



ST. MARY MAGDALEN

2021 Annual School Fund & Newsletter



10 in 3 years

Neumann Scholars with full scholarships to archdiocesan high schools



1 to 1 Tech

Student/Device access from Pre-K to 8



\$2.7+ Million

in Scholarship Funds for High School since 2018



35+

Clubs, Stewardship & Enrichment Programs

We Thank God for You!



Monsignor's Message

Dear Friends of Saint Mary Magdalen School,

What is the best gift you can give to a child to prepare him to be reverent, respectful, and responsible citizens of earth and heaven?

As the primary formers of my conscience, my parents blessed me with the gift of faith. Our Catholic faith blesses us with a personal relationship with Jesus, the Way and the Truth to eternal Life and Love. Each day, I praise Jesus and thank the priests, religious, teachers, and friends who formed and corrected me to be a disciple of Jesus and His priest. Wise parents choose Catholic education for their children to nourish love for God, self, and others. My prayer for you is that you value and support our Catholic education by learning and loving our faith as adults. Jesus became human to share his divinity so that we live, love, and laugh all the way to heaven together.

As we celebrate our parish school's academic excellence and passionately Catholic vision, we thank you for your past support and pray for your continued sharing of your time, talents, and treasure to continue passing on the gift of forming the Catholic consciences of our students. God's Powerful Spirit (GPS) graces and guides our parents, priests, and teachers to continue and improve our Catholic school in this time of concerns over the virus and financial instability. Yet, our faculty, while wearing their masks, reveal their sacrificial devotion to our students by teaching them face-to-face and heart-to-heart. For Jesus taught us "there is no greater love than to lay down our lives" for those we love and serve.

I invite you to be your best and do your best to support our school spiritually, encourage new families to register, and by giving to the Annual School Fund.

Gratefully in Jesus — Monsignor Ralph J. Chieffo



“Sustained silence helps me to listen to God.”

—2nd Grader to Msgr.



In Appreciation

When the world changed suddenly, with it went our exciting plans for the **Checkered Flag Gala** to benefit our 2020 Annual School Fund.

Under the caring direction of Gala Chairs **Margarita Martinelli** and **Katie Knee**, our many volunteers worked hard to plan an amazing event. We are truly thankful for their energy, efforts, and dedication in support of St. Mary Magdalen School.

We are so grateful to the many sponsors, donors, advertisers, and planned attendees. Your donations and gifts, no matter the size, made an impact that helped sustain and support our students, faculty, and staff during this challenging time.

Stay tuned! We are reviewing options for a possible **Appreciation Event** to thank our gala supporters.



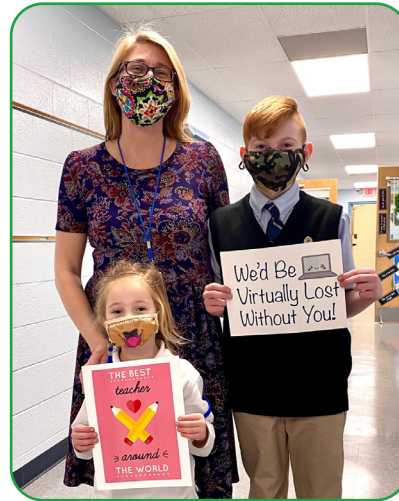
Principal Perspective

Over the past summer, with archdiocesan support, we developed and implemented a plan for in-person and virtual learning to occur simultaneously for the current school year. Our task force developed guidelines and practices to ensure that all who enter the school building are as safe as possible.

After many hours of preparation, the school opened its doors on schedule! The classrooms look a trifle different—desks are required to be six feet apart, entrances have sanitizing stations, and teachers are changing classrooms instead of the students. Everyone is in a mask, but we are fortunate to be together. Deep sanitizing has become the norm, and we've hired an additional resource dedicated to the school throughout the day. The hallways are a bit quieter, and the parents' and volunteers' presence are missed, but learning still flourishes, and the students are progressing well. Our enrollment is stable, and 95% of our students are in-person, with the remaining 5% attending virtually.

The Class of 2021 has accumulated scholarships surpassing \$650,000, and we are still counting! This school year has certainly had its challenges. Covid-19 has added an unexpected dimension to our plan, though our staff, teachers, nurse, and administrators are true heroes. They have gone beyond all measures to ensure our school remains Academically Excellent and Passionately Catholic.

— Ms. Denise Winterberger



Technology teacher and SMM parent, **Eileen Pry**, with her two very special admirers—her son in fifth grade and daughter in Kindergarten.

Technology in Focus

SMM students reap the benefits of technology, especially in today's fast-paced world of unexpected challenges and change. Mrs. Pry's primary focus across every grade is integrating Google Apps and teaching internet safety, including digital citizenship. For the first time, this includes PreK-4, which uses their own school accounts, managed by the teachers. In kindergarten, students learn the basics with 'Docs and Slides.' They practice finding letters on their iPads and find further enjoyment from learning apps and websites. Students use iPads to master similar concepts in first and second grade but go more in-depth than the kindergarteners. Meanwhile, third graders are discovering how to use Google Apps on the Chrome Android devices, which are completely new to our school.

The fourth graders operate Chromebooks and learn how to collaborate on projects with their teachers and other students. Mrs. Pry finds collaboration most exciting to teach. She says, "I find the students are more independent as they learn and apply technology class lessons across all their studies." The middle school grades, including fifth grade, are chiefly concentrating on mastering Google applications and integrating them through their classwork. Mrs. Pry adds, "By the time students are in our upper middle school, they can easily craft an assignment in Docs, Slides, Sheets, and Sites either independently or collaboratively with other students."

To ensure the students remain aware and prepared, all grades get internet safety and digital citizenship lessons a few times each year. All the teachers have mastered the ability to make lessons accessible to every student, whether in-person or learning online. Our faculty is committed to preparing each student to use technology proficiently and responsibly to pursue lifelong learning—no matter their setting or circumstances. ✨





School Board News

On behalf of the School Board, I would like to recognize and thank Monsignor Chieffo, Fr. Rice, Ms. Winterberger, each of our teachers, the staff, and administration for their commitment and dedication to our kids, parents, and community. Clearly, it has been a challenging year for each of us, but it has never been more evident to me that we are truly blessed to have our school and church community.

The Board continues to partner with Msgr. Chieffo, Ms. Winterberger, and families to support the school's long-term success. Recently, the Board completed its annual tuition assessment. This year, the average cost to educate one student at SMM is \$7,100, compared to the average tuition rate of \$4,060 per child. Since tuition only covers 66% of the cost of educating a child, the balance is met through other revenue sources. The most vital of these are gifts to our Annual School Fund and a significant contribution from our parish.

The Board has approved a tuition increase for the 2021-2022 school year consistent with prior years. This increase will reduce the school's reliance on development and the parish while providing improved financial stability. As a proud SMM alumna and parent of two students plus a recent graduate, I personally appreciate the sacrifices each family makes to invest in Catholic education. This year, your support is needed even more; to that end, each member of our board has pledged to participate in the Annual School Fund. We hope you consider supporting this vital fund too!

Looking forward, the Board will continue to support the school across many functions, including advancement, facilities, strategic planning, and spiritual life. We continue to ask for your prayers and support. When we place our faith in God, I am confident that through His grace, our best days lie ahead.

— Mark Victoria, School Board President



“Our faculty is our greatest asset, they care deeply about our students. We were able to assess and open with little downtime or closure.”

— Ms. Winterberger



Mrs. Maureen Clark with 4th graders.

ELA in the Spotlight

In Mrs. Clark's ELA class, fourth-grade students are hard at work on critical writing styles focused on a specific genre, whether descriptive, narrative, or in this case—an expository writing piece. For this creative and interpretive task, each student is assigned a faculty or staff member to interview to offer more insight into the school's exceptional staff. Students develop five to seven 'quality questions' of interest, such as, "Why did you become a teacher?" Then, the questions are put into a logical order for their interview. Due to Covid-19, students' first task was to ask their interviewees what format they wanted to use, such as online using Zoom, email, or in-person (*keeping in mind social distancing and wearing a mask*).

Another classmate serves as the photographer during each interview, catching the perfect action shot or a posed photograph. Then, the real fun begins! Students must compile all their recorded information into an interesting format that is fluid with proper transitions. Only one direct quote is permitted, and they must construct a catchy headline and caption. After editing, they go to work with additional classmates on a shared Google Doc. Collectively, they decide on a newspaper title and slogan. Guided by Mrs. Pry, the technology teacher, students upload their photo selections and work with different font styles. The finished product is printed and distributed to all the faculty and visitors to the office for their enjoyment. After all their effort, the publication is a tradition enjoyed by many. ✨

Honor Faculty & Staff

Honor a current or former teacher, principal, or school staff member with a special message.

There is no time like the present to recognize the dedication and care shown by our faculty and staff. All of us can call to mind a special teacher, principal, or staff member, who motivated and inspired us to dig deeper, work harder, had a smile to share, inspired us to a greater calling, or helped us see the saint in ourselves. Imagine the encouragement you can bring with just a few words to any current or former teacher, principal, nurse, aid, or custodian in the midst of this trying year.

With that in mind, Msgr. Chieffo invites all of our parents, students, alumni, and grandparents to **write a message sharing a personal memory or a note of gratitude and return it in the enclosed envelope or send your note to bulletins@stmarymagdalen.net**. We will pass on your messages of gratitude and support.

If you can assist us in our mission to sustain the gift of Catholic values and academic excellence, please consider making a donation in honor of any teacher, principal, or staff member. Any gifts in their honor and will benefit this year's Annual School Fund.



The Gift of Catholic Education

This year, we're counting on your support more than ever!

Donations to the **Annual School Fund** provide essential revenue that directly impacts our school. Your gift helps us maintain competitive teacher salaries and benefits, need-based financial aid, computers, science equipment, vital enrichment programs, classroom books and supplies, foreign language tools, infrastructure, and much more.

No matter the size, each gift signifies a collective commitment to Catholic education and our school.

The entire faith community is vital to the success and continued elevation of the school. It is also one of the first ways many alumni and parents express their desire to give back to St. Mary Magdalen School.

Here are some giving programs and options that have a direct impact on our school:

The Endowment Fund
Sponsor-A-Student
Academic Gift & Merit Scholarship
Employee Matching Programs
Planned Gifts of Securities and Stocks
Educational Improvement Tax Credit
Named In Memory or Honor Gifts
Named School Facilities
Legacy or Bequests

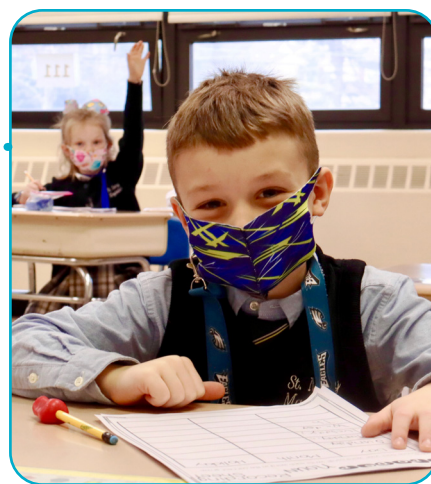
To discuss the ways to support Catholic education at SMM, call the parish office at **610.566-8821** or visit our **Giving** page online.



Alumni Maureen & Michael Hagan love their mother for being the best teacher at home and school! Maureen commented, "Miss Minizsak was a great principal with a compassionate heart and devotion for all the students and our school."

"To be able to combine a strong curriculum where our kids are continually challenged, and then to have our kids tell us they learned new prayers and see the kindness they learn at SMM. I know we made the right choice."

– Katie McDermott, Parent



Online donations can be made securely at stmarymagdalen.net

Mail your check donations to:

St. Mary Magdalen
2400 N. Providence Road
Media, PA 19063

Check out our video online at stmarymagdalenschool.net!

St. Mary Magdalen is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.



With Our Thanks • Giving the Gift of Faith and Education

2019-2020 Annual School Fund Donations (\$250+ donations received from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020)

Gifts of \$25,000+

Patty & Gary Holloway
SMM Charity Board
SMM Endowment Board

Gifts of \$10,000 to \$24,999

Daniel Amoroso
Clara Andonian
Jerry Francesco
Michele & Lawrence McAlee
Dorothy Rafferty
Unico Village Foundation

Gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999

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Regina & Lawrence Donato
Susanne & Eustace Mita
Office Basics
SMM CYO
Fred Strittmatter
Ginger & Mark Victoria

Gifts of \$2,500 to \$4,999

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Margarita & Anthony Martinelli
Beate & Jack Miceli
Catherine & John Quindlen
Courtney & Michael Rabena
Rigby, Harting & Hagan Funeral Home
Jennifer & Eric Rudolph

Gifts of \$1,000 to \$2,499

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Maryann & John Babin
Kerry & Joseph Boyle
Erin & Andrew Bulita
Colameco Foundation
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Michael Quinn Family
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Jo Anne & David Thomas
Nicky & Thomas Verna
Dana & John Westby

Gifts of \$500 to \$999

Mary & Donald Byrne
Frank Campbell
Anne & Joseph Capista
Karen & Edward Corliss
Carol Dooney
Denise & Albert Gentile
Stephanie & Christopher Guadalupe
Gigi & Bill Hagan
Anne Hagendorf
Heidi & Cole Hamels
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Jeanne Hoechst
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Rena & S. Michael Sirkin
William Stevenson
Patricia & Robert Szipszky
Carrie & Shane Thomas
Carolyn Truscello
Eileen & Ray Wilson

Gifts of \$250 to \$499

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Mary Kay & Paul Breen
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