



## High School Readiness

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### Middle School Leaves Lasting Impact

St. Mary Parish School has a strong middle school program with a focus on not only academics, but the whole person. For Sophia, Sophomore at a local Catholic high school, St. Mary was a steppingstone to her successful high school career. “St. Mary taught me to embrace myself as a child of God and they taught much more than just curriculum,” says Sophia. “They taught me to be kind, to be patient to all, and most importantly to know that I can do anything I put my mind too. Knowing that I still have the teachers at St. Mary in my corner helps me to challenge myself every day!”

### Academic Readiness

The curriculum at St. Mary has a focus on high school readiness to prepare students for their high school journey. “St. Mary prepared me greatly for the academic challenges I face every day in high school,” says Sophia. “The teachers at St. Mary prepared me for all types of courses that I take including Honors and Advanced Sciences and Math, as well as College Preparatory English courses that focus on analytical writing. In these classes I have received above average scores which I attribute to the rigorous academics I learned at St. Mary. The staff at St. Mary encouraged me to be challenged in my academics and taught me that mistakes are what make you great.”

### Focus on Service

Sophia tributes St. Mary with instilling her love of service. “By being exposed to so many great service opportunities while at St. Mary, it has taught me to love serving others and the joy from being a part of my community,” says Sophia. Students at her high school are required to complete service hours each year and Sophia has a special interest in children with disabilities and the elderly. “I have painted ladies nails at their assisted living center and have recently worked a Christmas party at Penfield Children's Center,” says Sophia.

### Continuing a Faith Journey

“The teachers at St. Mary gave me the confidence and courage to stand proud in my Catholic beliefs and encouraged me to be myself no matter where life takes me,” says Sophia. “I indulge in many other opportunities in high school while continuing to live out my Spirituality by participating in Liturgy once a month, as well as taking theology classes daily. I've grown close to the sisters and theology teachers at school who guide me to see Christ in my life. Campus Ministry is also a great place for me to get involved with catholic service opportunities around the greater Milwaukee area and seeing Christ through the people I serve.”