

Dear St. Mary School Alumni:

In the past two years, two Catholic schools have closed in the Diocese of Gary—St. Catherine of Sienna in Hammond and St. Joseph’s in Dyer. I am happy to report that St. Mary School is still going strong, with 245 children enrolled for the 2010-2011 school year, an increase of 10 students from last year. We had 17 new families join St. Mary School, bringing a combined total of 29 children. Our preschool is going strong as well, with 28 children enrolled in the four year old program this year.

Last year, our Annual Alumni Fund was earmarked for new flat panel monitors for all the classrooms and I am pleased to report that enough money was raised to reach that goal. You can view photos on our website under the Alumni tab of the children with the new monitors. This year, our Alumni Fund will be focused on purchasing new laptops for the principal and other teachers in need.

Will you please consider making a donation? We are asking for a \$25 donation from every person receiving this letter. If you can afford more than the \$25 request, by all means send more! We have a solid list of alumni and were able to gather even more names and addresses this past year so this letter is going to well over 1,000 people. **PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATION PAYABLE TO “ST. MARY HSA” AND MAIL C/O ST. MARY SCHOOL ALUMNI, 525 N. BROAD STREET, GRIFFITH, IN 46319.**

In keeping up with technology, last year the school was able to purchase three Smartboards, four mobile Smartboards and four new projectors. Lessons and activities in a classroom setting become more engrossing for students and increase overall retention of the lesson content when Smartboards are used. These are becoming a staple in most schools and we are fortunate to have had the funds from the Home and School Association to purchase them. Marketing St. Mary School with these Smartboards is a smart technological move and one that we are proud of.

Please take a moment to look at our updated school website at [www.smgriffith.org](http://www.smgriffith.org) and see what is currently going on at the school. You can also find us on Facebook, under the group St. Mary School, Griffith, IN. For those living in the Griffith area, please consider purchasing one of our Pride Cards for \$10—information is on the website about the specifics of the card and how to purchase one.

The students and staff, as well as our Alumni Committee, are grateful for your support and are dedicated to making the school the best it can be. We need to continue supporting St. Mary School so it can continue to educate children in the Catholic faith that made such a difference to so many of us.

Won’t you please consider sending in your tax deductible donation today?

Sincerely,

Tricia Muha-Wichlinski  
President, Alumni Committee  
SMS Class of 1982  
E-Mail: [sms.alumni@comcast.net](mailto:sms.alumni@comcast.net)

We are planning an event for April 30, 2011 that will include not only St. Mary School Alumni but parents of the school children, parishioners, and friends of St. Mary School as well. This event would include beer and wine, as well as light sandwiches, cheeses, etc. It would not be a sit down meal like the 80<sup>th</sup> reunion a few years ago, but would be more casual with more time to visit with former classmates.

Our last alumni event was a resounding success, and we anticipate this event to be just as successful.

In order to assemble a preliminary list and save on additional mailings, please fill out the information below if you are interested in attending the event or drop us an e-mail at [sms.alumni@comcast.net](mailto:sms.alumni@comcast.net).

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Yes, I am interested in hearing more about the event scheduled for April 30, 2011

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

As you can imagine, mailings such as these are not cheap and can add up. While we are sensitive to those who are not computer savvy, we would like to send out information to alumni regarding upcoming events, as well as the Annual Fund Letter, via e-mail if at all possible. E-mail is fast and most important, it is free!

Please fill out the form below if you are interested in receiving Alumni news via e-mail. We encourage all who have e-mail addresses and who check them regularly to consider this option. Please be assured that you will not be bombarded with e-mails from St. Mary's, only newsworthy and upcoming events would be communicated.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you in advance for taking the time to send this page back. It will save the school money in the long run and we can reach people in a faster, efficient, and cost effective manner.