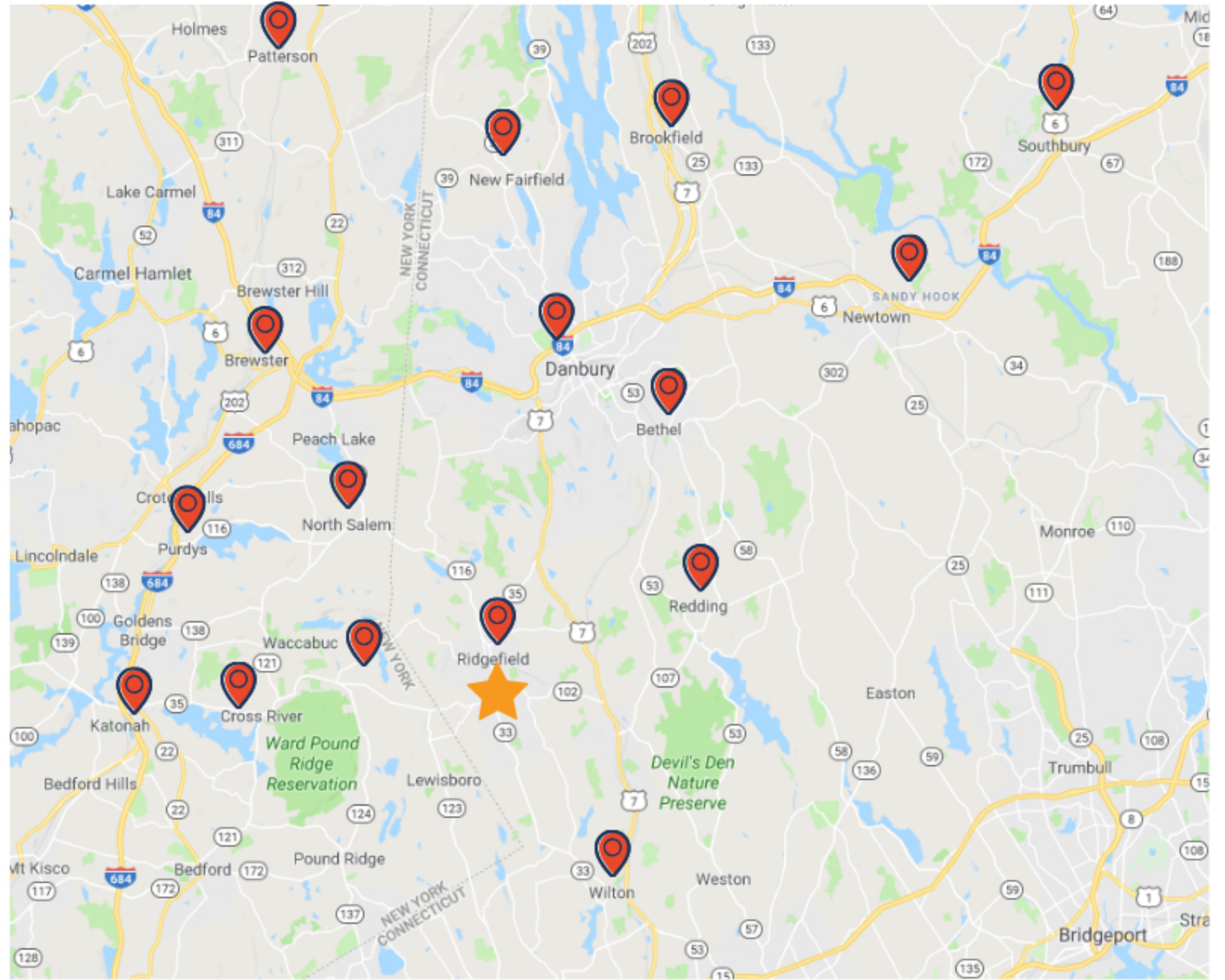


SAINT MARY SCHOOL RIDGEFIELD

DID YOU KNOW?

OUR STUDENTS COME FROM 20 CT AND NY TOWNS



CT

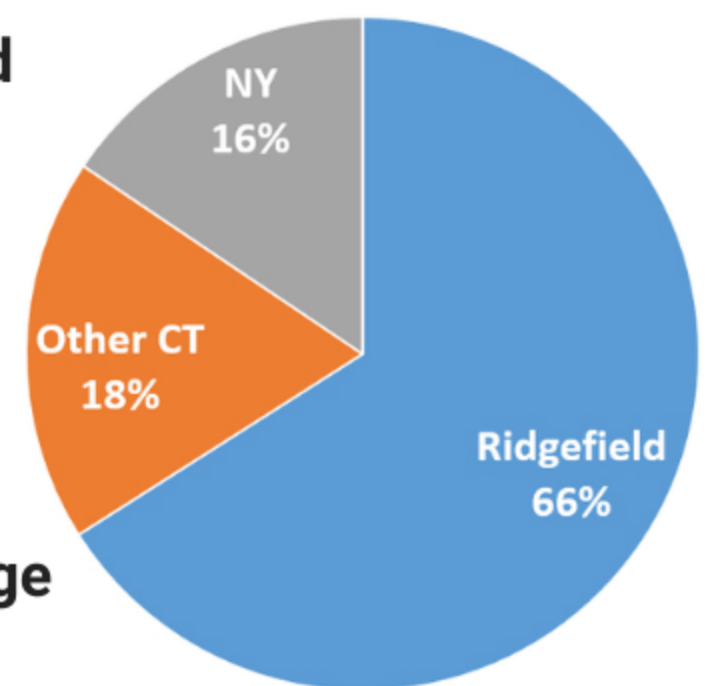
Ridgefield
Danbury
Redding
Wilton
Bethel
Brookfield

New Fairfield
Sandy Hook
Southbury
Tolland
Torrington

NY

Brewster
South Salem
North Salem
Carmel
Cross River

Goldens Bridge
Katonah
Patterson
Purdy's



**BUSING IS AVAILABLE FOR KINDERGARTEN -
GRADE 8 STUDENTS AS FOLLOWS:**

CT: THOSE LIVING IN RIDGEFIELD

NY: THOSE LIVING WITHIN 15 MILES OF SMS

SAINT MARY SCHOOL QUICK FACTS



Saint Mary School

Reopened in

1996



Located in
Ridgefield
Connecticut
- a day school
for students in
Preschool - Grade 8



SCHOOL MASCOT:
PENGUIN



**SCHOOL
COLORS**



ACCREDITATIONS

New England Association of
Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
New England League of Middle
Schools

SCHOOL MOTTO

**WORK
HARD,
BE KIND,
AND SMILE**

247

STUDENTS

40

FACULTY

AND STAFF



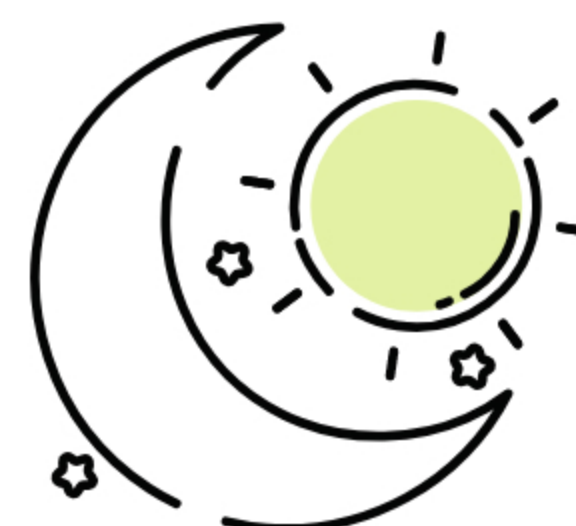
241

**GRADE 8
GRADUATES
SINCE 2005**



**A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL
OF EXCELLENCE**

**Before and After
Care available**



**DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

FORMING hearts. INFORMING minds. TRANSFORMING lives.

Preschool 3's Offerings

Program A - is held in our larger Preschool 3's classroom. You may choose 3, 4, or 5 days a week, full day or half day. You may pick the days that work best for your schedule. (Days must be consistent throughout the year). You have the flexibility of adding days as the year goes on, depending on space. You may also switch from half days to full days as your child's stamina grows.

Program B- is held in our smaller Preschool 3's classroom, and is a three day program, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. You may choose half days or full days, and may switch from half day to full days as your child's stamina grows.

HOURS OF PRESCHOOL 3's PROGRAM

HALF DAY - 8:45 am - 12:00 pm

FULL DAY - 8:45 am - 1:45 pm

Saint Mary School follows the Ridgefield Public Schools decisions on weather related delays and closings.

At a Glance

We are a Blue Ribbon, Diocesan School, for students in Preschool – Grade 8. We operate under the guidance of the Diocese of Bridgeport, and follow their curriculum maps.

The majority of our students are from Ridgefield, but also come from 10 surrounding CT and NY towns.

We have a full time nurse .

Our preschool students are an integrated part of a larger school community.

Every classroom has a state certified teacher.

Benchmarked Assessments are administered and parent conferences are held to track growth.

Students enjoy our developmentally appropriate, preschool-only playground.

There is a full time security guard on staff, controlled access to building, security cameras and complete security plan in place.

Our mascot is a Penguin.

Before and after care available.

183 High Ridge Avenue
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Phone: 203.438.7288
Fax: 203.431.8742
www.smsridgefield.org

Saint Mary Preschool - 3's Program



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD



SMS Preschool Philosophy

SMS Preschool Program believes in providing a positive and nurturing community environment where young learners can thrive and grow socially, emotionally and academically. This philosophy is truly an extension of the K-8 school.

The student mission statement at SMS is to Work Hard, Be Kind, and Smile! These are the guiding principles that help foster a positive experience for our children at SMS.

Preschool 3's Program Goals

For some of our littlest learners, this is their first experience away from home. Others have had the opportunity to socialize separately from Mom and Dad. In either case, our goals for your child are the same. We want them to love coming to school! Through our play based curriculum, we provide ample opportunities for children to develop social and emotional skills alongside active learning, with the overarching goal of school readiness. We view parents as our partners in this journey, and offer opportunities for families to participate throughout the school year.

We focus on your child's:

- Independence
- Sharing
- Ability to separate comfortably from parents / caregivers
- Life skills (bathroom and dressing)
- Language / conversation skills
- Problem Solving
- Working cooperatively with peers
- Fine and gross motor enhancement
- Color, shape, number and recognition of first name

Preschool 3's Curriculum Highlights

Just a small peek into some of our favorite activities:

- In house field trips such as visits by the Ridgefield Fire Fighters, Stepping Stones Museum, Norwalk Aquarium
- Presenting Veterans with goodie bags during the K-8 Veterans' Day Assembly
- Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Building the Mayflower
- Class Nativity Play
- Grandparent / special persons "pen-pals"
- Saint Joseph and Fathers' Day celebration
- Mothers' Day Tea
- Weekly music with Mr. Fox and Special monthly music class with Mrs. Ellie Pesce
- Weekly art with Mrs. Campo
- Library time with parent readers
- Spanish with Señora Wein
- Lending Library
- Presentation of student portfolios at end of the year
- Unique "Moving Up Ceremony"

Curriculum Goals

Thematic units that incorporate all content areas and multi-sensory fun

ELA: uppercase and lowercase letter recognition, sound recognition, writing letters, first and last name writing

Mathematics: number identification and number writing with the use of songs and rhymes., 1-1 correspondence of objects to the quantity of 12, rote counting to 20,

Introduction to scientific thinking: wondering and asking questions, testing a hypothesis through experimentation

Fine motor focus: control and grip improvement for writing and scissor skills

Preschool 4's Offerings

For our 4's, we offer a 3, 4 or 5 day program. Our core days for 4 year olds are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. You may add on Monday and/or Friday. You may choose half or full days, and may switch from half to full days as your child's stamina grows.

HOURS OF PRESCHOOL 4's PROGRAM

HALF DAY - 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

FULL DAY - 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Saint Mary School follows the

Ridgefield Public Schools decisions on weather related delays and closings.

At a Glance

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Saint Mary Preschool - 4's Program



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD



SMS Preschool Philosophy

SMS Preschool Program believes in providing a positive and nurturing community environment where young learners can thrive and grow socially, emotionally and academically. This philosophy is truly an extension of the K-8 school.

The student mission statement at SMS is to Work Hard, Be Kind, and Smile! These are the guiding principles that help foster a positive experience for our children at SMS.

Preschool 4's Program Goals

Building on the independence and skills developed in our Preschool 3's Program, our Preschool 4's students are ready for more. We see so much growth and development this year. Through our play based curriculum, we provide ample opportunities for children to develop social and emotional skills alongside active learning, with the overarching goal of school readiness. We view parents as our partners in this journey, and offer opportunities for families to participate throughout the school year.

We focus on your child's:

- Independence
- Sharing
- Organization
- Life skills (bathroom and dressing)
- Language / conversation / presentation skills
- Problem Solving
- Following multi –step instructions
- Working cooperatively with peers
- Fine and gross motor skill enhancement

Preschool 4's Curriculum Highlights

Just a small peek into some of our favorite activities:

- In house field trips such as visits by the Ridgefield Fire Fighters, Stepping Stones Museum, Norwalk Aquarium
- Special persons unit
- Specials Classes: P.E., Technology, Art, Music and Spanish
- Reading buddies with older grades
- Holiday Parties
- Lenten Good Deeds
- iPad integration
- STEM
- Girls invited to the SMS Father Daughter Dance with Kindergarten – Grade 8
- Boys invited to the SMS Mother event with Kindergarten – Grade 8
- Presentation of student portfolios at end of the year
- Unique "Moving Up Ceremony"

Curriculum Goals

ELA: Introduction of pre-reading skills, focuses more heavily on the phonemic piece of literacy, rather than identification and recognition, emphasis on lowercase letters, blending of sounds that create small words, and understanding how vowels help connect sounds together while blending words.

Writing Workshop: A scaffolding process beginning with writing basic sight words, progressing onto completing small writing passages.

Mathematics: Achieving mastery of number identification, quantity recognition, 1-1 correspondence, introduction to addition and subtraction skills, problem solving, and pre-algebra concepts.

S.T.E.M. (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics)
Continuation of scientific thinking with an emphasis on experiments, observing changes, recording and understanding those changes, as well as introducing the Scientific Method.

At a Glance

We are a Blue Ribbon, Diocesan School, for students in Preschool – Grade 8. We operate under the guidance of the Diocese of Bridgeport, and follow their curriculum maps.

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Saint Mary Preschool Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Program



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD



SMS Preschool Philosophy

SMS Preschool Program believes in providing a positive and nurturing community environment where young learners can thrive and grow socially, emotionally and academically. This philosophy is truly an extension of the K-8 school.

The student mission statement at SMS is to Work Hard, Be Kind, and Smile! These are the guiding principles that help foster a positive experience for our children at SMS.

Why TK?

We often call Transitional Kindergarten, “The Gift of Another Year.” While many of our TK students have birthdays late in the year, that is just one of the reasons parents choose TK.

- A year of TK allows additional time for children to become more developmentally, socially, academically, and emotionally ready for their Kindergarten experience.
- The extra time allows children to gain more independence and mastery of preschool skills leading to greater confidence.
- Students are exposed to pre-reading skills as well as the concept of more individualized tasks vs. group work. “Seat work” is more structured and objectives are more clearly stated.
- The integration of TK into the larger school community through the specials they attend, eating lunch in the Hall, and participating in greater school events prepares students for a larger school experience.

Preschool TK Offerings

Our TK Program is a five day program, Monday - Friday. You may choose half or full days, and may switch from half to full days as your child’s stamina grows.

HALF DAY - 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

FULL DAY - 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

TK Curriculum Highlights

Just a small peek into some of our favorite activities:

- In house field trips such as visits by the Ridgefield Fire Fighters, Stepping Stones Museum, Norwalk Aquarium
- Star of the Week
- Lunch in the Cafeteria with Kindergarten – Grade 2
- Monthly activities with Grade 3 Buddies
- Habitat Projects
- Study of the Life Cycle of Butterflies
- Specials Classes: P.E., Technology, Art, Music and Spanish
- Introduction to the concept of Homework (Home Fun)
- Parent Readers
- Girls invited to the SMS Father Daughter Dance with Kindergarten – Grade 8
- Boys invited to the SMS Mother Son event with Kindergarten – Grade 8
- Presentation of student portfolios at end of the year
- Unique “Moving Up Ceremony”



We want our boys to go out into the world and be successful, but more importantly, to be good human beings. Saint Mary School offers great academics, while simultaneously putting a focus on values, emotional intelligence, and the independence required to be successful in high school and beyond. Our children are valued as individuals at Saint Mary School and the SMS family builds their confidence by showing them that they are valued members of and contributors to the SMS community.

JOHN AND BRIDGET DUNLEAVY
PARENTS '23, '25', '27



Saint Mary School is a warm inviting academic environment. The preschool program is professionally organized and strikes the perfect balance between learning and fun.

SARAH PANAGIOTIDIS
PRESCHOOL PARENT



Saint Mary School is more than a place where our children's minds are educated. It is a community where their hearts and souls are spiritually nourished on a daily basis. Our family is truly grateful for the dedicated teachers at Saint Mary School. These selfless professionals are passing on the gift of the Catholic faith and preparing our children to live heroic lives of virtue, faith and character.

JOHN AND LIZ CARROZZA
PARENTS '16, '18, '22



When we moved to CT, we chose Ridgefield because we felt Saint Mary School would be the best choice for our children and we're so glad we did. At Saint Mary School our children are growing academically, in confidence as students and people and in their faith. Beyond academics, Saint Mary School is such an amazing and supportive community and our family is blessed to be part of it.

PARENTS OF THREE
ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL



As a new family to SMS who joined midyear, we could not be more grateful for the warm welcome the entire staff has given us. Monica (front office), the wonderful team of preschool teachers, and fellow SMS parents have been more than gracious with their time and assistance in making my son and our whole family feel comfortable and excited about this transition. We look forward to nurturing our friendships and establishing new ones within the SMS community in the years to come.

A NEW PRESCHOOL PARENT



We feel that our children can get an excellent academic education at any school in the area. The SMS difference is that faith is weaved into the fabric of our children's education so that our school is helping us to nurture the whole child. In today's world I think we need all the help we can get to raise well-adjusted kids with a strong faith to carry them through life's up & downs.

DIANE MCKEOWN
PARENT OF TWO PRESCHOOL STUDENTS



My daughter calls Saint Mary School her second home. She loves going to school. The Saint Mary community is so warm and supportive. We couldn't ask for a better school for our daughter.

JENNIFER LALLY
PARENT '20



Saint Mary School is more than a school...it's a community...it's a family. We had previewed a number of schools before deciding to attend Saint Mary School in Ridgefield. Nothing compared to the feeling of warmth, inclusion, community, and love that was felt the minute we walked in. The feeling has only grown through the months of being enrolled at the school. My daughter is in Kindergarten and has thrived since day 1. I cannot say enough great things about SMS.

MEGHAN MARGEWICZ
PARENT '28



Our experience at Saint Mary School has been excellent. We wish we started from the very beginning instead of just in middle school.

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT



- SMS instills confidence in our young children. They do this through the incredibly caring and supportive teachers and staff. Kids come through SMS with confidence in who they are and it shows as they interact with all ages.
- SMS instills community. They do this by bringing students together from PK-3 to 8th often for activities. And by welcoming parents into the school to be a part of and supporting many activities and events for the kids.
- SMS instills respect. They bring this alive through the Christian teachings and actively walking the talk with ongoing support of positive social interactions among children and teachers/staff.
- SMS instills thankfulness. This too is brought to life through Christian teachings and continual demonstrations of what is truly important in life.
- Finally SMS instills personal discipline and time management for academics. With age appropriate homework starting from Kindergarten onward, our children learn to focus and understand time management techniques critical to prepare for high school and beyond.

PARENT OF TWO ELEMENTARY STUDENTS