

# *Saint Mary's 2015—Annual Report*



Award Category: An innovative project in marketing a Catholic school  
Location: Belen, New Mexico  
Archdiocese: Santa Fe  
Principal: Melodie Good  
Students: 141 Grades: PreK-8  
Website: [stmarysbelen.com](http://stmarysbelen.com)

At Saint Mary's, we are committed to the growth of our Catholic identity, academic potential, and community involvement.

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

# Philosophy

We at Saint Mary's Catholic School actively strive to teach as Jesus taught. In the tradition of our patroness, the blessed Mother, we recognize parents as the primary educators of their children and want to assist them in their role in teaching and guiding their children to live their Catholic faith. We are committed to providing:

- a. activities that allow students to experience prayer and liturgy;
  - b. quality educational opportunities for students of varied academic abilities;
  - c. financial aid programs to assist those families unable to assume full financial responsibility for tuition;
  - d. opportunities for students to serve others in order to fulfill the mandate of the Gospel and the demands of justice, and to recognize that society requires the cooperation and contribution of each of its members.
- We believe this will provide the foundation for our students to become faith filled and productive members of our community.

# *Student Learning Expectations*

SAINT MARY'S Schoolwide Learning Expectations -SLEs

## **Grow in Catholic Faith**

- I will learn about my faith.
- I will pray throughout my day.
- I will make good choices.
- I will share my faith with others.

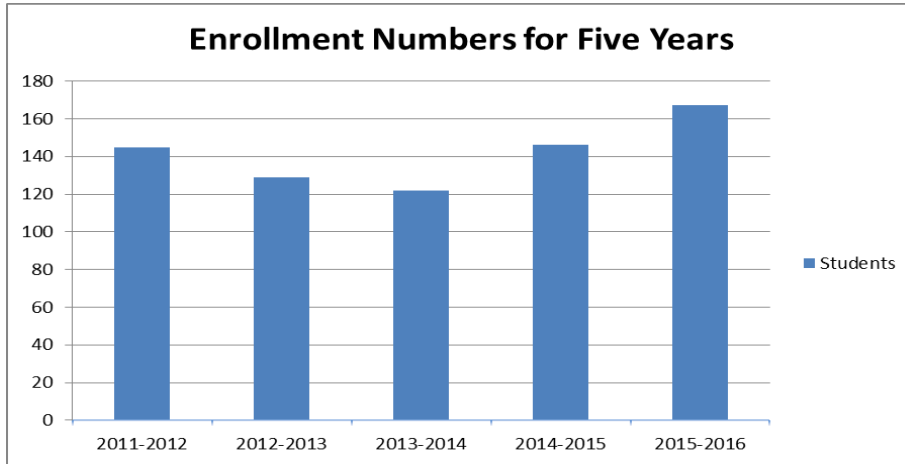
## **Achieve Academic Potential in Math and Reading**

- I will explain what I am learning.
- I will track my progress.
- I will use technology responsibly.
- I will solve problems.

## **Serve the Community**

- I will learn about social justice.
- I will be a peacemaker.
- I will serve others.
- I will follow the Golden Rule.

# Enrollment and Statistics

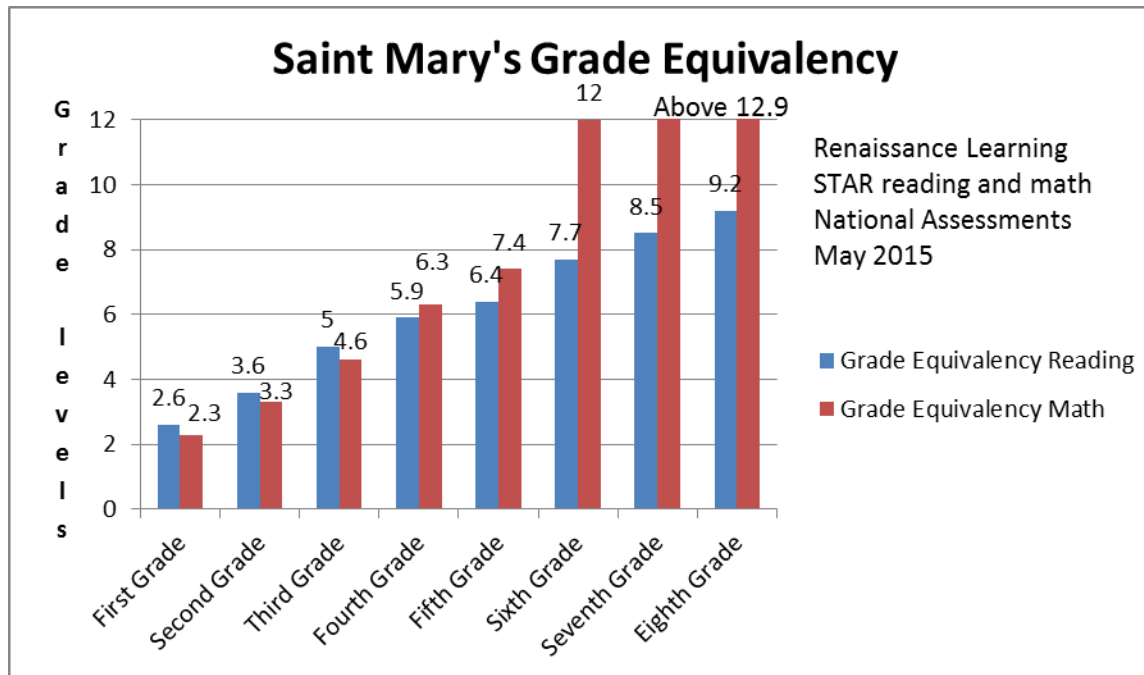


## School Statistics

<b>Families</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Faculty and Staff</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Faculty with Graduate degrees</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Student Teacher Ratio</b>	<b>12 to 1</b>
<b>Average Class size</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>% of Families receiving financial Assistance</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Average Financial Award per child</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Accreditation</b>	<b>WCEA</b>
<b>Average daily lunches served</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Number of student school days</b>	<b>180</b>

# Standardized Testing

Saint Mary's students take the Renaissance Learning STAR tests three times a year. The chart below reflects the grade equivalency average that each class ended with in May of 2015. Each class average is at or above grade level in both reading and math.



# *Graduates 2015*



The class of 2015 consisted of 15 graduates. They are attending the following high schools:

3 Saint Pius

2 Valencia High School

1 Los Lunas High School

2 School of Dreams Charter

7 Belen High School

# *Highlights of 2014-2015*

## **CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

Held student led morning Prayer and announcements daily

Held Wednesday children's Mass

Held monthly school Mass on Sundays

Provided altar servers for funeral Masses

Celebrated May Crowning

Celebrated Catholic Schools Week at Mass at OLB and Santa Fe

Trained altar servers from 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades

Formed at liturgical choir for Masses and celebrations

Held two student retreats and one staff retreat

Held 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation retreat

Prepared third graders for Reconciliation and First Communion

Conducted Living Stations and regular stations of the cross during Lent

Conducted Living Rosary

Celebrate Priesthood Sunday with school wide celebration

Faith Challenge Team placed third in 2014 Bowl

Blessing of the Pets on the Feast Day of St. Francis



# *Highlights of 2014-2015*

## **ACADEMICS**

All 8<sup>th</sup> graders were at or above grade level in math

All grade levels made significant increases in reading and math

Conducted a school wide in-depth study of language arts

Five students participated in Optimists Oratorical Contest

Winner of our Oratorical Contest won the regional and a \$2500 scholarship

Offered math and reading tutorials after school

Offered pull-out reading tutoring during the school day

Participated in Geography Bee

Participated in Spelling Bee

Teachers began to use "I can statements" for learning targets

Hosted a Shurley English training for all language arts teachers

Implemented Reading Street end of unit assessment 1<sup>st</sup>—5<sup>th</sup>

Developed grade level teams with common preps for PLCs

Performed whole school Christmas Pageant

8th Graders performed spring play

New ergonomically correct rocking chairs for K-5

# *Highlights of 2014-2015*

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Middle School participated in maintaining community garden

Primary grades conduct monthly food drive for St. Vincent DePaul

Intermediate grades do shoeboxes for veterans two times a year

Middle School places flags for Right to Life group in October

Students assist in cleaning church and changing misselettes

Choir sang Christmas Carols at Health Care Center

Students helped St. Pius High School pack food for the poor

Veterans Day ceremony to honor community veterans

Saint Mary's hosted the County 4-H Contests in June

# *Highlights of 2014-2015*

## **FACILITY ENHANCEMENT**

Replaced flat roof and installed membrane underneath tin

Replaced carpeting in three classrooms and hallway

Remodeled entry way

Created receptionist window

Remodeled staff bathroom

Remodeled little boys and girls bathrooms

Painted halls and most classrooms

Replaced front doors and one back door

Remodeled portable Pre-K classroom with new floor and paint

Added a back door to Pre-K classroom

Added new front iron fence on west and south side

Refinished parking lot area and student pick up area

# *Highlights of 2014-2015*

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Created air conditioned server room

Replaced all computers in lab

Provided classroom tablets

Added new computers to each classroom

Purchased digital Shurley English for middle school

Installed fiber net work

Updated website

Created a stmarysbelen email address

Qualified for E-rate reimbursements

Supplied document cameras and projectors in all classrooms

Furnished middle school language arts with a digital white board

Digitized our major fund raiser

Added consistent use of parent texts through SchoolReach

Utilized computerized publisher tests for reading

Added Accelerated Math

Employed a computer tech part time

# *Programs and Services*

**After School Pac Man 4-H Club for kinder -fifth grade:** The Cooperative Extension service of Valencia county partners with Saint Mary's to sponsor a 4-H Club for students. They meet weekly in the cafeteria to work on service projects, have guest speakers or take field trips to area venues. Each child can exhibit their projects in the Valencia County Community EXPO or demonstrate an expertise at the County contests held in June.

**After School Robotics Club for third -eighth grades:** A parent volunteer comes in each Monday to help students research dynamics, kinematics and sensors. Subjects such as motion planning and obstacle avoidance, velocity and acceleration, serial chain mechanisms, pneumatic actuators, and drive circuits are covered. Students put knowledge into practice through lab settings where robots are created with teams. This is part of our STEM initiative.

**Athletics:** Saint Mary's offers girls and boys basketball, track, cross country, flag football, and volley ball for students in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Traditionally, our students are at the top of the brackets in the APIAL league.

**Hot Lunch:** Our hot program serves approximately 100 meals a day. We are recipients of the USDA food service program and love having our wonderful cafeteria ladies who cater to our students and staff with yummy nutritious meals.

**Liturgical Choir:** Our choir serves to praise God with their beautiful voices at our children's Masses and delight audiences at Saint Mary's special occasions. They perform at our annual Veteran's Day program, our holiday luncheons and the Health Care Center in Belen at Christmas.

**Spanish:** Spanish is offered to Kinder through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The purpose of the program is to encourage our students to achieve high levels of proficiency in a second language to enable them to compete in our global world. Studies show that they perform better on tasks that call for divergent thinking, pattern recognition, and problem solving, and develop advanced levels of linguistic awareness. Studies further prove that their ability to reason and to perform higher level thinking is enhanced by understanding two languages simultaneously.

# *Roadrunner Athletics*

**Member of Albuquerque Parochial and Independent Athletic  
League (APIAL)**

**2014-2015 School Year Finals**

**Basketball: Varsity Girls Consolation Bracket Champions**

**C-Team Girls Consolation Bracket Runner Up**

**C-Team Boys Consolation Bracket Runner Up**

**Flag Football: Consolation Bracket Runner Up**

**Cross Country: JV Girls Runner Up**

**Track: Varsity Girls Champions**

**Track: JV Boys Champions**

# Parent Involvement

## **Saint Mary's Parent Association SMPA**

Saint Mary's has an extremely supportive parent group. This group plans family activities each semester, organizes activities for Catholic Schools Week, purchases awards for the awards programs, sponsors our Christmas shop and provides gifts cards, lunches and recognition for teachers. The meetings are held twice a semester.

## **Consultative Council**

Saint Mary's is honored to have a variety of experts in their areas who are committing valuable time and talent to the mission of the school. This council has experts in technology, marketing, facilities, development, and finance.

## **Fall Fest Committee**

Our Annual Fall Fest in October is in its 32<sup>nd</sup> year. The community actually looks forward to buying a hundred dollar ticket in hopes of winning \$10,000. For the second year in a row, the fundraiser has made over \$60,000 for the school. The planning begins the day after the current event takes place and utilizes many volunteers.



# Curriculum

**Shurley English**—This language arts program is strong in grammar and writing skills. It is highly successful because it utilizes the different learning styles of students, includes enough repetition for students to master grammar easily, and incorporates the part-to-whole philosophy. In writing, students are engaged in developing compositions that include multiple paragraphs.

**Saxon Math**-Saint Mary's is aligned K-8 with the Saxon program. The program is scaffolded and each skill that is mastered keeps appearing in weekly assessments so that students don't forget important skills.

**Reading Street- K-5**—This rigorous reading series goes through fifth grade and is supplemented at each level with leveled readers and novels and informational texts and Accelerated Reader

**Literature-Middle School**—Students still participate in the Accelerated Reader program as a supplement to novels, informational texts and short stories.

**Social Studies**- the social studies text book at each grade level is supplemented by virtual field trips and digital programming that aligns with Archdiocesan standards.

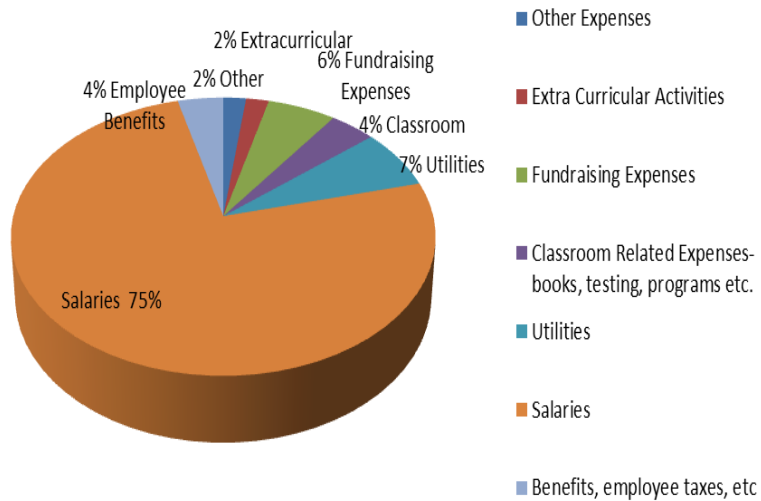
**Science**--Each level has a science program and textbook that meets the Archdiocesan standards for that grade level. At Saint Mary's we supplement the textbook with the Scholastic Weekly Science Reader and online field trip opportunities.

**Religion**—Aligned from Kinder through 8<sup>th</sup> with Ignatius Press text books.

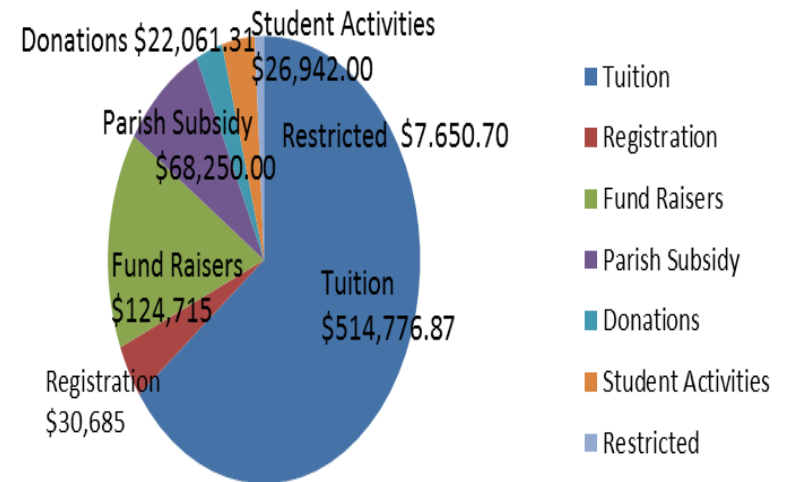


# Fiscal Year Revenues and Expenses

## Saint Mary's Expenses



## Revenues 2014-15



# *An excellence you can believe in...*

*Saint Mary's strives to be the shining star of pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade education in our area. Our school is not just a building and playground, it is a family centered group of people. The school itself has been a gathering place for families in Belen for 88 years. Everyone in our small community attended school here, has a relative here, or knows someone who attended Saint Mary's. In the last few years, we have created a strong base with a retention rate this year of 98%. We have been creative with our marketing and utilized the New Mexico Railrunner to bring students from Los Lunas. Our enrollment has gone up 15% in the last year. The curriculum has been aligned from Kinder to 8<sup>th</sup> grade to allow a seamless transition from one class to the next. We are beginning to add more science, engineering and technology to our already strong art, math and religion curriculum to become a STREAM school. With God as our shepherd, we are embarking on a new pathway to excellence in a modern world. Our future goals include:*

*a new science lab*

*more **STREAM** programming*

*an updated facility*

*and a continuance of God's blessings*