



Dear Prospective Family,

Welcome to Saint Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School! Choosing Saint Mary's for your children's education will have everlasting benefits. Saint Mary Star of the Sea School provides a Christ-centered Catholic education to PK3 through 8th grade students of all faiths under the leadership of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia. The spiritual, intellectual and social development of all students is provided in a safe and disciplined environment. With a solid foundation in academic and moral excellence, the students are prepared for success in high school and beyond.

With a Saint Mary's Catholic education, you can expect your child to become a diligent seeker of truth, creative problem solver, public speaker, and lover of the fine arts. Saint Mary's students are friends and followers of Jesus Christ, strong witnesses to their faith in word and action, and compassionate advocates for those in need. Lastly, they are loving patriots, faithful stewards of God's world, and true leaders according to the gifts that God has given them.

Saint Mary Star of the Sea School is accredited by AdvancEd, a non-profit, non-partisan organization that conducts rigorous, on-site external reviews of Pre-K-12 schools and school systems to ensure that all learners realize their full potential. AdvancEd includes the accreditation process through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Our dedicated teachers are degreed and certified in the state of Virginia. Our solid academic curriculum includes science, math, language arts, social studies, and religion. Saint Mary's also offers an enrichment program to include marine science, art, physical education, music, foreign language, and technology. Our unique location affords our students the benefits of a waterfront classroom which allows for direct observation, hands-on learning, and research activities on the waters of Mill Creek, an estuary of the Chesapeake Bay.

We encourage you to choose Saint Mary Star of the Sea School to give your child the best opportunity for a strong educational foundation. Please contact the school office for more information. Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You are also welcome to visit our website at www.saintmarystarofthesea.com.

May God bless you and your family.

In Our Lady, Star of the Sea,

Sister Mary John, O.P.
Principal

St. Mary's at a Glance

SCHOOL HOURS/SCHEDULE

The school year runs from August to June. School begins at 8:00 a.m. and dismisses at 3:00 p.m. Pre-kindergarten dismisses at 12:00 p.m. Before school care is provided from 7:00-7:45 a.m. After school care hours are from 12:00 to 5:30 p.m. for Pre-K students and 3:15 until 5:30 p.m. for students in grades K-8. There is a 1:30 p.m. dismissal one Wednesday each month for faculty meetings and professional development.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Pre-kindergarten classes for 3-year-old and 4-year-old children are offered at Saint Mary's School. Children must be 3 years of age on or before July 30th of the school year for Pre-K-3 and 4 years of age on or before September 30th for Pre-K-4. Hours for Pre-K are from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Pre-K-3 program is also available on a three-day basis – Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Students must be toilet trained upon entering Pre-K.

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

A full-day kindergarten program is offered for children who are 5 years old by September 30th of the enrolling school year.

EXTENDED CARE

Before School Care begins at 7:00 a.m. and After School Care is available until 5:30 p.m. Child care is offered when school is not in session depending on family need. Saint Mary's also hosts a summer camp.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms are purchased from Flynn-O'Hara Uniform Company. There is a local store in Virginia Beach or orders can be placed online or through mail order. For convenience, a used uniform closet is located in the upper building. Uniform items can be purchased at a reduced rate or swapped with other items.

PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

The PTO is an active and integral part of the Saint Mary Star of the Sea School operation. It provides a wide variety of auxiliary services to the school. The PTO sponsors various social and fundraising events each year. The parent volunteer program lends substantial support to the professional staff throughout the year.

SPORTS

Saint Mary's School is a member of the Peninsula Independent Athletic League. The purpose of the PIAL is to promote the athletic program of the member schools through cooperative planning, scheduling, and coordination of mutual athletic interest. Students in grades 5 through 8 may participate in soccer, cross country, basketball, volleyball, softball, and baseball.

Saint Mary Star of the Sea School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability in its educational program activities, or employment practices.