



August 23, 2023

According to the National Education Association, over 90% of teachers spend their own money on school supplies & other items to help their students succeed. Most will spend \$500-\$800 out of their own pockets.

You will find an invitation in this weekend's bulletin inviting you to be a "classroom partner" for our teachers at St. Mary's. This program is intended to offset those out of pocket expenses for our teachers, giving them money to use in their classrooms as they see fit. Some teachers may use the money donated for educational games or books. Others may find it is best used to offset the costs for rewards for the students.

We will do our best to accommodate your requests for specific classrooms, **but guarantees cannot be made**. If the class you have requested is already fulfilled, then your gift will be used to fund another class on the list. Once each class has been given \$400, the remaining amount is placed in the St. Mary's Wishlist fund. All teachers or staff are encouraged to put in requests for various unbudgeted items that may be needed for our classrooms and school. In the past, wish list items have included subscriptions, alternative seating, classroom books, classroom furniture, speakers for classrooms, scientific equipment, calculators, and many other items. It is a joy to be able to provide these things for our classrooms when they are needed, and we are so grateful for that!

You can also sign up to be a prayer partner for our classrooms! We are always in need of prayer warriors and would love to assign each of our classrooms a prayer partner or two for the coming year. The goal would be to connect each classroom to their partner, sharing prayer requests (both needs & thanksgivings) as teachers see fit.

Please take a moment to fill out the form and return it to the parish office or you can scan the QR code or go to the stmarysoneill.org/classroom-partners to fill it out online by **September 6th**. (All gifts are tax deductible.) Just a note—grandparents LOVE being able to support your child's teachers too, so share this information with them! You can look forward to receiving a letter from your partner class in September so that you know who we have connected you with! Call Jennifer with questions at 336-1602!



In God's grace,

Jennifer M. Wallwey
Director of Stewardship & Development

St Marys Cardinals Classroom Partners

Business Name (if applicable) _____

Your Name (contact name for business) _____

How you would like your business/family name listed _____

Complete Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____

I would like to be a prayer partner for a classroom/teacher.

I would like to financially sponsor a classroom at St. Mary's.

Amount: \$200 \$150 \$100 \$50 Other Amount: \$ _____

Please indicate below your top THREE choices for which class you would like to partner with, numbering them by preference with one being your first choice.

Reminder: class requests can NOT be guaranteed.

Please assign me to whichever class works best.

___Preschool

___Third Grade

___Resource

___Kindergarten

___Fourth Grade

___Fine Arts*

___First Grade

___Fifth Grade

___Adult Living Class

___Second Grade

___Sixth Grade

**Fine arts is art, drama, music.*

Please return this form along with your donation (if applicable) to the parish office. Checks should be written to St. Mary's.

St. Mary's Development
Attn: Classroom Partners
301 E Adams
O'Neill, NE 68763