

Dear Parents,

We would all like to thank you for the Time, Talent, and Treasure you share with us at St. Mary's! You make us feel appreciated.

As teachers, we love what we do! We are blessed to be able to teach your children.

In order to do a more efficient and better job adhering to best practice, we need to address our textbooks. New Language Arts textbooks have access to materials online and resources for teachers to help differentiate between different learning styles. Having those materials all in one place gives time back to teachers so they can work with each and every student to help them be the best they can be.

Textbooks are our first priority.

When the video was played during Call to Heart, many areas of the school were addressed: blinds (especially for the State Street side classrooms), graphing calculators for Algebra, Science/STEM kits, library and PE, technology, music, Spanish, and Art. All of those areas are an integral part of our day, but we need to prioritize.

This year, Mrs. Davis organized two Book Fairs! We were able to acquire new books for the library in December, and we will receive more book bonus points from the Book Fair this week. We asked the upper grade students for suggestions for new books to purchase with our Book Fair Bucks. As new books arrive, outdated books or ones not as popular are rotated out; this takes time. Mrs. Davis appreciates all the helpers who volunteer in the library every week and those who help with the Book Fair. We really don't have room for any more books. The library is doing well.

The school has the PE equipment it needs to run a good program. We have enough outside equipment. What does need to happen is encouraging the students to take care of the sports equipment we have. Mrs. Davis puts out new equipment, however, students are not as caring as they could be.

We, as a staff, have had many conversations with our classes about how important it is to take care of equipment, textbooks, desks, etc.

We appreciate the \$200 we receive to purchase items for our classrooms each year from PTO. Sometimes, we are not sure of what we might need so to have the money available during the year is very helpful.

Our school is similar to your budgets at home - there are needs and wants. Household items are put on a wish list and then prioritized. We are asking PTO to do the same.

Thank you again for all that you do. YOU and your children are the heart of the school.

A prioritized list of big ticket needs:

**Textbooks:**

2018-2019 ELA textbooks K-5 series and 6-8

2019-2020 update Math books 5th-8th

Look at Social Studies materials

New Science materials/textbooks preschool- 8th grade

**Blinds** - entire school but State Street side first - cost of about \$12,000 for the whole school.

Projectors mounted from the ceiling - will need wireless capability/teacher laptops

New white boards

Thank you!  
Carol Herring  
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Beth Bemel  
Elaine Davis

Brittany Colson  
Thank you!  
Katy Hancock