

St. Mary's School

Ecce Ego Sum Mitte Me

December 2025



Principal's Message

Mrs. Michelle Nevil

Merry Christmas SMS Community.

Advent is upon us, so it is a season of preparation. For some, this means getting ready for the perfect Christmas Day by buying thoughtful gifts, baking special treats, and decorating our homes. For others, preparation comes through acts of service; supporting food banks, donating to those in need, or visiting elderly friends and anyone who may be feeling lonely. For many, it is a meaningful combination of both.

However we choose to prepare, our ultimate hope is to make the coming of Christ on Christmas Day special; special for our loved ones and for ourselves. While the world around us often focuses on the commercial side of the holiday, we at SMS are blessed to speak openly about the true origin of this sacred season. Advent invites us to prepare our hearts for the goodness and light that arrive with Christ on Christmas morning.

I invite all of you to join our school community as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth.

- **Tomorrow, December 4th**, we will gather for our Advent Mass at St. Augustine Parish, and you are warmly welcome to join us at **10:30 a.m.**
- On **Wednesday, December 17**, we will celebrate Christmas with a performance by our wonderful band students under the direction of Mr. Makarchuk. Our Christmas Concert will begin at **7:00 p.m.** in the school auditorium.
- This **Friday, December 5th and next Friday, December 12th**, we will hold our regular school liturgies with a special Advent focus. Families are always welcome to join us at **8:30 a.m.** each Friday morning.
- Also on **Wednesday, December 17**, we will host our school Soup Day. If you wish to serve and connect with students in our community, you are invited to cook a pot of soup and join us in the atrium at **11:30 a.m.**
- Lastly, our Student Commons is collecting socks for the Sock It To Em sock drive. If you are able, we welcome donations of new socks to support this meaningful cause. We have a box for donations in our school atrium.

In preparing for the coming of Christ, I hope you find your way to the true meaning of Christmas. I pray that you experience some form of love, joy, hope and peace.

God Bless,
Mrs. Nevil

December 4th:
Advent Mass @ St. Augustine at 10:30 AM

December 4th:
Winter Formal Dance
7-9 PM

December 12-13th:
Little Storm Basketball Tournament

December 17th:
Soup Day

December 17th:
Christmas Band Concert @ 7 PM

December 19th:
PD Day - No School

December 19th to January 4th :
Christmas Break

January 5th:
1st Day Back to School

Soup Day : **December 17th**



If any parents would like to bring a pot of soup, please contact our school office at 403-223-3165

Please consider signing up to bring a pot of soup for the following soup days:

Dec. 17th
Jan. 14th
Feb. 11th
Mar. 18th
Apr. 15th
May 13th

Contact our school office to sign up.



Parish Connection: **St. Augustine Church**



♪ News from our St. Mary's Band Booster Club ♪

St. Mary's School will be holding its annual Christmas concert on Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 pm in the school gym. All band students from grades 6 to 12 as well as the Jazz band will be performing. Tickets are not required, but there will be a silver collection at the door. In addition to the great music, we will also have a bake sale to help support the Junior and Senior Bands trip to Vancouver Island in April 2026. This is a great time to stock up on some wonderful baking for the Christmas season. As well, the St. Mary's Band Booster Club will be holding a 50/50 draw at the concert, also to help raise funds for the Vancouver Island trip. This promises to be a great evening of entertainment for everyone!

Students need to be at the school no later than 6:20 that evening and need to be in full uniform (grade 6 to 8 - white dress shirt or sweater and black pants or skirt, grades 9 to 12, black pants and uniform with tie). Please come out and support our young musicians.

Parents of students renting instruments from the school are reminded that the \$70 fee for the instrument rental is now due. If you have not already paid the fee, please see Mr. Makarchuk or Mrs. Muller in the office ASAP.

Do you have any recycling you would like to donate? The Taber Container Depot has an account for the St. Mary's Bands to help raise funds for our spring band trip. If you like, you can donate your recycling to the bands. Just mention our name when you are dropping off your recycling and the proceeds will be given to us. Please spread the word.

Thank you to the St. Mary's Senior band for their performance at the Town of Taber Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 11nd. It was an honour to play for our veterans!

Parents are also reminded that Home Performance Assignments are due every month. The next HPA is due right after we get back from Christmas on January 5th. Please make sure your son/daughter has played for you and handed in their evaluation prior to this date.

Grade 6-8 students are reminded that they need to hand in a practice sheet EVERY week. To receive full marks, students need to practice 70 minutes, and can receive bonus marks if they practice more than 70. Extra sheets are available in the band room.

YOU'RE INVITED TO ST MARY'S

winter formal

December
4th 2025

ST MARYS GYM

7-9PM

DOLLAR

SNACKS, MUSIC,
KARAKOKE,
PHOTOBOOTH AND
CANDYLAND FUN





IT'S TIME FOR THE 25TH ANNUAL

SOCK IT TO 'EM



NOV. 1ST - DEC. 12TH 2025

Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre, the caretakers, maintenance and support staff in Lethbridge and area schools are collecting **NEW SOCKS** to be donated to local charities for those less fortunate for Christmas.

Please join them and make someone's Christmas a little bit warmer!

TO DONATE, CONTACT ANY CUSTODIAL STAFF AT YOUR SCHOOL

- Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre
- Lethbridge School Division
- Holy Spirit School Division
- Palliser Regional School

QUESTIONS? CALL:

Trevor Clinton - (403) 627 - 8071

Gail Petrie - (403) 327 - 6520

Charlene Kocken - (403) 239 - 3222

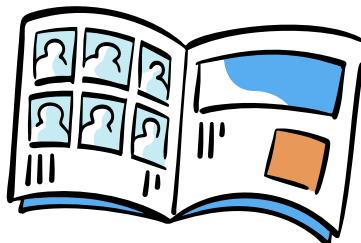


2024-2025 Year Books

Are Still Available

We still have some 2024-2025 Yearbooks available.

Come grab your copy! (\$40)



YEARBOOK

SMS YEARBOOKS

FOR SALE

We have extra copies of past SMS Yearbooks that could use a new home. These are all new or very gently used yearbooks that have been sitting in storage. Grab a copy of any of the following years for only \$10:

2001-2002

2008-2009

2017-2018

2003-2004

2010-2011

2018-2019

2004-2005

2013-2014

2019-2020

2005-2006

2014-2015

2020-2021

2006-2007*

2015-2016

2021-2022

2007-2008

2016-2017

2023-2024

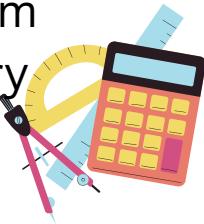
*2006-2007 - This yearbook is a 50th anniversary yearbook that also celebrates SMS history from 1956-2006.



Donate School Supplies



Just a reminder that we accept all gently used school supplies at our school. We place these items out for everyone to access for FREE! It helps to save items from the landfill and with the cost of everything lately, every little bit helps!



POEDs at SMS

Definitions:

POED: Personally Owned Electronic Devices we are referring to personally owned cell phones, tablets, laptops, and wearable technology such as smartwatches or earbuds.

The following will be the policy followed at SMS:

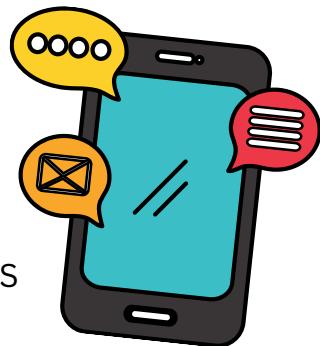
Grade 6-9

SMS will be moving to a “no cell phone use during the school day” policy for Grades 6–9. Students may bring phones to school, but they must remain stored in lockers during the day, including morning wait time and lunch breaks. If a student needs to contact home, they may use a classroom phone or receive special permission to use their own device.

POEDs Not Permitted during the following:

- 8:00-3:15 (12:05 on Fridays)
- No POEDs in the atrium in the morning or at Lunch time

Cell phones may be stored in the locker or in the office, but NOT IN POCKETS



Grade 10-12

POEDs Not Permitted during the following:

- 8:30- 11:33 (12:05 on Fridays)
- 12:12- 3:14

It must be more than an arm’s length away from the student, and silenced or powered down and not seen and not heard.

POEDs Permitted during the following:

- 8:00-8:30: School is open for Breakfast Program
- 11:33-12:12: Lunch
- When they have a spare, they are allowed to have them in the hallway, atrium and library.
- Flex Time in the classroom under the teacher’s supervision

If the parent/guardian needs to contact the student, please call our school office at 403-223-3165. We will get your child for you.



CCH WELDING CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER!

WE HAVE TWO OPTIONS THIS YEAR!!

**OPTION 1: CHRISTMAS TREE
TREE ORNAMENT - PAINTED GREEN
PRICE: \$15 EACH**

**OPTION 2: NATIVITY SCENE ORNAMENT
PAINTED BLUE AND WHITE
PRICE: \$10 EACH**

50% OF THE PROCEEDS
GO TOWARDS
SANTA'S ANONYMOUS

50% OF THE PROCEEDS GO
TOWARDS PURCHASING A VIRTUAL
WELDER FOR THE WELDING PROGRAM

SUBMIT ORDERS BY
DEC 10 TO ENSURE
DELIVERY BY
CHRISTMAS BREAK

[ORDER THROUGH SCHOOL CASH ONLINE](#)

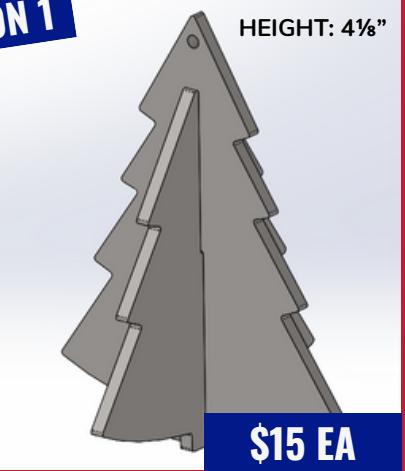


PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



OPTION 1

HEIGHT: 4 1/8"



\$15 EA

OPTION 2

HEIGHT: 4"

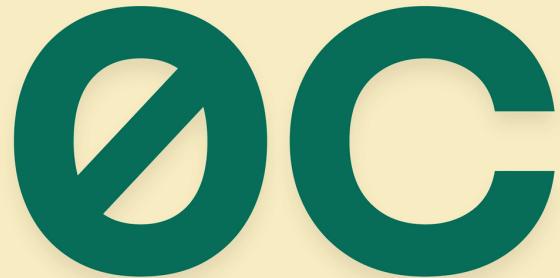


\$10 EA



*ACTUAL PRODUCTS ARE SIMILAR TO
THE ONES ABOVE, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY
VARY SLIGHTLY*





OFF CAMPUS NEWS

01 work EXPERIENCE



Please keep emailing proof of hours worked to
hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca

02 RAP APPRENTICE

Please keep emailing proof of hours worked to
hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca



03 Green CERTIFICATE

Check email for up and coming testing dates.



04 NOTE

WHAT IS NEXT

December 11 - For students enrolled in dual credit fall 2025 semester. Check email.

INTRO FINAL

December 5th - Presentation day for students who are registered in Intro to the Trades fall 2025.

DUAL CREDIT

January 26 - Orientation night for students enrolled in dual credit Winter 2026 semester. Check email. NOTE: Not for Trades students

TRADES DUAL CREDIT

January 30 - Orientation night for students enrolled in dual credit Winter 2026 trades course. keep checking emails for more information.

05

IMPORTANT

DEC 5TH – LETHBRIDGE POLYTECHNIC DUAL CREDIT REGISTRATION DEADLINE. PLEASE CHECK HOLYSPIRIT EMAILS FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

06

who are we

Off-Campus Education provides programs and services for Holy Spirit School Division Students during their high school years. We offer 3 Off-Campus programs, 3 Workplace Safety Courses, Dual Credit Courses, Career Services, Post Secondary Services and Scholarship Services. These programs and services are available to all high school students in the Division.

HOLY SPIRIT CAREER CENTRE CONTACT

MARK BOSCHEE

Room 154 CCH Campus East
boscheem@holyspirit.ab.ca
587 220 4358

