



St. Mary School

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January 20, 2017

Dear Parents,

We are very excited about the changes that are coming to the St. Mary Preschool program for the 2017-2018 school year. Our school will begin the journey of being recognized as a Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) preschool. This recognition is a five-star rating improvement system administered by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Step Up to Quality recognizes and promotes learning and development programs that meet high quality program standards. The quality standards are based on national research that lead to improved academic excellence for early childhood education. SUTQ helps prepare children to be successful in kindergarten and to give children an exceptional high quality school experience.

The goal we are working towards is to provide the highest quality of education for our young children. With the implementation of the SUTQ program, 4 year olds will attend school 5 days a week either 5 half days or 5 full days. This allows our teachers to have consistency in their academic programming for our students.

As part of the Step Up to Quality program, Early Childhood Education Grants will be made available to our four year olds. The purpose of the grant is to maximize a child's early educational experiences before kindergarten and provide high-quality early learning services to eligible children.

St. Mary School is very excited to be striving towards our five star banner. Keep your eyes and ears opened to all the new plans for our preschool. If you have any questions, we will be happy to speak with you.

Gratefully,

Ms. Sharon Urig

Sharon Urig
Principal