

# Frequently Asked Questions



Welcome to St. Mary's Elementary School! Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our school and how we can make a difference in the education of your child. Our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) make it easy for you to find answers to your most pressing inquiries. If you cannot find your answer here, please feel free to contact us, we will be happy to provide you with all the information you need.

## **1. What is your approach to early childhood education?**

In early childhood, our approach is learning through play with developmentally appropriate hands on activities. We are professionally trained and skilled educators who seek your cooperation in planning a challenging and rewarding year for your children. Home and school provide the foundation for their growth in faith and love for God. We are blessed by children's presence in our lives.

## **2. What will my child have gained when he or she leaves the St. Mary's Elementary School? How do you prepare children for high school?**

We place a high priority on creating a supportive community - learning to care for others, being respectful and doing good deeds. As your child progresses through the grades, he/she will grow in self-esteem, a sense of security and belonging, independence, freedom of expression and the ability to achieve success. By the end of the elementary school, your child will be well-prepared for both the academic and social requirements of high school.

## **3. What is the classroom ratio of children to teachers?**

For all of our classrooms we have an excellent student - teacher ratio (12:1).

## **4. How do you communicate with parents? How do you monitor my child's progress?**

Teachers welcome meeting their students' parents early in the school year. Making an effort to do this will help the teacher better understand you, your child, and how you will support the education of your child. Teachers appreciate knowing that parents are concerned and interested in their child's progress, and this helps open the lines of communication.

Parent-teacher conferences are often scheduled at the time of the first report card for the school year. For parents and teachers, this is a chance to talk one-on-one about the student. The parent-teacher conference is a good opportunity to launch a partnership between parent and teacher that will function during the school year.

Phone calls and visits to the classroom are also good ways to cooperate with teachers and stay informed about your child's progress. Discuss appropriate times and means of contact with the teacher. You may, of course, schedule a personal appointment to meet with the teacher at any point throughout the year.

**5. Are St. Mary's School students required to wear uniforms?**

Students from Pre-K through Grade 6 have a dress code. When in uniform, students are visible representatives of St. Mary's Elementary School. All regular school uniforms and gym uniforms can be purchased from Allen's:

Allen's Uniforms  
452 West Boylston Street  
Worcester, MA 01606  
(508) 853-1993

Allen's Uniforms  
26 Main Street  
Leominster, MA 01453  
(978) 534-3111

You can also order online at: [www.allensuniforms.com](http://www.allensuniforms.com)

**6. Does St. Mary's School administer standardized tests?**

St. Mary's School does not participate in MCAS testing; our students do take the Terra Nova tests which are standards-based assessments.

**7. Do you have to be Catholic to attend St. Mary's School?**

Children from all religious and cultural backgrounds are welcome to attend. We create an inclusive environment where we promote universal values of kindness toward others, caring for our planet, respect toward elders and the importance of caring for our community and for those less fortunate.

**8. Can parents be involved with activities in school?**

St. Mary's School encourages parents and family involvement in school. We offer volunteer opportunities at varying times during day, evening and weekend hours in order to recognize and accommodate families' diverse schedules.

**9. Is there an Extended Day Program available?**

St. Mary's School offers before and after school programs to assist students and their families in need of this service. Parents can drop off their kids as early as 6:30 a.m.; breakfast is provided for a fee. After school care is available from 2:15 p.m. until 5:45 p.m. for a modest fee. Details may be obtained in the office.

**10. What are the transportation options?**

Most parents drop off their children in the morning at the Richland Street entrance. Buses are available to Worcester residents. Parents can obtain a list of bus routes from the office; bus routes change each year. For safety of our children, afternoon pick-up is organized at the Our Lady of Czestochowa parking lot.