



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

TO STUDENTS & THEIR PARENTS

2025-2026

Since the school's founding in 1859, St. Mary's Academy has consistently prioritized the development of personal integrity and community responsibility among our students. These core values are complemented by our commitment to compassion, recognizing each student as a unique and valued member of our school community. The contents of this Student/Parent Handbook reflect these principles. Within its pages, you will find important information about all facets of daily life at St. Mary's. Our policies and procedures have been carefully formulated over time to ensure the safety, quality, and consistency of our programs.

This year, as we celebrate 166 years of excellence in education, we are reminded of our rich history and the legacy of nurturing young minds. We are proud of our past and excited about the future, as we continue to uphold the values that have guided us for over a century and a half.

We ask that parents and their daughters read this handbook carefully. If you have any questions about the information contained within, please feel free to contact Liane Rae, Principal; Ellie Gilbert, Vice Principal of Academics; Ashley Sheridan, Vice Principal of Student Life; and/or Patty Gorman, Dean of Mission and Charism.

As we begin the 2025-2026 academic year, we do so with the understanding that our relationship is a partnership with you in the education of your daughter. On behalf of the entire leadership team, we extend our warmest wishes for an outstanding year ahead and look forward to celebrating this special milestone with our community!

Sincerely,

Liane Rae
Principal





2025-2026

Student/Parent Handbook

St. Mary's Academy

**1615 SW Fifth Avenue
Portland, OR 97201
Main Office: 503-228-8306**

**Office Hours: 8:00 a.m-4:00 p.m.
Faculty Hours: 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**

Regular School Hours: 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Accredited by:

Cognia – an international organization that has been supporting academic institutions by offering accreditation and certification services since 1895. Cognia's goal is to impact and inspire education providers to advance and enable pathways of success for all learners.

Sponsored by:

Holy Names Educational Ministries (HNEM): HNEM is the sponsoring entity for ministries begun by the Sisters of the Holy Names (SNJM). HNEM currently sponsors six schools and two other educational programs, all of them dedicated to promoting the SNJM Charism and Core Values.

Affiliated with:

National Honor Society
National Catholic Education Association
International Coalition of Girls' Schools
Oregon School Activities Association
Three Rivers Conference

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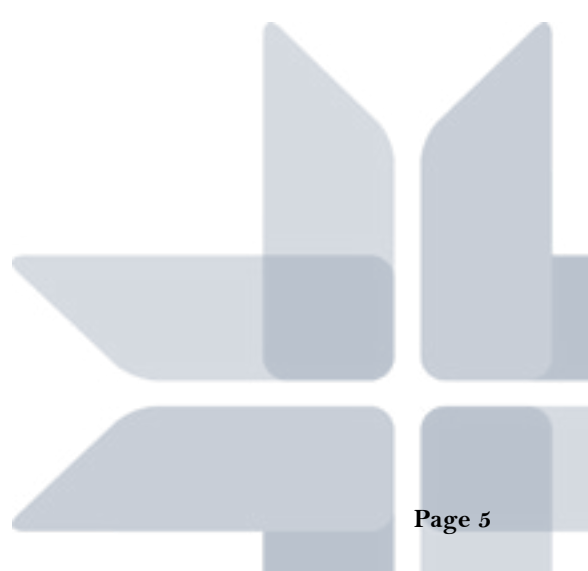
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The St. Mary's Tradition

Mission

St. Mary's Academy is a Catholic high school for young women, providing a challenging college-preparatory education in a vibrant learning environment. Guided by the values and charism of the Sisters, St. Mary's Academy fosters a diverse community, educates the whole person by nurturing spirituality, encouraging creativity, promoting justice, and inspiring a sense of global interdependence to prepare students for service and leadership.

Charism

The charism we have inherited from the Sisters of the Holy Names, who founded St. Mary's Academy, includes the following core values to which we are committed:

- Dedication to justice: Committing time, energy, resources to the pursuit of right relationships of equality, justice, and solidarity.
- Service to people who are poor or marginalized: Reaching out and responding to people who are impoverished, abandoned, or living at the fringes of society.
- Education in the faith: Creating an atmosphere which invites people to live, develop and express their faith.
- Hospitality: Being a gracious, accepting, and welcoming presence for each person.
- Dedication to women and children: Seeing, understanding, and responding to the needs of women and children.
- Commitment to liberating action: Seeking with others the freedom needed to live life fully without oppression.
- Full development of the human person: Cultivating and respecting the talents, abilities, and potential of each person, contributing to the development of all aspects of a person's life.
- Love for the names of Jesus and Mary: Embracing as guide, inspiration, and strength the persons and names of Jesus and Mary.

Learner Expectations

Through a holistic partnership between the faculty and staff of St. Mary's Academy and the young women who attend, graduates will have attained the following identified learner expectations.

Students graduating from St. Mary's Academy,

- Read critically and effectively for a variety of purposes
- Demonstrate effective verbal communication
- Communicate effectively in writing
- Listen effectively and critically
- Utilize and critically evaluate a variety of resources; including the use of digital tools to construct knowledge and create content
- Employ effective and creative strategies in reasoning, problem solving, ethical decision-making, and leverage the power of technological methods to develop and test solutions
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills in a variety of forms
- Demonstrate understanding and respect for diverse cultures and tradition
- Demonstrate a strong sense of integrity and a deep respect for self and others
- Demonstrate a willingness to embrace the call to be women of faith
- Demonstrate a willingness to explore academic and creative passions

The Philosophy

St. Mary's is a private Catholic school, open to young women of all faiths. Each girl is seen as an individual endowed with personal dignity, talents, gifts, and cultural and religious heritage. Each girl attending St. Mary's is expected to model respect for religious beliefs, tradition, and ceremony.

St. Mary's Academy provides a learning environment in which members of the community feel challenged, supported, and involved. The members of the St. Mary's community are responsible for behavior that exhibits respect for human dignity and individual differences, and for maintaining a safe climate that provides, promotes, and encourages learning in a peaceful environment.

St. Mary's Academy invites parents and/or legal guardians to participate in its mission to educate young women and to enter into an agreement to uphold the mission, the philosophy, and the principles of the school. This cooperative relationship aims at providing a positive academic, social, and moral environment for the young woman's growth during her high school years.

One of the primary goals of St. Mary's Academy is to prepare young women to be contributing members of a democratic society. Ultimately, St. Mary's girls should possess the academic and social skills to function effectively as responsible, ethical citizens.

As a member of the St. Mary's community, the student has the right to know the rationale for the rules and decisions affecting her, the right to realize equal opportunity in education, and the opportunity to participate in the processes, which ensure these rights. One student's rights may not infringe upon the rights or property of another.

The History

St. Mary's Academy is the oldest continually operating high school in the state of Oregon. October 21, 1859, witnessed a landmark event in the history of Catholic education in America when twelve Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary arrived in Portland, Oregon. Just two weeks after the Sisters' arrival in Portland, then a city of only 3,300, St. Mary's Academy opened its doors to begin a long-term partnership with the city of Portland in educating its young women in the Catholic tradition.

From the times of the early founders, the Sisters of the Holy Names prized Catholic education. It was in the course of the now famous OREGON SCHOOL BILL case that the Society of the Sisters of the Holy Names secured the right of existence for Catholic and other private schools in the United States. A "Compulsory Education Bill," proposed by initiative petition and passed in the elections of 1922, required that virtually all children attend public schools in the state of Oregon. Challenged first in the United States District Court by the Sisters, the law was declared unconstitutional on March 31, 1924. The state of Oregon appealed the case (*Pierce v. Society of the Sisters*) to the United States Supreme Court culminating in perhaps one of the most significant decisions to affect private education in America. The Court upheld the right of parents to provide for the education of their children outside of the public-school system.

Like the founders, the school community of St. Mary's Academy continues to uphold not only the right of private education but also the quality and excellence of such an education. In addition to the many acknowledgments bestowed upon St. Mary's over its long history, the school received the "Excellence in Education" award from the United States Department of Education in 1984, 1989 and 1998. St. Mary's Academy was the first school in Oregon to receive this recognition three times. An essential focus of the recognition was the school's fostering of the development of moral judgment, values and ethics for its students as well as offering strong co-curricular and college-preparatory programs.

St. Mary's Academy offers the opportunity for girls to study the teachings of Jesus as manifested in tradition and the Scriptures. Faculty and administrators are expected to convey, teach, and model all aspects of this unique education.

This school year, St. Mary's Academy celebrates its 166th year while continuing to empower young women to believe in themselves and the contributions they can make to create a society of justice and peace.

THE PROGRAM

A firm belief in the Gospel spirit of charity, service, justice, and peace inspires the educational philosophy at St. Mary's where the theology curriculum is rooted in the Catholic faith and informed by the charism of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

Faculty members strive to integrate religious training and faithful witnessing and thus give students a moral base for decision-making, an awareness of social concerns, and a model for Christian living.

The breadth and depth of the St. Mary's academic program has been carefully designed to prepare young women for college. The core curriculum gives girls a strong foundation in theology, English, science, mathematics, world languages, and information science. The fine arts program offers opportunities in art, dance, drama, and music. The campus ministry department supports girls in deepening their relationship with God through encounters, retreats, prayer, liturgies, and community service. The sports program offers young women the opportunity to compete in most major sports on all levels.

Institutional Language & Student Identity

St. Mary's Academy's mission as an all-girls school centers and uplifts the female voice, focuses on women's issues and provides an environment that uniquely centers women in all facets of the program. Faculty and staff of St. Mary's will focus on the unique experience of girls, and families who choose to send their daughters to St. Mary's should expect that our institutional language will reflect our commitment to our mission.

This means we use feminine terms such as "girls," "women," and "daughters" both in classrooms and school communications.

While St. Mary's Academy is committed to its all-girls mission, we understand that adolescence naturally is a time of self-discovery. St. Mary's Academy is a place that encourages students to learn, to discover who they are and who they want to become, and to find their unique voices.

THE PEOPLE

Leadership Team

PRESIDENT: Emily Niedermeyer Becker '86

PRINCIPAL: Liane Rae

VICE PRINCIPAL OF ACADEMICS: Ellie Gilbert

VICE PRINCIPAL OF STUDENT LIFE: Ashley Sheridan '01

DEAN OF MISSION AND CHARISM: Patty Gorman

VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS: Trish Gleason

DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT: Kate Baldwin

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS: Caroline Campana

Faculty/Staff

ENGLISH

Ashley Whitty '02, Department Chair
Kirk Ellis, Anne Hainley, Carrie Housley, Camille Vincent, Ben Peterson

FINE ARTS

Kathy Briggs, Department Chair
Julia Grieve, EK Metsker, Shannon More, Sonja Poida '90, Jessica Zoller

HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Carrie Yerton, Department Chair
Savannah Scott

INFORMATION SCIENCE

Brette Doyle, Director of Technology
Mike Bojorquez, Systems Administrator
Kira Smith '14

LIBRARY RESOURCE

Michael Navarro, Student Support Specialist

MATHEMATICS

Rachel Gardner, Department Chair
Cynthia Berger, Edward James, Brian Kelley, Julie Loveless, John Turk

SCIENCE

Mimi Loser, Department Chair
Maureen Daschel '77, Savannah Scott, Anu Deshpande, Rachel Sloan, Cindi Hounton, Julia Stadler

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Joan Nyland '78, Department Co-Chair, Francesca Foley, Department Co-Chair
Kate Damon, Andrew Duden, Donald Housley

THEOLOGY

Jim Haster, Department Chair
Dana Dominguez, Maria Fleming '83, Patty Gorman, Meg O'Brien, Erica Wells

WORLD LANGUAGE

Shannon Sonn, Department Chair
Maron Faulkner, Dena Stock-Marquez, Jamie McPartland, Ben Peterson, Art Rojas

CAMPUS MINISTRY & SERVICE

Maura Timoney-DeVille '09, Director of Campus Ministry and Service

COLLEGE COUNSELING

Karlen Suga, Director of College Counseling
Courtney Best, College Counselor
Katie Penvose, College Counseling and Testing Coordinator

COUNSELING / ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER

Counselors: Sonya Barker, Jourdan Ellis '06, Kerri Kelvin
Amelia Soto, Learning Specialist
Michael Navarro, Student Success Specialist

ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS

Sophia Vallada, Director of Admissions
Kara D'Ascenzo '18, Admissions Coordinator – Parent and External Relations
Mary Whitaker '16, Admissions Coordinator – Summer Programming and Engagement
Liz Olsen, Registrar

FRONT OFFICE AND ATTENDANCE

Kim Patterson, Front Office Manager

LEADERSHIP, EQUITY & INCLUSION and ACTIVITIES

Ellie Glusman, Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
Caitlin Whitty, '08, Director of Leadership and Engagement
Kerry Brown, Student Activities Director

ATHLETICS

Anna Maria Lopez '78, Executive Athletic Director
Sanjay Bedi, Athletic Director
Kerry Brown, Student Activities Director

COMMUNICATIONS

Caroline Campana, Director of Marketing and Communications
Andy Buhler, Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications

DEVELOPMENT

Kate Baldwin, Director of Advancement
Coralynn Arrigotti '83, Senior Director of Leadership Gifts
Annie Diess, Development Coordinator
Kirsten Osterlind Goetz '95, Director of Major and Planned Gifts
Kendall Marriott, Director of Annual Giving
Hilary Baker-Murphy, Director of Parent and Alumnae Engagement
Joel Senecal, Database Associate

FINANCE

Alee Sanchez, Director of Finance
Sam Miller, Finance Associate

SPECIAL EVENTS

Liz Olufson, Director of Special Events

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Hannah D'Urso, Executive Assistant to President

SCHOOL PLANT

David Proby, Plant Manager

THE ALMA MATER

All Hail to Thee St. Mary's

All hail to thee, St. Mary's
Thou pride of western shore.
Thy name on glorious banner
Thy children ever bore.
Our hearts will always praise thee,
And loud our lips proclaim,
Our love for thee, St. Mary's
In an everlasting strain.
Through all the years, thy counsels
Have led our steps aright.
Thy name has been a watchword
For honor and for might.
Thy teachings e'er will guide us
Across life's rugged way.
To thee, Dear Alma Mater,
We will pledge our love today.

St. Mary's Academy Name, Logo and School Colors

The St. Mary's Academy name and logo may not be used in any form without the express permission of the SMA Administration or Director of Communications.

Brand Colors: Navy Blue and White

ACADEMICS

Contacts: Ellie Gilbert, Vice Principal of Academics, ellie.gilbert@smapdx.org 503-721-7757

Amelia Soto, Learning Specialist, amelia.soto@smapdx.org 503-721-7707

Liz Olsen, Registrar, liz.olsen@smapdx.org 503-721-7708

The Office of Academics directs, guides, and advises the overall academic program and master schedule, including registration, academic forecasting and scheduling, curriculum planning, instruction and staff development, student performance and assessment, graduation, research in education, and technology integration. The Academic and Academic Support offices encompass an enhanced focus on how teachers and students are supported at St. Mary's Academy.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

St. Mary's Academy is a college-preparatory high school with rigorous academic standards for young women.

Graduation Requirements

To graduate from St. Mary's Academy, each student must earn a minimum of 25 credits. Most students graduate with a total of 28 credits. St. Mary's academic program includes the following requirements:

- Theology 4.0 credits
- English 4.0 credits
- Social Science 3.5 credits
- Mathematics * 3.0 credits
- Science** 3.0 credits
- World Language 2.0 credits
- Health 1.0 credits
- Physical Education 1.0 credits

- Fine/Performing Arts 1.0 credits
- Information Science 0.5 credits
- Speech 0.5 credits
- Electives 1.5 credits
- TOTAL 25 credits**

*Students must successfully complete a 3-year math sequence at minimum ending in Algebra 2.

**Students must successfully complete Physics, Chemistry, and Biology.

In order to receive a St. Mary's Academy diploma and to participate in graduation, students must be enrolled in at least six (6) classes at the time of graduation and have successfully completed all St. Mary's Academy academic requirements. A student must be on track to graduate in order to be enrolled at St. Mary's.

The course catalog is updated annually and available on our website. For questions about curriculum, instruction, or offerings, please contact the teacher first. For unresolved classroom or school-wide concerns, reach out to the Vice Principal of Academics. For academic support, contact the Learning Specialist.

Grades

Students receive progress reports at the end of the first and third quarters as a mid-semester update; these are not part of the permanent record. Semester grades, issued at the end of the second and fourth quarters, are recorded and used to calculate GPAs. Colleges consider GPA through the end of the seventh semester.

Grading System

Letter grades are assigned the corresponding point values listed below. Grades for honors and Advanced Placement classes are weighted to reflect the increased difficulty of these classes.

Standard Grade Scale		Honors/AP Grade Scale		
Symbol	Points		Symbol	Points
A+	4.333		A+	5.333
A	4.000	Excellent	A	5.000
A-	3.667		A-	4.667
B+	3.333		B+	4.333
B	3.000	Above Avg	B	4.000
B-	2.667		B-	3.667
C+	2.333		C+	3.333
C	2.000	Average	C	3.000
C-	1.667		C-	2.667
D+	1.333		D+	2.333
D	1.000	Below Avg	D	2.000
D-	0.667		D-	1.667
F	0.000	Failure	F	0.000

Letter grades are determined based on the following grade scale:

Grade Scale									
A+	100	B+	87.5-89.4	C+	77.5-79.4	D+	67.5-69.4	F	0-59.4
A	91.5-99.9	B	81.5-87.4	C	71.5-77.4	D	61.5-68.4		
A-	89.5-91.4	B-	79.5-81.4	C-	69.5-71.4	D-	59.5-61.4		

Other grades that may appear on grade reports include:

Symbol	Performance	Points
P	Passing	0.0
NP	Not Passing	0.0
NG	No Grade	0.0
W	Withdrawn*	0.0
W/M	Medical Withdrawal	0.0

*See "Schedule Changes" on page 15

Report Cards/Honors

Report cards will be sent once semester grades are complete. Academic honors are determined at the end of each semester. First honors are conferred on students who earn a 3.75 or above weighted GPA for the semester; second honors are conferred on students who earn a 3.5 through 3.74 weighted GPA for the semester.

Grade Weighting Eligibility

Advanced, Honors, AP, and PSU Challenge courses taken within the St. Mary's Academy curriculum are eligible for grade weighting. Advanced coursework completed online and at other institutions may not be eligible for grade weighting.

St. Mary's Academy's curriculum is designed to meet specific academic standards and rigor. Grade weighting is applied to reflect the level of challenge and academic excellence inherent in our advanced level courses. External courses may vary in depth and breadth of material covered, required seat hours, and amount of instruction. In some cases, external courses may not align with St. Mary's academic standards, making it difficult to ensure consistency and fairness in grade weighting.

Outside Coursework Policy

All graduation requirements must be fulfilled through courses offered by St. Mary's Academy, unless prior written approval has been granted by the Vice Principal of Academics in exceptional circumstances (ex: study abroad, credit recovery). This policy ensures the integrity of our academic program and guarantees that students engage fully with the curriculum and instruction provided by St. Mary's faculty.

While students may choose to pursue additional enrichment or remedial coursework outside of SMA, such courses will not appear on the St. Mary's Academy transcript, nor will they fulfill graduation requirements or exempt students from required coursework.

Please note: Transfer credits for students newly enrolling at St. Mary's Academy are reviewed separately and may be accepted toward graduation requirements based on an evaluation of transcripts and alignment with SMA's academic standards.

College Admissions Expectations

While a "D-" is a passing grade at St. Mary's Academy, Oregon Public Universities may not accept core subject grades below a "C-." College requirements vary, so students are encouraged to check with universities they're interested in.

Academic Progress/Parent Portal

Student academic progress may be monitored by the student and parents/guardians by accessing the PowerSchool Parent Portal on the school's website using a unique issued password.

Homework

Academic performance is directly related to the completion of assignments and study expectations. An academically successful student should expect to spend two to three hours per night on homework, which includes daily assignments, long-range projects and assignments, required reading, and reviewing for tests and quizzes. Time devoted to studying may increase with honors and AP classes.

Attendance Requirements for Credit

St. Mary's Academy deems the classroom experience essential to learning and student achievement. Any student who accumulates more than ten (10) excused or unexcused absences in any single class during a semester will be required to enter into an [Attendance Agreement](#), will be in jeopardy of losing credit in the class, and will be reviewed for academic standing.

State of Oregon Attendance Expectations

Oregon School Law (ORS339.010) requires that children between the ages of 6-18 regularly attend school. Participation in class discussion, lectures, group projects, audio-video presentations, and demonstrations are required activities, which often cannot be made up outside the classroom. Students who are frequently absent are in jeopardy of losing credit.

Irregular Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism

Ten (10) absences (including excused absences) in any class per semester is considered irregular attendance. Four (4) or more non-school-sponsored/non-school-related absences of ten (10) or more absences (including excused absences) is considered chronic absenteeism.

Attendance Appeal Process

Except in extraordinary circumstances*, students with more than ten (10) absences in a single class during one semester should expect to appeal for credit. Administration determines whether a student is required to withdraw from certain classes, be graded on a Pass/No Pass scale, receive one letter grade lower, or possibly no credit for that class for the semester.

*Special exemptions may be allowed for students whose absences are the result of significant, documented hardship or illness. Students requesting such exemptions must provide documentation of the absence from a medical professional and a signed statement from a parent. In non-medical cases, a signed parental statement is sufficient. The Administration will determine the appropriate credit and enrollment status.

Academic Probation

A student whose semester grade point average falls below 1.800 or who receives an F in any class may be placed on academic probation. The student's counselor and an administrator will communicate with the student and her parent(s) about a plan of assistance. The student's academic progress will be reviewed throughout the following semester. At the end of that semester, if the student's GPA is 1.800 or above and she has no F's, she may be removed from academic probation. If the student's GPA is below 1.800 or if she earned one or more F's, she may be asked to leave St. Mary's Academy.

Academic Integrity

Personal integrity is important not only to the individual, but also to the building of a just, fair, and

trustworthy community. Therefore, all forms of cheating are viewed as unacceptable. A student who chooses to cheat on a test or assignment, submits work that is not her own (including AI generated material), or assists a student in cheating will face serious consequences.

Consequences for cheating include the following:

- Loss of credit for the assignment, project, or test
- Notification to the parent by the teacher or administrator

Additional consequences may include:

- Loss of extra-curricular eligibility
- Loss of acceptance into honors or AP classes
- Loss of membership in SMA honor societies
- Loss of participation in student government
- Loss of in-house service opportunities
- Suspension or expulsion

All students must use an approved style guide and are taught proper citation practices to avoid plagiarism, including misuse of AI-generated content. The expectation is that students understand what plagiarism is and that they will not misrepresent or submit the work of others or of AI as their own. Teachers check for plagiarism using tools like TurnItIn and other online resources. Breaches of academic integrity are subject to the consequences outlined in the Academic Integrity section of this handbook and in the St. Mary's Academy AI Policy

Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and PSU Challenge Program

Students may enroll in Advanced Placement and honors courses in English, Computer Science, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Visual Arts, and World Language by fulfilling department requirements. St. Mary's Academy offers dual high school and college credit courses in Modern European History, U.S. History, U.S. Government, and two Calculus courses through the Portland State University Challenge Program, and in Photography through Portland Community College. Students and parents may learn more about the honors, AP®, and Challenge classes by consulting the current Course Catalog, the Vice Principal of Academics, or the academic department chair. The process for applying for these classes is made available for all students prior to forecasting for the following academic year and is also available in the course catalog.

Student Schedules

During the second semester, students and parents forecast for the next academic year. The student's teacher advisor (TA) provides information and assistance in course selection and reviews the four-year plan of graduation requirements. A parent or guardian must sign the student's forecasting form. The student enters course requests online in the PowerSchool portal. The Registrar uses this information to create the master schedule for the upcoming year, working in conjunction with the Vice Principal of Academics. Student schedules for the following academic year are communicated to students and families in August. Please be aware we cannot accommodate requests for specific teachers.

Schedule Changes

The schedule change process includes completion of a schedule change form, creation of a new schedule by the Registrar, and final approval by the Vice Principal of Academics. A student must attend the classes originally scheduled until all the steps in the process are completed.

If a student withdraws from a class, their permanent record will reflect the following:

Semester Classes

- If the withdrawal occurs within the first two weeks of the semester, no mark is recorded on the permanent record (September 15, 2025 semester 1 deadline; February 10, 2026, semester 2 deadline).
- If the withdrawal occurs after the first two weeks of the semester, a mark of W (withdrawal) is recorded on the permanent record (after September 15, 2025 for the semester 1 deadline; after February 10, 2026 for semester 2).
- No classes may be dropped after the end of the fifth week of the semester (October 3, 2025, semester 1 deadline; February 27, 2026 semester 2 deadline).

Yearlong Classes

- If the withdrawal occurs within the first two weeks of the semester, no mark is recorded on the permanent record (September 15, 2025 deadline)
- If the withdrawal occurs after the first two weeks of the semester, a mark of W (withdrawal) is recorded on the permanent record (after September 15, 2025)
- If the withdrawal occurs at the end of first semester, a mark of W (withdrawal) will be recorded on the permanent record for the second semester (February 10, 2026 deadline)
- No yearlong courses may be dropped between October 3, 2025, and the end of semester 1. No yearlong courses may be dropped after February 10, 2026 in semester 2.

Students who choose to drop a yearlong class at the semester must meet with their college counselor to understand the impact to the college application process.

Seniors: If a senior drops a yearlong class, she will be required to take all of her finals at the end of the year.

Senior Study Privilege

With written parental permission during the forecasting period, students may replace one semester class for their upcoming senior year with a Senior Study Privilege. Senior Study Privilege blocks **MUST** be forecasted for during spring forecasting. If a senior does not forecast for a Senior Study Privilege block, then they waive the opportunity. Senior Study Privilege blocks will not be added after forecasting, no exceptions. During the block, the student is not required to be in the school building. If a senior chooses to remain in the building during the block, she must study in the Boyle Center if available, cafeteria, or student commons. The privilege may be forfeited if a student is in a non-designated area of the building or if she has attendance, academic, or conduct infractions.

Study Abroad

Students who plan to include studying abroad for one or more semesters need to contact the Vice Principal of Academics, the year prior to their anticipated leave. The impact on credits and classes required for graduation are an important consideration in looking at the course of study abroad, as well as forecasting needs for the year in which the student returns to St. Mary's Academy. Students may not participate in study abroad programs during freshmen and senior years.

Final Exams

Final semester exams have a direct bearing on a student's semester grades. All students are expected to take final exams or participate in a culminating academic activity as scheduled at the end of each semester. However, all accounts must be current in order for students to take exams. Students absent from the 1st exam of the day may **NOT TAKE THE SECOND EXAM OF THE DAY**. Only in cases of serious personal illness, hospitalization, or a death or emergency in the family will finals be rescheduled. If exams must be rescheduled for other reasons, a fee of \$30 per exam will be incurred. The Vice Principal of Academics must be notified at least two weeks in advance if exams need to be rescheduled. Family vacations and trips need to be scheduled

after exams are completed.

Senior Final Exam Privilege

A senior may be exempt from second semester final exams in a particular class if she meets the following criteria:

- Has an A or A- average for the semester in the class
- Has had five or fewer absences in the class (excluding up to two college visits)
- Has had three or fewer tardies in a class
- Has not taken more than one regular test later than the rest of the class, or has not missed the day of a group or individual project or presentation
- Has not dropped a year-long class
- Has had no unexcused absences in the class
- Has not been truant for any part of a day
- Has no more than two dress code violations for the semester
- Has no more than one cell phone usage violation for the semester
- Has served all detention

Cheating and/or plagiarism in any class will result in all exams being taken. Exceptions must be cleared in advance with the Vice Principal of Student Life. If a teacher decides the subject matter of a class necessitates all students taking the final exam, the teacher is not required to exempt a student from the exam.

The teacher of an Advanced Placement class will decide whether students in the class will take a final as well as the AP® exam. However, a culminating academic activity will be given on the scheduled exam date in all classes.

Valedictorian/Salutatorian

Administrators identify potential Valedictorian and Salutatorian candidates of the graduating class by the grade point average (GPA) carried to the thousandth place. This includes the pluses and minuses for all four years.

All classes recorded on the official transcript will be included in the calculations, with the exception of classes using the Pass/No Pass option. Students who receive a W (Withdraw) or W/M (Withdraw/ Medical) on their transcript for withdrawing from any semester or yearlong classes after the deadline will be ineligible for valedictorian or salutatorian designation. Transfer students are ineligible for valedictorian and salutatorian honors. Valedictorians and salutatorians must have exemplary attendance and behavioral records as determined by the administration at its sole discretion.

After the factors above are reviewed by the administrative team, the graduating senior with the highest weighted cumulative grade point average at the end of the seventh semester is honored as the valedictorian of the class. The graduating senior with the second-highest weighted cumulative grade point average at the end of the seventh semester is the salutatorian of the class.

The top student will be the valedictorian and the second the salutatorian. Both will speak at the commencement ceremony. In the case of a tie, the two students will share the title and both will speak.

Withdrawal from School

In the event it becomes necessary for a student to withdraw from St. Mary's Academy, the parent or guardian is asked to contact the Director of Admissions in writing who will help with the transition.

ACADEMIC RECORDS

The Office of the Registrar protects the confidentiality of student academic records and prevents unauthorized inspection or use of those records according to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Academic records are maintained in one-hour fire-safe files.

Access, Release, and Records Reviews

All access to and release of permanent academic records will comply with state and federal laws. A parent and a student may schedule an appointment with the Principal to review the student's permanent academic records.

Non-Custodial Parents

St. Mary's abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, the school will provide the non-custodial parent with access to the academic records and to other school-related information regarding the child. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with an official copy of the court order.

Student Permanent Records

Permanent academic records include the following details:

- Name of school
- Name of student
- Student birth date
- Name of parent/guardian
- Subjects attempted
- Grades received
- Credits earned
- Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Date of graduation/withdrawal from school
- Home address

Change of Address

If a student or parent/guardian has a change of home address, email address, or phone number, the parent/guardian is asked to send an email to updateinfo@smapdx.org. The school database will be updated so the permanent academic record reflects current information.

Transcript Requests

To request an official transcript, a student or parent/guardian is asked to complete the "Request for Transcript" form available on our school website here: www.stmaryspdx.org/alumnae/transcript-request. Transcript requests other than those for current seniors applying to colleges may be submitted by emailing the Request for Transcript form directly to the Registrar, liz.olsen@smapdx.org. Transcripts for current seniors are sent to colleges by the College Counseling Office. Unofficial, unsealed copies of transcripts will be available to students and parents/guardians upon request from either the College Counseling Office or the Registrar.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER

Contact: Amelia Soto, Learning Specialist, amelia.soto@smapdx.org 503-721-7707

Michael Navarro, Student Support Specialist michael.navarro@smapdx.org

The Academic Support Centered is staffed by St. Mary's teachers and provides students with the opportunity to improve their academic success. Academic support is given through study skills, workshops, and individual assistance. Regular individual tutoring can be arranged with NHS students through Michael Navarro. Drop-in tutoring is available during lunch. Under specific circumstances, a Study Block is arranged with administrative approval. Contact the Director of Student and Academic Support for more information.

ADMISSIONS

Sophia Vallada, Director of Admissions, sophia.vallada@smapdx.org 503-721-7705

Kara D'Ascenzo '18, Admissions Coordinator – Parent and External Relations, kara.dascenzo@smapdx.org

Mary Whitaker '16, Admissions Coordinator – Summer Programming & Engagement, mary.whitaker@sma.org

Prospective Students

Admissions facilitates the application process and serve as the primary point of contact for all prospective families. It is responsible for scheduling shadow visits, guiding families through the application process, and planning events such as Open House, CYO Nights, Placement Exam, Family Interviews, and Welcome Night.

To apply to St. Mary's Academy, families submit an online application, a student and parent/guardian questionnaire, middle school transcripts, teacher recommendations, and a \$65 application fee. Applicants are evaluated holistically, and acceptance is generally based on the student's potential for completing a challenging college preparatory program as well as St. Mary's ability to meet the student's needs.

Prospective Dates

These dates are key to prospective students seeking admission in the coming year:

Late September: Shadow visits and parent tours begin

November 2, 2025: Open House

December 4 and 6, 2025: High School Placement Test (HSPT)

January 9, 2026: Admissions Application Deadline, Financial Aid Application Deadline (optional)

January 19, 2026: Virginia Mathews Scholarship Application Deadline (optional)

January 22 and 24, 2026: Family Meetings

January 28, 2026: School Records Requests Due

March 5, 2026: Admissions Decisions Sent by Mail

March 6, 2026: Admissions Decisions E-Mail (by 5:00 p.m.)

March 19, 2026: Enrollment Decisions Due

BOOKSTORE

Contact: Michael Navarro, Bookstore Coordinator, michael.navarro@smapdx.org

St. Mary's Academy Bookstore provides families with specific textbook information and direct links to new and used books through [various marketplace vendors](#). This enhanced portal makes it easy to shop for the correct books at various prices. The Portal can be accessed through our website under the Academics menu.

Which Textbooks to Order: Students use their class schedule and the information on the Bookstore Portal to identify which classes and books they need.

Which Apps to Order:

- Required all-school Apps are provided by the school and distributed directly through student iPads.
- Department required Apps will be listed on the Department's web page or teachers may provide more specific information during the first weeks of school.

Information regarding prices and/or billing for particular books can be found in the description for each test/app. No on-site schoolbook buyback is hosted at the end of the school year.

Computer Technology Policy

Contact: Brette Doyle, Technology Director, brette.doyle@smapdx.org

Computer Technology Policy Contact: SMA Help Desk, sma.help.desk@smapdx.org

[Click here for the Technology Responsible Use Policy](#)

Fax Machine

The school's fax machine is not available for student use. Student papers, permission forms, homework or information needed for projects or student research should NOT be faxed to the school.

LIBRARY

Contact: Michael Navarro, michael.navarro@smapdx.org

The library is open every school day for student use. Library hours extend 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after the school day. Materials are checked out for four-week periods and can be renewed. The library does not charge late fees for overdue books nor fines for lost books.

HONOR SOCIETIES

Membership in the four St. Mary's honor societies reflects a student's passion and commitment to the highest standards of education and artistic excellence, and character. Membership in an honor society is a result of class work and in most cases accumulated hours of participation in a particular field. To learn about the criteria for membership for each society, please contact the advisor in the fall. Applications are reviewed in April and May.

NAHS: National Art Honor Society, Chapter 3219

Contact: Julia Grieve julia.grieve@smapdx.org

Faculty Advisors, Julia Grieve and EK Metsker

The National Art Honor Society recognizes the achievements of high school visual arts students. NAHS is sponsored by the National Art Education Association. Membership is based on art scholarship, leadership, character, and service. New members are accepted in the spring. Points are awarded for authorized activities and student forms are collected each spring. A senior with sufficient points may wear the rainbow-colored cord at graduation.

National Honor Society, St. Catherine of Siena Chapter

Contact: Patty Gorman, Dean of Mission and Charism, patty.gorman@smapdx.org (503) 721-7706

Membership in the St. Mary's chapter of the National Honor Society is an honor bestowed upon a student who meets the highest standards of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. In March, juniors and seniors who meet the criteria of scholarship are invited to apply for admission to the National Honor Society. Students must have at least a 3.6 unweighted GPA and a combination of advance coursework. A faculty committee reviews the applications and makes a final decision based on information provided by the applicant and St. Mary's Academy. Once inducted, National Honor Society members are expected to uphold the standards of scholarship, leadership, service, and character at all times.

ITS: International Thespian Society, Troupe #5277

Contact: Shannon More, Troupe Director, shannon.more@smapdx.org (503) 721-7704

The International Thespian Society is the honorary society for high school theatre students. "Thespians" is a part of The Educational Theatre Association and has been working since 1929 to honor excellence among students of theatre and support the work of theatre educators. Students who participate in a prescribed number of hours in theatre (in and out of St. Mary's Academy) may apply for membership. Applications for membership are reviewed each spring.

Tri-M National Music Honor Society, Chapter 5494

Contact: Kathy Briggs, Faculty Advisor, kathy.briggs@smapdx.org

Tri-M is the International honor society recognizing secondary music students for their musical ability,

academic excellence, school involvement, and community service. Students enrolled in a music performance course at St. Mary's are welcome to apply for membership. Applications for membership are reviewed each spring.

OUTDOOR SCHOOL

St. Mary's Academy endorses the Oregon Trail and the Outdoor School Program, operated under the auspices of the Multnomah Educational Service District. Freshmen may qualify in the spring for the position of counselor at Oregon Trail and sophomores, juniors, and seniors may qualify for the position of junior counselor at Outdoor School in the fall or spring if they have all of the following:

- A cumulative 2.75 GPA, a grade of C or better in each class from the previous semester, a current grade of C or better in each class and a good attendance record (eight or fewer absences in a semester and three or fewer tardies to a class).
- Students are expected to meet with each of their teachers prior to leaving for Outdoor School, make arrangements for projects and tests, and submit all homework assignments upon their return.
- Students earn a P/NP and .25 academic credit for Outdoor School.
- Seniors may not attend Outdoor School after May 3.
- Girls may apply to attend one week in the fall session and one week in the spring session.
- Young women participating in athletics or extra-curricular activities at St. Mary's must plan their participation in outdoor school outside the school sport season or extra-curricular activity.
- Girls who attend Outdoor School in the fall and wish to attend in the spring of the same academic year must have a grade of C or higher in each class from the previous semester and a current grade of C or better in each class.
- Students attending ODS should carefully review the Attendance Requirements for Credit ([page 13](#)) section of the handbook.

STUDENT LIFE — STUDENT LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES

Leadership is a core component of the St. Mary's Program. There is a wide array of leadership opportunities and they are embedded in every aspect of our school. Some examples are directing programs, diversity, equity, inclusion and anti-racism leadership, student council member, being a school ambassador, mentoring younger students, or being a team captain.

All advanced level leadership positions require that students sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU). This document holds students to highest level of integrity as an advanced leader within the school.

Advanced Leadership Endorsement

St. Mary's Academy has been graduating leaders since the 1860s and we have the distinct honor of being the first high school in Oregon to award seniors an Advanced Leadership Endorsement upon graduation.

Our leadership opportunities are varied and widespread, ranging from being captain of a sports team to directing over 100 students in committee work to achieve a desired outcome. While most student leadership opportunities develop organically—in multiple places and with a variety of leadership mentors/advisors—there are many students who have chosen a deeper dive into leadership during their journey at SMA. The Advanced Leadership Endorsement ensures students are able to tell the story of their leadership experience to colleges and employers by identifying what skills they have gained, speaking to those skills, and receiving a credential as evidence. We believe that the Endorsement is one of the many ways SMA students can differentiate themselves in a competitive world.

Requirements include leadership experience, community service hours, and participation in leadership trainings. As part of the cohort, students will reflect on their leadership experience, create a Linked-In profile,

compile examples of their work, and present in front of a panel of women leaders. Students declare their intent to pursue the endorsement at the end of second semester their junior year.

Student Initiative

Students who wish to initiate a special project, new club, activity, or organization are encouraged to contact Kerry Brown and Caitlin Whitty to learn about the steps involved in the approval process.

Assemblies

Assemblies are extensions of the St. Mary's educational program and thus reflect the philosophy of the school. Attendance at assemblies is mandatory. Students, with the exception of seniors, sit with their TA in their assigned section. Respect, courtesy, and attention are expected at all assemblies. No food, drinks or electronics are allowed at assemblies.

Athletics

View St. Mary's Academy's [2025-2026 Student Athlete Handbook](#).

Clubs/Organizations

St. Mary's has over 40 organizations and clubs that enrich student life. These range from affiliation with national organizations to those generated by the student initiative process. Information about all these activities is made available to students throughout the school year by spoken and written communication and through the Office of Student Leadership and Activities. Interested students are invited to contact Kerry Brown and Caitlin Whitty about opportunities for student participation and/or formation of new clubs or organizations.

Student Activities Honor Cord Program

Students who actively participate in student government, clubs and activities at SMA can accumulate hours toward an Activity Honor Cord. The cord is not for a specific activity (i.e. a "student government"); rather it is recognition for participation in a variety of SMA activities. Students will be awarded their cord at the end of their senior year. Seniors will have the opportunity to order and pay for an Activity Honor Cord in the second semester.

Dances

St. Mary's encourages students to bring friends from other schools to the dances. At the Winter Semi-Formal and Prom, students may each invite one guest. All guests must be at least in the 9th grade and may not be more than 20 years old. Guests will be required to show their current picture (student) ID card upon check-in. If an SMA student is not arriving with her guest, she should wait at the check-in table until her guest arrives.

Students are expected to model and observe the following rules at school dances:

- Students are expected to adhere to the code of conduct of St. Mary's Academy.
- In order to attend an SMA dance, a student must be in attendance for the full day prior to the dance. Guests are expected to observe the same rules as students attending the events. The person inviting the guest will share responsibility for the conduct of the guest.
- For the Winter Semi-Formal and Prom, doors open at 7:30 p.m. and close at 8:45 p.m. Students may leave the dance at 10:00 p.m. Dances end at 10:30 p.m. A breathalyzer is used at each dance. The use of the breathalyzer is to support alcohol-free attendance for all students.
- Formal dances: The Winter Semi-Formal and Prom are formal dances. They are held off-site. Tickets are purchased through a website link the weeks prior to the dance. No SMA student or her guest may purchase tickets at the door. Information about dances is provided to students well in advance of the event. A detailed informational letter will be sent to parents and students prior to each dance.

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRINCIPAL OF STUDENT LIFE

Contact: Ashley Sheridan '01, ashley.sheridan@smapdx.org 503-721-7743

The Vice Principal of Student Life offers direction, communication, support, and counsel to the overall student life program including attendance, campus ministry, community service, discipline, counseling, student athletics, and the teacher advisor program.

ATTENDANCE

St. Mary's Academy uses an electronic system for recording and tracking attendance, as well as notifying parents of student absences. Attendance is taken within the first 15 minutes of each block. If a student is marked "absent", it means we have not heard from a parent excusing the student from class. An email alerting parents of the student's absence will be sent to all parent emails associated with the student's account. Students will also receive an absence alert email at their SMA email account if they are marked "absent". However, we must hear directly from a parent in order to excuse the absence or tardy.

If your child will miss school for four or more days, please email Vice Principal of Student Life for a pre-arranged absence form and let us know the circumstances surrounding your child's absence. We will work with you to plan to make up for missed work when possible. Advance communication is always the key to ensuring success for our students.

SchoolPass App for Reporting Attendance

St. Mary's Academy uses SchoolPass to communicate attendance between parents and the school. Parents will need to download the SchoolPass App in order to communicate an approved absence, prearrange an absence, pick a student up early from school, share a doctor's note, or approve a tardy. If you already have the SchoolPass App downloaded from the last school year, you must update the app. Download SchoolPass for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#).

Alternatively, to alert the school that your student will be absent or tardy (more than 10 minutes late to class), please email attendance@smapdx.org with a reason for the absence or tardy in your email. Students may reach out to their teachers to get caught up on work or to let them know that they will be missing class time, but the school must hear from a parent for any absence or tardy to be excused.

CAMPUS MINISTRY AND SERVICE

Contact: Maura Timoney-Deville '09, Director of Campus Ministry and Service, maura.timoney@smapdx.org 503-721-7739

Campus Ministry supports students in deepening their relationship with God through retreats, liturgies, prayer, community service, and spiritual direction. St. Mary's Academy's mission and roots are in the Catholic Church and offer each young woman, through liturgies, retreats and service activities, the opportunity to explore and to develop her spiritual values and her personal relationship with God. Students of all faiths have a home here. Time for reflection, special masses, and prayer services are part of regular school life. Some students may become involved in the Ministry Leadership Team planning liturgical celebration. Participation in this team earns .25 credit per semester.

Liturgical Celebrations

All-School Liturgies are held throughout the school year to allow students the opportunity to pray together and to celebrate religious seasons, St. Mary's Founders' Day, and special occasions. Attendance at these liturgies is required and students are expected to wear formal attire as laid out in the Dress Code section of this handbook.

Students are encouraged to participate in non-all-school liturgies; however, students may opt to study during the Study/Optional Mass block. Students who take advantage of the study option are expected to follow these guidelines:

Optional Mass/Study

- Students use the time for quiet, individual study, not group study
- Students, with a note from a teacher, may make up a test or be tutored by a teacher
- Students may not bring food or drink to study
- Students remain in designated study areas the entire block
- The Boyle Center and the library are not available for student use

Holy Days of Obligation/Holy Days

St. Mary's Academy makes every attempt to provide a liturgy for students on Catholic Holy Days of Obligation. If we are not able to provide a liturgy on these days, students are encouraged to participate in their own parishes. Students who wish to observe holy days in their religious tradition may be excused from school with a note from a parent prior to the absence.

Retreat Program

Freshman Retreat: This October, the freshman class will participate in retreat which focuses on the full development of the human person and introduces the SNJM charism and core values to the freshmen. This retreat is connected to the first semester Freshman Journey Program.

Sophomore Retreat: This September, the sophomore class spends time together at SMA to reflect on who they are, who they are becoming as a member of the St. Mary's community, and their place in the community. All sophomores are expected to attend and participate. The day is filled with fun, discussions, prayer, sharing, and celebration.

Junior Encounter: St. Mary's offers three encounter retreat experiences. Each Encounter is 2½ days and is held off-site. Juniors are highly encouraged to participate in one of the encounters. Through prayer, reflection, and large and small group sharing, students focus on their relationship with self, family, friends, their classmates, and God.

Senior Metanoia: One senior metanoia (retreat) is held each year in May. This two-day experience is a wonderful opportunity for seniors to reflect on their time at St. Mary's, their relationships, and their preparation for life after high school.

Service Program

Contact: Maura Timoney-Deville '09, Director of Campus Ministry and Service, maura.timoney@smapdx.org
503-721-7739

The Community Service Program, a tradition at St. Mary's Academy, aims to foster a life-long commitment to serving others. While St. Mary's does not have a yearly requirement for graduation, involvement in community service activities away from school is part of the school's mission and is highly encouraged. The Service Director matches students' interests and skills with needs in the community. SMA offers a wide variety of service opportunities throughout the year and seek to respond to the current needs of our community and in support of SNJM programs.

Students involved in Service and Campus Ministry plan many of these service projects and encourage their classmates to participate.

Christmas Giving

Each year St. Mary's Academy gathers items for families and agencies in the Portland area to help provide food and gifts for Christmas. TAs usually go above and beyond these suggestions to make Christmas truly special in the lives of these families in need. This school-wide effort is a way that the entire St. Mary's family, students, parents, teachers, staff members, board members, and alumnae can offer service to the community.

2025-2026 SMA TEACHER ADVISOR (TA) AND COUNSELOR LIST

FRESHMEN, CLASS OF 2029			
TA Name	Room	College Counselor	Personal & Academic Counselor
Duden, Andrew	208	Suga	Kelvin
Foley, Francesca	205	Best	Kelvin
Grieve, Julia	G2	Best	Barker
Metsker, EK	G1	Suga	Ellis
Sonn, Shannon	305	Best	Barker
Stock-Marquez, Dena	109	Suga	Ellis
Turk, John	301	Best	Kelvin

SOPHOMORES, CLASS OF 2028			
TA Name	Room	College Counselor	Personal & Academic Counselor
Dominguez, Dana	304	Best	Barker
Ellis, Kirk	102	Best	Barker
Fleming, Maria	303	Suga	Barker
Rojas, Art	306	Best	Kelvin
Scott, Savannah	202	Suga	Ellis
Smith, Kira	G3	Best	Kelvin
Yerton, Carrie	G12	Suga	Ellis

JUNIORS, CLASS OF 2027			
TA Name	Room	College Counselor	Personal & Academic Counselor
Deshpande, Anu	302	Suga	Ellis
Gardner, Rachel	201	Suga	Ellis
Hainley, Anne	104	Best	Barker
Loveless, Julie	203	Suga	Ellis
Peterson, Ben	307	Suga	Kelvin
Sloan, Rachel	209	Best	Kelvin
Stadler, Julia	212	Best	Kelvin
Whitty, Ashley	103	Best	Barker

SENIORS, CLASS OF 2026			
TA Name	Room	College Counselor	Personal & Academic Counselor
Damon, Kate	206	Best	Barker
Daschel, Moe	210	Best	Kelvin
Faulkner, Maron	110	A-H Best, J-Z Suga	Barker
Housley, Donald	213	Suga	Barker
Loser, Mimi	212	Suga	Ellis
More, Shannon	105	Suga	Ellis
Nyland, Joan	204	Suga	Ellis
Wells, Erica	101	Best	Kelvin
Zoller, Jess	Library	Best	Kelvin

Service Honor Cord Program

As a way to honor, recognize, and encourage students who make a commitment to serve others, St. Mary's offers the Service Honor Cord Program. Each fall the application process and criteria for the Service Cord is made available to students.

Documentation of service is due each year to the Director of Service before the first Friday in April. Contact the Director of Service or see the [SMA website](#) for more details about the Service Cord. At the Awards

Night in May, seniors who meet the criteria of the program will receive an honor cord in recognition of their extraordinary contributions to their community through service. This cord may be worn at graduation.

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Sonya Barker, Counselor, sonya.barker@smapdx.org 503-721-7722

Jourdan Ellis '06, Counselor, jourdan.ellis@smapdx.org 503-721-7718

Kerri Kelvin, Counselor, kerri.kelvin@smapdx.org 503-721-7713

Three counselors are available as resources to students and their parent/guardians. The counselors support and assist students with personal and academic issues as they develop and grow during their time at St. Mary's. Students are assigned a counselor by TA. TA counselor assignments are located below.

Throughout the year, dogs and other animals (mini-horses, llamas, etc.) are brought to campus to enhance the student experience, lower rates of anxiety and simply make the environment happier. At all times these visitors will be supervised, on leashes and in assigned areas.

Communication between a student and counselor is in general confidential though information may be shared with the counseling team to provide continuity of care and ongoing support. As mandated reporters, there are exceptions to confidentiality in areas regarding abuse or harm to self or others. In these situations, as required by state law, counselors must notify certain authorities. Counselors may also notify administrators, faculty, and/or parents. Students may be referred to a resource in the community. Students have full access to school counselors without permission of parents, unless parents specify in writing to the contrary. Parents are encouraged to contact the counselors, the Director of Student and Academic Support or the Vice Principal of Student Life if they become aware of a serious condition that affects their daughter's life at school.

In the event that a student is seeing a mental health professional outside of school, St. Mary's reserves the right to require a "Release of Information" in order to work with the professional in providing a supportive environment for the student. Students involved in self-destructive behavior, self-harm, substance abuse, suicide ideation, eating disorders, are strongly encouraged to receive professional mental health treatment in order to remain at St. Mary's Academy.

College Counseling

Karlen Suga, Director of College Counseling, karlen.suga@smapdx.org 503-721-7712

Courtney Best, College Counselor, courtney.best@smapdx.org 503-721-7711

Katie Penvose, College Counseling & Testing Coordinator, katie.penvose@smapdx.org 503-721-7716

St. Mary's offers comprehensive college counseling. The college counseling staff works with students by visiting classes the freshman and sophomore years and meets individually with students beginning their junior year. The goal is to assist each student in finding the college that is the best fit based on her needs and interests. The college counselor for each TA is listed under the Counseling section. Services provided by the college counseling office include:

- Visits to freshman and sophomore classes to discuss college and answer questions
- All-School College nights featuring workshops on affordability, holistic admission review, the college counseling timeline, international college options, and more
- Access to Naviance, a web-based college information system
- Hosting over 100 college representatives each fall
- Membership in the National Association of College Admissions Counseling and the Pacific Northwest Association of College Admission Counseling
- Submission of transcript and letters of recommendation during the application process
- St. Mary's Academy does not report class rank
- Letters of recommendation are not released to students for any purpose

- A final transcript is submitted after graduation to one college
- St. Mary's Academy reports suspensions and expulsions to colleges whether they occur before or after an application has been submitted. If a student receives a suspension at any point during her high school years, she should be prepared to draft a statement that explains the situation and focuses on personal realizations in response to what transpired.

TEACHER ADVISOR PROGRAM

Contact: Ashley Sheridan '01, Vice Principal of Student Life, ashley.sheridan@smapdx.org 503-721-7743

The Teacher Advisor (TA) is a supportive community that fosters an atmosphere of respect, where students develop positive relationships, relax together, serve others and pursue personal and academic goals.

This tradition has been a part of St. Mary's Academy since 1979. The TA program provides students personal contact with the same teacher advisor throughout her entire four years of high school. It enables the adult advisor to be available to motivate and to track students in the academic, co-curricular, and interpersonal arenas. The TA program is meant to assist students in adjusting to and becoming active members in the St. Mary's Academy community. Building a sense of community and belonging finds its roots in the mission of St. Mary's.

The TA normally meets five times a week for 10 minutes at the start of the school day. They also meet briefly before mass or assemblies, during flex time for study and mass/study. TA time is used for communicating information, coordinating TA, class, and school events, study and celebrating special events. View details on [page 25](#).

Pregnancy

St. Mary's Academy promotes the support of life in policy and practice. Thus, a pregnant student, working in cooperation with her counselor, is encouraged to continue her classes at St. Mary's Academy.

FEES & FINANCIAL AID

Contact: Alee Sanchez, Director of Finance, finance.staff@smapdx.org 503-721-7721

Here is a list of typical annual fees at St. Mary's Academy:

Enrollment Fee	\$500
Tuition	\$20,150
Activity Fee	\$350
Books	\$500 (ranges from \$400 -\$600)
Graduation	\$300
Athletics	\$250 (per sport)
Encounter/Retreat Fees	Varies by retreat
FACTS Enrollment Fee	Up to \$55

All Students

All tuition payments must be current whether the payments are made annually, by semester, or monthly unless arrangements have been made with the Finance Office. Students whose tuition accounts are not current will not be permitted to enroll for the next semester until the account is current.

Graduating Seniors

Seniors must have their tuition accounts paid in full and be cleared by the Finance Office in order to participate in senior events and the graduation ceremony.

Tuition Refund Policy

Students are accepted with the understanding that they will remain enrolled at St. Mary's Academy for the entire academic year. The school consequently makes its commitments to the faculty/staff and contracts for services on a yearly basis according to the number of students enrolled at the beginning of the academic year. The school is not relieved of its responsibilities and obligations when a student withdraws or is dismissed. Therefore, it is understood by the parents/guardians and the school that in the event a student does not complete the academic year, the parents/guardians are still obligated to pay in full any tuition balance as provided for in the refund policy below. Parents/guardians must complete the registrar's paperwork formally withdrawing their student before the withdrawal is official.

Tuition Refund Policy: It is the policy of St. Mary's Academy when a student withdraws from the school to pro-rate tuition charged as of the date of withdrawal. If a student withdraws in August, a 100% refund will be issued, and the refund decreases by 10% each month until the end of February. If a student withdraws March 1st or thereafter, tuition will be charged for the full school year.

Registration Fee Policy: St. Mary's Academy requires a registration fee to reserve a spot for the student for the following academic year. The school regards the payment of a registration fee as a commitment to attend St. Mary's Academy and uses this commitment when determining staffing. Therefore, it is the policy of St. Mary's Academy not to refund any or all of the registration fee. At the time of the payment, you will also set-up your 2025-2026 payment plan in FACTS.

Financial Aid: Families must apply annually to be considered for financial aid. Returning students 2025-2026 financial aid applications are due March 31, 2026.

Other Questions:

For information related to tuition account information, scholarship applications, financial aid applications, and/or atypical fees, students and their parents are invited to call the Director of Finance.

HALLS

Students are to be in their assigned class during the entire period. Seniors during their senior study privilege are expected to be in the Boyle Center (if available), student commons, the cafeteria, or to have left the building.

Rules of courtesy and safety apply to hallways. No food or drink is permitted in hallways during lunch (except for senior hall). Students may have food or drink in the halls at other times but need to dispose of all garbage. Students are to eat lunch in the cafeteria, in the student commons, in classrooms for club or activity meetings or off campus. Ninth graders do NOT have off-campus privileges.

Safety regulations prohibit the leaving of items in halls. Items left in the halls will be removed and stored in the attendance office or the office of the Vice Principal of Student Life.

Due to the proximity of classrooms and the library, students may congregate on the outside front stairs and courtyard before school, during lunch and after school, but not during scheduled class time.

Senior Customs

Seniors enjoy customs preserved over the years such as sitting in the first rows at assemblies, wearing red ribbons, and painting a mural in senior hall. While enjoying the traditions and customs that accompany senior year, seniors are expected to be respectful to other classes and to demonstrate leadership.

Student ID Card

Student ID cards are required to enter the building and are to be worn and be visible throughout the day using a lanyard or clip. QR codes on ID cards are used to check in and out of the building, and all students are required to do so at the kiosks at the front door. Photographers will be available during the orientation days for students to take photos for the student ID card and for the yearbook. In case of a lost card, students need to contact the main office. The first replacement card is free, and subsequent replacement cards cost \$5.00.

LOCKERS

Contact: Ashley Sheridan '01, Vice Principal of Student Life, ashley.sheridan@smapdx.org 503-721-7743

Lockers are the property of St. Mary's Academy. When students are assigned lockers for book, bag, and coat storage, the locker has been cleaned, and the locker combination has been changed. To maintain the security of the locker, students are urged to keep their locker combinations confidential, and to keep their locker locked at all times. Students may not change lockers without permission from the VP of Student Life. Any problems with the locker need to be reported to Ashley Sheridan immediately.

Students may only decorate the inside of their lockers with appropriate content. The outside of the lockers should remain without decoration.

An additional locker may be checked out at the beginning of each athletic season for storage of athletic gear. These lockers must be cleared out when the season ends. Student-athletes who continue to participate in athletics the next season may keep the locker but must notify Ashley Sheridan. An additional locker may also be requested for storage of musical instruments.

Lockers may be inspected routinely for reasons related to maintenance, health, and safety. The school administration reserves the right to inspect any student locker at any time without notification.

Personal Property

St. Mary's will not be held responsible for the security of any personal items including iPads, laptops and other mobile devices.

Lost & Found

Items lost and found are to be reported to and claimed through the Front Office. Due to limited storage unclaimed items will be forwarded to service organizations monthly.

Cell Phone Usage

"Away for the Day" Cell Phone Policy

At the start of the school year, St. Mary's Academy will implement a new "Away for the Day" cell phone policy to promote deeper engagement, stronger focus, and a more connected campus culture. Students will be required to keep their cell phones stored away throughout the school day, both during class time and between classes. This update builds on the practice already in place in which students keep their phones away during class times. The only exception will be off-campus lunch, when 10th- and 12th-grade students may access their phones. Phone use will not be available during on-campus lunch.

Signs and Posters

Approval of signs and posters for display in the hallways must be obtained from the appropriate faculty advisor and the VP of Student Life. Timely removal of outdated signs is the responsibility of the person posting the signs.

Transportation

Transportation guidelines apply to all trips related to St. Mary's Academy, curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Students are expected to follow these rules of safety:

- Submit completed permission form to the school sponsor in advance of the event
- Wear safety belts, if available
- Remain seated while the vehicle is in motion
- Keep heads, arms, or hands inside windows
- Converse in normal tones
- Be courteous to the driver, fellow students, and passers-by

Students may be subject to disciplinary action for infractions of these safety provisions.

Transportation is usually provided for students via rented buses, school owned vehicles, or in some cases public transportation. If school transportation is not arranged for an event, students should coordinate with their parents/guardians to get to and from events.

With parental and school-sponsor approval, faculty, staff and designated volunteers may drive students to an event.

These exceptions must be cleared with the sponsoring teacher, coach, athletic director, or Vice Principal of Student Life at least 24 hours in advance.

Dropping Off Students

When dropping off or picking up students at St. Mary's, please think about the safety of your daughter and others. If there is not space on Fifth Avenue at the curb to allow for pick up or drop off, please proceed around the corner to Mill Street to find a space at the curb. Portland police will ticket drivers who do not observe the law. Also, please note that St. Michael's is for private use only. The towing policy that is posted is enforced at all times.

BEHAVIOR & CODE OF CONDUCT

Contact: Ashley Sheridan '01, Vice Principal of Student Life, ashley.sheridan@smapdx.org 503-721-7743

CODE OF CONDUCT

Based on the teachings of Christ and in the tradition of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, St. Mary's Academy expects each student to demonstrate Christian and ethical behavior by making positive contributions to the school community. Respect for self, other students, teachers, staff, the learning environment, personal property of individuals and the school, and compliance with established school regulations and policies are vital components for the growth, development, and good order of our Christian community.

In order to maintain a positive environment, a St. Mary's student demonstrates the following acceptable student behaviors that include, but are not limited to:

- Respect for the mission, tradition, policies, and procedures of St. Mary's Academy
- Respect for the health and well-being of others by refraining from any type of physical violence, bullying, hazing, gossip, shunning or intimidation
- Respect for self and others by refraining from language or images on any social media platform that is threatening, demeaning, intimidating, insulting or in any way adversely impacts a member of the St. Mary's Academy community
- Respect for self and others by her actions and language, both written and spoken, including refraining from language which is threatening, intimidating, insulting, demeaning, immoral, vulgar, profane, or obscene

- Respect for ethnic, racial, and social backgrounds of self and others, as demonstrated through use of language and by demonstrating openness to learning and understanding the perspective of others
- Respect for religious beliefs, traditions, and ceremony by demonstrating reverence during liturgies, prayer services, prayer, class discussions, and toward expressions of religious beliefs
- Respect for the property of students and the school by refraining from theft or vandalism and by using materials, equipment, and resources carefully
- Respect for self and civil law by refraining from providing, possessing or using illegal substances of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs
- Respect for personal integrity by turning in her own work on tests, projects, and assignments, citing sources correctly, and obtaining valid signatures when required
- Respect for the learning environment by being on time, prepared for class, being attentive in class, by making positive contributions to class discussions, and projects and by complying with procedures and expectations of classroom teachers and staff
- Respect for the environment by eating and drinking in designated areas, cleaning up after herself, and using the recycling receptacles
- Respect for the safety standards of the school

St. Mary's Academy recognizes and respects that feelings of affection exist between students and that relationships are an important part of life. However, in-order to maintain a professional and academic school environment, St. Mary's students should refrain from excessive public displays of affection. Examples of public displays of affection include close physical contact such as sitting on laps, excessive hugging or touching, and kissing. Repeated or inappropriate behavior in this regard may result in a disciplinary consequence including suspension or expulsion.

Consequences

Students who violate school rules, regulations, and the code of conduct will face consequences commensurate with their actions and will be subject to appropriate discipline and include the following: detention, a loss of open-campus privilege, performance of school service, loss of credit, loss of extra-curricular eligibility, membership in SMA honor societies, participation in student government, a plan of assistance involving student, parents, teachers, and administrators referral to an intervening agency or official, and/or suspension and expulsion. Parents will be notified of serious infractions, consequences, and disciplinary action. A student expelled from St. Mary's is excluded from all St. Mary's events and from coming onto school property.

School rules, regulations, and policies apply at school-sponsored events on and off campus. Although the school cannot assume responsibility for students' conduct when they are outside the school's jurisdiction, students should remember that, at all times, they are responsible for the good name of St. Mary's Academy. A student involved in conduct detrimental to the reputation of the school may be liable to disciplinary action.

St. Mary's reserves the right to suspend or expel a student who is being investigated for criminal activity. St. Mary's reports suspensions and expulsions to colleges whether they occur before or after an application has been submitted (See College Counseling).

Recording Students, Faculty and Staff

To protect the privacy of students, teachers and staff, using a camera, phone, iPad or other device to record teachers, staff and students at SMA is not allowed. Recording private conversations, confidential discussions or unguarded and inappropriate moments are strictly prohibited.

Students must seek prior, explicit permission to record teachers, activities, lectures, guest speakers, etc.

Students must discuss their request with the teacher and the Director of Student and Academic Support.

Requests need to explain why the recording is necessary and how they plan to use the recording. Permission

will be conveyed in writing with specific guidance on purpose, use, and content of the recording. Recording students, teachers or staff without prior, explicit permission will result in disciplinary action.

Dangerous Weapons

Students are prohibited from possessing, carrying, exhibiting and displaying weapons, firearms, explosives, mace, pepper spray, knives, pocketknives, or other dangerous objects while on school property or at school-sponsored events. Any device that is used with the intent to harm, threaten, or harass is considered a weapon. Oregon law requires a mandatory year's expulsion for possessing a weapon. Under ORS 339.315, schools must report expulsions for weapons and other serious offenses.

Search and Seizure

Lockers, desks, and personal belongings are subject to search at any time by school administration or teachers. This is for the protection of students and school employees. Lockers, desks, and any other storage areas at the school remain in the possession and control of the school even though they are made available or assigned for student use.

Questioning

Should law enforcement officials find it necessary to question students during the school day or during periods of extracurricular activities, the principal or designee will be present when possible. An effort will be made to notify the parent of the situation.

Parents are advised that in suspected child abuse cases, the Department of Human Services (DHS) and/or law enforcement officials may exclude school personnel from the investigation procedures and may prohibit school personnel from contacting parents.

Discipline Due Process

When a student violates the Code of Conduct, she will be subject to the following process:

Step 1: The teacher will meet with the student to review acceptable behavior expectations; teacher may notify parent.

Step 2: The student will have a conference with the Vice Principal of Student Life. This conference may include the student's teacher and/or parents. Parents will be notified of serious infractions, consequences, and disciplinary action.

The student may appeal the decision to the Principal, who if she deems appropriate, may convene an Appeals Committee.

Factors such as seriousness, location, and frequency of the violation may alter the steps in the process.

Appeal Process

Students and parents who wish to appeal a decision are expected to review the code of conduct and to follow the steps involving due process before initiating an appeal. Once initiated, students and their parents follow these steps through the appeal:

- Make a request for an appeal in writing within two weeks of notice of disciplinary action
- Address the letter of appeal to the Principal
- Present the appeal to the Appeals Committee, appointed by the Principal
- Accept the decision of the Appeals Committee as final

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SMA JURISDICTION AND INVESTIGATION PROCESS

St. Mary's Academy Jurisdiction Over Out-of-School Conduct:

Students should be aware that certain behavior and activities might result in response up to and including suspension and expulsion even if such conduct takes place off campus, during non-school hours, or on breaks from school. Students may be subject to consequences for conduct which is, or may be, disruptive of the educational process, interferes with the work of the school, is contrary to the mission of the school, impinges on the rights of others in our community, constitutes sexual harassment, or has a direct effect on the safety or welfare of students or other members of the school community. Note, this includes electronic communications, which could subject the student to consequences even if the communications are made outside of school using personal devices and/or personal social media accounts. The school reserves the right to confiscate a student's cell phone if it is suspected of being used in ways that violate school rules and/or if it contains inappropriate images that could be in violation of Oregon's criminal code.

Formal Complaint Process:

In most cases, St. Mary's will respond to formal complaints as follows. St. Mary's reserves the right to modify the formal complaint process as appropriate in a specific circumstance and/or as required by law.

- Contact counselor or administrator to discuss concern/complaint
- Provide written documentation of concern/complaint
- The Vice Principal of Student Life or other administrator will investigate the concern/complaint which may include in-person interviews
- SMA may contact responsible parties, parents/guardians, CPS, law enforcement, etc.
- SMA may determine that additional actions, including mediation, behavioral contracts and/or disciplinary actions, are appropriate depending on circumstances

Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco Policy

Contact: Ashley Sheridan '01, Vice Principal of Student Life, ashley.sheridan@smapdx.org 503-721-7743

St. Mary's Academy considers substance abuse/chemical dependency a serious medical problem. We realize that substance abuse, especially alcohol abuse, is a significant problem in our society. We strongly support preventative education, which must begin at home. The school will address the problem as both a health and a discipline issue.

St. Mary's strives to be a drug-free institution and considers the possession, use, sale or distribution of alcohol, illegal drugs, legally controlled substances, other intoxicants, or any drug paraphernalia on the campus, in the area surrounding the school, at any student activity, school-sponsored event, or at a time or place involving St. Mary's Academy as a very serious offense and may result in expulsion. Should a student violate this rule, the Vice Principal of Student Life will:

- Remove student from activity or class
- Contact parents/guardians
- Conduct an inquiry and determine any support or disciplinary actions that may range from suspension to expulsion
- Notify legal authorities

St. Mary's Academy administration may require a chemical assessment of the student and refer her to an

appropriate program. The appointment with the outside agency must be made within 48 hours for the earliest date available. The parents and/or student will sign a “Release of Information Form” allowing the outside treatment center to confer with the school regarding assessment recommendations and follow-up.

The student and parents must agree to participate in any follow-up treatment recommended by St. Mary’s and/or a professional treatment center. When recommended, the student must be registered to begin as soon as possible.

Tobacco Use

Smoking and vaping are strictly prohibited. Smoking or vaping during school hours is a violation of school policy. (School hours on a school day are from the time a student comes into the downtown area until dismissal.) Smoking and/or possession of tobacco products is prohibited at all school-sponsored events. Outside of school hours, students are to observe a Smoke/Drug Free Zone of three city blocks in every direction around St. Mary’s. Students who have turned 18 must also observe this Smoke/Drug Free Zone. Students who violate this policy will be subject to the following:

- Parents will be informed
- Loss of open campus privilege
- Loss of extra-curricular activities
- Possible referral to outside counseling
- Possible suspension from school

Appeal Process (See Code of Conduct Appeal Process [page 32](#))

Dress Code 2025-2026

St. Mary’s Academy strives to create an environment that prioritizes critical thinking, inclusivity, and body positivity. As a progressive, Catholic, women’s institution, the St. Mary’s Academy administration strives to be supportive of student choice in clothing. We believe in supporting our students’ ability to choose their attire based on comfort, functionality, and self-expression. While the St. Mary’s Academy Dress Code allows for a wide latitude for student choice in clothing, there are certain requirements and considerations.

Please refrain from wearing the following:

- Clothing (including buttons, patches, etc.) that depicts, implies, advertises, or advocates drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, gang affiliation, nudity, or sexual acts
- Clothing that includes profanity or hate, discriminatory, or racist speech or images
- Clothing that includes words or images that could be triggering to others
- Clothing or accessories that endanger students or staff
- Halter tops, tube tops, one shoulder tops, off the shoulder tops, spaghetti straps, transparent tops, and plunging necklines
- Clothing that allows the midriff (the region of the body between the chest and the waist) or back to show while in motion. Tops, sweaters and coats covering clothing that allows the midriff or back to show must be zipped, buttoned and fully closed
- Bottoms (skirts, shorts, dresses, etc.) should have an inseam that is at least 3 inches long and be long enough to cover undergarments and private parts.
- Bottoms (skirts, shorts, dresses, etc.) that expose undergarments and/or private parts when sitting and standing must be accompanied by opaque tights or leggings

There are special occasions when more formal attire is required. These are school days where a formal appearance is expected of students out of respect for the special purpose of the day. These days will be announced in advance.

- All school Mass days (at least one day per month)

- Days that celebrate SMA traditions (e.g., Mass of the Holy Spirit, Founders' Day, Mass of Mary)
- Days where students participate in study opportunities in the community
- Days with guest speakers, special events, or certain school-sponsored trips

The St. Mary's Academy administration retains the right to interpret the dress code and may require students to adjust or change clothing. Students not dressed according to the SMA Dress Code will be asked to adjust their clothing immediately and comply with the dress code for the entire day. Dress code violations may result in disciplinary action such as detention and parental meetings, and continuous disregard for dress code may result in more serious intervention measures including being sent home, suspension, or expulsion at the discretion of the administration.

SAFETY, SECURITY & EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS

Access

Students with special needs may get an elevator pass from the Vice Principal of Student Life. Elevator use is otherwise reserved for school operations.

Access to the building is through the door facing 5th Avenue. Students, school personnel, parents, and visitors may only use the 5th Avenue door. A service door on 5th and Market is used for deliveries and for people needing to enter the building without using stairs. For security reasons, all other exterior doors are locked and alarmed and are marked "For Emergency Only." Students who enter or exit through any door other than the front doors are subject to disciplinary consequence.

Building Security

The school is open for students at 7:00 a.m. each school day. At 7:00 a.m. students are free to move to other areas of the building. Students who need to stay after 4:30 p.m., are required to be in the library or on the first floor unless under the direct supervision of a member of the faculty, staff, or a coach. The building is not open on weekends and holidays except for athletic events, rehearsals, or specific events supervised by faculty, staff, or administrators.

Campus Visitors

To ensure that students are safe and that classes are not disrupted, all parents/guardians and volunteers are asked to report to the school office upon entering the school. If a family member needs to see a student, someone from the front office will get the student from her class. A call or note from a parent/guardian is required if a family member not included on the Emergency Form is picking up a student. While waiting for students to be dismissed from class, friends of students are asked to wait in the front foyer of the building.

Arrangements for students interested in enrolling at St. Mary's Academy to spend a day shadowing a current student must be made by the parents of the prospective student with the St. Mary's Admissions department prior to the visit. Students who have not made prior arrangements will not be allowed to remain at school.

In order to protect the academic integrity of the school day, St. Mary's discourages visits on school days from friends or relatives of St. Mary's students from the Portland area or from out of town. Exceptions may be appealed to the Vice Principal of Student Life. No students should presume to bring a non-St. Mary's student without permission in advance from the Vice Principal of Student Life.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Contact: Ashley Sheridan '01, Vice Principal of Student Life, ashley.sheridan@smapdx.org 503-721-7743

Students, faculty, and staff shall participate in emergency drills for fire, earthquakes, or other emergencies on a regular basis. When the alarm is sounded, students must follow the direction of the administrators, faculty,

and staff quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner.

Procedures, as outlined below, will be reviewed in each class and are posted in all teaching and office areas.

Fire Drills

In the event of a fire or a fire drill, students, teachers, and staff are asked to take these steps:

- Leave all personal belongings
- Move quickly and quietly to assigned or closest exit
- Hold door open for students behind; close door afterward; do not go to lockers
- Cluster in designated areas in the parking lot directly across from the school on 5th
- Take roll; report absent students to Attendance Secretary posted at the front door
- Return to school after the all-clear signal

Earthquake

In the event of an earthquake or an earthquake drill, students, teachers, and staff are asked to take these steps:

- Drop, duck, and seek cover against inner walls or archways, away from light fixtures, windows or overhead objects
- Remain calm
- Attend to injuries and medical needs
- Evacuate to parking lot across 5th Avenue with class lists in hand when directed to do so
- Take roll; report absent students to Attendance Secretary posted at the front door
- Avoid utility poles and overhead wires; do not enter damaged buildings

Critical Incidents and The Standard Response Protocol

St. Mary's Academy uses The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) to respond to critical incidents like accidents, violence and safety concerns. The SRP program provides consistent, clear, shared language and action among all students, staff and first responders. Students will participate in drills throughout the year to learn the specific actions that can be performed during an incident.

Hold is followed by the Directive: “**In Your Room or Area**” and is the protocol used when hallways need to be kept clear of occupants.

Secure is followed by the Directive: “**Get Inside. Lock Outside Doors**” and is the protocol used to safeguard people within the building.

Lockdown is followed by “**Locks, Lights, Out of Sight**” and is the protocol used to secure individual rooms and keep occupants quiet and in place.

Evacuate and may be followed by a location, and is used to move people from one location to a different location in or out of the building.

Shelter State the **Hazard** and **Safety Strategy** for group and self protection.

STUDENT SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The safety of St. Mary's Academy students is our highest priority. We are a community that fosters strong, independent young women, and our students must be able to learn and thrive in an environment in which they are safe and supported. Our students have a right to a life and educational environment free of abuse, misconduct, and harassment and in which appropriate adult-student boundaries are respected and maintained.

St. Mary's Academy strongly encourages all students to immediately report any concerns about student safety as described in this parent and student handbook. Students who report will receive support from St. Mary's, and retaliation for reporting concerns is strictly prohibited.

St. Mary's Academy prohibits and will not tolerate child abuse, sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, or dating/domestic violence and requires that all adults affiliated in any way with St. Mary's Academy maintain appropriate adult-student boundaries with St. Mary's Academy students.

Child Abuse Reporting

Child abuse is a crime under Oregon law. The law establishes several categories of child abuse. These include physical abuse, mental injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation (including sexually explicit digital images or recordings, and prostitution), neglect, threatened harm, buying or selling a child. Allowing a child to be present in an area where methamphetamines are being manufactured, and allowing a child to be exposed to a controlled substance in a manner that subjects a child to a substantial risk or harm to the child's health or safety. Child abuse can include written or electronic communications or digital images, even when no physical or in-person contact has occurred.

If you believe you are a victim of child abuse, we are here to help you. Students can make a report to the Principal, the Vice Principal of Student Life, the counselors, or any trusted adult in the building. Students can also report child abuse themselves at the number listed below. Other than reporting the information to Child Protective Services (CPS) or local law enforcement, St. Mary's Academy will keep the information you report confidential to the greatest extent permitted by the law. We are here to help and support you. To report abuse yourself: CPS: (855) 503-SAFE (7233). For additional support, visit the National Center for Victims of Crime: <http://victimsofcrime.org>

All St. Mary's Academy employees, regardless of employee classification, are mandatory child abuse reporters. Under Oregon law, this means that any St. Mary's Academy employee having reasonable cause to believe that any child with whom the employee comes in contact has suffered abuse or that any person with whom the employee comes in contact has abused a child must immediately report the abuse. "Contact" with such child or person includes electronic communications.

Any student, parent, or volunteer who has reasonable suspicion to believe that child abuse has occurred or is occurring should report that information immediately to the appropriate authorities. Each instance of suspected abuse must be reported. If any employee, student, parent, volunteer, contractor, or agent thinks a child is hurt or in danger, call 911 immediately to report the information to local law enforcement.

Emergency School Closure

In the case of hazardous or emergency conditions, the Principal may alter the St. Mary's calendar or schedule. Such alterations may include school closure, late opening starting at 10:00 a.m., or early dismissal of school.

In all cases of school closure, late opening, or early dismissal, notification will be posted as early as possible on our [website](#), email, Remind app, and local TV and radio stations via FlashAlert.

Given that St. Mary's draws from a large, diverse geographical area, conditions may vary from one location to another. Parents should use their own judgment on the safety of travel to St. Mary's. Please use SchoolPass or use SchoolPass if your daughter will be absent.

Sexual Misconduct

Oregon law prohibits sexual conduct between school employees and students, and violations of this law can

constitute criminal child abuse. Sexual misconduct can occur between people of the same or different sexes or gender identities. Oregon law defines “sexual conduct” as any conduct with a student which includes but is not limited to:

- Verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when directed toward a student or when such conduct has the effect of unreasonably interfering with a student’s educational performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment
- Sexual advances or requests for sexual favors directed towards a student

Sexual conduct can include written or electronic communications, even when no physical or in-person contact has occurred.

Sexual conduct does not include touching that is necessitated by the nature of the school employee’s job duties or the services provided by the volunteer, contractor, or agent and for which there is no sexual intent.

All St. Mary’s Academy employees must immediately report concerns about or rumors of sexual misconduct to the Human Resources Director, the Principal, or the President. If the conduct rises to the level of child abuse, the employee is also required to report to Child Protective Services.

Any student, parent, volunteer, contractor, or agent with a concern about sexual conduct between a St. Mary’s Academy employee and a student should immediately report the concern to the Human Resources Director, the Principal, or the President. St. Mary’s Academy takes all such reports extremely seriously and will investigate the concern. This applies to “rumors” as well, and any rumor of sexual misconduct should be reported.

If you believe you are a victim of sexual misconduct, you should report and seek help immediately. Students can make a report to the Principal, the Vice Principal of Student Life, the counselors, or any trusted adult in the building. Even if you suspect but don’t know if you were a victim of sexual misconduct, don’t suffer in silence. St. Mary’s Academy will keep the information confidential to the greatest extent permitted by the law. We are here to help and support you. Retaliation against you for making a report is strictly prohibited.

Safe and Healthy Boundaries

The strong and supportive relationships between St. Mary’s Academy staff and students are a hallmark of a St. Mary’s Academy education. St. Mary’s Academy employees, volunteers, contractors, and agents provide invaluable mentorship and support to our students, and these relationships establish a strong foundation for our students as they grow into young adults.

At the same time, it is never acceptable for these relationships to cross a boundary into one of an overly familiar, personal, romantic, or sexual nature. Employees, volunteers, contractors, and agents are required to exercise sound professional judgment with regard to boundaries at all times and to err on the side of protecting boundaries and student safety.

Any employee, parent, or volunteer with a concern about inappropriate boundaries between a St. Mary’s Academy employee/volunteer and a student must immediately report the concern to the Human Resources Director, the Principal, or the President. St. Mary’s Academy takes all such reports extremely seriously and may initiate an investigation. This applies to “rumors” as well; rumors of inappropriate boundaries should be reported so that St. Mary’s Academy can initiate an investigation.

If you believe you are a victim of inappropriate boundaries or have a concern about inappropriate boundaries between a St. Mary’s employee/volunteer and a student, you should report and seek help immediately. Students should report to the Principal, the Vice Principal of Student Life, the counselors, or a trusted adult in the building. St. Mary’s Academy will keep the information confidential to the greatest extent permitted by the law. We are here to help and support you. Retaliation against you for making a report is strictly prohibited.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is harassment based on sex. As defined in Oregon law, sexual harassment includes a demand or request for sexual favors in exchange for benefits; unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that is physical, verbal or nonverbal and that interferes with a student's educational program or activity or that creates an intimidating, offensive or hostile educational environment; and/or assault when sexual contact occurs without a student's consent. "Without consent" means an act performed without the knowing, voluntary and clear agreement by all parties to participate in the specific act; or when a person who is a party to the act is incapacitated by drugs or alcohol; unconscious; or pressured through physical force, coercion or explicit or implied threats to participate in the act.

St. Mary's prohibits all forms of sexual harassment. All complaints of sexual harassment shall be investigated. Any employee, parent, volunteer, or agent with a concern about sexual harassment should immediately report the concern to the Human Resources Director, the Principal, or the President. St. Mary's Academy takes all such reports extremely seriously and will initiate an investigation. This applies to "rumors" as well; rumors of sexual harassment should be reported so that St. Mary's Academy can initiate an investigation.

All St. Mary's Academy employees, volunteers, contractors, and agents must immediately report concerns about or rumors of sexual harassment to the Human Resources Director, the Principal, or the President. If the conduct rises to the level of child abuse, the employee is also required to report in accordance with the Child Abuse Reporter requirements.

If you believe you are a victim of sexual harassment or have a concern about sexual harassment, you should report and seek help immediately. Students should report to the Principal, the Vice Principal of Student Life, the counselors, or a trusted adult in the building. St. Mary's Academy will keep the information confidential to the greatest extent permitted by the law. We are here to help and support you.

Harassment

Harassment means an incident or incidents of verbal, written, visual, or physical conduct, including any incident conducted by electronic means, based on or motivated by a student's or a student's family member's actual or perceived race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity, that has the purpose or effect of objectively and substantially undermining and detracting from or interfering with a student's educational performance or access to school resources or creating an objectively intimidating hostile, or offensive environment. (Source: adapted from www.doi.gov)

If you believe you have witnessed or have been subjected to harassment, you should:

- **Communicate Directly:** If students feel comfortable and safe, they are encouraged to communicate directly to express concerns if they (or someone they know) is subjected to harassment.
- **Seek Advice:** At any time, students are encouraged to consult a trusted adult in the building, such as a counselor, TA advisor, or an administrator to seek advice.
- **Initiate a Formal Complaint:** If direct communication does not resolve the problem or if a student chooses not to approach the individual directly, students may also initiate a formal complaint to their counselor, the Vice Principal of Student Life, or the Principal.

Sexual Assault

The term sexual assault refers to sexual contact or behavior that occurs without explicit consent of the victim. Some forms of sexual assault include attempted rape, fondling or unwanted sexual touching, forcing a victim to perform sexual acts. Note that sexual assault and rape may also fall within the definition of sexual harassment, defined above.

If you believe you are a victim of sexual assault or rape, you should report and seek help immediately. Students can make a report to the Principal, the Vice Principal of Student Life, the counselors, or any trusted adult in the building. We are here to help and support you. Retaliation against you for making a report is strictly prohibited.

If St. Mary's receives a complaint of sexual assault or rape, or otherwise has reason to believe that sexual assault or rape may have occurred, it will take steps to ensure that the matter is addressed by the administration.

Students are encouraged to cooperate fully in an investigation. St. Mary's will maintain confidentiality of complaints to the extent possible without compromising the school's obligation to take appropriate responsive action. St. Mary's cannot guarantee total confidentiality to anyone involved in an investigation.

Please note: While it is St. Mary's responsibility to report allegations of assault or rape to the proper authorities, in some cases, St. Mary's will not investigate allegations to determine guilt or innocence.

Dating and Domestic Violence

As defined in Oregon law, "dating" or "dating relationship" means an ongoing social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature between two persons. "Dating" or "dating relationship" does not include a casual relationship or ordinary fraternization between two persons in a business or social context. "Domestic violence" means abuse as defined between family and household members, as defined in Oregon law. "Teen dating violence" means a pattern of behavior in which a person uses or threatens to use physical, mental or emotional abuse to control another person who is in a dating relationship with the person, where one or both persons are 13 to 19 years of age; or behavior by which a person uses or threatens to use sexual violence against another person who is in a dating relationship with the person, where one or both persons are 13 to 19 years of age. Teen dating violence and domestic violence is unacceptable and is prohibited.

Students, employees, parents, and volunteers should report concerns about or rumors of dating/domestic violence to the Human Resources Director, the Principal, or the President. This includes, but is not limited to, incidents of teen dating violence that take place at the school, on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities or in vehicles used for school-provided transportation. If the conduct rises to the level of child abuse, employees are also required to report in accordance with the Child Abuse Reporter requirements.

St. Mary's provides posters regarding dating/domestic violence in clearly visible locations on the school campus.

As with the safety issues identified above, the same procedures for reporting apply and retaliation for good faith reporting is strictly prohibited.

If you believe you are a victim of dating or domestic violence, you should report and seek help immediately. Students can make a report to the Principal, the Vice Principal of Student Life, the counselors, or any trusted adult in the building. We are here to help and support you. Retaliation against you for making a report is strictly prohibited.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As a Catholic, all-girls school we rely heavily on this community of parents, grandparents, and guardians to help us create an excellent, well-rounded experience for our students. Please consider assisting us in our mission to empower the young women of St. Mary's by committing your valuable time, expertise, and passion to the life of our school. Apply for the Parent Ambassador Board (see below) and register for individual

volunteer opportunities (separated by areas of interest) on our [volunteer page](#).

Parent Ambassador Board

This Board, made up of parent representatives from each grade, works closely with the Development staff, Admissions, Student Life, and Athletics departments. Their purpose is to create opportunities for meaningful connection amongst parents, host social and community building events, represent the school to the broader community, and to support fundraising initiatives. At times, it also serves as an advisory capacity to the school administration. The Parent Ambassador Board provides parents with opportunities to get to know each other, become more immersed with student life, and to support the school and its mission. The Parent Ambassador Board typically meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. September - May.

IMMUNIZATION & MEDICAL TREATMENT

Students and their parents must provide a completed State Certificate of Immunization form signed and dated by a parent or guardian (in most instances this form is forwarded from the student's previous school). If the student is not vaccinated due to either medical or non-medical reasons, please contact the Registrar for information on additional documentation that is required.

Students not in compliance with Oregon statutes and rules related to immunization must be reported to the Multnomah County Health Department and may be excluded from school until they have met immunization requirements. Current "Certificate of Immunization Status" forms are on file in the Registrar's Office.

Each year parents are asked to complete a medical release form that gives parental consent to St. Mary's administrators, faculty and staff to obtain medical treatment for their daughter in an emergency situation. Parents are also asked to provide other information that could be required in case of an emergency. Parents are asked to update this information as often as necessary.

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

The school recognizes that administering medication to students and self-medication may be necessary when the failure to take such medication would jeopardize the health of the student or the student would not be able to attend school if medication were not made available during school hours.

Consequently, students may be permitted to take non-injectable prescription or non-prescription medication to school, on a temporary or regular basis. The school cannot dispense naturopathic medicine or medicine not regulated by the FDA.

The parents or guardians shall make all requests for the school to administer medication to a student. [An Authorization for Medication Administration by Designated School Personnel](#) or a [Self-Medication Agreement](#) must be filled out and given to the school office before any medication can be administered or carried by a student. All medications should be brought to the school office with the appropriate forms filled out.

The school reserves the right to reject a request to administer prescription or nonprescription medication when, in the judgment of the school, such administration of medication is not necessary or feasible for the student to be in attendance for the day. Medication is not to be shared or abused (including the usage of cough drops). This policy shall not prohibit, in any way, the administration of recognized first aid to students by school personnel in accordance with established state law.

Medication Dispensation Guidelines

The school can only administer medication prescribed by a person licensed by their respective licensing

board in the state of Oregon. The following is required for any non-injectable drugs, chemical compounds, suspensions, or preparations, which are taken either internally or externally by a student under the instruction of a physician:

Written instruction from the doctor, which includes:

Name of student

Name of medication

Dosage

Time and/or frequency of administration, indications for as-needed use

Method of administration (i.e. Mouth, nose, ear, etc.)

It is recommended that the physician note any expected or possible adverse reactions, and any further action required. These instructions may be included on a prescription label or in separate written directions from the physician. "Take as directed" or "as needed" require specific indications. [An Authorization for Medication Administration by Designated School Personnel](#) or a [Self-Medication Agreement](#) must be filled out and given to the school office before any medication can be administered or carried by a student. All medications should be brought to the school office with the appropriate forms filled out. The authorization form must be signed and filled out completely by the parent or guardian.

All prescription medication must be in the prescription container and clearly labeled. If the student is also taking the medication at home, the pharmacist can issue the medication in two separate bottles. Unused medication must be picked up by the parent or guardian when the treatment is complete or at the end of the school year. Medication left at school past the end of the school year will be

Prescription Medication and Injectables

The following is required for: "...any injectables for students who have severe allergic responses to insect sting, to other specific allergens and to students who are experiencing severe hypoglycemia when other treatment has failed or cannot be initiated."

Written instructions from the doctor which includes all the following:

Name of student

Name of medication

Dosage

Time and/or frequency of administration

Method of administration

The parent shall make the request in writing for the school to administer, as necessary, injectable medication (medication administered by the intramuscular route) to the student. The request must include written instructions from the doctor for the administration of an injectable medication to the student. (A prescription label on the original container of the injectable medication is deemed sufficient to meet the requirements for written physician instruction).

[An Authorization for Medication Administration by Designated School Personnel](#) or a [Self-Medication Agreement](#) must be filled out and given to the school office before any medication can be administered or carried by a student. All medications should be brought to the school office with the appropriate forms filled out. The authorization form must be signed and filled out completely by the parent or guardian.

Since the training of staff members to be authorized to administer injectable medication must be conducted under the supervision of a licensed physician, physician assistant or a nurse practitioner, parents and/or guardians cannot train the designated school personnel in the use of injectables.

Non-Prescription Medication

Only FDA-approved non-prescription medications can be given in schools unless the parent or student gets a written order for the over-the-counter drug from the student's provider, verifying its safety. The following is required for "...*only commercially prepared, non-alcohol-based medication to be taken at school that is necessary for the student to remain in school. This shall be limited to eyes, nose and cough drops, cough suppressants, analgesics (pain relievers), decongestants, antihistamines, topical antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, and antacids.*" These medications may not ever be shared between students.

Written instructions from the parent must include:

Name of student

Name of medication

Dosage

Time and/or frequency of administration

Method of administration (e.g., mouth, nose, ear, etc.)

All non-prescription medications must be in original container or packaging. Unused medications must be picked up by parent when treatment is complete or at the end of the school year. Medication left at school past the end of the school year will be destroyed.

[An Authorization for Medication Administration by Designated School Personnel](#) or a [Self-Medication Agreement](#) must be filled out and given to the school office before any medication can be administered or carried by a student. All medications should be brought to the school office with the appropriate forms filled out. The authorization form must be signed and filled out completely by the parent or guardian.

St. Mary's Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, sexual orientation, or racial or ethnic origin in the administration of its education policies, admission policies, scholarships, loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

St. Mary's Academy reserves the right to make revisions in this handbook when, and if, deemed necessary by the school administration. Observance of any change is expected of all when the change is made known to the student body and parents.