

St. Mary School Commission: St. Mary School Board

Revised on June 24, 2009

Saint Mary Catholic School is a ministry of St. Mary Parish. Decisions about teacher contracts, proposals for new classes and changes in religion textbook series require the signature of the Pastor. Decisions regarding the day-to-day operations of the school are under the direct supervision of the school Principal. Just as the Pastoral Council serves in a consultative role to the Pastor, the members of the School (Board) Commission serve in a consultative role to the Principal.



The School Board, as a parish commission, discerns one of its members, who is a parishioner of St. Mary Church, to serve on the Pastoral Council. The School Board also discerns a commission chairperson and a commission secretary, who assist the Principal in planning and conducting the School Board meetings. Please consult the Pastoral Council Charter for more information on commission membership.

The annual action plans and yearly calendar of events are prepared by the School (Board) Commission each spring and summer. These annual strategic plans are then considered by the Pastoral Council for final approval, along with the annual strategic plans of all the other commissions, to establish a common purpose for the whole parish.

Mission: The members of the St Mary School Board, as disciples of Jesus Christ, collaborate with the Pastor and school Principal to plan, advise, and promote an environment of faith, education, and moral values for the children of St. Mary School. We accomplish our mission through strategic planning, evaluating and developing policies, and promoting the benefits of Catholic education.

- The St. Mary School Board is a progressive, results-oriented group leading the call for progress towards state-of-the-art facilities, an enriched academic curriculum, discipline, and religious education.
- We demonstrate our commitment and involvement with the school community through our continued support and attention to the needs of the students, faculty, and parents.
- We succeed by leveraging our ability to inform, attract, and involve students, parents, alumni and the parish as a whole in activities that support the operations of the school.
- Our Christian values identify who we are and how we operate as a board.
- We demonstrate our faith leadership by promoting family values and working collaboratively with all parish religious education groups.

School Board Functions: The primary functions of the School Board are to: participate in and encourage strategic planning; develop and defend policy; offer financial advice, including fundraising; serve as a good public relations source; evaluate itself periodically and evaluate policy implementation; and to participate in the selection of the Principal as needed.

School Board Structure: The School Board consists of the Principal and ten parish members, who are chosen through a discernment process that is conducted by the Principal. Within these ten parish members are representatives from Athletics, Alumni, and the Parent Teacher Council. The School Board is consultative in nature. Each term lasts three years. The Principal represents the Pastor at School Board meetings and consults closely with the Pastor in regard to all school matters. The School (Board) Commission also selects a representative to the Pastoral Council.

School Board Meetings: The School Board meets each month during the school year. These meetings promote communication and the coordination of all school activities. The School Board also attends general Parish Leadership Meetings, as scheduled by the Pastoral Council throughout the year.

School Board Core Values: Our strength comes from our solid faith in God. As a School Board, we operate with integrity, honesty and respect. Our dedication and support of St. Mary's parish, Pastor, Principal, faculty, staff, and students are key to our effectiveness as a School Board.

Commitment to Catholic Identity: As a Catholic School, we believe and profess all that the Holy Catholic Church believes, teaches, and proclaims to be revealed by God. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is the standard for all the doctrinal and moral issues taught in our parochial school.

Youth Ministry: St. Mary School students are included in junior high Youth Ministry events offered through the Religious Education program of the parish, especially the Confirmation program. After graduation, students are encouraged to participate in the parish high school Youth Ministry program.