



St. Mary's School
"Excellence in Education"
716 Market Street ~ PO Box 102
Marathon WI 54448

**Striving
for
Sainthood**

"We, the family of St. Mary's School, are committed to promoting Catholic values to God's children through faith, Christ-centered worship, service and academic excellence."

November 6, 2023

Dear Parents,

If you have paid attention to local and national news lately, you may have noticed a lot of conflict surrounding the content of books targeted towards children. Concerns have been raised about books with graphic nature or indoctrination of radical ideas. Because of this concern, St. Mary's has formed a committee to analyze the books in our library for content that may be deemed not age appropriate or conflicting with Catholic teaching. As a Catholic school, we want to encourage our students to experience diverse books that don't conflict with the morals that we hope to instill in each student as they move on to high school and the rest of their lives. We recognize that our main goal at St. Mary's is to help our students get to heaven.

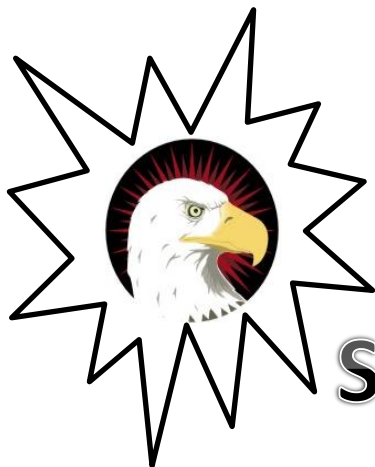
We would like to be able to reassure parents that our students have access to thousands of books in our library that will aid in their growth as readers and as people. Our goal as a committee is to review the books that we do have to make sure only the best books end up in your student's hands.

We do have a favor to ask of parents. Many of our students utilize the public library and buy books of their own. This is something that we want to continue to encourage our students to do. For parents, we ask that you talk to your student about the books that they are choosing, and maybe even read the book with them. If you are not a reader, there are multiple sources that provide parents with topics that they should discuss with their child while they read a book. Below are two examples.

- Common Sense Media - Provides reviews and content warnings. There are also sections titled "Parents need to Know" and "Talk to your Kids about."
- The StoryGraph - Provides reviews and content warnings.

This year we will be having a virtual book fair. We will be using the Good News Book Fair which is a Christian company that provides many great books. The book fair is a great opportunity to buy popular books that are selected to be Fun, Appropriate, Inspiring, Thoughtful, and Hopeful (F.A.I.T.H) and will open on Nov. 9th and run through the 23rd, just in time for Christmas gifts. The book fair is a wonderful way to help our students, teachers, and school have access to wonderful books.

Thank you,
Father Joseph Diermeier
Deacon Bryan Hilts
St. Marys Book Committee



GOOD NEWS! BOOK FAIR
INSPIRING MINDS & SOULS

NOVEMBER

9TH - 23RD

SUPPORT

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