

**MONTHLY  
SCHOOL EVENT GUIDE  
2018-2019**



**St. Mary School**  
S W O R M V I L L E

## **“Rich in Tradition...Strong in Faith”**

This guide for parents is just a snapshot of the many school activities and opportunities we offer here at St. Mary’s. It is our hope that this guide will give our families a better understanding of our school events. Activities may vary from time to time depending on a variety of factors. We welcome and encourage all ideas to enhance our school community. Please forward suggestions and questions to St. Mary’s HSA via President Kristen Lewis:

- Email: [HSA@stmaryschoolswormville.org](mailto:HSA@stmaryschoolswormville.org).
- Phone: 716-445-9152
- Note to the school office

St. Mary’s offers a comprehensive suite of extracurricular activities throughout the school year; from community service activities such as scouting and altar serving to course specific clubs such as Art Club and Future City, there is something for everyone. Please refer to announcements distributed by e-mail, weekly newsletter or take-home handouts.

Parent participation is essential to our school programs, and we invite everyone to join in our school community. Greater participation in our school activities will keep it vibrant as well as enrich our community spirit.

All volunteers who interact with children must participate in the Protecting God’s Children Workshop through the Diocese of Buffalo. Please register on-line at [www.buffalodiocese.org/protecting-gods-children](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/protecting-gods-children).

Thank you for your commitment to Catholic education and St. Mary’s School.

## SEPTEMBER

### **Special Person Day:** Friday, September 14, 2018

We invite grandparents or a special person to join us for our school Mass, followed by a simple reception in the gym. Students are then invited to show their grandparents/special person their classrooms prior to noon dismissal.

### **Meet the Teachers Night:** Monday, September 17, 2018

A parent-only event which provides an opportunity for parents to meet our school faculty. Parents also go to their student's classroom where the teacher discusses classroom guidelines and general curriculum expectations.

### **HSA General Meeting:** Monday September 17, 2018

HSA will review and vote to approve the budget for the upcoming school year at "Meet the Teacher" Night. Consider signing up to volunteer for our upcoming events after the budget proposal. If you do not have a Sign-Up Genius account created or have questions about HSA, we will be happy to help you!

### **Sr. Sheila School Marathon:** Wednesday, September 19, 2018

A fun, outdoor, school pride event! All students and teachers will walk/run to raise funds for St. Mary's School! Pledge sheets will be sent home with each student, and students are encouraged to seek pledges from friends and family! Parents are invited to come and walk with your children! We are also in need of volunteers in order to make the Marathon a success. Consider volunteering before/after your child(ren) is(are) walking, so you can also walk with them. Younger siblings are welcome for this event!

### **Thank Goodness It's September! ("TGIS"):** Friday, September 28, 2018

A social event for all parents to mix, mingle and enjoy a RELAXING night out together! With the kids back in school, this a great night to reconnect as a community and meet new parents! This parents-only event will be held at Santora's, 7800 Transit Road, Williamsville, NY from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Mentors and new families please arrive at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$10.00 per person.

## OCTOBER

### **Blessing of the Pets:** Thursday, October 4, 2018

Since the Sisters of Saint Francis have been involved with the school since 1849, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi is recognized with this special tradition. School families and parishioners have the opportunity to bring their family pets for a blessing on the front lawn of school.

### **6-7-8 Team Building Retreat:**

A day-long retreat for our middle school students that encourages team building and reinforces our Catholic virtues.

### **Back to School Dance:** Friday, October 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

A social opportunity for St. Mary's students in grades 6 – 8 as well as the previous graduating class (current 9<sup>th</sup> graders) to have some fun together. This event is usually held in September. Chaperones are needed to support this event.

### **Picture Day:** Tuesday and Wednesday, October 23-24, 2018

An opportunity to capture memories! Fall pictures involve both individual pictures as well as a class photo. Uniforms are worn for the class picture while “Sunday best” is appropriate for individual pictures. The individual snapshot is also submitted for inclusion in the school yearbook. Fall picture packages must be pre-ordered, using the provider's order form or purchased online. Purchases are optional. Parent volunteers are needed to help students look their best.

### **Pumpkin Carving:** Thursday, October 25, 2018

An event sponsored by Spoth Farms and Dengler and Roberts Funeral Homes. Each student who attends can carve a pumpkin with their family and friends. Donuts, cider, popcorn and treats are served while fun is had by all! A fun corn maze and Halloween theme is tons of fun for young students and their siblings!

### **Fall Fest:** Friday, October 26, 2018

Fall Fest is a fun family social event for Halloween—so please come in costume! The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students provide games and activities for all who attend. We have costume contests for Montessori through Grade 4 and a Haunted House for 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade. As this is an event for the whole family, no scary costumes/masks, please. Snacks and refreshments will be provided as well. There is a minimal charge per family.

## **Halloween**

The children in grades K through 2 bring their costumes to school for participation in a Halloween parade. The parade visits all of the other classrooms and many classes are provided with a sweet treat from the room parents.

## **NOVEMBER**

### **All Saints Day:** Thursday, November 1, 2018

A special celebration is held during the 9 a.m. Mass on All Saints Day. Prior to the celebration, each 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student chooses a saint about whom they are interested in learning more. At the Mass, each student is dressed to reflect the saint they chose and speaks about a highlight of the saint's life.

### **Catholic High School Entrance Exam:** Saturday, November 17, 2018

This date is on the calendar as a reminder to parents of students considering a Catholic High School. Students apply for the entrance exam via <https://www.wnycatholicschools.org/catholic-high-school-application-for-admission>. Financial aid and scholarships forms are available at Catholic High Schools and vary from school to school. Parents considering a Catholic High School are encouraged to attend Open Houses when a student enters 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This allows parents and students time to tour many schools before taking the placement test. Prep courses are also available at many high schools. Students are encouraged to take the test at their school of choice as many scholarships are awarded from this test.

### **"Fall into Cash" Raffle:** Saturday, November 17, 2018

This is the BIGGEST fundraiser hosted by the HSA! Join us in the School Gymnasium for a night of fun and fellowship as we gather together in hopes of winning a **\$10,000 Grand Prize!** Come for deliciously crafted brews from Rohrbach Brewing Company, wine from Wild Horse Wine and Spirits, and food vendors from the area. The event also offers a 50/50 raffle and basket raffle.

### **Thanksgiving Luncheon:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018

A family-style buffet lunch is held for all students and faculty by parent volunteers! This delicious meal of traditional Thanksgiving favorites is prepared by our dedicated cafeteria staff. Older students buddy up with the younger children to help fill their plates with a turkey feast! Volunteers are needed for this event, so please check Sign-Up Genius. Any questions, please contact the event chair

**Parent Teacher Conferences:** Friday, November 30, 2018; No School

Please take advantage of this opportunity for parents and teachers to meet one-on-one at the end of first trimester. Report cards are sent home with the students prior to conference day. Grades and any concerns can be discussed. This brief meeting (10 minutes or so) is scheduled in advance. Although this is a pre-set day for parent teacher conferences, parents are asked to stay up to date on student grades via the school's parent portal and communicate with their child's teacher on an as needed basis throughout the school year.

## DECEMBER

**St. Agnes Christmas Families:**

In early December, each grade adopts a family in-need for Christmas. The students and parents purchase gifts to ensure a "Merry Christmas" morning for this adopted family. Parent and student volunteers are needed to deliver the gifts to the Sisters of St. Francis at the St. Agnes Convent in Buffalo.

**Scholastic Book Fair:** Tuesday, December 4, 2018 and Wednesday, December 5, 2018

An annual fundraiser that benefits the library and classrooms' book collections. The book fair gives students and teachers the opportunity to create wish lists and shop during assigned class times. Great timing for Christmas shopping!

**Tony Walker Shopping Gift Gathering:** Thursday, December 13, 2018

Join the St. Mary's Faith Community for a day and night shopping extravaganza. The HSA hosts this event to help with the purchase of items for the Spring Auction and Dinner Gala. All St. Mary's faith community members will receive a 10% discount on items and 10% of purchases is donated back to our faith community.

**Christmas Band and Chorus Concert:** December 20, 2018

Celebrate the spirit of the Christmas season at the annual Christmas Concert! Students must be present as it forms part of their music grade. Concert attire for St. Mary's Band is normally black slacks/skirts a white top. All other students are encouraged to wear their "Sunday best" in Christmas colors.

## JANUARY

**HSA General Meeting:** Monday, January 7, 2019

Join us for the second general meeting of the school year!

**Bunko Night:** January 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

A fun, parent-only event. Bunko is a dice game which requires quick reflexes. You can win prizes for your children such as a free homework pass, eat lunch with your teacher, or give a spelling test just to name a few. No experience required! Babysitting will be offered. Adult beverages are served. Minimal cost per person to attend.

**Sr. Sheila Anne Burke Invitational Memorial Basketball Tournament:**

January 17-20, 2019

It is truly fitting that so many JV and Varsity Catholic school student athletes take to St. Mary's court for exciting competition in honor of our beloved past principal, Sr. Sheila Anne Burke, who served our school and faith community for 34 years. A former basketball coach and tireless champion of Catholic education, Sr. Sheila embodied the ideals of hard work and teamwork, encouraging us to try our best every day.

**Open House:** Sunday, January 27, 2019

Come join us for St. Mary's Open House as we show prospective families all that our St. Mary's Faith Community has to offer! The Open House is the "kick-off" for Catholic Schools Week. Join us for Mass at 11:15 a.m. (students wear uniforms) then come over to the school to visit with prospective school families! Parent volunteers are needed for checking in visitors and leading tours.

**Catholic Schools Week:** January 27, 2019 – February 1, 2019

A week-long celebration of what makes Catholic education important and unique! Fun events are planned throughout the week for the students including *Bring a Guest to Lunch Day*.

## FEBRUARY

**Catholic Schools Week Family Breakfast:** Sunday, February 3, 2019

Celebrate the end of Catholic Schools Week with breakfast with the St. Mary's Faith Community! School families attend the 9:00 a.m. Mass (students wear your uniforms!) and afterwards gather in the School Gymnasium for a delicious Pancake Breakfast! Food

donations are collected for St. Luke's Mission of Mercy. Volunteers are needed to make this event a success! Please contact the Event Chair or sign up on Sign Up Genius.

**Ice Skating Party:** Friday, February 8, 2019

An event for all St. Mary's students held at the Northtown Center following noon dismissal. Participating families enjoy 1 ½ hours of ice time with their friends on a rink reserved for St. Mary's families! Proceeds collected will be donated to SABAH and \$1 Jeans Day Passes may be purchased with proceeds going to Catholic Charities. Nominal fee per family to attend.

**Wine-Pairing for Sr. Sheila Scholarship:** Saturday, February 9, 2019

Join the St. Mary's Faith Community for an evening of fellowship, fun and wine pairing! All proceeds benefit the Sr. Sheila Ann Burke Scholarship Fund for families in need.

**St. Valentine's Day**

In celebration of Valentine's Day, students are allowed to wear a red shirt with their uniform. Students in the lower grades also exchange cards, and all students may have a snack provided by room parents.

## MARCH

**Spring Scholastic Book Fair:** Thursday and Friday, February 28 – March 1, 2019

As with the December book fair, a portion of the proceeds is returned as profit to the school.

**Literacy Night:** Friday, March 1, 2019

Join us for an exciting night as we celebrate the joy of reading. Hop into a giant game of Scrabble, go on a book scavenger hunt, visit the book fair and our book swap table, test your skills at the literacy games and enjoy a bedtime story! Door prizes and other surprises await you at this fantastic event!

**St. Patrick's Day:**

In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, students are allowed to wear a green shirt with their uniform.

## APRIL

**New York State ELA (English Language Arts) Assessment:** Tuesday and Wednesday, April 2 and 3, 2019

This assessment measures each student's performance with respect to the Learning Standards defined by the state. Students are prepared for the exam ahead of time in the classroom. The exam is given in grades 3 through 8. Students should have a good night's rest and breakfast before the test.

**Pray and Play:** Friday, April 5, 2019

The Living Stations of the Cross are presented by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students on the school stage. Each Station of the Cross is presented with a special reflection. After we pray the Stations, everyone gathers for an ice cream social and cake walk, which are ways the students raise money for Catholic Charities.

What is a cake walk you ask? The students play a version of musical chairs and the person seated in the "lucky" seat wins a cake to bring home! The creatively decorated cakes are provided by parent volunteers.

**Spring Dance:** Grades 5 – 8 [NO DATE ON CALENDAR]

Fifth graders are invited to attend their first dance at St. Mary's. Grade 5 room parents coordinate the theme, invitations, and decorating for the dance. Parent volunteers are needed for this event.

**8th Grade Class Trip:** April 25-27, 2019

Each year, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders work together to raise funds to defray the cost of a class trip. Grade 8 parents need to volunteer to supervise these activities and all 8<sup>th</sup> graders must participate in the fundraising events. Please support our graduating class as their events arise throughout the year.

## MAY

### **May Crowning:**

This Catholic tradition continues at St. Mary's Parish. All families are welcome to submit their name to be selected to crown the statue of Mary located in the special garden outside the Church. This is a Parish event.

### **New York State Math Proficiency Tests:** Wednesday and Thursday, May 1 and 2, 2019

This assessment measures each student's performance with respect to the learning standards defined by the state. Students are prepared for the exam ahead of time in the classroom. The exam is given in grades 3 through 8. Students should have a good night's rest and breakfast before the test.

### **Father/Daughter Dance:** Saturday, May 4, 2019

An annual tradition where each girl in grades K through 8 invites her dad (or special adult man) to an evening out. The gym is beautifully transformed for the evening, and refreshments are provided and served by volunteer mothers. This is an opportunity to dress up and spend time with that special someone!

### **Mass of Hope & Reception:** Friday, May 10, 2019

This all-school Mass is a special occasion for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents. The graduating class brings up the gifts, passes the offertory baskets, and proclaims the readings. There is a brief social in the cafeteria after Mass for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents. Seventh graders and their parents plan and serve a continental breakfast.

### **Kindergarten Mother's Day Tea:** Friday, May 10, 2019

A special opportunity for our Kindergartener's to celebrate with their Mom's! Following 9:00 a.m. Mass, the Kindergartener's gather with their mothers (or grandmothers or other special person) for a brief program followed by "tea"!

### **"Spring for Success" Parish Auction:** Friday, May 10, 2019

Join the St. Mary's Faith Community for a special evening of music, dinner and fun to benefit educational and spiritual opportunities at St. Mary's. Hundreds of items are available for silent and live auction! Volunteers and gift donations are essential to make this event a success, so please check out Sign-Up Genius to see how you can contribute!

**Spring Musical:** Friday and Saturday, May 17 & 18, 2019

You will be amazed by the talent of our St. Mary's Drama Club! Admission tickets are pre-sold for both shows.

**New York State 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Assessment:** May 22, 29 and June 3, 2019

This science test is scheduled at the end of May and early June. The test, which consists of written and performance tests, is designed to measure the content and skills covered in the science curriculum for grades K through 4 and grades 5 through 8.

**Spring Band and Chorus Concert:** Friday, May 31, 2019:

Celebrate the sounds of Spring at the Spring Band and Chorus Concert! Students must be present as the concert counts as part of their grade. Concert attire for St. Mary's Band is normally black slacks/skirts a white top. All other students are encouraged to wear their "Sunday best."

## JUNE

**Mother-Son Event:** Saturday, June 1, 2019

This is a special opportunity for mothers and sons to go out on a weekend and enjoy time with each other! More details will be provided as the date approaches.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat:** Friday, June 7, 2019

Students make a group retreat each Spring. Time is spent at St. Mary of the Angels to reflect on how they have grown individually and as a class. They also look to the future as each student now will enter on a new path into high school.

**HSA Volunteer Appreciation Night:** Friday, June 7, 2019

HSA sponsors this event to thank all volunteers for their time and effort during the school year!

**Kindergarten Graduation:** Friday, June 14, 2019

A celebration of the end of a very special year for our Kindergarteners!

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dinner Dance:** Saturday, June 15, 2019

A long-standing St. Mary's tradition where the 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents host a sit-down dinner for the for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders, their parents, and faculty. This enjoyable evening has a special theme which is reflected in the decorations and food. After the meal, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students join the 8<sup>th</sup> graders for an evening of dancing.

**Moving Up Day & Talent Show:** Monday, June 17, 2019

In the morning, students "move up" to spend time getting to know the teacher they will have for homeroom the following year. In the afternoon, St. Mary's students who have auditioned demonstrate their many talents to the school and parents. Students' gifts have included playing the piano, dancing, singing, as well as interesting unique talents. A student may present an act individually or as part of a group.

**School Picnic:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019

The whole school enjoys a picnic at the end of the year. Teams are arranged with students from every grade and are assigned a team t-shirt color to compete in end of the year fun. Many parents are needed to organize this event and assist on the day of the picnic! Please check out Sign-Up Genius to find out how you can participate!

**Last Day of School:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Celebrate the last day of school for Grades 1 through 8 by joining us for 9:00 a.m. Mass, followed by awards in the Church! Third Trimester Report cards will be handed out before noon dismissal.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation:** Friday, June 21, 2019

Our graduation ceremony fittingly includes Mass and takes place in our church. Graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders may invite as many friends and families as they like. Our entire school community is also invited.

## ONGOING

**Home School Association**

St. Mary's Home School Association (known as HSA) is a parent/guardian organization whose mission is to coordinate fundraising opportunities, connect families through social and spiritual events in our St. Mary's Faith Community and to provide a forum of discussion between home and school which aids St. Mary's in its mission to benefit our

children. It operates within the framework of all policies and guidelines of the school and the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo.

### **HSA General Meetings**

The Home School Association hosts a brief general meetings 2 times a year (September and January.) These meetings give every parent the opportunity to stay informed regarding Home School Association happenings and fiscal reports. The January meeting is followed by Bunko.

### **HSA Executive Committee Meetings**

The Home School Association executive committee (4 officers and committee chairs) meets monthly to review the status of the budget as well as discuss upcoming events and happenings. Meetings are open to all parents.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **8th Grade Fundraisers**

The parents of the 8th grade class work together to plan and implement fundraisers for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip. Successful events have included a pancake breakfast at Applebee's, donut sales, a basketball tournament concession stand, and Lenten fish-fry. Planning and fundraising should begin early to help ensure a successful outcome.

### **100-day Celebration**

Students in Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade enjoy the countdown to the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. When this milestone arrives, room parents may be requested to coordinate with the teachers for a small celebration. It may be snacks which form the number 100 or making necklaces from 100 small items. Whatever the activity, it is always a fun celebration!

### **Band**

An after school program which is available for students in grades 3 through 8. Small group band instruction is provided by an instructor based on experience and instruments. The fee associated with this program is determined by the company offering the lessons. The band performs at our Christmas and Spring Concerts. Select students may perform with the Diocesan Honor Band.

### **Birthday Celebrations**

Birthdays are special days and deserve a celebration! On your child's birthday, a small treat may be sent in to share with their classmates. Please notify the teacher in advance so that arrangements can be made to accommodate it into the classroom schedule. Montessori has a specific snack list. All others should follow the Safe Snack List on the school website/teacher instruction.

### **Email Blasts**

An effective and timely way to communicate with our school families. Be sure that your email address is current in our data base.

### **Jeans Day Passes\***

An opportunity provided by the Principal at various times throughout the year where students can wear jeans for a day. In exchange for a donation of at least \$1, jeans day passes are distributed for a specific day. The money collected is donated to a charity.

\*Note: we may also have dress-up days.

### **Parent Mentor Program**

Parent volunteers who assist in helping current, new or prospective parents with questions they may have about the school. Ambassadors will help ensure a smooth transition for families into life at SMS.

### **Parent Portal** Grades 3 - 8

It is very important that parents are aware of their child's grades and homework status. This can be done through the Parent Portal. Each family is assigned a user name and password that is used to access the on-line portal at <https://parentportal.eschooldata.com>. Questions on the portal should be directed to the school secretary.

### **Progress Reports**

These reports are sent home at the midpoint of each trimester to update you on your child's progress. They are sent home with the students. If at any time you have a concern about how your child is doing, please contact his or her teacher.

### **Specials**

A term which refers to the following subjects: art, music, physical education, music, computer, Spanish and library.

### **School Closing Information**

St. Mary's follows the school closing announcements for the Williamsville School District. In addition, the Principal may close school due to weather or site specific situations. Such cancellations will be communicated via the School Messenger system and listed on WBEN Radio 930 AM and Please note: If you do not live in the Williamsville School District, you are responsible for transportation on days when Williamsville is in session and your district is not. Your district only provides transportation on days that its schools are in session.

### **School Messenger:**

The School Messenger notification system is utilized specifically for school closings/ cancellations, or emergency alerts. A test is run at the beginning of each school year to ensure that all families are reached by email, voice call, and/or text.

### **School Website [www.stmaryschoolswormville.org](http://www.stmaryschoolswormville.org)**

The school website contains the most up to date news. Parents should be in the habit of checking the school website at least weekly when the school newsletter is posted. Important forms and resources as well as quick links to the parish and SignUp Genius are also posted here.

### **"St. Mary's Buzz"**

Our weekly school newsletter, "St. Mary's Buzz," is published each Thursday afternoon when school is in session. Parents are expected to review and are responsible for the information that is communicated in the newsletter each week.

### **Student / Parent Handbook**

Available on the school web site under the '*Student Life*' tab, this document is a great reference for various policies and procedures at St. Mary's School. A parent and pupil must sign and return a form that indicates that the handbook has been read by parents and reviewed with students.

### **Student Reflection (SR)**

A discipline policy which is enforced when rules are not followed. The goal of SR is to enforce consistent discipline and encourage positive behavior. During SR, students read and write about virtues designed to have them reflect upon their behavior.

## **Yearbook**

A collection of school year memories! Each year a 36-page color book is published which every student has the opportunity to purchase. All students in three-year-old pre-school through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are represented on class portrait pages as well as a collage page.

## **SPIRITUAL**

### **Weekly Mass**

To further the spiritual development of students at St. Mary's School, the students attend 9 a.m. Mass on Fridays and Holy Days of Obligation.

### **First Penance**

Students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are eligible to learn more about this sacrament. Students and parents work along with the Faith Formation staff at their respective parishes for sacramental preparations.

### **First Communion**

Students who have completed 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are eligible to learn more about this sacrament. When the parents and Faith Formation staff feel the student is ready, they begin sacrament preparations. Once the preparations are complete, a date can be selected for the celebration of First Holy Communion. If a student is a parishioner of a parish other than St. Mary's Swormville, arrangements should be made with the student's home parish for sacramental preparation.

### **Prayer Partners**

Each student and staff member receives the name of another student as a "prayer partner" for the school year. Children are encouraged to say a prayer for this student during school and prayer time at home.

## **EXTRA-CIRRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Fall Sports**

Swimming – co-ed for grades K-8, runs September through November

Boys' Baseball – Grades 5 - 8

Girls' Volleyball – Grades 6 - 8

### **Winter Sports**

Basketball – teams for boys and girls in grades 3-8, runs from November through March

Bowling – co-ed intramural for grades K-8, students need a partner (additional fees apply)

Boys' Volleyball – Grades 6-8

## **Spring Sports**

Softball – for girls in grades 5-8, runs April to June

Track – co-ed for grades K-8, runs from April to May

Soccer – co-ed for grades 1-8, runs April through June

## **Requirements**

Student must have a current health physical on file in the health office. Student will be well behaved in school, on the playground, on the bus and follow the rules in the Student/Parent Handbook. Student will have homework completed on time. Student will be working diligently and participating in class. Student will show good sportsmanship and behavior at all times. Student will respect teachers, classmates, coaches and teammates. If student does not comply with any of the rules, he or she will be dismissed from the team.

## **School Clubs**

In addition to the extracurricular activities highlighted above, St. Mary's faculty also offer additional clubs that run for specified time frames throughout the school year. Examples are Science Club, Art Club, Drama Club, and Homework Club, AR Readers Club, and Advanced Choir. New clubs will be announced through the "St. Mary's Buzz."

## **Future City Team**

An opportunity for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to learn more about science and engineering while also working together as a team. Each year the students are given a theme and are asked to create their city of tomorrow based on the topic. In January, the students compete locally, and the opportunity to continue to the national competition in Washington DC. This program is sponsored by National Engineers Week.

## **STREAM Academy Opportunities**

Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics after school programs chosen to teach and expand critical thinking and develop creative minds. Below are the options chosen from each year by our STREAM Coordinator, Mrs. Katie Bishop.

- Kitchen Chemistry:** A focus on the chemical dynamics of cooking and the preparation of healthy foods.
- Rockin' Roller Coasters:** The physics, design and development of roller coasters and roller coaster competitions.

•**Lego University:** A weekly challenge to build a structure or environment using Lego building blocks.

•**PEAP Academy:** Our Primary Education program that challenges our little ones to build structures related to their academic studies and stories: A chair to hold Goldilocks without breaking; the Tower of Babel, and more!

•**Robotics:** The design and building of robots to complete a lifting task. Regional competitions of design and function take place.