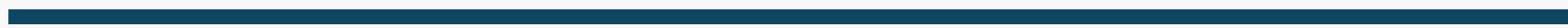


St. Mary CSS

Grade 8 Parent Night

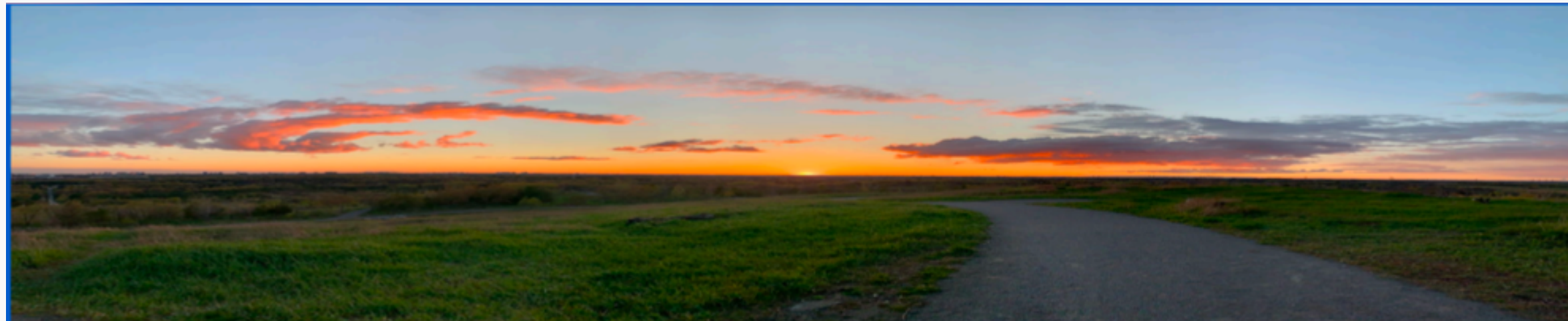
January 2025



Land Acknowledgement



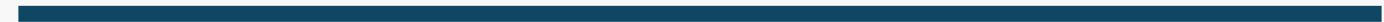
We, in the Durham Region, respectfully acknowledge that we are here, on
the traditional lands of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island



Our Chaplain

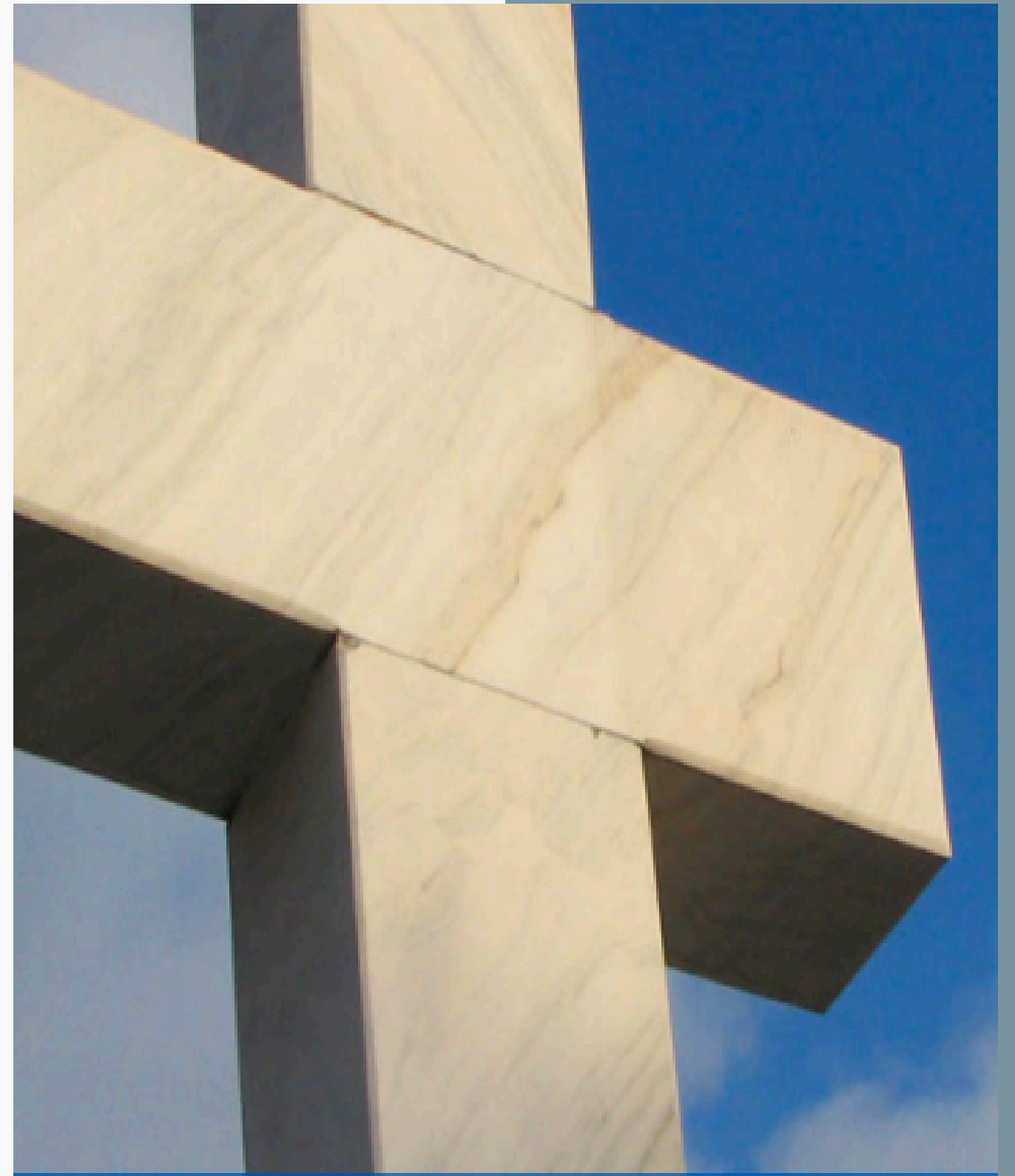


Mariana Bosetti



Opening Prayer

O God, source of our lives and
inspiration to this community



We thank You for all the blessings You have bestowed upon us. We thank You for the people and talents You have gathered together in this community



To carry out Your mission of
Catholic Education.



We ask for Your presence with us today as we welcome these Grade 8 students and their parents to our community.



May they be given the opportunities to gain knowledge which will chase away all fear and anxieties about high school as they discern their choices.

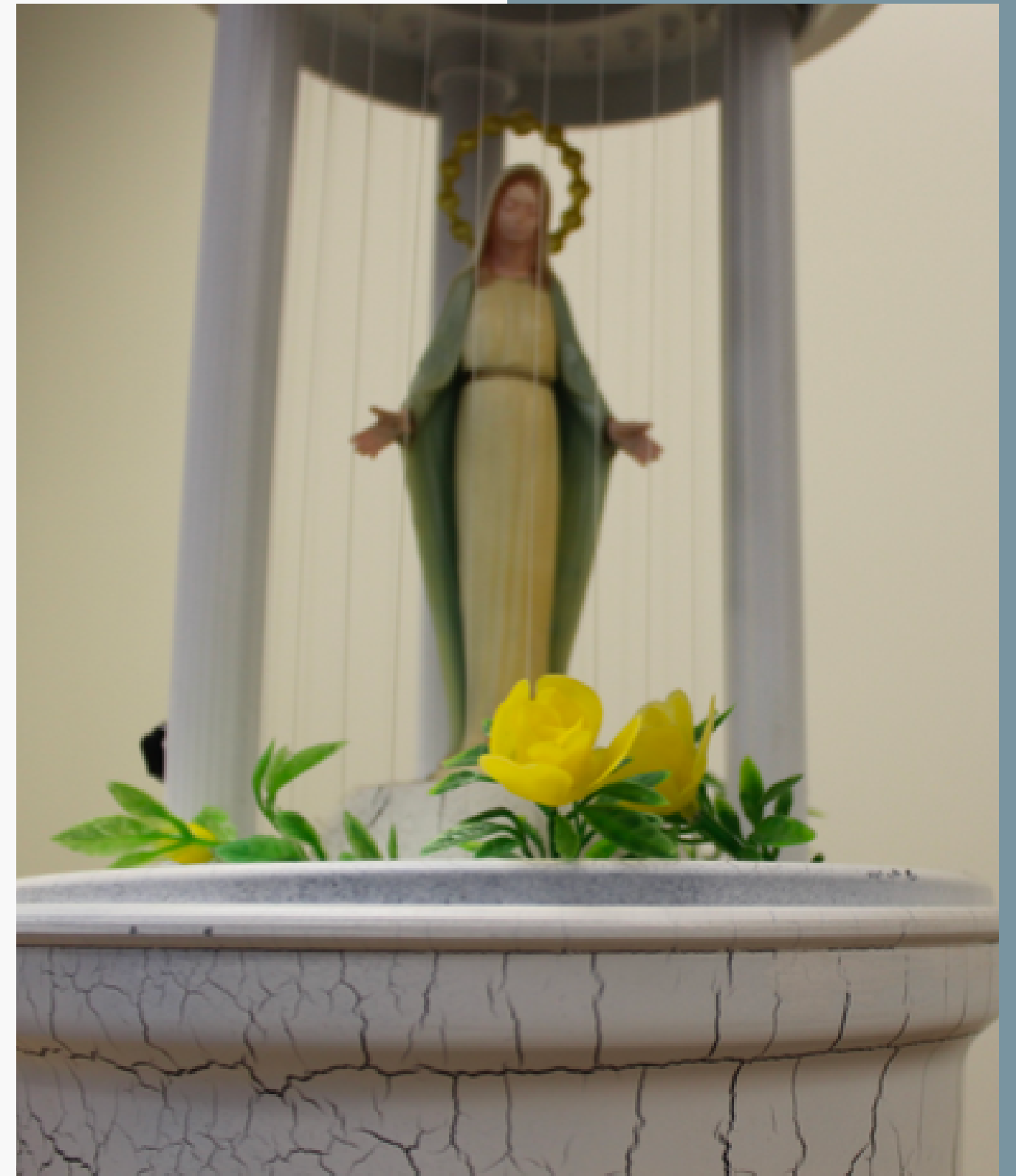


May they find the confidence
and courage in the knowledge
that You love them and that
You will be with them to guide
them always.



We ask this through Jesus our brother and Saviour, Amen.

Please join us in the Hail Mary....



Our Principal



Mr. John DiVizio



Our Administration



Ms. Julie Simon



Ms. Melissa Morrison



Ms. Catia Minardi



Our Admin Assistants



Our Support Staff

Custodial Staff



Educational Assistants

Our Parent Council Representatives



Ms. Adele Sartor

Council Chair

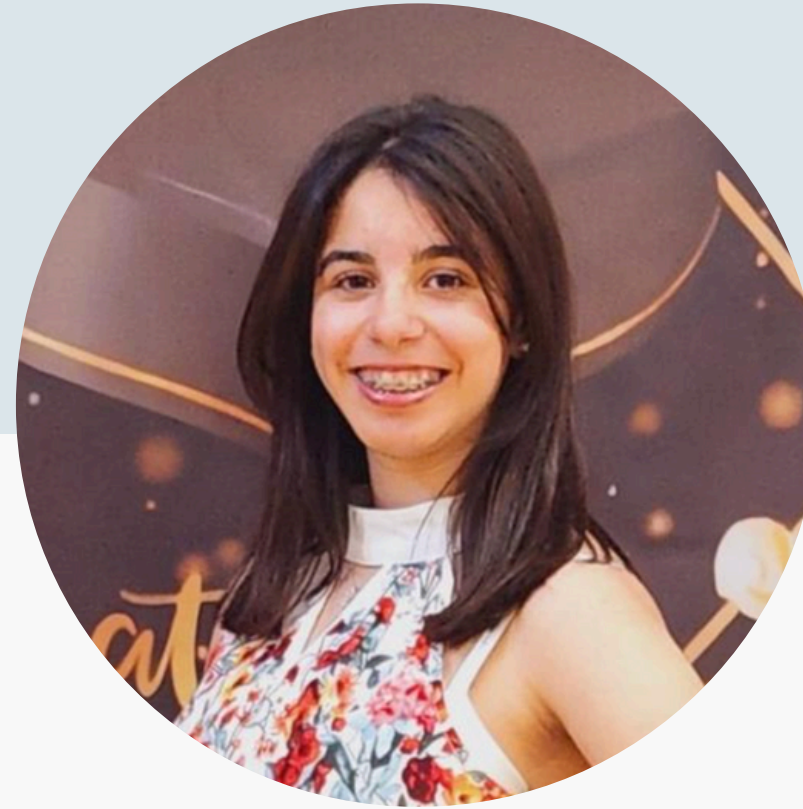


Ms. Sabrina Palotta

Council Chair



Our Student Voice



Maria Tahhan





**St. Mary Catholic Secondary School
is a vibrant community led by the
teachings of Christ to help people
strengthen their compassion and love
for their fellow neighbour and self.**

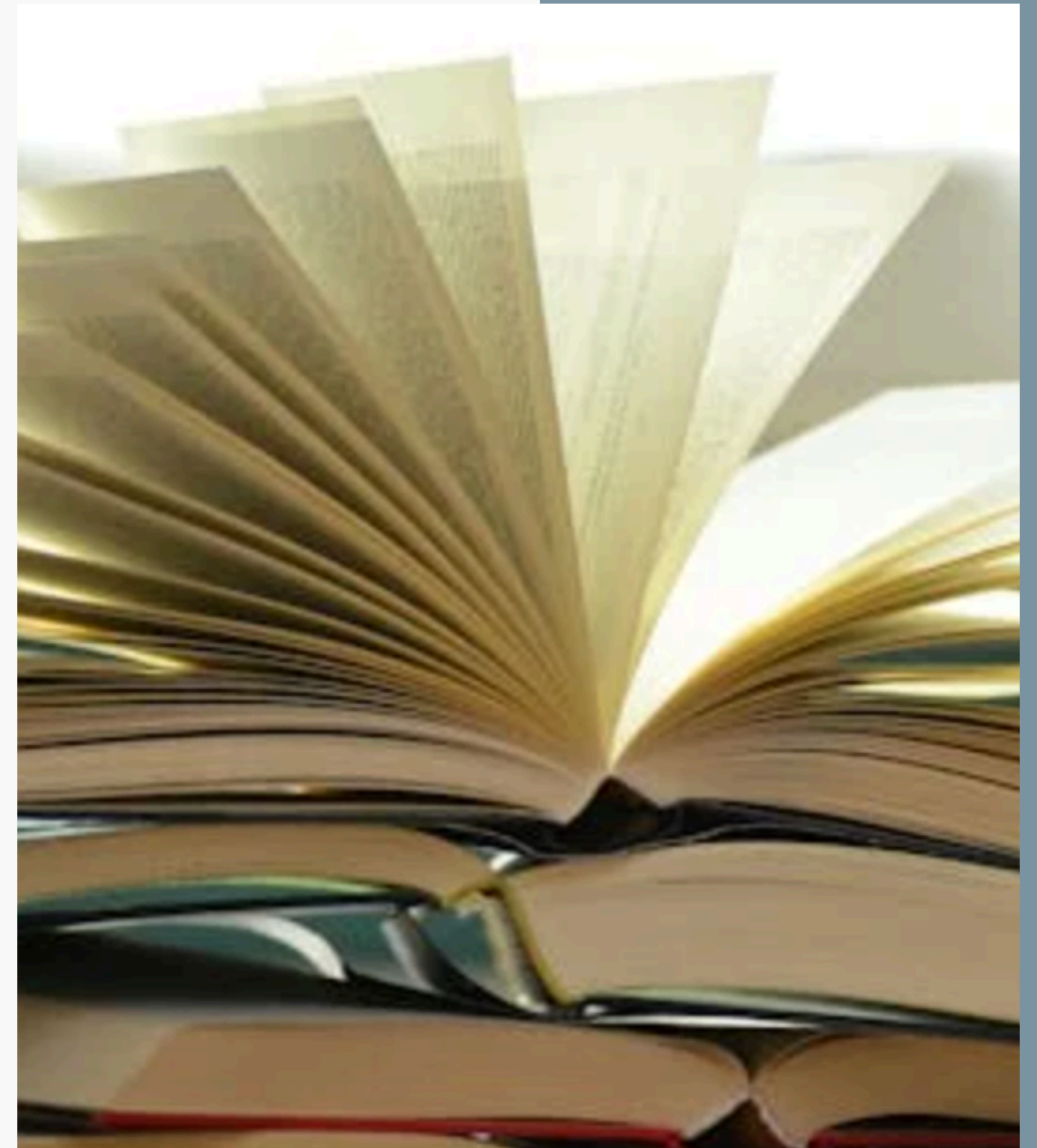
Academics

With a variety of courses offered at varying
levels

of study in over TEN departments
schoolwide,

St. Mary reaches a standard of excellence,
through academics, athletics and social

● ● ● ● ● justice initiatives



Specialty Programs

Advanced Placement (starting in Grade 10)

French Immersion

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)



Advanced Placement

The typical AP student has:



**Demonstrated
Exceptional Work Ethic**



**Strong Academic
Performance and an
Intellectual Curiosity**



**Self-Directed Skills
with a Desire to Reach
Ahead**

Offered through a selection process in Grade 10 for both Math and English



French Immersion

All French Immersion Students will:



**Choose a minimum of
three (3) courses in
French in Grade 9**



**Graduate with a
minimum of ten (10)
courses in French**

Mlle Oster will be conducting an information session in Room 124 after this
general introduction



Specialist High Skills Major SHSM at St. Mary



Program Support

- Students on an Individual Education Plan (IEP) are continually monitored
- Know your Program Support teacher (PST) and where to find them!
- Strong Connection between school and home
- Assistance available to all students

Visit with Ms. Hoofman and her team in Room 130 immediately following this presentation



Student Success at St. Mary

The Student Success Teacher (SST):

- Advocates for students
- Works on a team to find alternative options for individual student success

**Visit with Mr. Macdonald in Room 164
immediately following this presentation**



Intermediate Guidance at St. Mary

The Intermediate Guidance Teacher (IGT):

- Eases the transition from elementary to high school
- Acts as an advocate
- Supports pathway planning

Visit with Ms. Dehaney and the Guidance team immediately following this presentation



The Registration Process

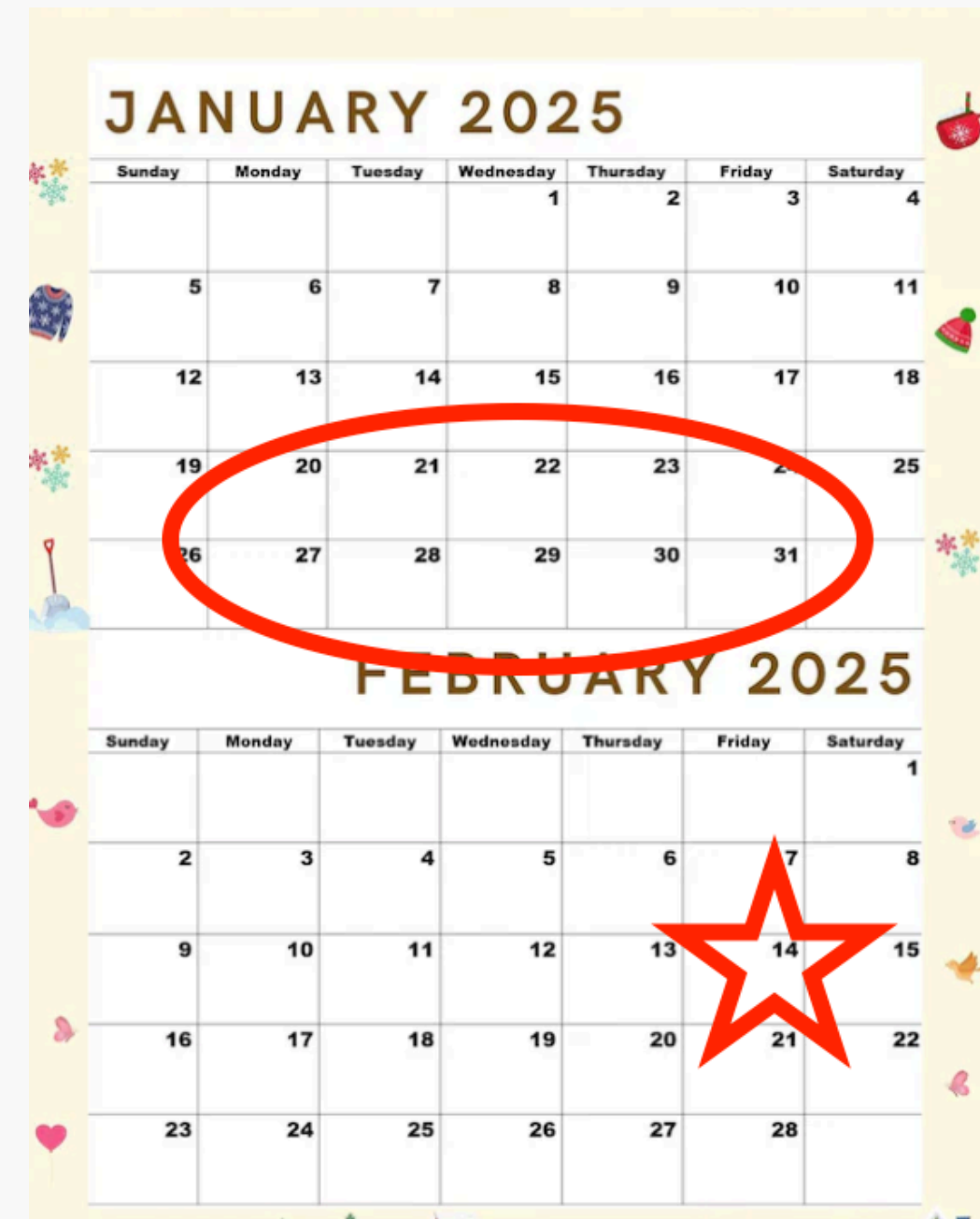
Important Dates for Students Attending an Associate Catholic School

January

Course selection Presentations for our feeder schools by our IGT and Guidance to explain the process

February

Course Selections will be due BOTH electronic submission with parent approval and \$75 Student Activity Fee paid through CashOnLine

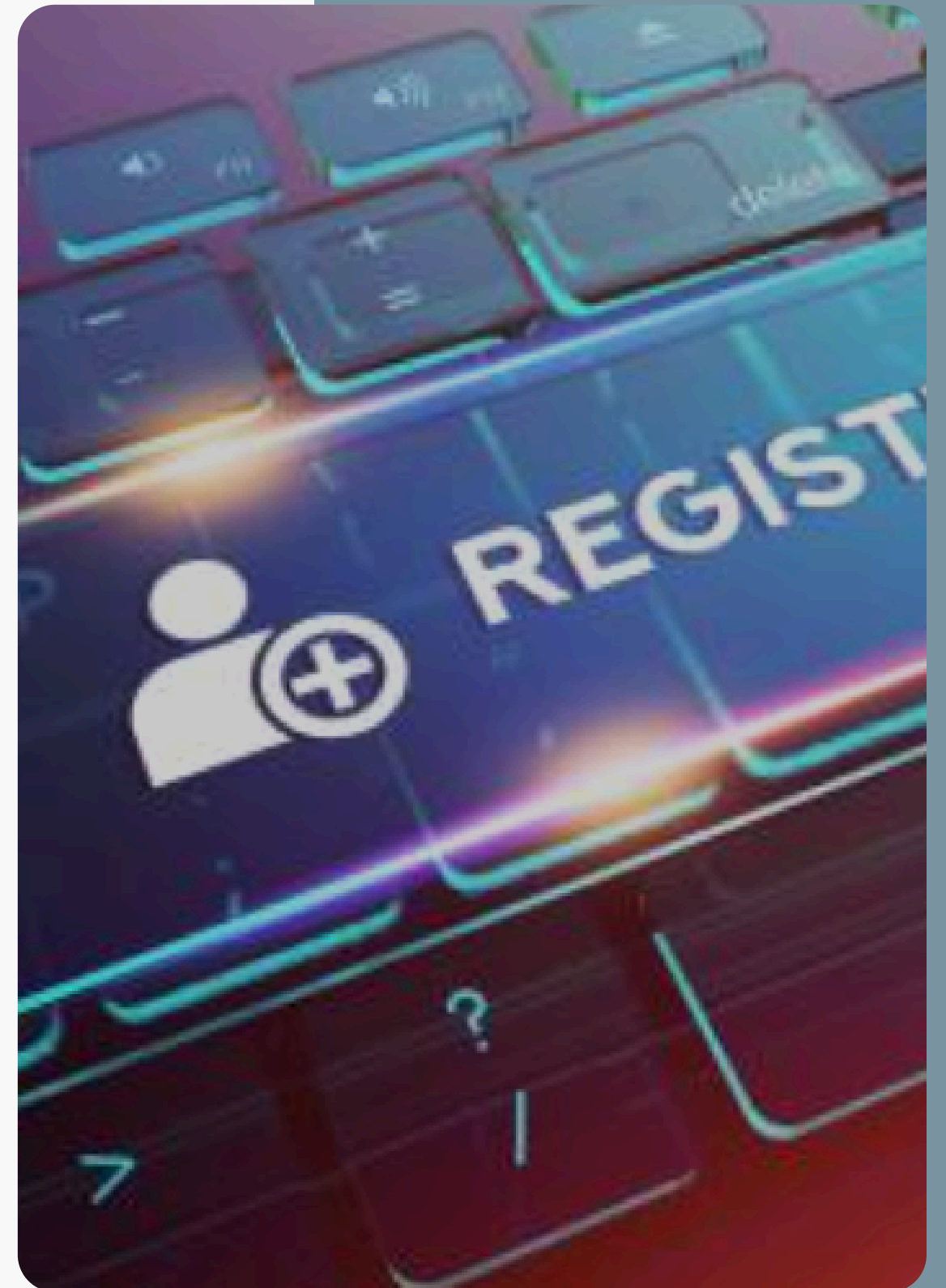


The Registration Process

Students NOT attending a DCDSB school

- Visit the St. Mary website
- Locate “St. Mary Guidance” link on the homepage
- Create an account to complete an online application (for those NEW to the Board)
- Print the Pre-Admission package and submit it with the required accompanying documents to the Guidance office in mid-February

Approved applicants will be called for an in-person appointment starting in early March



Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) Requirements

30 Credits

17 Compulsory:

- 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade)
- 3 credits in mathematics (Grade 9, Grade 10 and 1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
- 2 credits in science
- 1 credit in technological education (Grade 9 or Grade 10)
- 1 credit in Canadian history (Grade 10)
- 1 credit in Canadian geography (Grade 9)
- 1 credit in the arts
- 1 credit in health and physical education
- 1 credit in French as a second language
- 0.5 credit in career studies
- 0.5 credit in civics and citizenship
- 1 credit from the STEM-related course group (Business, Computer Studies, Coop, Math, Science, Tech)

13 Elective:

- Selected from school course calendar options

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) Requirements

40 hours of Community Service

- Use our log sheet to record your hours (as early as the summer before Grade 9!)

Ontario Secondary School

Literacy Test

- Written in the Spring of Grade 10 (ample opportunities to prepare)

Two (2) Elearning Courses

- With an Opt-Out option

Students must take

Religion

in each of their four years

at St. Mary

Choosing Courses

Choose Wisely -be informed

Seek recommendations from teachers and IGT

***Make selections based on
STRENGTHS and INTERESTS***

Once submitted, course selections cannot be changed

Planning for High School

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
When to Take Your Compulsory Courses	Religion	Religion	Religion	Religion
	English	English	English	English
	Math	Math	Math	
	Science	Science	1 Additional STEM course	
	French	History		
	Geography	Civics/Careers		
	Physical Education			
	Art			
	Grade 9 or 10 Tech			



Thank you

