St. Mary's Ryken

A Catholic College Preparatory School
Sponsored by the Xaverian Brothers

Winter 2015

Connections

A magazine for the St. Mary's Ryken Community

Inspiring Lives of Learning, Faith & Service

ST. MARY'S RYKEN
A CATHOLIC COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Winter 2015

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St. Mary's Ryken Mission Statement

St. Mary's Ryken is a Catholic coeducational, college preparatory school community operated under the Xaverian Brothers' sponsorship, dedicated to academic excellence and to individualized student growth.

Send alumni news to publications@smrhs.org

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,

To be a Catholic institution in this increasingly secular world is challenging. Yet, we are fortunate. We know we can build a strong foundation of ethics and values in the young adults who attend St. Mary's Ryken.

Last month, we had six, recent graduates return to campus to talk to the junior and senior classes about the first year of college. The young alumni addressed issues of time management, finding time for faith, roommates and dorm life, and balancing classes and athletics.

Their poise and maturity were the perfect manifestations of our mission: to educate the whole person. St. Mary's Ryken is the place where tomorrow's leaders learn the skills that will serve them in their pursuit of higher education, and where they will cultivate the moral and spiritual integrity that will last their entire lives.

Every day, I am fortunate to see the ways our students serve others and display the virtues of the Xaverian charism: compassion, simplicity, humility, trust and zeal. Whether it is building friendships with developmentally disabled adults in an afterschool arts program, collecting basic items needed by those in our area, or showing appreciation to first responders, our students are growing beautifully.

The upcoming Lenten season is the perfect time to reflect on all that God has given us and to find ways to share with others our unique gifts. Many of you already share your gifts with us. Thank you for being a crucial part of the St. Mary's Ryken family. Our community is strong because of the generations of alumni, parents and friends who provide guidance and set examples for these young men and women.

God bless.

Sincerely,

Mary Joy Hurlburt
President

Founder's Week Events

The 2014-15 academic year is a special one for the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School (XBSS) network. This year, we are celebrating the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Xaverian Brothers congregation. As one of the 13 schools in the network, all aspects of a St. Mary's Ryken education are rooted in the Xaverian charism and the values of compassion, simplicity, humility, trust and zeal.

Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools

Each December, we celebrate Founder's Week with a Mass on December 3, the feast day of St. Francis Xavier; class discussions on Theodore Ryken and his persistence to establish an educational system in America; the bestowing of the Theodore Ryken award; and the induction of the 11 new XBSS Stewards.

Eleven new XBSS Stewards were inducted during the Founder's Day Mass: (from the left) Principal Rick Wood, Adriana Facchina, Gabrielle Moore, Kendall Murphy, Joseph Brown, Christopher Matthias, Emily Rawson, Stephen Schwartz, Madisson Wood, Kayla Collins, Thomas Showalter, Christopher Feist and President Mary Joy Hurlburt.

The Theodore Ryken Award

Mrs. Christine Jaffurs, department chair of the counseling department and counselor for the Class of 2016, is the recipient of the Theodore Ryken award for 2014-15.

Named in honor of the Brothers' founder, the award recognizes an individual for his or her commitment to Ryken's vision and dedication to an XBSS school. The SMR faculty and staff vote for whom they think best exemplifies what it means to be a part of the SMR community.

Mrs. Jaffurs holds a master's in school counseling from Johns Hopkins University and says, "I am passionate about the success and growth of the students. I consider it an honor and a privilege to assist them on their journey."

Photo: Jaclyn Lippelmann/*The Catholic Standard*.

Jackie Machina, Eileen Walsh and Naiyah Thompson stuff several cars with donations for the CareNet Pregnancy Center. Jackie, Eileen and Liz Garner (not pictured) were the chairpersons of the drive. The photo below shows donations for the "Cookies in the Barracks" program. Adriana Facchina and Stephanie Thomson were the chairs for "Cookies" and the "Desserts for Sailors" program.

Regular weekly and monthly service opportunities are available to students through the Campus Ministry office, including programs at the Three Oaks Center, the Ronald McDonald House, and the "Art to Heart" program in cooperation with Southern Maryland Community Resource, a group for teens and adults with developmental disabilities. But, for St. Mary's Ryken students, there's always the desire to do more.

The first semester of the 2014-15 academic year saw the Knights out and about in the community and organizing drives to help those in need:

- The Student Government Association sponsored the annual program where students "adopt" 60 children from the local area and fulfill their Christmas wish lists.
- The science department coordinated the fall food drive and collected over 800 items and $1,000 for area food pantries.
- The National Honor Society worked with Hospice of St. Mary's County in early December. Students helped assemble and decorate 25 Christmas trees for Hospice's annual Festival of Trees. The theme for their tree was "America: A Red, White and Blue Christmas," which was auctioned for $1,200.
- The NHS partnered with the Wives Club of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station for "Cookies in the Barracks" and delivered over 100 dozen cookies and over 50 Christmas cards to enlisted personnel and first responders at the base. And, for the sixth year, they continued the "Desserts for Sailors" Thanksgiving tradition, delivering 54 baked goods (pies, cakes, cookies, etc.) and over 100 "thank you" notes.
- The NHS held their annual "Baby Item Drive" for the CareNet Pregnancy Center in Leonardtown. From fundraisers they held during the year, the NHS purchased eight car seats, several breast pumps and two cases of formula. Thank you to everyone who donated - students collected almost 200 packages of diapers and many, many packages of wipes, formula, baby food, care items, books, blankets, etc.

Helping to Save the Bay by Going to Class

The students may not have signed up to save the bay, but the project they are working on will help clean it.

Mrs. Susan McEvoy's Advanced Placement Environmental class is one of the 100 dock owners that have signed on to the Marylanders Grow Oysters Program sponsored by the St. Mary's River Watershed Association. The association distributed oyster shells laden with spat – or "baby oysters" – in early September and the dock owners will steward them until June. SMR environmental classes have participated in oyster growing programs for the past seven years.

Students will periodically check on the process of the spat growing in the two cages at the SMR dock and, at the end of the year, the new oysters will be transferred to a reef in an oyster sanctuary in the St. Mary's River. The oysters serve as a natural filtering system for the Bay and wetlands, eating and removing the algae and filtering up to 50 gallons of water per cage each day.

Rory Handley and Abigail Padgett measure the growth of the spat (baby oysters) on one of the shells from the cages.

The first time students pulled up the cages, they found more than just oysters - mud crabs, grass shrimp, worms, and small fish such as minnows - giving them a chance to see a food web in action, one of the topics they were recently discussing.

"The class is fun - there's not a boring part," said senior Amanda Bland. "You're always learning. It's interesting and hands-on, and we talk about current topics in the news - populations, pollution, and the economy."

"I thought the class was just going to be about trees," said senior Annie Yates. "But, there's so much more. We cover what we need to know about our environment and the world around us. I learned where the gas in my car comes from and about the bioethics of it, too."

Junior Rory Handley concurs. "Our environment is important," he said. "Everything affects everything. We talk about overcrowding and sustainability and leaving things for the next generation."

"The best part of teaching the environmental class here," said Mrs. McEvoy, "is that we can bring the Church's teachings into our discussions, into our debates."

And the oyster project illustrates one more unique aspect of a St. Mary's Ryken education: the entire campus is their classroom. When the weather is favorable, one can see engineering students in the stadium testing their balsawood airplanes; art students sketching everywhere; the environmental students at the docks checking on their oyster cages; physics students participating in the annual cardboard boat race; and theater students practicing songs and dances, to name but a few.

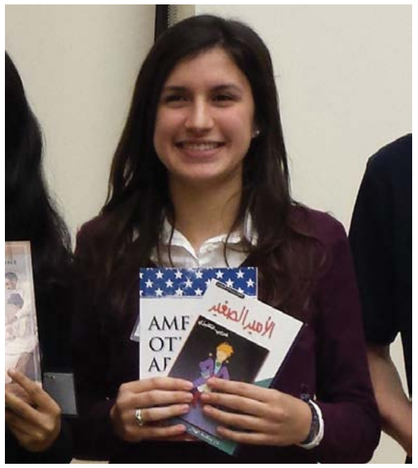
Crystal Cao, Courtney Fielders, Liz Garner, Taylor Patterson and Jackie Machina are surprised to see how much the spat have grown since they last checked.

Faculty and Student News

Congratulations to faculty members Mr. Ken Scheiber (left) and Mr. Andrew Smouse (right) who were selected by their fellow teachers as this year's Archdiocese of Washington Veteran Teacher of the Year and Novice Teacher of the Year, respectively, for St. Mary's Ryken.

Mr. Scheiber teaches theology and global issues in international politics. He is a coach with the JV baseball team and moderator for the conversational Spanish club, ancient Greek language and culture club, and the politics discussion club.

Mr. Smouse is the chair of the fine arts department and director of bands. In addition to teaching the music and instrument classes, he serves as music director for the spring and fall musicals, and as the moderator for the "Art to Heart" program.



Senior Rand Duarte received the Phi Beta Kappa Book award from the St. Mary's College of Maryland's chapter of the honor society. Rand is studying four languages and would like to pursue a career in the Foreign Service.

In December, four SMR students auditioned and were selected to the 2015 Catholic University of America Honors Band in Washington, D.C. On Saturday, January 24, the students rehearsed, attended a master class with members of the United States Army Band, and performed a concert in the evening. Congratulations to seniors Chelsea Berger (flute) and Rebecca Johnson (clarinet), and juniors Joseph Brown (clarinet) and Emily Rawson (double bass).

Senior Daniel Allen (left) earned a $20,000 scholarship through the H&R Block Budget Challenge. Daniel, along with the SMR Personal Finance classes taught by Mrs. Paula McGuigan, competed in the challenge both as individuals and as a class. There were more than 11,000 students who participated and Daniel finished in the top 20 overall.

Students (back row, from the left) Alex Lasoski, Robert Hanson, Dylan Adams (and seated) Brad Hoover and Anthony Wallace came in second in Mercer University's Alice Programming Competition. The students scored a total of 428 points (total of 600 possible points) by completing three programs in five days. Alice is a software system that teaches students computer programming in a 3-D environment.

The fall musical production of "High School Musical" sold out three of its four performances (and almost sold out the fourth). Make sure you get your tickets early for the spring musical, "Into the Woods." Tickets are on sale at www.smrhs.org.

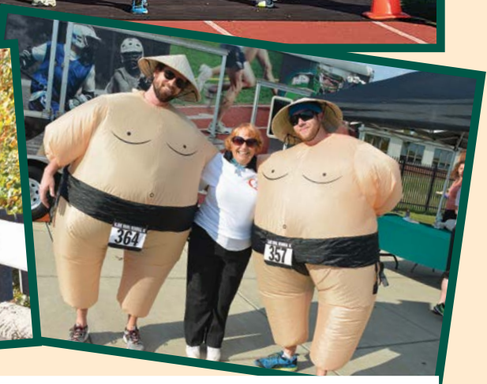
Every other week during the school year, the Southern Maryland Community Resources group visits St. Mary's Ryken for art, music or dance activities. The innovative outreach program is for persons with developmental disabilities. The students were honored with an award from the St. Mary's County Commission for Persons with Disabilities for their service.

Sophomore Jennie Zhang who won first place in St. Mary's County in the University of Maryland Mathematics Competition. For the fourth year in a row, a student from SMR has taken first place in St. Mary's County in the competition, known to students for its combination of exacting mathematics and discouragement of guessing.

Nine seniors, so far this year, have signed their "Letter of Intent" to play in their respective sport at the collegiate level. Photo left: (standing) Head Football Coach Jerry Franks, who was named "Coach of the Year" by Southern Maryland News; Principal Rick Wood; Director of Athletics Joe Wysokinski; and Head Girls Soccer Coach Tim Major. (seated) Casey Bernard (Football - Old Dominion University); Boakum Apesemaka-Vital (Football - Marist College); Kyle Goddard (Football - ODU); and Meghan Conner (Soccer - Notre Dame of Maryland Univ.). Photo right (seated): Bianca Boggs (Girls Basketball - College of William & Mary); Lindsay Heinze (Softball - Mt. St. Mary's University); Devidas Zemgulis (Boys Basketball - Penn State); Naiyah Thompson (Girls Basketball - Boston University); and Chandler Smith (Girls Basketball - College of William & Mary).

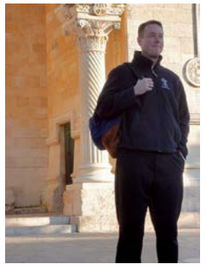
Spirit Week and Homecoming

Spirit Week culminated with a beautiful fall evening for the Homecoming football game and for the induction of new members into the Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame. Congratulations to (back row, from the left): Rudy Carrico, Scott Chesser, Thomas Billard, Donald Poole, Paul Thompson and (front row, from the left) SMR science teacher Pat Borland, Jackie Dunham, Kathleen Murphy, Kristen Guy and Libby Mikulewicz. Homecoming Queen, senior Lindsay Hanf, had to be without the Homecoming King, Trent Hall, at halftime. Trent is a member of the football team and was in the locker room. The Knights beat Maryland Christian Homeschool 54-0.



Alumni News

1963



Jim Hinkle ’63 announces that his son, James C. Hinkle, was ordained to the priesthood in June 2014 in the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Virginia. Father Jim studied his last four years in Rome at the Pontifical North American College.

1991

Kimberly Gretton Dallas ’91 and husband, Alex, welcomed their son, Ronald Edward Dallas, on Sept. 20, 2014.

1997

Nicholas Quin Serenati ’97 and his wife welcomed their daughter, Gianna Quin, on October 16, 2013. Nicholas is currently a professor of cinema and media studies at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Fla., and recently completed his Ph.D. with his dissertation “The Reframing of Leukemia: Metaphor, Dharma Art and Illness Experience.” The dissertation also earned him a nomination for the Marvin B. Sussman Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement and Seminal Dissertation Research. He is a candidate for the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship at The Leslie Center for Humanities at Dartmouth College.

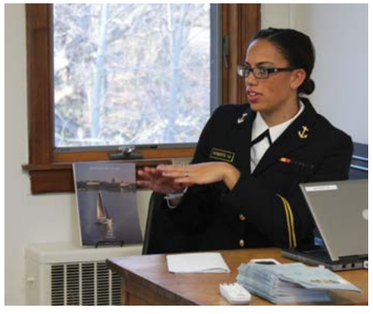
2000

Jenny Grace Makholm ’00 is an actress, writer and producer living in New York City. She was recently nominated for an “Innovative Theater” award for “Relent,” a musical she wrote the book and lyrics for. Music by Ian Wehrle. She would like to pass along her thanks to the St. Mary’s Ryken community for their support and encouragement. You can read more about her projects at thejennygrace.com, http://www.imdb.jennygrace, and producingjuliet.com.

2010

Katrynna Trost ’10 completed her term as Maryland DeMolay State Sweetheart. DeMolay International is a fraternal service organization. Katrynna held many fundraisers and attended public events to raise awareness for cancer research and Relay for Life.

2012



Kelsey Roberts ’12 is currently attending the United States Naval Academy and was on campus recently to hold an information session about the Academy for SMR students. Kelsey is a cheerleader for Navy football and basketball.

Alumni News

2006

Brenda McEvoy ’06 and Daniel Budzenski ’06 married on June 21, 2014, surrounded by many faculty and alumni of the St. Mary’s Ryken community (bottom row): Tara Everly, Debbie Corey, Sue McEvoy, Nancy Reister, Maid of Honor Karen McEvoy ’09, Delaney Madden ’13, Allison Riggs Madden ’09, Elise Madden ’10. Middle row: Liz Schuck, Capt. Dan Langford ’06, Dan Miedzinski ’06, Daniel, Brenda, Judy Spelz ’06 and Katrina Ablen ’06. Back row: Jacob Cullison ’14 and Christopher Cullison ’13.

2014

Alumns from the Class of 2014 made a special visit back to the St. Mary’s Ryken campus in January for a panel discussion on what to expect the first year of college. Juniors and seniors were able to hear first-hand how these former SMR students balanced classes, activities, athletics, and living away from home. Photo (from the left): Dawn Coady, St. Mary’s College of Maryland; Holly Dent, Auburn University; Matthew Johnson, Virginia Military Institute; Carlee Joseph, Meredith College; Stephanie Schindler, St. Mary’s College of Maryland; and Madeleine Taylor, Towson University.

Class of 1984 Reunion

Pictured above (in alphabetical order): Derek Andrews, Lisa Woodburn Bell, Tommy Bell, Katie Beuchert, John Blandford, Mary Beth Hewitt Bowen, Joe Burch, Terry Canter Burch, Bernard delRosario, Anita Wood Drury, Gary Echols, Suzanne Edgar, Mike Gardiner, Jennifer Bowes Goddard, Jeff Hall, Todd Jubeck, Kris Bonifant Knott, Tim LeSage, John McFadden, Judy Wigginton McKinney, Tommy Nelson, Brian Norris, Mark Norris, Kim Burris Oliver, Christine Brown Owens, Kathy Hall Schindler, Korey Smith, Shayne Speach, Bryan Swann, Tim Weigand, Amanda Winkler Wilcox and Mary Jo Guyther Willenborg

Class of 2004 Reunion

Pictured above (in alphabetical order): Tommy Baden, Natalya Sewchand Baer, Christian Baer, Emily Bailey, Rhett Banks, Melanie Richards Barry, Amie Bruce, Brandon Cervenak, Adam Chesser, Lisa Cresce, Mike Dolesh, Sarahbeth Dunaway, Gustavo Elias, Timothy Edwards, Lisa Govoni, Glen Ives, Alicia Lennon, Rafe L'Heureux, Ashton Lundholm, Menelik Major, Jimmy McGowan, Alexander Pe, Amanda Perriello, Michelle Rinaldo Reuter, Jesse Reuter, Joanna Reznik, Amber Smith, Andrew Sochowski, Loren Taylor Stauffer, Peter Stauffer, Stephanie Taylor, Kris Thompson, Janice Wendt, Sabba Zahir

Class of 1989 Reunion

From the left: Ignatius Bricker, John Cusic, Rick Flater, Tara McDonald Duckworth, Donna Mattingly Karlsons, Libby Armitage Hall, Keill Hill Mattingly, Liza Garnder Petrick, Deborah Lacey Phetteplace, Andrea Russell Alderson, Gretchen Pessagno Aldridge, Kelly McGlynn Beswick, Joe Stefko, Angelo Nappi

Alumni Luncheon at the Old Ebbit Grill in Washington, D.C.

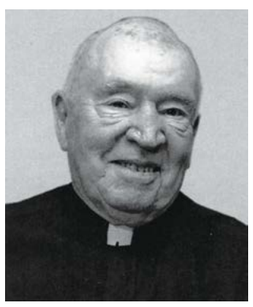
Thanks to those who joined us for a networking lunch in D.C.: Meredith Hinkle, Admiral Jim Hinkle, Amy Spelz Travis, Donna Weiland Ives, John Green, Katherine Bauman Smith, Lauren Day, Rob Cox, Jennifer Raley Coyne and Joan Bowes Ritter. Make sure we have your updated email to contact you about future alumni networking events. Send updates to suzanne.taylor@smrhs.org

In Memoriam

Sister Sara Ann Abell was born in Leonardtown, Maryland on October 14, 1912. The oldest of 10 children, she joined the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth after graduating from St. Mary's Academy. She served as a teacher, principal and librarian in both elementary and secondary education. For many years, she delivered Holy Communion to the sick and shut-in patients at St. Mary's Hospital. She also assisted in starting the St. Mary's Literacy Council in Leonardtown, where she helped others learn to read and prepare to earn their GED diplomas. Many alumni recall Sister's service to the local community and were impressed by her treating all with dignity and respect. She was known in the religious community for her strong desire to help people. She had been a Sister of Charity of Nazareth for 84 years.

Brother Tom Crane passed away peacefully on July 6, 2014. He had been battling cancer of the blood for the past two years. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1938. He earned his master's in arts at Saint Thomas University and spent 16 years teaching in elementary schools including Leonard Hall in Leonardtown. In the 1970s, he was dean of students for Ryken High School and then for St. Mary's Ryken in the 1990s. Br. Tom understood instinctively what young people were going through. They trusted him because he respected who they were and was always fair. What made Br. Tom stand out from the crowd was his empathy and humility and simplicity was his way of life.

Brother Giles passed away peacefully on June 6, 2014. For the past several years, he had been suffering from emphysema and chronic obsessive pulmonary disease. Brother Giles entered the Xaverian Brothers congregation in 1946 after completing school at St. Joseph's Juniorate in Peabody, Mass. He was sent to the Juniorate after finishing up at the Working Boys Home in Newton Highlands, Mass., where he was sent as a young boy after his mother had died and his father was not able to raise him and his brother. Brother Giles had a long career as a teacher, coach, counselor and mentor at several XBSS high schools including Ryken High School, St. John's Prep, St. Joseph Prep, Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Xavier.



Brother Peter Walsh passed away peacefully on September 5, 2014. He managed the campus store at St. Mary's Ryken for many years. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1923, and received his habit in 1942. He earned his bachelor's and master's in education from Boston College. He loved teaching and was on the faculty at Malden Catholic, Saint Xavier, and Nazareth, Brooklyn. For four years he served the Lakota people at the Xaverian Brothers mission on the Rosebud Reservation. Brother Peter was known for compassion towards his students and always spoke highly of them.

Sister Sara Ann Abell '30
Jan. 24, 2015

Samuel Bailey '48
Jan. 31, 2014

Brother Thomas Crane
July 6, 2014

Brother Giles (Charles Cromwell)
June 6, 2014

Brother Peter Walsh
Sept. 5, 2014

NATIONAL MERIT HONORS FOR EIGHT STUDENTS

(from the left) Naiyah Thompson, Chandler Smith, Eileen Walsh, Alexandra Ye, Michael Beckman, Lindsay Hanf, Brandt Potas, John Winslow and Principal Rick Wood.

Over 1.4 million high school students entered the National Merit Scholarship Program for the Class of 2015 by taking the PSAT (Preliminary SAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. St. Mary's Ryken is proud to announce that eight seniors received recognition in the competition.

Senior Lindsay Hanf of Lexington Park, was named a National Merit Semifinalist, meaning she placed in the top 1% of all test takers. Five students have been named Commended Students - meaning they placed in the top 5%. Commended students are Michael Beckman, Brandt Potas, Eileen Walsh, John Winslow and Alexandra Ye.

Chandler Smith and Naiyah Thompson have been named Outstanding Participants in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. The two students scored in the top 3% of more than 160,000 Black Americans who requested consideration when they took the PSAT.

Students headed to Washington, D.C., on January 22 for the annual "March for Life" and "Mass for Life and Youth Rally."

Photos from the front cover:
(top) Students in Mr. Ed Szymkowiak's "Introduction to Engineering Design" class ready their aircraft for flight testing.
(bottom) Art students sketch outside in the Garden of Memory.

Photos from the back cover:
(top) The "Intro to Engineering Design" class.
(bottom) Spirit Week 2014

A Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School

www.smrhs.org

Be the Cause

ST. MARY'S RYKEN HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND

What is the purpose of the Annual Fund?

The purpose of the St. Mary's Ryken Annual Fund is to fill the annual funding "gap" between tuition and the actual cost of educating a student.
Almost all Catholic high schools have such a gap,
which is mainly due to our desire to keep tuition as affordable as possible for all families.
For the current year, 2014-15, the per student gap at St. Mary's Ryken is $2,166.

What is the Annual Fund used for?

The Annual Fund is used exclusively for the current year's operating costs such as:

- Tuition assistance
- Fine arts programs
- Academic programs
- Campus Ministry programs
- Science and technology
- Athletic programs
- Security and facilities maintenance
- Faculty and staff professional development

How is the Annual Fund different than the Spring Gala or the Golf Tournament?

The Spring Gala and the Golf Tournament are other important annual fundraising programs, and we sincerely appreciate all who continue to support them.
Annual funds are yearlong appeals that form the cornerstone of all fundraising activities and give everyone in the school community the opportunity to contribute.
This year, in an effort to grow our St. Mary's Ryken Annual Fund, we are excited to expand our program beyond the year-end request, and you will see additional communication and activities throughout the school year.

How can you "Be the Cause"?

Through your support of the St. Mary's Ryken Annual Fund you can Be the Cause of meeting our mission critical operating needs. You can Be the Cause of providing tuition assistance for those families in the greatest need. You can Be the Cause of helping our school build our revenue and participation so that we can enhance our students' educational experience.

All gifts are recognized in the Annual Report.

Please call the Advancement Office if you wish to learn more at 301-373-4182 or email advancement@smrhs.org

Gifts to the fund are accepted online at http://www.smrhs.org/page.cfm?p=2992.

99% of graduates attend college

24 Advanced Placement courses are offered

The Class of 2014 earned $12.7 million scholarships.

We offer 17 Varsity sports including 40 teams competing in the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference.

The entire SMR campus is wireless, and the 1:1 iPad program is one of the most advanced in the country.

We offer 28 programs in fine and performing arts.

Students are required to complete 65 service hours.

80% of our faculty hold advanced degrees

2013-14 tuition assistance awarded: $930,000

38% of students receive financial aid

Average amount of financial aid: $3,540