



**For Immediate Release  
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## **St. Mary Parish School Receives National Recognition for Commitment to Empowering Students**

*Named a distinguished school for STEM and career learning program*

**Hales Corners, WI** – St. Mary Parish School announced today that it has been recognized as a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for providing broad access to transformative learning opportunities for students through PLTW Launch™. It is one of just 214 elementary schools across the U.S. to receive this honor. [PLTW](#) is a nonprofit organization that serves millions of PreK-12 students and teachers in schools across the U.S.

“Thanks to the dedication of Julie Vanderhoef and Sarah Massopust, our PLTW trained teachers, we are able to offer at least two Launch PLTW modules in each grade level from Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade. They join me in understanding that it isn’t enough to provide a program, but it is in its execution, delivery and sustainability that we become a school of distinction,” said Principal Maria Schram.

The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. To be eligible for the designation, St. Mary Parish School had to offer at least two PLTW Launch modules at each grade level and have more than 75 percent of the student body participating during the 2018-19 school year.

Studies show that students decide as early as elementary school whether they like, and think they are good at, math and science. Whether designing mobile robots that can remove hazardous materials from a disaster sight or building digital animations based on their own short stories, PLTW Launch students engage in critical and creative thinking, build teamwork skills, and develop a passion for and confidence in STEM subjects.

“It is a great honor to recognize St. Mary Parish School for their commitment to students,” said Vince Bertram, President and CEO of PLTW. “They are a model for what school should look like, and they should be very proud of ensuring students have the knowledge and skills to be career ready and successful on any career path they choose.”

St. Mary Parish School is part of a community of PreK-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a passion for providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering learning opportunities. For more information about PLTW’s recognition program, visit [pltw.org/our-programs/program-recognition](http://pltw.org/our-programs/program-recognition).

For more information on St. Mary Parish School’s PLTW Launch program or to set up a school visit, contact Maria Schram at 414-425-3100.

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Empowering students to thrive in an evolving world.