



Our mission at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School is to educate, model, and inspire faith, academic excellence, integrity, respect and service within ourselves and the global community.

School Commission Agenda: February 2026

Date: February 10th, 2026

Location: Library 5pm-6:30pm

I. Opening – 5:00-5:15pm

Prayer

Opening Remarks - Ashley/Bernie

Approval of Last Month's Minutes - Ashley

II. New Business – 5:15-6:00pm

Parent Survey 2026 – Group

- This survey will help for the next survey to see growth, and be an evaluation for the next goals.
- We reviewed the wording as a group for it to be given to parents.
- Planning to run the survey next Friday.

Tuition and Budget – Continued – Group

- Should we keep raffle tickets and Scrip? There are many raffle ticket forms, IRS, fees and licensing fees.
- Perhaps 2.5% increase, to fulfill a deferred maintenance, and give to the financial council
- How is the gap closed without the raffle tickets?

III. Updates – 6:00-6:30pm

Budget - Melissa/Bernie

Teachers - Nicole/Houston

General Climate

- A lot of absences and illnesses, both students and staff. Working together to cover absences on staff and helping each other out.
- Commissioners are leading a door-decorating contest.

Highlights Happening!

- Third grade is trying out a new field trip to the UW meteorological science department in March! They will get to see real scientists in action and learn about careers in weather science
- Kindergarten celebrating 100th day on Feb. 5th: make “100 things” shirts at home to wear, full day of classroom activities related to counting to 100, tie in math, literacy, social studies, writing, art
- Fifth Grade. Students have completed their landforms creations made of modeling clay and presented them to the class. They were beautiful and very well done.
- First grade led the Catholic Schools week celebration and honored our distinguished graduate Tri Nguyen, it was a wonderful celebration!
- Second grade: Celebrated First Reconciliation. Making valentine cards for active duty service members and homebound parishioners.
- Miss Burns shared bible-themed valentine cards. Several classes are making cards for seminarians as well.
- Fourth grade: Started Literature Circle groups as a grade.
- **Library Update:**
- The books currently displayed under the Saints banner come from a recommended list by *Word on Fire* and represent a selection of the *189 Great Books for Catholic Kids*. Mrs. Buennagel recently discovered that many students are engaging with Bible stories presented in graphic novel format. In response, she has added several of these titles to

the Spring Book Fair fund wish list to further support student interest and literacy. Mrs. Buennagel continues to read aloud to students in Preschool through fifth grade, selecting stories that support classroom instruction and align with seasonal themes.

- **STEM Update:**

Fifth grade students are studying the rainforest and applying computer science and engineering practices by coding a functioning monkey ecosystem. Through this project, students are planning, testing, and refining their programs to model interactions within an ecosystem.

- Fourth grade students are engaging in the engineering design process as they design and construct hammocks. Their structures are tested by suspending them between two paper-towel “trees” attached to a base, requiring students to consider stability, materials, and load-bearing strength.
- Third grade students have designed and created snowflake structures that are displayed overhead. This activity emphasizes creativity, precision, and design as students plan, build, and evaluate their final products.
- Second grade students are learning about simple machines by designing and building elevators that move up and down using a hand crank and carry a miniature figure. Students used informational texts to research possible designs. They are applying engineering practices by building prototypes, testing functionality, and making improvements based on results.
- Music: 8th grade has begun preparing for the annual Living Stations Easter Play
- **6th Grade STEM Update:**

Using graph paper, sixth grade students designed a digital art project aligned with the theme presented in the Catholic Daughters Computer Art Contest. Students then created their designs using Google Slides, applying conditional formatting to translate their plans into a digital format.
- Students have begun work on their next project, in which they are applying the engineering design process to plan and construct a model foosball game. Using shoeboxes, students will design, build, test, and refine their models while focusing on structure, functionality, and problem-solving skills.
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IT - Christian

- Printers for students on the main floor, accessible by everyone
- Printer to each 5th grade classroom
- Laptop cart – tech fees to fill the cart, Title funds
- Looking into phase 2 for phone Ziplly
- Middle school door has a fob
- Blinds were installed halfway through the front of the building, and about to start the rest of the primary wing

Parents' Club – Andrew

- No events in the past couple months.
- Irish Blessing began. There is activity from parents to fulfill some of the teachers' asks.
- Distinguished Grad went well and everyone that attended enjoyed the snacks and treats.
- Irish Bingo - 3/11/26
- Box Tops are helping.

Legal – Brett

Washington Update:

- Some limited activity in Olympia, but nothing from Governor Ferguson about Washington's potential participation in the program
- House Joint Memorial 4013 was sponsored in the Committee on Education by a group of republican legislators
- This resolution urges Governor Ferguson to opt Washington into the program, but does not do anything else
- When asked, democratic legislators said "there are opportunities for us to chat about it if he's interested in talking to me or other members....but in this case, a measure like this doesn't have a lot of impact policy wise or provide much direction," Stonier said. "We call them letters to Santa Claus."
- <https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2025-26/Pdf/Bills/House%20Joint%20Memorials/4013-K-12%20federal%20tax-credits.pdf?q=20260210144615>
- Likely this will get wrapped up into state budget and education funding discussions
- "I want it to go back to Congress because it's so ill conceived," Reykdal said
- "You have unelected officials who are gonna control potentially hundreds of millions of tax dollars. You're going to send public tax money to private institutions, potentially."

- The Superintendent said he supports families with children receiving tax credit but suggested that should be done through changes in the tax code; “Not by the state, picking and choosing kids who are going to get scholarships to fund religious education,” he said. “I don't think that's appropriate.”

National Update:

- Twenty-eight governors have said they plan to opt into the federal tax-credit scholarship program
- Of these states, 25 are led by Republican governors while 3 are led by Democratic governors
- Four states – Oregon, New Mexico, Wisconsin, and Hawaii – have said they won't participate; they all have Democratic governors
- 18 governors and the mayor of the District of Columbia have not formally decided or haven't announced decisions, according to an Education Week analysis
- Washington State is included in this group
- All but one of these 18 are states led by Democratic governors
- Some governors who haven't said whether they're opting in – including Democrats Maura Healey of Massachusetts and Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania – told Education Week through spokespeople that they're first awaiting federal regulations from the U.S. Department of the Treasury that will iron out more specifics.

Facilities/Security - Rochelle/Bernie

- Facilities workers will be getting new uniforms to be quickly identified.
- Ash Wednesday – keep kids safe, the early mass is at 7:30, parking is tough

Marketing - Ashley