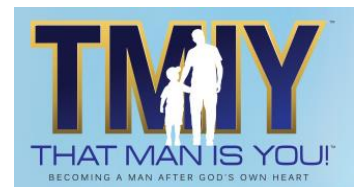


Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge is scheduled for 12pm on the 10th of September at the St. Matthew's Soccer Field. All 9 - 14 year old boys and girls are allowed and encouraged to participate. The POC is Ricky Bennett, bennetra@cox.net, 402-541-8216.

Garage sale. September 24th at the Knights Hall, 205 Industrial Dr. from 8a.m.-2p.m. Call Bill Kibler @ 402-291-7167 for pick up of donations or to drop off at the Hall.

It is not too late to buy a yearbook... Please call the office to purchase.

THAT MAN IS YOU! TMIY will begin our 1st semester on Friday, September 9th in the St. Mary's Parish Center. To learn more about TMIY contact Ted Menzel @ 402-292-2076 or tcmenzel5@gmail.com.



Free Adult Computer Class. Windows 10 is one year old but just released its anniversary update. Meet in the computer lab in St. Mary's School from 7-9p.m. on Thursday, Sept 15th. Learn more about Windows 10 and the new features. Contact John @ jbezy@cox.net to register; class limited to 20 people.

Financial Peace University. Dave Ramsey's FPU will be back at St. Mary's starting Sunday, Sept 18th. This class, taught by Dave Ramsey and the FPU teaching team on video at St. Mary's Church of Bellevue, will help you achieve your

financial goals by showing you how to eliminate debt, save for the future, and give like never before. Go to <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/class/1022122> for info and to sign up or email John Bezy at jbezy@cox.net.

Attention 2nd-8th grade children: the St. Mary's children's Chorus is accepting new members ages 2nd grade through 8th grade. Rehearsals are from 5:45 p.m. to 6:25 p.m. on Wednesdays. A schedule for the year will be posted via email. The children's choir sings at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on the 2nd Sunday of each month (during the school year). They also provide music leadership for the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass and for First Communion in the spring. Any questions, please contact Sally Ames at sally.ames@stmarysbellevue.com. All are welcome!

St. Mary's Family Afternoon Movie (FAM) Sunday, September 18 - 2:00-4:30 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Center! Premiering "Jungle Book" – embracing change. All families of all sizes & ages are invited to join St. Mary's Parish for September's Family Afternoon Movie. The fixings (popcorn and drinks) are supplied for a great afternoon promoting Discipleship through movies. Join us and find out how "Jungle Book" can relate to our faith. Along with the movie, families are offered a home kit which includes monthly activities, prayer, an activity for children, and monthly readings along with an opportunity to provide a service project (stewardship) to help others, based on the movie. For more information about Family Afternoon Movies, to RSVP, or if you are interested in helping with family movie event, contact the RE office.

Your grocery receipts could bring in cash for St. Mary's from the the SpartanNash Direct Your Dollars Campaign. If St. Mary's collects \$150,000 in receipts from No Frills, Family Fare and Supermercado Nuestra Familia, St. Mary's School will receive \$1,000. The program is based on the concept of shopping for a purpose. Your everyday shopping can help support your favorite nonprofit, which we hope is St. Mary's School. Please drop off your receipts in the box in the church vestibule or have a student bring them to school. Please ask your family, friends and co-workers to collect their receipts, give them to you and you can get them to school or church. SpartanNash stores are in ten states and have different store names. If you know anyone in those areas ask them to help us out. Every little bit helps us all. Thank you for your continued support.



Junior High Youth Ministry (7th & 8th Grade)- Fall 2016. Please mark your calendars for the following dates in September (meeting in the school gym):

Wed. Sept 7th from 5:30-6:30pm Large Jr. High Youth Group and

Thur. Sept 22nd from 7-8:30pm- Jr. High Small Groups

Sacramental Meetings:

7th grade Confirmation Parents Meeting September 7th, 6:45 p.m.

8th grade Confirmation Parents Meeting September 14th, 6:45 p.m.

7th grade retreat: September 24th, Pro Sanctity - all day

7th grade Rite of Entrance: September 25th, 12:30 or 5:00 p.m.

First Reconciliation Parents Meeting: September 28th, 4:45 & 6:45 p.m.

8th grade retreat: October 8th, Columban Fathers - all day

2nd grade First Reconciliation January 21st, 10:30 a.m.

2nd grade First Communion Parents Meeting: February 1st, 4:45 or 6:45 p.m.

8th grade Rite of Enrollment: April 1st, 5:00 p.m. or April 2nd, 12:30 p.m.

2nd grade First Communion Practice: April 29th, 9:00 a.m.-Noon

2nd grade First Communion April 30th, 12:30 or 2:30 p.m.

8th grade Night of Reflection & Rehearsal May 5th, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

8th grade Confirmation May 7th, 2:30 p.m. - NOTE TIME CHANGE!

Home and School Association

Parish Picnic Cake Walk. HSA will again host the Cake Walk, a fun family game, at the upcoming parish picnic. The winner of each round gets baked goods that have been made and donated by our wonderful St. Mary's School families. We are looking for Cake Walk volunteers and baked goods (cupcakes, cookies, breads, etc.) for the upcoming parish picnic from 1:30-4:30 P.M. on Sept 11th. 7th & 8th grade students needing service hours may also help. We just ask that an adult helps with them.



We ask that donations of cookies and cupcakes be divided and wrapped/plated into smaller portions to make it easier for distribution at the Cake Walk that day. Baked goods can be dropped off at the school on Friday (Sept 9), or brought down to the Parish center after masses that weekend (Sept 10-11).

If you would like to help, please sign up on SignUp Genius ([link](#)).

If you need to drop off your baked goods earlier than that, please contact Wendy Seaman (wx_vain@yahoo.com or 402-292-0817) to arrange a time and place.

One More Room Parent Still Needed. Thank you to all who have already volunteered to help out. We are still looking for one more Room Parent to help with the 4th grade class. Room Parents work with the teacher and other classroom parents to organize the classroom holiday parties (Christmas, & Valentines) and coordinate and make the Classroom Picture Collage for our Benefit Auction.

If interested, please contact Brenda Achterhoff as soon as possible. You can contact her at 402-657-0619 or brenda_achterhoff@yahoo.com.

Home and School Meeting. Our first HSA meeting of the year is scheduled for Monday, September 12th at 6:30 P.M. in the school library. Meet this year's executive officers, tell us what you like – or areas for improvement – and get involved in your children's education. Remember, your attendance at the Home and School Meetings counts toward your volunteer hours!

Upcoming Events:

H&S Meeting Monday, 9/12 @ 6:30pm
Trivia Night Friday 10/7

Parish Picnic (H&S Cake Walk) Sunday, 9/11
B&B Food Night Thursday, 9/22 5:00-8:00pm
Halloween Fun Night Friday, 10/28



Gifford Fam Fall Festival Sept 17-18 from 10am-4pm. "Come on Down to the Farm for a Day of Old Fashioned Farm Fun!" Mini Horse rides for the lil' cowboys and cowgirls, offered by LaRue's Little Pony Rides, games, STARLAB Planetarium, Farmers Market, Raptor Presentations and more. Admission is \$5 for ages 2 and up.

BPS is offering a Parent workshop call "Learning through Play" on Tuesday, Sept 13th from 615-815pm. Workshop explains the importance of play in a child's development. To register, please contact laure.henry@bpsne.net.

CHI Health offering a **Just for Kids** support group for children ages 5-12 years old who have a family member or friend currently in treatment for cancer or in remission for cancer. Call the office for more details on dates/time.

Cahoy's Gymnastics Training Center in Ralston is offering a 9-week session starting Sept 1st. The cost is \$120. Call the office for more details.