

Curriculum



Academic Standards

Diocesan curriculums are aligned to the State of Michigan Common Core Standards in Math, Reading, Writing, Social Studies, and Science. All students in kindergarten through grade six take MAP (measures of academic progress) tests three times a year. These are computerized, adaptive tests that assess each student's current level of academic performance in Reading, Language Usage, and Mathematics. At the end of the test, the final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level.

Computer Lab

We have an on-site computer lab which is accessible to the students throughout the day. Technology and hardware are maintained consistently and upgraded often. Software is user-friendly and age-appropriate. Internet access is available. Students are supervised in the computer lab at all times. All classrooms are equipped with an interactive whiteboard.

Library

All students visit the library on a weekly basis. At SMV, we believe literacy is the key to education; and therefore, reading is stressed as an important element to our curriculum.

Religion

St. Mary's Visitation School students have many daily opportunities to live their Catholic faith. Catholic traditions, values and morals are emphasized in every aspect of the student's day. Religion instruction is based on standards provided by the Diocese of Kalamazoo. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an additional program taught by a religion teacher who specializes in that program.

Liturgy

Students in kindergarten through grade six participate in the liturgy once each week. Each grade is involved in the planning of the morning liturgies. When school is in session on a holy day, all students attend Mass.

Special Curricular Opportunities

Music: A vocal Music program is a shared-time program provided by Hopkins Public Schools twice per week. Included in the program is an introduction to instrumental music.

Phys. Ed.: A Physical Education program is a shared-time program provided twice each week by Hopkins Public Schools.

Art: A Fine Arts program too is a shared-time program provided by Hopkins Public Schools once per week.

Hours, Programs, and Transportation



St. Mary's Visitation Catholic School is located in the Diocese of Kalamazoo at 2455 – 146th Avenue in Allegan County. Its mailing address is Byron Center.

School Hours

St. Mary's Visitation School's day begins at 7:35 a.m. with student dismissal at 3:05 p.m..

Programs

- ◆ A five-day program is provided for kindergarten through sixth grade that meets state and diocesan guidelines for number of days and classroom hours required per year.
- ◆ A two, three, or four day preschool program is available with morning and afternoon sessions from mid-September to mid-May. The program is for three- and four-year-old children; child must be three years of age before September 1. The morning session runs from 7:35-10:35; the afternoon session from 12:00-3:00. An all-day option is available for four year olds Monday through Thursday running from 7:45 – 3:05
- ◆ An after-school childcare program is available Monday through Friday from 3-6pm. For pick-up by 4:30pm, the daily cost for one child is \$6, for two children \$10, and the cost for three or more \$13. For pick-up after 4:30 (up until 5:30pm), the daily cost for one child is \$10, for two children \$17, and the cost for three or more \$22.

Dress Code

St. Mary's Visitation School does have a dress code. See the Parent/Student Handbook for description.

Hot Lunch Program

A hot lunch and milk program is available each day provided by the Hopkins Public Schools and Chartwells Food Service.

Bussing

Students living within the Hopkins Public Schools district may be bussed to and from St. Mary's Visitation by the Hopkins Public School Transportation Department. Arrangements can be made with the Hopkins Transportation Department.

Students living in other school districts may make other travel arrangements or rely on the St. Mary's Visitation School bus for transportation. Arrangements can be made in the school office.

Staff / Mission Statement



Staff

The teaching staff maintains state certification appropriate to their teaching assignments. They also participate in diocesan workshops to increase their knowledge of theology and the methodology that enables them to creatively teach their classes.

The teachers use a variety of methods in all subjects to help children achieve their full potential. Children know that their teachers are supportive and will use gentle guidance as they try new things. Independent thinking is encouraged by all of the teachers as they guide their students through the day.

Due to our staff, St. Mary's Visitation School is a warm, nurturing place to learn.

***“Responding to the teaching mission of the Catholic Church
and embracing our Catholic identity,
St. Mary’s Visitation School strives
to inspire, encourage, and challenge each student in its care
spiritually, emotionally, physically, and intellectually
within a Christ-centered environment.”***

School Funding



St. Mary's Visitation Catholic School is funded by the St. Mary's Visitation Parish, parent tuition, fundraisers, and the St. Mary's Visitation Education Foundation.

Tuition for 2019-2020



For Grades K-6	Amount
One Child	\$3,129
Two Children	\$5,328
Three or More Children	\$7,182

Tuition is payable in ten equal installments. On August 1, the first statement of the year is mailed to families with a due date of August 15. Each successive month, September through May, statements are sent on the first of each month with payments due the 15th of that month.

Scrip proceeds are credited to tuition accounts in the months of April, July, October, and January to appear on statements May 1, August 1, November 1, and February 1.

Fundraisers

Fundraisers are held throughout the year. The success of these events directly affects tuition, keeping the cost for families as low as possible. All families are asked to assist with fundraisers to earn six activity credits. In the Spring after all fundraisers have been held, families will be charged \$100 per unearned credit. Those school fundraisers considered are two breakfasts (September and October), a Walk-a-Thon, Family Fun Night, and the Dinner Auction.

The Education Foundation

The Education Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization. The purpose of the Foundation is to assist in providing funds to meet the operating costs of educational programs at St. Mary's Visitation Parish including the school.