

January 21, 2022



St. Mark's Messenger

Principal Tim Kollmorgen

principal@stmarksmilford.org

St. Mark's Lutheran School
5849 Buckwheat Rd.
Milford, OH 45150

Check us out on Facebook!

www.stmarksmilford.org

(513) 575-3354

Calendar

January

- 21 – Student Council – 4:15pm
Basketball Practice – 5:00pm
- 22 – Basketball Practice 10:00 – 11:30am
- 23 – Worship: 8:00am, 10:30am, & 6:00pm

Strategic Plan Sharing and

Tuition Meeting 7:00pm

- 24 – 6-8 Book Club – 4:15pm
- 25 – Last Science Club – 4:15pm
Basketball @ Immanuel, Hamilton
Girls – 5:00pm Boys – 6:00pm
- 26 – Chapel: Mr. Postenrieder
- 27 – Science Olympiad – 4:15pm
- 28 – **Science Fair – 7:00pm**

Science Fair!

Friday at 7:00pm, the school children will present their Science Projects! “Follow the Science” throughout our building and see everything the students have discovered about the wonderful world that God made for us!

What's Next for St. Mark's?

This is an exciting time for St Mark's Lutheran Church and School! K-8 enrollment is the highest it has ever been - currently at 93 students. Over the past 2 school years, we have transitioned grades 1-4 from multi-age classrooms into single-graded classrooms!

The School Board and Mr. Kollmorgen have developed a **5-year Strategic Plan** that will be shared in a special session for School Families on Sunday January 23 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. **A shorter summary of the Strategic Plan is in the Messenger today.**

A motion will be presented at the Church Voters' Meeting to spend up to \$20,000 on conceptual drawings for a School Expansion of 4-6 classrooms and a gymnasium. Please keep the Church and School in your prayers during this time, as we prayerfully consider the next steps for this important ministry that God has entrusted to us.



'21-'22 Theme:

Not of This World!

Romans 12:2

Re-Enrollment is Here!

Re-enrollment forms for the 2022-2023 school year came home last Friday. The form was prefilled with your student(s) '21-'22 enrollment information. If you haven't already done so, please review this form and make any changes directly on the form. Return the form, along with your enrollment fee, to your teacher or the school office. Enrollment fees increase after March 15! Enrollment fees for re-enrollment are \$75 per student, maximum of \$350 per family.

Your re-enrollment will not be complete unless you include the \$75 per student enrollment fee. This fee guarantees your spot in your preferred classroom. Please re-enroll with the fee as quickly as possible, as our classrooms are growing and filling quickly!

If you have any questions regarding your re-enrollment or enrollment fee, please feel free to contact Rachel Bailey admissions@stmarksmilford.org.

Open House

Our wonderful school will be hosting an Open House January 30th! The best way to advertise St. Mark's is to tell others all about it. You received a new postcard to pass out to a family member or friend. We have yard signs in the school entrance, too. Please pop on in, grab one, and display it proudly in your yard! Thank you for your help and support of our amazing school!

Classroom Happenings

Mrs. Newell (2 Year Old and 3 Year Old Preschool)

This week the 3 year olds learned about the letter "I" by ice painting, making iguanas, and ice skating! We also learned about the temptation of Jesus. The 2s learned the letter "P".

Mrs. Rehmer (4 Year Old Preschool)

Snow, snow, snow and all things cold were our fun this week. We used fun snow toys/activities to help us with our abc's and counting activities. The highlight of the week was our ice skating party. The story of the Good Samaritan was our Bible lesson of the week. We all decided we wanted to be just like the Good Samaritan. Luke 10:25-37

Mrs. Sherman (Kindergarten)

During Bible time, we heard about Jesus, as a boy, learning at the temple. We know that God speaks to us through the bible and calls us to work for Him. At reading time, we read realistic fiction and informational books about where animals live. We reviewed blending and word building. We played monster squeeze in math. We compared groups of objects as we learned about greater and less than. We enjoyed the story of Sneezy the Snowman. We identified cause and effect, created our own Sneezy for art and conducted an experiment to see if wearing a coat will make Sneezy melt slower or faster!

Mrs. Boerboom (1st Grade)

This week in 1st grade, we took our math test on our subtraction module! We also started our next module where we have to decide what the story wants us to do. We read about the seasons in reading and decided what our favorite parts of each were. We worked on our science fair project in science and writing, and we are looking forward to the science fair next week! In Bible Study, we read about Jesus and Nicodemus.

Mrs. Reynolds (2nd Grade)

This week in 2nd grade we started our series on the Miracles of Jesus. We learned His first miracle was at a wedding where He turned water into wine. We finished Module 7 on coins this week and took our Module 7 test in Math. In Reading class we read "Mr. Tanen's Tie Problem" where Mr. Tanen taught us that "The more you give. The more you get". For Writer's Workshop this week we discussed things you would see in a city and wrote about things we have seen or done in a city. We started our Science Fair projects this week. We are watching a banana rot and documenting our observations. We also did a hand washing experiment with bread.

Mrs. Dowd (3rd Grade)

In Religion class, we learned the importance of prayer. God continues to communicate with us through our pastors, teachers, and parents. We focused on 1 Timothy 2:5-6 for memory work. In Reading, we finished up our novel, *The Tiger Rising*, and focused on how each character carried a suitcase of emotions. In Math, we are continuing to build our understanding of division through creating equal groups and using number lines. In Science, we learned about the different types of forces. In Social Studies, we learned about the importance of communities.

Miss Rhonemus (4th Grade)

This week, 4th and 5th grade religion learned about the crossing of the Jordan River and were introduced to Judges, starting with Gideon. We are also working on memorizing the books of the New Testament. Fourth grade math is working on dividing, interpreting remainders, and breaking numbers down into easier to divide numbers such as: $96 / 6 = (60 + 36) / 6 = (60/6) + (36/6) = 10 + 6 = 16$. In reading, we looked at the text features in nonfiction books and learned about snakes. In writing, we learned about complex and compound sentences. In science, students are learning about the scientific method while working on their science fair projects.

Mr. Postenrieder, Mrs. Kiehl, and Mr. Kollmorgen (5th - 8th Grades)

In our Bible time we continued our study of the book of James.

In 5th math we worked on adding/subtracting fractions. Saxon Level 1 math worked with decimals and fractions. Course 3 math learned about various types of graphic displays while Algebra 1 is solving for variables and using that information to simplify simultaneous equations.

5th/6th grade ELA students continued the novel, I am Malala. In writing, they began working with persuasion and writing techniques that are used for persuasion. In Writing, 7th/8th grade students also worked with persuasion and effective technique usage. In Reading, they continued their text, A Traveler's Guide to Medieval Times - as well as working with different forms of punctuation.

In Social Studies, we researched a province or territory of Canada. In 7/8 social studies, we continued studying Ancient Africa.

5/6 science learned about interactions between organisms in an ecosystem and 7/8 science was introduced to the periodic table of elements.

5th – 8th grade PE students began square dancing.

Assess Symptoms Daily!

If your child doesn't feel well, please keep him/her home!

One of the main ways to limit the spread of the virus is to check for symptoms daily – of course we take temperatures at the door each morning, but you can help by making sure that your son or daughter does not have any of the following symptoms:

Fever or chills	Cough	Diarrhea	Nausea or vomiting
Fatigue	Sore throat	Headache	Loss of taste or smell
Congestion or runny nose		Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	
Repeated shaking with chills		Muscle or body aches	



St Mark's Lutheran School

Strategic Plan and Visioning Proposal Summary: 2021 – 2025



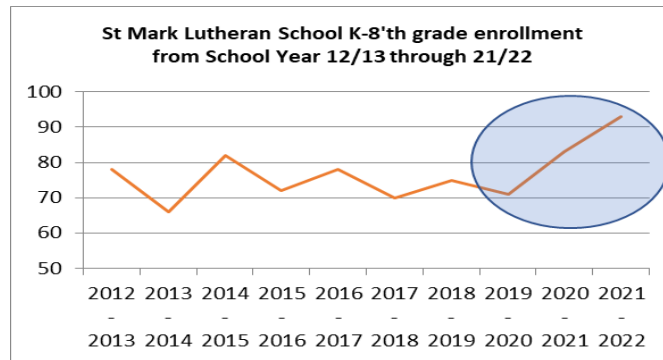
Prepared by: Tim Kollmorgen (Principal) and St Mark's Lutheran School Board

Our Mission: Connecting Students with Jesus While Providing Excellence in Education

Where Are We Now?

We officially exist to serve the educational needs of St. Mark's member's children, and as an outreach to our community. Our students belong to a wide variety of Christian Denomination Churches, and many claim no church home.

The following graph shows the K-8th grade enrollment changes over the last 10 years, which shows an upward trend in the last 5 years. In the last two school years, the School has split grades 1-2 and 3-4 into single graded classrooms. Currently, K-3 are in single-graded classrooms and the Youth Room has been repurposed as a classroom. Also, classes are being held during the week in the Werner Conference Room and the Fellowship Hall. **We are currently at the highest K-8 enrollment in the school's history!!**



In the next three years (2022 – 2025), enrollment for K-8 is projected to keep increasing. Current enrollment projections would require the splitting of 5th and 6th grade into separate classrooms for the 2023/2024 school year and the splitting of 7th and 8th grade into separate classrooms for the 2025/2026 school year. **Without additional classroom space by the fall of 2023, the School will be forced to limit new enrollment.**

Preschool growth projections are harder to predict because **our current circumstances do not include a Pre-Kindergarten option, or even classroom space in which to hold the class.** The 2-year-old and 3-year-old class is currently held in the Nursery. The Nursery is not an ideal classroom for a Preschool, which is inhibiting enrollment in 2-year-old and 3-year-old classes. **Without additional classroom space, the Preschool will not be able to offer the types of programs that are needed by many parents (all-day, 5-day/week, and Pre-K options), which will continue to limit growth in the future.**

Strategic Plan Proposals by School Year

2021-2022

- Hire an Admissions Coordinator (Complete)
- Hire a Social Media Coordinator (Complete)
- Maintain NLSA (In Progress)
- **Begin Building Process**
- Hire Reading tutors (In Progress)
- Promote Estate Planning and Giving to SGOs (In Progress)

2022-2023

- Make the Building Look Good and Remodel Outdated Areas (renovations to Fellowship Hall, Church Men's Restroom, etc.)
- 100 or more students in K-8 – apply for Blue Ribbon status.
- Continue Building Process

2023-2024

- Hire a Preschool Administrator/Teacher
- New School Addition Opens (4-6 classrooms plus gymnasium)
- 5th and 6th Grade Transitioned into single grade classrooms
- Prekindergarten reintroduced.

2024-2025

- Hire a Development Director