



# HILLTOPPER NEWSLETTER



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*My St. Mary's Friends and Family,*

I am so excited to be part of this fantastic school as we continue to grow in faith while providing a strong academic base for our students.

With the blessing of the Cardinal and the Archdiocese behind St. Mary of the Assumption High School, we will continue to grow.

There is so much history at St. Mary's; and as I continue to meet our alumni, I see what a special place it is to them and how much they do to support their alma mater. As a way of saying thank you we created a new alumni center for everyone to enjoy. We do believe that "Tradition Never Graduates".

We are continually moving forward to give our students the best education possible. I am truly proud of our additions of the Medical Program with Trinitas, our partnership with McCarter Theater and our ever growing technology program which brings a rich environment to St. Mary's.

I am blessed to be leading our school along with an amazing team to make St. Mary's a premier Catholic High School.



*Marie Chirico, President*

## THE HARRY POTTER ROOM

It's not your typical classroom! Candles hang from the ceiling, owls perch overhead and a large mirror sits in the corner of the castle wall. Welcome to St. Mary of the Assumption High School's Harry Potter room.

This magical environment is the setting for an elective course that's helping students gain confidence while preparing for college.

Through a guided learning program, students are brought into the Wizarding World of J.K. Rowling. They are exposed to different literary styles and elements through a series that many have come to know and love. St. Mary of the Assumption has brought new and innovative programs to push students to their maximum potential.





Lee Ann Voss, Principal

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As the new principal of Saint Mary of the Assumption High School, I am excited to lead both the staff and students on a path to success. Many positive changes have been made so far this year, and there are more to come. The unique qualities of St. Mary's is the family environment and personalized attention that each student receives from faculty and staff. We strive to make each student feel special and openly welcome their parents' input and support at all times. We have implemented several new vocational opportunities such as the Health Occupations Program

where the students received CPR, First Aid, and AED certification along with their internship at Trinitas Hospital. We have also established a partnership with McCarter Theater where our students have been afforded the opportunity to see the play *We Shall Overcome*, and plan to attend more. We have initiated communications with Kean University to create a partnership for college credits and to bring a Holocaust program to St. Mary's next year.

Many of our resources have been spent upgrading our technology. We have installed several 70-inch smart TV's in our classrooms, added new video surveillance equipment for building security and more improvements are on the way. As of today we've hosted 17 instant college decision days in house and attended 3 out of school. The total amount of academic scholarships earned by our students to date is 9 million dollars.

We are looking forward to the spring and continuing to improve our school and community.

## NEW SCHOOL BUS

A 54-passenger bus has a new home at St. Mary's. With the growing needs of our high school we are now able to transport our sports teams, take students on field trips and transport them to and from school. As our population grows from the surrounding areas, the ability to transport students is a big help to our families. More students can now attend St. Mary's and be able to participate in our unique programs and family environment.





# NEW ALUMNI ROOM

A large part of Saint Mary of the Assumption High School is the support that comes from our wonderful circle of alumni.

We have so many graduates who have returned to enlighten us with their stories. If only the walls could speak!

We extend an open invitation to all of our alumni to come and share a day in the life of our current students and be a Hilltopper again. Join us by sitting in on your favorite classes, reminiscing of the days you were here and have a home-cooked meal in our cafeteria.

We have a 70-inch television, large conference table, couches and lots of memorabilia. You can hold meetings, have gatherings in the alumni center or come and spend some time looking through the yearbooks and memorabilia.

Come and visit the new alumni room at St. Mary of the Assumption High School and share your memories while creating new ones! After all, "TRADITION NEVER GRADUATES".



**"I PRAY GOD MAY PRESERVE  
YOUR HEALTH AND LIFE MANY  
YEARS."**

Junipero Serra



*The Health Occupations Team / Trinitas Program*

## TRINITAS PROGRAM

St. Mary of the Assumption High School is excited to be partnering with Trinitas Hospital. This program is not offered at any other Catholic School in the area. Through the Health Occupations Program, the students get to shadow doctors, nurses and technicians at the hospital while exploring various career opportunities. The students rotate every four weeks to a different specialty area so that they get to interact with patients and staff

while gaining a true understanding of the medical field.

Other students in the school are part of the Explorer's Program which meets once a month at Trinitas Hospital. It is an early evening program that allows students the opportunity to explore medical careers by visiting the various specialty areas of the hospital. Students have the opportunity to ask questions to professionals within the medical field. Some of the areas explored so far this year have been the Emergency Room, Dialysis Center and Cancer Center.

## ST. MARY'S BASKETBALL UPDATE

The St. Mary's basketball team has a new face at the helm, first year Head Coach Danny Crincoli, who took over for Anthony Colletti. Coach Crincoli has been a mainstay in the St. Mary's program for the last nine years, playing an integral role in the team's success as their assistant coach. The Hilltoppers are having an outstanding season with a 16-6 record. The team is currently ranked 10th in the state by NJ.com.

The team is led by its nine seniors who established the tone from the first day of practice. The Hilltoppers opened the season with a big win against powerhouse Olympus 62-61 in the Hearts to Hands Showcase. Next was their game against Trenton Catholic Academy where they defeated the then 8th ranked Iron Mikes 86-72 in a double overtime thriller. Other notable wins were Seton Hall Prep; Neuman-Goretti; Westside; Linden (twice); and Sanford, Delaware's 3rd ranked team in the state. Point Guard Dion Herrington leads the team in four categories;



2-pt field goals (93), free throws (62), assists (103) and steals (52). Other statistical leaders for the Hilltoppers are Kyle McGee, who leads the team with 142 rebounds for the season. Izaiah Robinson has been the offensive leader averaging 14.2 ppg while knocking down 51 three-point shots. Junior Phil Brown has actively leading the defensive team with 16 blocks and 132 rebounds.

The Hilltoppers enter the Union County Tournament as the 4th seed and will face Union Catholic in the quarter finals. St. Mary's will host Newark Academy in the first round of the NJSIAA state tournament on February 27th at 7:00pm.





*Michele Sharp, Director of Athletics*

## WELCOME OUR NEW ATHELTIC DIRECTOR

St. Mary's welcomes Michele Sharp, our first full-time athletics director.

I am extremely excited and proud to be named Director of Athletics at St. Mary of the Assumption High School. I am looking forward to carrying on the rich tradition of the school while helping to expand its athletic programs. This past fall we initiated a volleyball club and moving forward will have a team competing in counties and states next year.

Basketball is as strong as ever, being one of the top teams in Union County and ranked #10 in the state. This year our bowling team once again competed in the Union County Conference. They were led by Brandon Kent and Ethan Mekesey. The team finished strong in the tournament.

With the spring season quickly approaching, we are excited about our upcoming baseball season and the hiring of new baseball Head Coach Nico Vargas. This season the baseball team will have a 19 game schedule and compete in both the county and state tournaments.

Plans are in the works to start a wrestling team, boys soccer, boys and girls cross country and track, as well as welcoming back girls basketball and softball. In addition to our new teams, we are looking to upgrade the weight room, locker room and the gym. It's an exciting time for St. Mary's athletics!

## WRITER'S GUILD

Our interactive learning approach helped design the Writer's Guild Room. It is a place that surrounds our students with famous authors, inspiring figures and their collections of work. Students sit at a conference table where they can easily work and interact with each other.

Students are inspired to write, which is an important and necessary skill for furthering their education. Having an engaging space makes it easier for students to retain and apply the skills they are learning. Special thanks to the book donation from Marie Adaire who made this possible.



# ST. MARY'S GRADUATES – PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE

Over the past several years, St. Mary's students have been able to boast of their acceptances to an impressive list of colleges and universities. This year's Class of 2019 has continued the trend by already earning over 9 million dollars in academic scholarships. Thanks to the effort of our Director of Guidance, Dr. Aknaris Padilla, 100% of this year's seniors have been accepted into college for next year. We are proud to watch our students thrive and take their place in the world beyond the walls of St. Mary's.

Our students have proudly attended the following colleges and universities:

Albany College of Pharmacy

Barry University

Binghamton University

Bloomfield College

Caldwell University

Clark Atlanta University

College of St. Elizabeth

Essex County College

Fairleigh Dickinson University

Felician University

Georgian Court University

Hampton University

Kean University

Loyola University of Maryland

Middlesex County College

Monmouth University

Montclair State University

New England College

New Jersey Institute of Technology

New York University

Penn State Harrisburg

Quinnipiac University

Rider University

Rutgers University

Seton Hall University

St. Peters University

Stockton University

Union County College

University of Bridgeport

University of Hartford

Villanova University

Virginia State University

Virginia Union University



**"THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS IS TO LIVE  
MOMENT BY MOMENT AND TO THANK  
GOD FOR ALL THAT HE, IN HIS GOODNESS,  
SENDS TO US DAY AFTER DAY."**

St. Gianna Molla



# ST. MARY'S WELCOMES THE CLASS OF 2023!

St. Mary's is already hard at work on the 2019-2020 school year! We are excited as we welcome our new Hilltoppers into the Class of 2023. We look forward to continuing a proud tradition of providing students with an affordable and strong Catholic education while nurturing them along their journey through high school.

This upcoming school year will bring with it a renaissance of our Athletics program, bringing back to life such sports as volleyball, cross country, track and field, girls basketball, as well as introducing a new wrestling program.

Next year our Health Occupations Program and partnership with Trinitas Regional Medical Center will be offering more courses and opportunities at the hospital. We will also see an expansion of our Visual and Performing Arts Program, as well as our Dual Enrollment Program with nearby colleges and universities. Wonderful things are in store for the future at St. Mary's!

Families who are interested in applying for admission to St. Mary's for the upcoming school year should contact the Admissions Office at 908-352-4350 ext. 114 or email [admissions@stmaryhsnj.org](mailto:admissions@stmaryhsnj.org).

Financial aid and scholarships are available. Please visit [stmaryhsnj.org](http://stmaryhsnj.org) for the latest news and information.



*Vanessa Hernandez, Director of Admissions*

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

### APRIL 13, 2019 - OPEN HOUSE

Visit our school on April 13, from 10AM - 1PM and experience our unique learning environments.

### MAY 28-31, 2019 - ALUMNI WEEK

Visit your alma mater! Revisit classrooms, participate in class discussions and have a home-cooked meal in the cafeteria with current students.

### JUNE 3, 2019 - ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Take part in building our school for the future and enjoy a day of golfing as part of St. Mary's annual fundraiser.

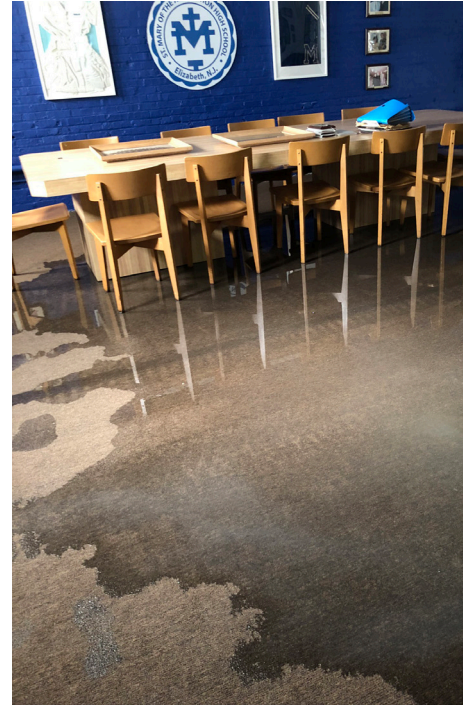


# DEVASTATING FLOOD AFFECTS ST. MARY'S OF THE ASSUMPTION

During the process of developing this newsletter, Saint Mary of the Assumption High School faced a flood in our basement level. This affected not only our library and cafeteria, areas that our students access everyday, but also the nurse's office, weight room, school store, locker rooms and our newly refurbished Alumni Room.

This flood was especially devastating having occurred only a few weeks after celebrating the new Alumni Room. After many hours of demolition, painting and organizing this amazing center, it was gone!

We are praying for our St. Mary's community to continue to stand beside us as we address the struggles of our existing students and their access to important areas of the school. As insurance does not cover all of the repair costs, we thank our community for any help they are able to give in the form of donations to the school.



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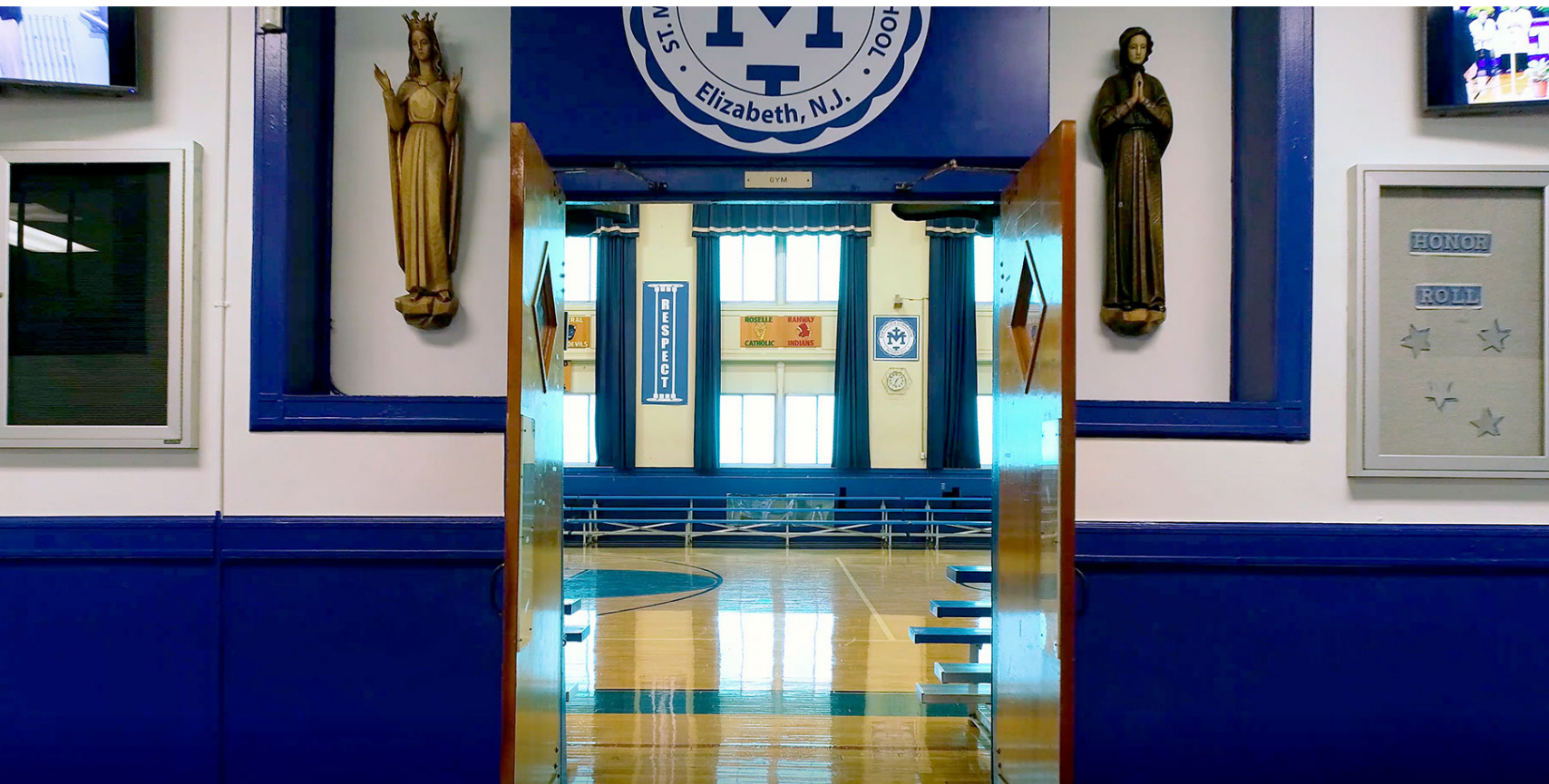
**“FAITH LIFTS THE SOUL. HOPE  
SUPPORTS IT. EXPERIENCE SAYS IT  
MUST. AND LOVE SAYS LET IT BE!”**

Elizabeth Ann Seton





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