



November 28, 2018

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic Church,

As you may already know, the institution of St. Mary's Catholic School boasts a long history of love, service, and academic excellence in our community. In order to continue along this path, it is necessary to maintain our tradition while at the same time adapting to change. With that being said, nothing is changing education more than the technological revolution. Because academic excellence is at the forefront of my ambitions for St. Mary's, the use of innovative technology in the school is imperative to preparing students for both college and the increasingly competitive job market. Technology is also necessary to meet the needs of every student in the classroom instead of just a select few. I have great pride in this school and willingly admit to lofty aspirations. I want the very best for this school and her students. This year, we were able to purchase chromebooks for the middle school students at St. Mary's. I felt this was a needed change, being that the students would be using similar devices when they matriculate to Ponca City High School. However, more technological changes in the school are needed for greater success. In the near future, I would also like to implement the following upgrades:

1. A laptop for every teacher in our building-These devices will replace their desktop computers, which will no longer be under warranty beginning in January. Laptops for the teachers will also provide mobility for grading and lesson planning both at home and school. In order to do this, I will need to order a quantity of 15. These are \$549.00 each and would cost a total of \$8,235.00.
2. A set of five Chromebooks in every classroom-This will allow the teachers the opportunity to facilitate learning stations to differentiate instruction. This project would require the purchase of 37 Chromebooks at \$289.00 each and would cost a total of \$12,238.00.
3. Promethean Activ Panels in every classroom-Currently, we are using SMART technology in the classrooms. SMART Boards provide an interactive display for teachers to use when teaching, giving presentations, showing videos, etc. The school was able to adopt this technology in 2009. However, these are becoming outdated and some are even in need of replacing. Promethean Activ Panels offer many attractive features, one of them being that they offer ten different touch points (compared to just one), which will allow as many as ten students to use the display at the same time. Ten Promethean Activ Panels with installation at \$2,792.00 each would cost a total of \$27,921.00.

The total expenditure of this project would come to \$48,394. If you would like more information about this technology, the school technology coordinator has provided a link from the home page of our school website for you to view product specifications and videos relating to the products that we are wanting to purchase. You may also contact me if you have further questions.

As Fr. Carson has repeatedly reminded us, the school and the church are one, and we, as St. Mary's parishioners, have the opportunity to invest in the school and our students so that we can continue to

not only be competitive with our public school counterparts but also provide the high level of education that consistently places St. Mary's graduates at the top of their respective classes.

So, firstly, thank you. Thank you for your past donations to the school and your ceaseless efforts to promote the school. We cannot accomplish our mission without your help, and we are very grateful for your help that you have provided in untold ways. I know that many of you are St. Mary's graduates, so thank you for helping your alma mater pass on the same standard of education that you received.

I am asking you, as my fellow parishioners, to join with me in keeping this strong tradition of support alive and well by helping provide technological updates for the school so that we can continue to not only educate children's body, mind and soul, but also prepare them for a future where they can take the lessons they have learned at St. Mary's and apply them to our society so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be heard far and wide.

If you are willing and able to make a donation towards this cause, you may contact me directly via phone, email, or in person. Also, keep in mind this would also qualify for the ConocoPhillips and Phillips 66 Matching Program. May the peace of Christ be with you during this season of Advent.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sarah J. Hunsaker

Principal

*"St. Mary's Catholic School is committed to providing academic excellence in a safe, nurturing environment following the teachings of Jesus for the development of the whole child."*

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