

# Middle School Years

at  
SAINT MARY'S  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



## Saint Mary's School Offers:

A rigorous curriculum offered in a safe environment focused on Gospel values, Christian teaching and Catholic traditions.

- Prayer is a daily part of the school day.
- Students attend and reflect on a daily Mass weekly.
- Religion is a major subject taught daily providing a firm foundation of church teaching and history.

The Middle Years Programme of the **International Baccalaureate Organization** for *all* enrolled students.

- A strong academic program emphasizing holistic instruction, interdisciplinary curriculum, developmentally appropriate classroom practices, positive school climate, communication skills, and international mindedness preparing students to enter a global economy.
- Opportunities to explore and develop proficiencies in technology, music, visual arts, physical education and health.
- Two-period Language A (English) instruction that emphasizes both literature (vocabulary) and writing (grammar) preparing students for the rigours of high school.
- Language B (foreign language) instruction preparing students to earn a high school (Level I foreign language) credit.
- All students are eligible to earn a high school credit (by passing the Diocesan examination in the subject) in Algebra, Earth Science and either French or Spanish (level I).

- Recent studies addressing the issue of school size conclusively report that “smaller is better.”<sup>1</sup>

Small middle schools “... have the highest levels of team and classroom practices, parent contact and involvement, advisory activities, and a more positive school climate.”

- Studies related to the effects of school enrollment size on student participation in co-curricular activities have consistently shown that students in small schools become more involved than students in larger schools.

(1) *In terms of availability of extracurricular activities small schools are not significantly different from larger schools.*

(2) *In small schools, students are more likely to be involved in a wide range of activities ...*

(3) *Students in small schools seem to derive more personal satisfaction from participating in extracurricular activities than do students in large schools.*

(4) *Students in small schools receive more encouragement to participate in extracurricular activities ...<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Mertens, Steven B., Flowers, Nancy and Mulhall, Peter F. “School Size Matters in Interesting Ways” Middle School Journal, May 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Foster, Cherie Major, and Martinez, Izar. “The Effects of School Enrollment Size in the Middle and Junior High School on Teacher and Student Attitude and Student Self Concept.” Research in Rural Education, Vol. 3, No. 2. 1985

You are invited to attend Saint Mary's Catholic School's Open House - The last Sunday of January each year. In celebration of Catholic Schools Week

For additional information, contact the school at: (804) 740-1048 or visit [www.SaintMary.org](http://www.SaintMary.org)