

## St. Mary's Catholic School Quarterly Update-March 2025

St. Mary's Catholic School educates the whole child: spiritually, intellectually, and physically

## \*\*Exciting legislation for private education\*\*

Become a part of the St. Mary's Catholic School family with the Steamboat Legacy Scholarship!

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cheyenne celebrate Governor Mark Gordon's signing of House Enrolled Act 52 (HB0199 - Steamboat Legacy Scholarship Act) into law. This landmark legislation expands educational opportunities for families across Wyoming by creating universal school vouchers for K-12 students and incomebased Pre-K educational savings accounts (ESAs) for children aged four and older.

With this new law, Wyoming now offers public funding for private education at all grade levels, while significantly expanding the existing voucher program for Pre-K students. <u>Families of all income levels will now have access to \$7,000 per child to pursue private schooling</u>, while the income threshold for Pre-K vouchers has been raised from 150 percent to 250 percent of the federal poverty line—allowing a family of four earning up to \$80,375 to participate in the program.

"We are deeply grateful for the leadership and vision demonstrated by Governor Gordon and the legislators who championed this bill," said Kimberlee Gorr, Ed.D., director of Catholic School Leadership for the Diocese of Cheyenne. "This law reaffirms the importance of parental choice and strengthens our ability to provide students with an education rooted in faith, academic excellence, and moral formation."

HB0199 is expected to have a profound impact on Wyoming's educational landscape. The bill empowers parents

to direct their tax dollars toward the schooling option that best fits their children's needs, whether private, homeschool, or faith-based education. Proponents believe this initiative will strengthen Wyoming's workforce by fostering higher-performing students and supporting working families.

The Catholic school community celebrates this milestone alongside families across Wyoming and looks forward to the positive impact it will have on expanding access to faith-based education. "We remain committed to partnering with parents in their children's academic and spiritual development, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive" said Gorr.



## Reasons to Choose St. Mary's Catholic School:

- Provides an excellent education experience rooted in the virtues and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- Students are guided in prayer.
- Students are given the tools to deepen their relationship with God and build a sound moral foundation.
- Before and after school care is available.
- Low student to teacher ratio.
- Students participate in community service and give back to the greater Cheyenne community.
- PreK<sub>3</sub> & 4 programs thrive and successfully prepare students for Kindergarten.
- The retention rate of students from grade to grade is 90%.
- An exceptional PE program with a certified archery teacher/ program that has taken several students to Nationals for the past 7 years.
- A music program with an annual musical that involves staff members and parents.
- An art program that participates in the Smokey the Bear contest and has an art show each year, showcasing students art.
- A robotics team that participates in state competition and has brought home multiple awards
- 3rd grade students participate in the "Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program" sponsored by Trout Unlimited and the Wyoming Game & Fish Department.
- Science & Fitness Night / Open House is in its 3rd year and is open to prospective and current families, board members and alumni. Over 30 community representatives come together to share their knowledge and expertise.
- 5th and 6th grade students attend Annunciation Heights
   Camp in Estes Park An outdoor Catholic Education Camp bringing science and religion together.
- Chess club, Ukulele Club, Science Fair, field trips, Dr. Seuss Day, Historic Building projects, community projects and <u>SO</u> much more.

Students of all faiths are welcome!
Registration is open.

Click on the QR code to visit the website.



## Exciting News-Starting the 2025-2026 year:

A half day option for PreK3 & 4!



Register for the Summer Care Program by visiting the school office!







Come see all that St. Mary's Catholic School has to offer and make it your school of choice!

Address: 2200 O'Neil Ave. Phone number: 307 638 9268