



PRESS RELEASE

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St. Mary's Catholic School in Greenville is designated one of the best in the nation

GREENVILLE, SC – For a second time, the U.S. Education Department has named [St. Mary's Catholic School](#) a 2020 [National Blue Ribbon School](#). The recognition is based on the school's overall academic performance; it is in the top 15% of achievement on national standardized tests in each and every grade level in both reading and math.

St. Mary's is one of 367 schools nationwide to receive this honor. "St. Mary's Catholic School is the primary ministry of [St Mary's Catholic Church](#), and we are delighted to receive our second National Blue Ribbon of Excellence in recognition of the dedication of our teachers, our students, and their parents to the hard work of integrating academic excellence, athletic challenge, artistic expression, and character formation in the mission of teaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ," said Father Jay Scott Newman, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

National Blue Ribbon Schools are on education's cutting edge, pioneering innovative educational practices from professional learning communities and project-based learning to social and emotional learning and positive behavior systems. Winners affirms the hard work of educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.

Saint Mary's Catholic School serves 299 students in grades K3 – 8 and is located in the heart of downtown Greenville. With 120 years of history, Saint Mary's is the oldest Catholic school in the upstate and one of the oldest Catholic schools in all of South Carolina. It last received the National Blue Ribbon honor in 2009.

"We focus on tradition, virtue, and excellence to ensure that students continuously exceed high expectations, test above the state average at every grade level, and graduate well prepared for high school and beyond," said Steven Zimmerman, school principal.

For more information about St. Mary's Catholic School, go to <https://msgvl.org/> or call the school office at (864) 271-3870.

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