



The Sentinel Spirit

Introducing the Sentinel Spirit, our newly improved e-newsletter! In an effort to make our communications as relevant and engaging as possible, we have crafted an updated version of the bi-monthly SMA email newsletter. Enjoy!

Stellabration: A Night to Remember

Stella Maris Academy is excited to announce that the preliminary amount raised at the second annual Stellabration has reached **\$87,300!**

The Kentucky Derby themed fundraiser, which took place at Greysolon Ballroom, kicked off with a social hour and music from Four String Rock, a trio named one of the "Best of the Best" by Duluth News Tribune. This was followed by a silent auction filled with paintings, sports jerseys, games and more.

Attendees enjoyed a dinner buffet, a lively game of "Heads & Tails" and a live auction that included items ranging from a mystery Sensei party to a stay in a Florida villa!

The Fund-a-Cause initiative for this year, which benefited professional development for SMA's teachers, raised more than \$15,000 at the end of the auction. Afterward, attendees showed off their best moves during a dance that wrapped up the night on a joyful note.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Stellabration, and to our donors and supporters for the gifts of time and treasure in helping us raise money for Catholic education!



Upcoming Events

March 12, 14 & 19

Spring Conferences
St. James campus - March 12 and March 14
St. John's campus - March 12 and March 14
Holy Rosary campus - March 14 and March 19

March 23

Diocesan Women's Conference
The 7th annual Women of Faith conference will feature keynote speaker Sonja Corbitt and a panel of women religious. [Register here.](#)

April 27th

5k for God
Join us for a fun run hosted by the Knights of Columbus of St. Raphael's Church. Proceeds directly benefit SMA. [Register here.](#)

[Full Calendar](#)

Principal Highlights



St. John's Campus

- The votes are in! We're happy to announce Lifehouse will receive the \$300 grant on behalf of SMA students. Eighth grader Madelyn Morris researched and wrote about Lifehouse as part of the 8th grade nonprofit research project. Funds for this grant came from student donations during out of uniform days. [Read her essay here.](#)
- **Left:** Congratulations to these students who will compete at state for MN History Day in May!

St. James Campus

- We had an awesome turn out at the omelet breakfast and spaghetti dinner during Catholic Schools Week. Each event brought in \$1,000. Thank you to everyone who participated!
- We reached our \$15,000 goal for the CSW raffle! Fr. Rich will be temporarily coloring his hair in celebration of this accomplishment.



Holy Rosary Campus

- Throughout Catholic Schools Week, our students spent over 5,000 minutes performing acts of service for our "Wall of Service." Great job, kids!
- During a unit on the human body, our fourth graders were "enrolled" in medical school and conducted research on human anatomy. They presented their models in a Medical Artifact Museum and read their research reports in front of a panel of peers. It was a lot of fun!

Meet Our Board



Karen Newstrom is a member of St. Michael's Parish where she serves as a lector, Eucharistic minister, and more. She taught at St. Michael's Lakeside School for 18 years and currently substitute teaches at SMA. She "loves witnessing both the academic and spiritual growth of our students" and is honored to serve with a Board that is dedicated to enriching Catholic school education in the Duluth area.

Fr. Drew Braun is the Pastor of St. John's and St. Joseph's Catholic churches and has served on the SMA Board since August 2018. "It has



been a joy and a real privilege to be a part of this school," he said. "Seeing all of the students is always a thing of joy for me." Fr. Drew's hope is to help instill joy and gratitude for life in our young people as well as a greater appreciation for the incredible faith we have in God.

Gifts and Gratitude

AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile has donated almost \$200 to Stella Maris Academy. Thank you for supporting SMA when you shop online at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile). SMA receives a percentage of sales with every single purchase!

Scrip

SMA has received nearly \$700 as a result of SMA supporters purchasing gift cards through Scrip. Thank you! If you are interested in signing up for Scrip, visit www.shopwithscrip.com and use enrollment code L9AC7A964964.

CHUM Food Drive Service Project

Stella Maris Academy students will be collecting non-perishable food items from **March 6-April 5** to donate to the CHUM (Churches United in Ministry) Food Shelf Project. Our goal is 100% participation from students and teachers. If you'd like to make a donation or financial contribution, you can drop it off in the front office of any SMA campus.



Volunteer with SMA



STELLA MARIS
ACADEMY

Stella Maris Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

