



There is a great deal of energy and emotion in the Upper and Primary Grade Centers as the final days and hours of school conclude. Tuesday is the final day of school for our students. Our faculty and administration will be working through the end of the week, wrapping things up by the end of the day on Friday, June 9.

We started the 2022-2023 school year with 429 students. In January 2023 we had 426 students and we are concluding the year with 424 students. School registration is open and we will continue welcome new students and families throughout the months of the summer. Going into June we have 414 students enrolled for next school year. That number will change, hopefully increasing, throughout the coming weeks. The word of mouth is the best advertising for Catholic education at the School of St. Mary. Thanks for encouraging neighbors and family to benefit from Catholic education at our three-time Blue Ribbon school this coming fall.

Looking back, amidst the challenges and adversity of the year, God's grace has been present in the School of St. Mary. The grace of God has been evident in the classrooms and throughout our school buildings. God's grace has been present in the administration, faculty, and students. God's grace has been present in the benefactors, companies and individuals that support the School of St. Mary.

It would take me numerous bulletins to properly describe the caliber and the commitment of our faculty and administration. Day in and day out, our administration and faculty exemplify the Crusader Creed and the School motto - *To Learn. To Serve. To Lead.* Teaching English Language Arts/Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, Religion, Spanish, STEAM, and PE is the core of what they do, but it does not cover the scope of what they provide the students and their peers throughout each day of school.

In addition to teaching the children, they are nurse, counselor, cheer leader, comforter, encourager, model of faith, support, sounding board, disciplinarian, helper, model of trust in God, and model of prayer. This is just a small list of the roles they serve in the school. Our administration and faculty on a daily basis minister in many ways, caring for bruised knees as well as bruised spirits.

The quality of our teachers in the classroom helps our students achieve many goals; at St. Mary's as well as in their lives. The competence, ability, and integrity of our faculty and administration is appreciated by so many in our community. We have the highest percentage of faculty returning to teach at the School of St. Mary than any year of the past decade. We are sending forth two retiring faculty, Mrs. Tina Moulton, the Art Teacher at the Upper Grade Center, and Mrs. Anne Casey, one of the kindergarten teachers at the Primary Grade Center. May our principal, Kathy Thompson, her assistant, Sarah Rouse, and the entire school community have a renewing and restful summer with hearts of gratitude for the school year that is soon to be completed.

As they say, be careful driving around town, for you may see your pastor, as well as children and families, enjoying the summer cycling, walking their dogs, and enjoying time with friends this summer.

This summer I will be able to participate in some wonderful celebrations of family and friends. For the first time in my priesthood, I am celebrating the marriages of children of couples I married 25 – 30 years ago. Two of those weddings will be celebrated in the Archdiocese - a wedding at St. George's in Tinley Park and another wedding at St. Michael's in Orland Park. And this coming weekend I am traveling to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in Carmel, Indiana, to share in the wedding of the son of college friends. The groom's parents just celebrated 33 years of marriage.

God bless you in living Holy Spirit filled lives,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Mike Nacur".