



To All Who Love and/or Attend St. Mary's School!

St. Mary's School is an institution that has served the Canton community for almost 90 years. This year has brought about many new ideas and philosophies on what we can do to keep our school strong and reflecting the light of Christ. I would like to share some insights as to the future of St. Mary's School and what you can expect.

As many of you know, I am retiring at the end of this school year. Although I have been asked to stay on, I cannot for a variety of reasons. I have agreed to maintain a small, background presence here, supporting the new principal and helping out with some school projects (especially the musicals!). Father Stitt and the Education Council are in the process of working out some details for a shared, and experienced, principal. This model would necessitate a consistent vice-principal to share some duties and to be the day-to-day presence in the school, a position that is currently being secured.

Depending on the final enrollment, there is a possibility of combining some grade levels. As you may have heard, Ms. Meg Trainor is retiring, and Mr. Tom Alzo is leaving us to teach in Prague, in the Czech Republic. We will miss them greatly, but are excited for these new chapters in their lives, and wish them well. Because of these open positions, there is the chance some of our current teachers may be changing grade levels, or become the teacher of a combined grade. I will continue to be involved in this decision making process, keeping the needs of our students as the topmost priority.

Our parish, pastor and education council are determined to keep St. Mary's School open. It is a place of love, together with a place for prayer, academics, the arts, and physical development of our children. The Pastoral, Finance and Education Councils have worked together to formulate a 5-year plan. The plan contains certain benchmarks that need to be met in order to continue and to grow. Included in the plan are a strong Catholic identity, with a school open to any child, a stellar academic program, the Bridge Program (an after-school mini-class program in conjunction with Nature Up North, St. Lawrence University, and Clarkson University), and our continuing partnership with the Crane School of Music, among others. St. Mary's School will continue to follow the Diocese of Ogdensburg's Catholic School Curriculum.

In order to make our structure more concrete, we need to know who is returning for the 2019-20 school year. If you have not yet re-registered, we hope you will do so very soon. If you have friends or family with whom you can share the good news regarding St. Mary's School, please do so. And, as always, please reach out to me with additional questions or concerns. I look forward to speaking with parents and friends of St. Mary's – my door is always open to you!

Michele Meyers, Principal