

# An Authentic Catholic Experience

## THE FUTURE OF OUR SCHOOL

*Come, Holy Spirit.*

Here's the reality: over the past five years we have seen a decrease in enrollment at St. Mary's pre-k through 8th grade school. This is in part a result of the pandemic, but also due to the intense competition we face.

As a parent, you *have options*.

Whether it's Catholic school, public school, or homeschooling, **your discernment must ultimately be based on what is best for your child.**



### WHAT'S IN THIS DOCUMENT:

- About the Vision
- Important Notes
- Resources



Therefore, we believe St. Mary's **must be** the best soil where your child's entire self—body, mind, and spirit—will grow and thrive.

We must prepare our school, which has been teaching and nurturing generations of students since 1885, for the future. Our community is growing as young families move to Delaware and plant new roots. *Now is the time to respond to this opportunity and be ready to attract incoming families.*

# We invite you to join us



WITH THE FULL ENDORSEMENT OF  
BISHOP FERNANDES AND THE SUPPORT OF  
THE OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

## 1 Holistic Growth

We, as a core ministry of the parish, must set ourselves apart from today's culture in order to offer a holistic and Christo-centric education that respects the entire person and values the promise of eternal life.



Example: Adjusted school schedule that allows for...

- Deeper learning & flow
- Appropriate time for lunch
- Access to sacraments without compromising academics

## 2 Education that Respects Your Child's Developmental Stages

Your child understands the world differently as they grow. St. Mary's will offer a style of education that blends **Classical Liberal Arts** and **Montessori models**, building a foundation where your child will encounter Truth, Beauty and Goodness and be able to think critically.



### Our Youngest Saints & Scholars will:

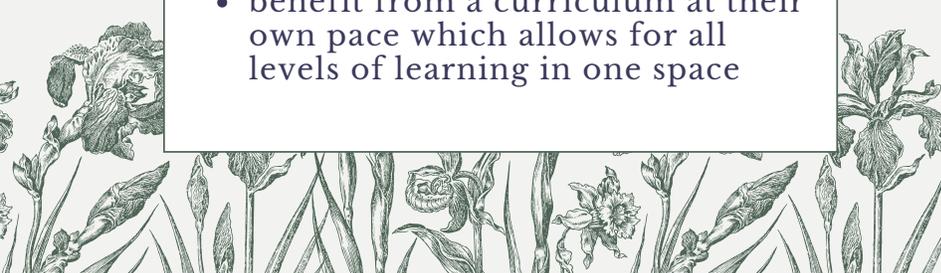
- experience a carefully prepared environment that nurtures their spiritual, cognitive, emotional *and* physical growth
- learn through hands-on activities
- model appropriate behavior
- practice virtues and real-world skills
- benefit from a curriculum at their own pace which allows for all levels of learning in one space

### Our Upper Level Saints & Scholars will:

- liberate the mind and be able to think holistically
- encounter high quality, moral literature
- experience an integrated education across disciplines
- develop strong critical thinking and communication skills
- practice virtue
- uphold high behavioral and developmental standards

### IN A FEW WORDS:

*An authentically Catholic education that respects the entire person.*



# Important Notes



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Firstly, we are fully supporting our teachers during this transition. *Every teacher* has been invited to join us in this new Vision. To help, we are paying for the training needed to offer Montessori and Classical Liberal Arts education. The timing and program will be based on each teacher's individual preference.

## 2023-2024 PLAN

- We will be updating a prepared environment to better support children's holistic education.
- The Children's House (Ages 3-6) will open, using the Montessori teaching methods.
- We will begin small changes to the curriculum to better match the Classical model.
- Tuition, as always, is based on a number of factors (such as enrollment). However, *we do not* anticipate raising the tuition cost for this coming year.
- All current scholarships are still accessible under the new model.

*Let's give space for the Holy Spirit to work...*

It will take **several years to implement** our vision across all levels within the school.

This will be an **incremental transition** to best aid teachers and students.

# Resources



## MONTESSORI EDUCATION

- Good Shepherd Catholic Montessori School in Cincinnati, Ohio

➤ [www.gscmontessori.org](http://www.gscmontessori.org)

- Renaissance Montessori School in Virginia

➤ [www.renaissancemontessorischool.org](http://www.renaissancemontessorischool.org)

- "Montessori schools are exceptionally successful. So why aren't there more of them?" - America Magazine Article

➤ [www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2018/06/29/montessori-schools-are-exceptionally-successful-so-why-arent-there-more](http://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2018/06/29/montessori-schools-are-exceptionally-successful-so-why-arent-there-more)

## CLASSICAL EDUCATION

- Light of Christ Montessori & Classical School in Michigan

➤ [www.lightofchristacademy.org](http://www.lightofchristacademy.org)

- Institute for Catholic Liberal Education

➤ [www.catholicliberaleducation.org](http://www.catholicliberaleducation.org)

