

# St. Mary **Middle School**

## Frequently Asked Questions



### What can my child do to prepare for middle school?

Read, read, read! Find something they love and let them read! The goal is to have your child comfortable with reading for 30 minutes at a time. Encouraging independence and organization is also important as your child begins middle school.

### Does the uniform change?

6th-12th grade students wear polo shirts in white, navy, light blue, grey, cobalt, or a white button down with navy or khaki bottoms. Please review the dress code handbook before purchasing any clothing. The annual **Used Uniform Sale** is a great option for purchasing gently used uniforms at a discounted price. Pop-up sales happen several times a year and arrangements can be made outside of these times on an as-needed basis.

### Are there PE uniforms?

St. Mary PE uniforms are required and ordered by families at the beginning of the school year. A PE locker is assigned where students can keep gym shoes, gym clothes, and any personal hygiene items.

### Are lockers assigned?

Yes, the lockers are assigned at the beginning of the school year. Locks are available upon request.

### What classes will be offered?

#### **6th & 7th Grade**

Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, Science, and Religion.

Specials include PE, Music, Art, Spanish, Library and Computer Technology.

#### **8th Grade**

8th grade students are taught by the high school teachers and thus have a schedule similar to 9th-12th graders. Classes include English, Math, Science, Theology, and Social Studies.

Specials include PE, Computers, Art, and Spanish.

### What technology is used?

SMARTboards and Chromebooks are the main technology resources used in the classroom. Devices can be taken home if needed. Programs used by students include Google Workspace and Google Classroom.

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### What testing is completed in middle school?

Students continue with NWEA testing. 8th graders will take the IFG ACRE, religious assessment test. The results give the teachers a guide to help a student in areas they may struggle or excel. Scholastic reading inventory testing is done three times a year.

### What do recess and lunch look like?

There is a morning snack and break period in the classroom.

Lunch is shared between 6th and 7th-grade students.

8th-grade students eat lunch with the high school students.

### Does the report card change in middle school?

The report card is in the same format as 3rd-5th grade, however, the specials are integrated into the report card. Parents can follow students' progress and grades through FACTS.

### What are the high school graduation requirements? It's never too early to know!

Twenty-five credits are required for a St. Mary diploma. One credit is equal to a yearlong class, and a one-semester class earns .5 credit.

- Theology: 4 years, or each year enrolled
- English: 4 years
- Social Studies: 4 years
- Mathematics: 3 years\*
- Science: 3 years
- Foreign Language: 1 year\*\*
- Health/PE: 1 year
- Computers: 1 year
- Fine Arts: 1 year
- Electives to complete at least 25 units.

\*\*Mathematics in the senior year highly recommended.

\*\*Two years of foreign language recommended.

This information can be also found in the school handbook.



### Will my student be prepared for college/career?

Yes! St. Mary School academics are geared towards college preparedness and career readiness. Many St. Mary School alumni have attended prestigious universities and colleges throughout the state and country after graduation, joined the Armed Forces and started skilled jobs.