



## Saint Mary Catholic School

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Dear Members of the Saint Mary Catholic School Community:

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year, the 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of Saint Mary Catholic School. I hope the summer break has given everyone the opportunity to enjoy family time and the opportunity to recharge for the upcoming school year.

Summer has been very busy and very productive around our school. Painters, electricians, wire-pullers, and Innovative technicians have been daily visitors. The network infrastructure was overhauled, new computers were purchased, and a larger, more efficient computer lab was created. The new computer lab is located on the second floor of the Middle School building. Our school community needs to recognize the tremendous efforts, talents, and manpower that Mr. Jason Rappaport and his Innovative Incorporated technicians are giving to the SMCS computer project from beginning to end. I would also like to thank Mr. Mike Morrell, St. Mary Church Business Manager, for overseeing the project. These computer upgrades will enhance teaching, learning, and communication—all benefiting our children. Mrs. Kenney, our technology teacher, completed coursework and participated in workshops during the summer that will enable her to lead the faculty and students into utilizing our new technology effectively and wisely. The faculty and staff will be participating in professional development activities on site through The Maryland Center for Instructional Technology. It will definitely be an exciting year of technology!

If you have not visited the new Saint Mary Catholic School website ([www.stmarycatholicsschool.org](http://www.stmarycatholicsschool.org)), please do. Mr. Greg Milsom did an outstanding job designing the new site. His patience, encouragement, and talents are most appreciated. After eight months of work, it is really exciting to see the fruits of our labor. Mrs. Bockrath, Mrs. Milsom, Sister Corda, Mrs. Hilmoie, Ms. Poffenberger, Mrs. Kenney, and Mrs. Keller spent countless hours helping me with this project. We are still adding pictures and updating events. Our hope is the new site will be a valuable communication tool for parents and students.

As a school community we rely heavily on the generosity and talent of all of our members. At the close of last school year, SMCS kicked off our Fifth Annual Fund

with the proceeds to be used to purchase new textbooks. At this time approximately \$40,000 has been pledged. The Saxon Mathematics Program has been purchased for kindergarten through fifth grade. Middle school students will be using new textbooks for Social Studies. We truly are blessed to have supportive parents, grandparents, parishioners, faculty, alumni, and friends who contribute to our fund.

In addition to new technology and new textbooks, the office area has a new look and a new face. When you ring the bell to our front door on Washington Street, you will be welcomed by the friendly voice of Mrs. Lori Balog (Administrative Assistant) inviting you right into her office. The front lobby area has been transformed into an efficient office, thanks to the customized secretarial bay/desk that Mr. Mike Tedeschi designed to maximize space. Mrs. Cheryl Hammond, who has graciously inherited the tuition bookkeeping duties from Sister Margaret Mary, now occupies Mrs. Keller's former office. Ms. Paula Radley can be found in the office across from mine when she is not in the health room attending to the needs of a child. The office of the Assistant Principal, Mrs. Mary T. Milsom, is located on the first floor hallway of the Middle School. After watching my staff moving files, and boxes, and phone lines, and cabinets, I was quite relieved that the office of the Principal was not moving!

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge our maintenance staff. Mr. Bob Eves, Mr. Rick Sprankle, and Mr. Neal Gray continue to do an incredible job of cleaning and preparing our building for the school year, especially considering the challenges of working around all the various crews that have been in school this summer.

The teachers have been transforming their classrooms into a welcoming environment in which learning can flourish. The HSA has been planning events to enhance each student's experience at SMCS. We are all part of one big team!

In this final week of preparations, let us take the time to thank God for all the graces He has bestowed upon us and ask Him to keep Saint Mary Catholic School faculty, staff, parents, and students in His loving care.

As always I ask for your prayers to the Holy Spirit to give me the guidance and wisdom needed to serve as principal of Saint Mary Catholic School.

May God Bless You!

Patricia A. McDermott