

School of St. Mary
8th Grade Guide, 2022 - 2023



School of St. Mary, Class of 2023

8th Grade Guide

2022 - 2023 School Year

Coordinators:	Valerie Vojcanin	vojcanin@sbcglobal.net
	Ali Chekouras	achekouras@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Erin Helms	emhelms@gmail.com
8th Grade Teachers:	Mrs. Mary Pat Fox	mfox@schoolofstmary.org
	Ms. Amy Baniewicz	abaniewicz@schoolofstmary.org
School Principal:	Kathy Thompson	kthompson@schoolofstmary.org
Director of Marketing and Development:	Melissa Haak	mhaak@schoolofstmary.org
UGC Administrative Assistant:	Jasmine Sosa	jsosa@schoolofstmary.org

Religious Education

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

The candidates' sponsors are encouraged to join as many of these meetings and events. This is an opportunity for sponsors to get more involved in the process of further initiation of our young people into the Church through the sacrament of Confirmation. Attendance by sponsors at these meetings will also provide them a foundation to build stronger relationships with their candidates. We are aware that not all sponsors may be able to attend and that some candidates may still be in the process of choosing their sponsors.

Candidate Meeting

[INSERT DATE] at [INSERT TIME]p.m. in the UGC gym

Meeting for candidates, parents and sponsors. The meeting will cover the theology, meaning of Confirmation today, goals and objectives, retreat, and service requirements. Each candidate, for Confirmation, will receive a red folder outlining all of the above and other important documents/forms. Meeting will include a presentation by Father [INSERT PRIEST NAME]

Candidate Enrollment at Masses

Saturday, [INSERT DATE]

Sunday, [INSERT DATE]

The Confirmation candidates decide which of the Masses they would like to attend (not the Sunday at 6PM) and receive a blessing from the priest and the prayerful support of the parish community. Candidates are asked to bring their enrollment certificate, from [INSERT DATE] meeting (red folder). As always, sponsors are encouraged to attend with Candidates.

Confirmation Interviews/Welcome

February (the individual interviewer will contact family)

During the month of February, the 8th grade candidates will participate in a Confirmation Interview with their parent/guardian and a member of the St. Mary parish staff or

ministry leader. Interviews will be scheduled individually with each interviewer and family. This is an opportunity for reflection and welcome.

Confirmation Retreat

Saturday February 11, 12:30pm - 6pm – students attend 5:00 mass

8th Graders participate in an all-day retreat with Father [INSERT PRIEST NAME].

****Need 2 parents for each group****

Confirmation Rehearsal

Candidates and Sponsors

Group A March 8, 2023 at 7 pm in the Church

Group B March 9, 2023 at 7 pm in the Church

Confirmation

Group A Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 10am Liturgy

Group B Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 2pm Liturgy

The Confirmation liturgy is approximately 2 hours. After Mass, families are invited to the school gym for a brief reception and photographs with Bishop [INSERT BISHOP NAME]. Formal dress attire is recommended. See Special Event Dress Guidelines.

School Activities

8th GRADE CHICAGO FIELD TRIP

Tuesday, September 20 – Planned by Ms. Baniewicz and Mrs. Fox

8th Graders will be traveling in school uniform to Chicago by bus. Itinerary includes Architectural boat tour of Chicago and Willis Tower SkyDeck.

HOMEcoming CELEBRATION & FLOWER CEREMONY*

Thursday, September 22 – Planned by SOSM

Celebration of all sports. 8th graders present a parent or guardian with a flower.

MORNING MASS & BREAKFAST*

TBD

8th Graders and their parents are invited to attend 8am Mass together as a class during the school year. Dates TBD (Fall, Winter, and Spring). After mass, the students will gather for breakfast in the cafeteria. Volunteers are needed to donate and serve breakfast: teachers will provide a head count a few days in advance. **See sign-up for volunteer opportunities.**

NORTHSIDE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FAIR

Wednesday, October 19 6:30-7:30pm in UGC Gym

Parents AND Students have an opportunity to meet and greet with Catholic High School Representatives from the local area. Schools invited: Loyola Academy, Notre Dame, Carmel, Regina and Woodlands. This is a casual drop-in event open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Attendance is not mandatory.

HIGH SCHOOL SHADOW DAYS

Rolling Dates

All 8th grade students have the opportunity to visit local high schools on designated shadow days. Additionally, students wishing to attend Catholic or private high schools must take admissions tests. It is the parents responsibility to register their child for any highschool testing requirements and should refer to their desired high school's website for testing requirements and dates.

Please refer to the School of St. Mary school website under the *Student Life > 8th grade experience* tabs for current high school information, dates and scholarship information.

Be sure to email Jasmine Sosa with student name, shadow date and school name. Any unreported shadow days will be considered an Unexcused Absence.

8th GRADE PICTURE

Stuart Rodgers Photography

Parents should have received an email directly from Stuart Rodgers with all details and information for scheduling their desired photo session session. Boys typically wear a sport coat (or suit) and tie and girls wear a dark blouse, sweater or dress. Yearbook photos are torso and up only.

YEARBOOK ITEMS: BABY PHOTO and PARENT CONGRATULATORY NOTE

E-photos Due Friday, October 14

Please provide a baby photo. ***All photos must be submitted electronically*** (high resolution AND actual size). Handout with instructions on how to upload the baby picture will be given to you.

SOSM Contact: Tina Moulton - tmoulton@schoolofstmary.org

Parent Note Due Friday, October 14

Please provide a short note (2-3 sentences maximum) to your child commemorating their graduation, both of which will be included in the yearbook. Please check for

grammar and punctuation. Mrs. Moulton will not edit or change anything you write to your child.

SOSM Contact: Tina Moulton - tmoulton@schoolofstmary.org

8th GRADE HALLOWEEN SQUARE DANCE PARTY*

Monday, October 31 in UGC Gym

Please note: *Students do not wear costumes this year.* The students will learn how to square dance and typically wear western style clothing.

8th GRADE CLASS VIDEO

Critical Dates TBD

Contact: Jeanenne Tornatore

The class DVD is a montage of photos of all students throughout their St. Mary's years, and will be shown at the 8th grade dinner dance. Additional details forthcoming. Please start to collect any and all group photos of school sponsored events and field trips. A separate and more detailed communication with all instructions on how to upload pictures will follow.

Information about pictures

1. Electronic photos are required. If possible, please electronically label them with name, grade and event.
2. Please send as many group photos as possible. Please include photos with multiple students at events such as SOSM holiday parties, athletics, field trips, etc. Please, no photos from personal birthday parties, family events or other activities that fall outside of school activities.
3. Please include one baby/toddler photo, separate from the yearbook photo, to be included in the photo video as part of a then (supplied baby/toddler photo) vs. now (8th grade photo)
4. If your child has only been at St. Mary's for only a year or two, please submit younger photos of them from their previous school experience.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PRAYER SERVICE

Friday, December TBD at 9:15am in St. Mary's Church

2nd and 8th graders recreate the story of Jesus's birth.

8th GRADE CHRISTMAS PARTY & SERVICE PROJECT*

Friday, December 16th

8th GRADE VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY*

Thursday, February 14th

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

TBD

Students present the Living Stations Of The Cross at 9:15am. There may be an additional evening performance. More details to follow.

8th GRADE WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

April 28 to April 30

A returning opportunity for our 8th graders to travel together and explore our nation's capital. If your child is interested, please visit www.grandclassroom.com and create an account. *Please note, creating an account is not registering for the trip.*

If you have not already done so, please complete the Washington, D.C. survey distributed on Thursday, September 8th from Melissa Haak. Additional details, timing and pricing will be forthcoming.

8th GRADE MUSICAL*

TBD

SOSM Contact: Randy Manges - rmanges@schoolofstmary.org

MAY CROWNING*

Friday, May 12th with the following Schedule:

8:55am: Photo on steps of St. Mary's Church

9:00am – 9:45am: Ceremony at St. Mary's Church

11:15am – 12:15pm: Ceremony at St. Patrick's Church

This May Crowning Prayer Service is a long-standing tradition at the School of St. Mary. Our patron Saint, Mary, is honored and crowned at this annual prayer service. The 8th grade class photo is taken on the front steps of the church prior to the ceremony. 2nd and 8th graders participate in the procession.

Please refer to the School of St. Mary school website under the *Student Life > 8th grade experience > **Special Event Dress Guidelines***. Boys wear a sport coat, dress shirt and tie with khaki pants and dress shoes (no gym shoes). Girls wear a long white dress with heels no more than 2" high. Following the event, the students are dismissed for the remainder of the day to attend the May Crowning Luncheon.

8th GRADE MAY CROWNING LUNCHEON*

Friday, May 12th at Onwentsia Club

Following the May Crowning ceremonies, the 8th graders and their mothers attend a luncheon together.

8TH GRADE RIBBON CEREMONY - Good-Bye, God Bless*

Tuesday, May 16 at St. Mary's Church – hosted by SOSM staff

This is a wrap-up prayer service, which is an opportunity for reflection on the experience at the School of St. Mary. Each 8th grade student is pinned with a ribbon on the altar with all 6-8th graders in attendance. It is led by the 7th grade students.

HONORS AWARDS and ATHLETIC CEREMONY

May TBD at UGC GYM - hosted by SOSM staff

7th and 8th graders receive academic awards. Invitations are sent directly to students who are eligible for this event.

SOSM contact: Amy Baniewicz - abaniewicz@schoolofstmary.org

8th graders receive athletic participation awards.

SOSM contact: Athletic Director Dr. Maribeth Carlini - mcarlini@schoolofstmary.org

8th GRADE ARTWORK

Framing due before Dinner Dance on May 25th

Each 8th grade student will paint two pictures, which will be displayed in the foyer at the UGC and at the 8th grade dinner dance. Students will choose a Patron Saint (Confirmation Saint) to paint, as well as a copy of a “masterpiece” where they will incorporate a personal change. This work is done during Art Class, but parents are responsible for having the original masterpieces framed and dropped off at Deerpath Inn prior to the Dinner Dance.

SOSM Contact: Art Director Tina Moulton - tmoulton@schoolofstmary.org

8th GRADE DINNER DANCE*

Thursday, May 25th at 6:30pm at Deerpath Inn

No School for 8th graders the following day – Friday, May 26th

8th grade parents and students attend the Dinner Dance at The Deerpath Inn. Clergy, Administration and all 8th grade teachers attend this special evening as guests of the 8th grade class. Invitations with response cards are sent to each 8th grade family. A cash bar is available for adults.

This is a semi-formal event with the following schedule:

Cocktail Hour: Student artwork on display, while attendees mingle.

Dinner: sit-down dinner with presentations acknowledging families whose youngest/only is graduating from St. Mary's.

Dance/DVD: Parents retire to the Hearth Room to view the 8th grade DVD and socialize. Students and teachers remain to enjoy the dance.

8th GRADE SIX FLAGS FUN

Friday, May 26

Parent sponsored, organized and chaperoned event. Volunteers needed to organize, drive and chaperone. **See sign-up for volunteer opportunities.**

8th Grade LAST DAY and CLAP OUT

Wednesday, May 31

8th graders proceed through school hallways together for their last time as fellow students and staff applaud and congratulate them.

GRADUATION MASS

Thursday, June 1st at 5:30pm at St. Mary's Church

May Crowning attire.

Donation Opportunities

As you are aware, there is an annual 8th grade additional fee of \$400 per student. This fee is intended to cover the above-mentioned events. This year, we collected \$13,600 (\$400 x 34 students) to help offset the cost of the above-mentioned events. Last year, the final cost of all activities, excluding Six Flags, was \$17,000.

We will not fundraise and, instead, offer numerous donation opportunities at a variety of levels. The school will provide an In-Kind Tax letter for all monetary donations or in-kind donations (such as flowers, pizza, etc.). **Please see sign-up for donation opportunities** or reach out directly to Valerie, Ali, Erin or Melissa Haak with any questions.

Donation Opportunities (*denotes donation opportunities)

Morning Mass & Breakfast

Homecoming Celebration & Flower Ceremony

Halloween Square Dance Party

Christmas Party

Valentine's Party

Musical

May Crowning Luncheon

Ribbon Ceremony
Dinner Dance