

Preparing Girls for a Connected World

FALL 2026

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

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ST. MARY'S
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
— For Girls. For Life. —

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WHY WE CELEBRATE GIRLS

Every girl who walks through the doors of St. Mary's arrives with her own gifts, dreams, questions, and potential. Our calling is not to shape her into someone else, but to help her become more fully herself.

That is why we celebrate girls.

We celebrate the moments of courage that often go unnoticed: a hand raised in class, a kind word to a friend, the perseverance to try again, the confidence to lead, and the compassion to serve. We celebrate curiosity, creativity, courage, and joy. We celebrate the unique purpose taking shape in each student, day by day.

Because we know what these moments become.

They become women who think deeply, lead boldly, and live with purpose. Women who embrace challenges, care for their communities, and bring light to the world around them.

Every celebration is more than applause for an achievement. It is a reminder of who our girls are becoming and a reflection of the remarkable future we see in each of them.

Dear Friends,

I stepped onto this campus for the first time in March 2004 during Student Council campaign week. What a remarkable experience it has been to witness the growth of this school in students, facilities, philanthropy, reach, and reputation over the last 23 years.

I will say many times this year that for all the changes, St. Mary's changed me first. That sentiment rings true for many of our faculty and staff. And every year, we watch our students thrive as they embrace new and expanded opportunities.

There is a core—a heart to St. Mary's—that sustains our entire community. Each person here is compelled toward excellence, drawn to relationships, and called to respect and responsibility. Perhaps this is the result of the daily Chapel prayer: "to endue all teachers with a sense of responsibility, and with grace and strength for its fulfillment."

The pages of this magazine attest to how we preserve our core values and traditions while innovating for our students' futures. The cover story illustrates how we have grown in our ability to prepare each girl to reach into a more interconnected world. As the digital landscape creates more silos and echo chambers, our girls are actively building connections across disciplines and time zones.

"Glocal" is a portmanteau that captures this fusion of global awareness and local action. Being connected to alumnae across the globe, as well as to broader Episcopal and girls school networks, strengthens this web. We are bringing more of the world to our students and sending more of our graduates far afield.

Yet, equally important, we want our alumnae to settle in Memphis, because Memphis needs you. Employers and civic partners instantly recognize the St. Mary's mindset, skill set, and value set. On how many other resumes does the name of a high school alone open doors?

From our humble beginnings in various churches, through our historic martyrdom in Memphis, to our significantly expanded footprint today, we remain a school dedicated to preserving our timeless core while raising our children's eyes to global horizons.

As I look toward my final year at St. Mary's, I find myself focused on what we have built together. Every achievement celebrated in these pages is the result of teachers who inspire, staff and administrators who support, students who rise to challenges, families who believe in our mission, trustees who lead with wisdom, and generous friends who invest in the future of girls. Thank you for allowing me to be part of this remarkable community. St. Mary's changed me first, and for that I will always be grateful.

Light and Life,



Albert L. Throckmorton
Head of School



Preparing Girls for a Connected World

St. Mary's earns global distinction while helping students lead with curiosity, empathy, and purpose

When St. Mary's was awarded the Global Education Standards Endorsement by the Institute for Global Learning (IGL) this year, it became one of only 11 schools worldwide to earn this distinction, the first all-girls school in the United States, and the only school in Tennessee to do so.

This designation affirms a commitment that began in 2020, when school leaders began to dig deeper into the different ways students were already engaging with the world outside of Memphis.

Culturally responsive teaching, classroom discussions, interdisciplinary projects, world languages, service learning, and international travel were

all guiding the girls to develop a broader perspective. The question became: How can these experiences become even more intentional?

"COVID reminded us just how interconnected our world truly is," said Associate Head of School Hilary Davis Robinson '90. "We wanted our students to graduate not only academically prepared, but also equipped to understand different perspectives, build meaningful relationships across cultures, and respond to complex challenges with curiosity, empathy, and confidence," she said.

The Department of Global Education was established by former St. Mary's Director of Global Education, Mr. John Nichols, and is now led by Mrs. Leanne

Hinkle. The Institute for Global Learning's endorsement process challenged faculty to identify the global learning experiences already taking place across the school and bring them together into a cohesive framework spanning from 2-year-olds through 12th grade.

Faculty asked important questions: What is global competency? How do girls develop global competence over time? Where are global perspectives already embedded throughout the curriculum? How do students grow as culturally aware citizens and compassionate leaders?

The result is a shared vision for global learning that reaches every student, from the Early Childhood Center to the Upper School.



**INVESTIGATE
THE WORLD**



**RECOGNIZE
PERSPECTIVES**



**COMMUNICATE
IDEAS**



**TAKE
ACTION**

St. Mary's defines global competence as the ability to investigate the world, recognize perspectives, communicate ideas, and take action. The framework was developed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with the Asia Society.

A Global Discovery Starts Early



Global learning at St. Mary's isn't confined to a single class or international trip. It is intentionally woven throughout the student experience, growing alongside students from their earliest years through graduation. Faculty encourage girls to investigate the world, recognize different perspectives, communicate their ideas, and take meaningful action.

Allison Safley, Senior Kindergarten Teacher and one of four Global Education Coordinators, says the four global competencies shape everyday learning in the Early Childhood Center.

"Our classrooms are intentionally designed with exploration in mind. By curating age-appropriate, diverse resources—from literature and music to dramatic play—we encourage students to ask questions about the wider world beyond their immediate environment."

Those lessons come to life in creative ways. Senior Kindergarten teachers expanded their "Kings and Queens" unit by exploring real-world royalty from cultures around the globe, discovering that leadership and tradition can look very different from one country to the next.

As girls move into Lower School, those early lessons expand through hands-on, interdisciplinary learning and meaningful service. Partnerships with



In Junior Kindergarten, students host a tea party for their moms or special women in their lives. Preparation now includes a lesson about tea around the world including black tea in the United Kingdom and chai in India.

local organizations help students connect what they learn in the classroom to the needs of the wider community. In second grade, students build relationships with children at Madonna Learning Center, developing empathy, understanding, and

an appreciation for others' unique abilities. By fourth grade, girls connect literature, religion, and innovation as they learn from local nonprofit leaders, explore community challenges, and design inventions in Makerspace that address real-world needs.



Judy Bearman, with granddaughter Dottie '38 (far left), demonstrated the shofar, a rams horn that is sounded during High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

By Middle School, students begin tackling complex global issues through interdisciplinary research. In a collaborative science and civics project, students select one of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and investigate it through scientific, economic, and public policy lenses before evaluating real-world solutions.

These investigations challenge students to move beyond identifying problems and begin evaluating real-world solutions. Eleanor Parr '30 researched ocean acidification, examining



The 2026 Winter Olympics inspired a science lesson for Lower School students. While testing their own curling skills in Moss Hall, girls learned about physics principles of direction and force.

how environmental science, public policy, and international cooperation can help protect marine ecosystems. Elin Shea '30 explored food insecurity through the United Nations' Zero Hunger goal, evaluating how community food programs can expand access to nutritious food and create sustainable solutions for underserved communities.

By the time students reach Upper School, they are ready to take their learning even further through participation in the Global Scholars program. One component of the multi-year program is a year-long research project on a complex global issue and presentation.

For Caroline Brezina '27, becoming a Global Scholar was about expanding her understanding of the world and the people in it. "I wanted to learn more about the incredible diversity of the world around me," she says. "At St. Mary's, I have learned how to

appreciate the perspectives of others by discussing relevant global issues and being exposed to other cultures."

Watching "On the Way to School," which follows children who travel miles each day on foot, on horseback, and in wheelchairs just to reach the classroom, changed Caroline's perspective on education. "As someone who drives only 15 minutes to school each morning, I realized how fortunate I am," she says. "Every child deserves to receive an education."

More importantly, she says, the program gave her the confidence to act. "I have learned first and foremost to be an advocate for both myself and others,



Caroline Brezina '27 spoke to Kontji Anthony on WREG Channel 3's Live at 9 show about her experience as a Global Scholar at St. Mary's.

rather than staying quiet and passively waiting for change," she said. "The capacity to make change lies within each and every one of us."

While Caroline discovered a passion for global advocacy through research,



Pre-Kindergarten students were treated to a special lesson about Yalda, the Persian celebration of the winter solstice thanks to student Nora '40 and her mom Ronna Pridgen.

GLOBAL LEARNING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Global learning at St. Mary's extends far beyond world language and travel. Across every division and discipline, teachers help students investigate the world, recognize diverse perspectives, communicate ideas, and take meaningful action.

Biology | Courtney Gillespie

Students explore one of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals by researching how it affects two different regions of the world. They compare perspectives, present their findings, and connect with a local organization working to address the issue, demonstrating how global challenges and local action are closely connected.

AP Human Geography | Emily Metz

Each student "adopts" a country for the year, applying every unit—from population and culture to politics and economics—to that nation. As students share their research, they gain a deeper understanding of places and perspectives beyond their own while reinforcing key geographic concepts.

French | Brandy Brown

Students discover that the French language spans continents. Through music, cultural comparisons, and research, they explore traditions and daily life in countries including France, Belgium, Cameroon, Morocco, Vietnam, the Seychelles, and Francophone Canada. AP French students spend the year studying one French-speaking country in depth including exchanging messages with a French pen pal.

Engineering | Meagan Michael

Global problem-solving comes to life through engineering case studies from around the world. Students examine Venice's innovative flood-control system to understand how engineers respond to rising sea levels and environmental challenges, applying the Engineering Design Process to real-world issues.

African American Studies | Nikki Davis

Students place the African American experience within a global context by exploring the interconnected histories of slavery, resistance, music, politics, and freedom movements worldwide. The course encourages students to see American history as part of a larger human story.

Choir | Emily Hale & Nathan McHenry

Music becomes a gateway to global understanding as Middle and Upper School students learn and perform songs in different languages. Along the way, they explore the cultures, traditions, and histories behind each piece, discovering how music connects people across borders and generations.



Middle School students visited The Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, which houses the International Court of Justice.

Ellery Kuebler '27 found those same lessons reinforced through travel.

In Spanish IV with Mr. Grady Harbor, she studied the culinary traditions of Hispanic cultures and prepared patacones, a traditional fried plantain dish, as part of a class project. Months later, during a St. Mary's trip to the Galápagos Islands, Ellery was delighted to find patacones served at dinner. The experience transformed a classroom lesson into a cultural connection.

"At St. Mary's, education extends beyond facts," she says. "It becomes a bridge to understanding the lives of others and opens our eyes to a

world we might otherwise never have known."

That lesson continued beyond the dinner table. While traveling by boat to a snorkeling site, Ellery struck up a conversation in Spanish with a local guide. Although neither spoke the other's language perfectly, they spent the ride sharing stories and laughter.

"I learned that when you dare to connect with someone, even if it's imperfect, you aren't just talking, you are building a bridge across a divide," she says. "It showed me that I could learn so much more by daring to connect in a new and even uncomfortable way."

Learning Through Experience



Through international travel programs, St. Mary's students experience culture, language, history, and science firsthand. Each year, the Global Education department offers several trips for Upper School students and one trip just for Middle School students. But next spring, St. Mary's will offer the first trip open to Lower School students accompanied by family chaperones. All of these incredible experiences are planned and led by

teachers, with support from global travel agencies.

Middle School Civics Teacher Ben Graunke recognized how well global competencies are woven into St. Mary's curriculum during a school trip to the Netherlands. While touring the Rijksmuseum, students stopped to admire masterpieces by Dutch Golden Age artists, including Rembrandt's *The Night Watch*. As the guide discussed the artwork, 7th-grader Janie McDonald began sharing insights into the artistic movements represented in the galleries. Soon, several of her



Students spent a day touring Quito, Ecuador, on their way to the Galápagos Islands. The Virgin of El Panecillo is the tallest statue in the country.



"When you dare to connect with someone, even if it's imperfect, you aren't just talking—you are building a bridge across a divide."

— Ellery Kuebler '27

Science teachers led a Spring 2026 trip to the Galápagos Islands where students studied biodiversity and conservation at Darwin's research station.

classmates joined the conversation.

“The guide was amazed at how much our girls knew,” Graunke said. “When I asked them where they had learned all of this, they immediately said, ‘Ms. Garat’s art class!’ It was one of those wonderful moments when you realize the girls are making connections across disciplines. We hadn’t prepared them for the museum’s art collection; they brought that knowledge with them.”

On the same trip, Middle School English Teacher Sally Lyon was equally surprised as she watched the girls navigate public transportation, manage busy city streets, wake themselves each morning, solve unexpected problems, and learn to care for one another in an unfamiliar environment.

“They proved they could find their way around a busy city center with ease and confidence,” Lyon said.

“The skills they’re building at school—self-sufficiency, executive function, and navigating the world socially—are all put to the test when we travel together.”

After returning home, the 7th graders read “The Diary of a Young Girl.” Anne Frank’s story wasn’t just words on a page. The students who traveled to the Netherlands had already walked through the Jewish Quarter, visited the Anne Frank House, explored the Dutch Resistance

Museum, and stood in the Portuguese Synagogue. They had noticed the brass memorial stones embedded in sidewalks outside homes where Jewish families once lived. They had baked traditional challah bread, learned about Jewish customs, and written their names in Hebrew.

“Through walking, touching, feeling, and discussing, they became participants instead of just students,” Lyon says. “History becomes a living, breathing thing that happened to a real child their age, and it sticks with them.”

The Upper School Italy trip intentionally blended science and the humanities, showing students how geology, engineering, history, architecture, literature, and art intersect. In Naples, students studied volcanoes and plate tectonics alongside ancient



“History becomes a living, breathing thing that happened to a real child their age.”

– Sally Lyon, Middle School English Teacher

Part of international travel is learning to navigate busy streets and public transportation and to solve unexpected problems, which Middle School students did with ease in Amsterdam.

civilizations. In Rome, they examined engineering marvels while walking the same streets they had read about in Latin and history classes.

“It’s one thing to learn about catacombs in the classroom,” said Latin Teacher Pat McFadden, PhD. “It’s another to feel the passageways carved by hand, touch the niche where a real person was laid to rest, and translate her family’s inscription in the place where it was written. That is the sort of learning you never forget.”

Upper School Science Teacher Anna Bess Sorin, PhD, enjoyed watching the “ah ha” moment when students reached the rim of Mount Vesuvius and saw the stages



“That is the sort of learning you never forget.”

– Pat McFadden, Latin Teacher

Classroom lessons came alive as students toured historic landmarks like the Roman Colosseum (above) and Mount Vesuvius.

of biological succession after an eruption. Throughout the trip, students also began to notice connections between ancient

civilizations and modern life, recognizing familiar building materials, bread-making traditions, courtyards, and gardens that have endured for centuries.

Just as meaningful were the everyday moments. As students compared portion sizes, sampled familiar brands like Coca-Cola and McDonald’s, and wondered why they tasted different in Italy, conversations naturally expanded to include food systems, regulations, public health, and sustainability. Those small discoveries encouraged students to think critically about the cultural choices that shape daily life.

“Experiencing another country helps students appreciate both our differences and our shared humanity,” Sorin said. “Those experiences prepare them to thrive in an interconnected world.”



In 2024, St. Mary’s launched the Middle School global travel program with a trip to Italy, which included visits to St. Peter’s Basilica (above), the Vatican, Pompeii, Hadrian’s Villa, and the Villa d’Este in Tivoli.

Friendship Without Borders



When German exchange student Lee-Ann Lehmann arrived at St. Mary's, she expected an American high school experience inspired by what one might see in the movies: football games, big cities, and familiar stereotypes. Instead, she found something far more meaningful: a welcoming community that quickly became a second home.

After earning a highly competitive scholarship to study in the United States, Lee-Ann arrived in Memphis just three

days after learning she had been matched with a host family. Although she was initially surprised to discover she would attend an all-girls Episcopal school, those concerns disappeared the moment she walked through the doors.

"I got smiles and hugs and excitement," she recalls. "The way everyone made an effort to include me made me feel like I had always been a part of it. St. Mary's is warmth and happiness."

Throughout her time in Memphis, she traveled across the country, built lifelong

friendships, and gained a renewed sense of purpose.

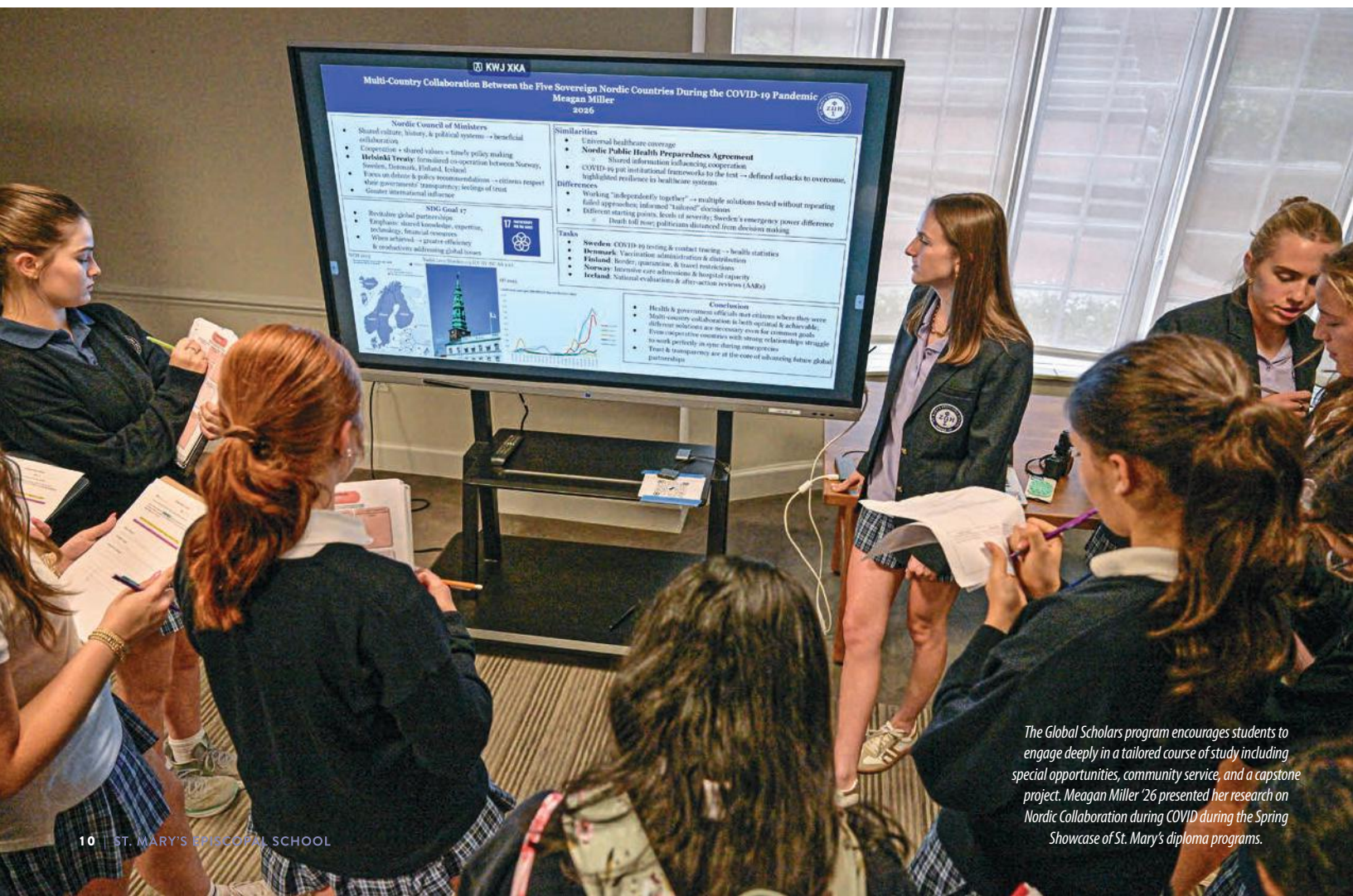


Carmen McGhee '27 and Guatemalan exchange student Anna Paula Fleisher at the Peabody Hotel.

"I'm grateful for this year because it gave me so many things—and people—to miss," she says. "It also gave me a new sense of ambition. I'll work very hard so I can confidently say, 'I'll be back.'"

Global friendships also grow when St. Mary's students become hosts.

When Carmen McGhee '27 welcomed Anna Paula Fleisher from Guatemala into her home, her family expected a valuable cultural exchange. They didn't expect to gain



The Global Scholars program encourages students to engage deeply in a tailored course of study including special opportunities, community service, and a capstone project. Meagan Miller '26 presented her research on Nordic Collaboration during COVID during the Spring Showcase of St. Mary's diploma programs.



Global Scholar Jocelyn Oropeza '26 presented her research, "Immigration Policy in the United States and Canada" at St. Mary's Spring Showcase of student work.

what students experience every day: global learning isn't a single class or an international trip. It is a philosophy woven throughout the experience that is St. Mary's.

"Global education isn't about being a tourist or seeing as many countries as possible," says Director of Global Education Leanne Hinkle. "It's about developing the curiosity to investigate the world, the empathy to recognize perspectives different from your own, the confidence to

another daughter.

"Anna Paula fit into our family immediately," recalls Carmen's mother, Jean Vaughan McGhee '86. "She even became our cat's favorite lap at breakfast."

About three weeks into Anna Paula's visit, Carmen had a particularly difficult week at school.

"Anna Paula's attention and care during that rough patch brought them closer than I could have imagined," Jean says. "She became like an instant sister."

The friendship didn't end when the exchange program did. The following summer, Carmen traveled to Guatemala to live with Anna Paula's family, and today the girls still FaceTime regularly.

Why Global Education Matters



The Institute for Global Learning's Global Education Standards Endorsement recognizes schools that intentionally prepare students to engage thoughtfully with an increasingly interconnected world. For St. Mary's, the designation affirms

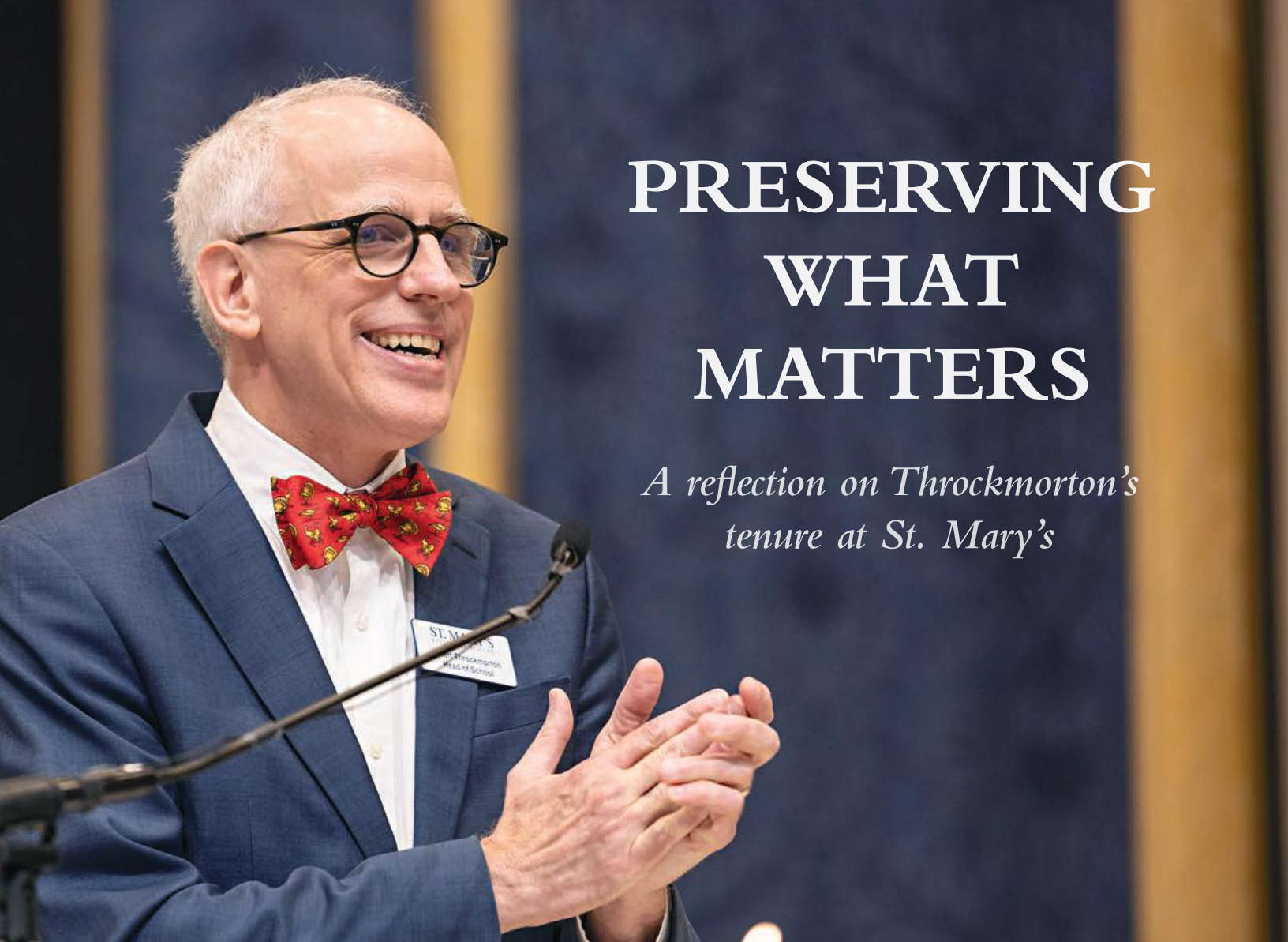
communicate across cultures, and the initiative to take meaningful action. We want our girls to leave St. Mary's prepared not only to understand the world, but to help make it better."

Long after the passports are put away and the research papers are complete, the habits of curiosity, empathy, and courageous leadership remain. And that may be the most meaningful journey of all. ■

"We want our girls to leave St. Mary's prepared not only to understand the world, but to help make it better."

— Leanne Hinkle,
Director of Global Education





PRESERVING WHAT MATTERS

*A reflection on Throckmorton's
tenure at St. Mary's*

When Albert Throckmorton thinks about the past 23 years at St. Mary's Episcopal School, he doesn't begin with the buildings that transformed the campus or the strategic plans that shaped its future. He begins, instead, with a simple realization that has only grown stronger over time.

"It's always been about the people."

That answer is telling because Throckmorton's tenure has coincided with one of the most transformative periods in St. Mary's history. Since arriving in Memphis in 2004 as Assistant Head of School and becoming Head of School in 2012, he has helped oversee campus expansion, strengthened the school's financial position, guided the community through a global pandemic, and led St. Mary's through moments

of unimaginable grief. Along the way, he has become a respected voice in independent school leadership, sharing lessons on compassionate leadership with schools across the country.

Yet if you ask Throckmorton what those experiences have taught him, he is far more interested in talking about stewardship than success.

"I've always believed our responsibility is to preserve what matters most—our values and traditions—while leaving everything else open to transformation for the future of our girls. Those two ideas aren't in conflict. In fact, they depend on one another," said Throckmorton.

That philosophy, a concept Jim Collins wrote about in "Good to Great," has quietly guided his leadership for years.

It is a deceptively simple idea, but one that explains nearly every major decision he has made during his time at St. Mary's.

As the oldest independent school in Tennessee, St. Mary's has never had the luxury of choosing between tradition and innovation. Families expect both. They expect the school's Episcopal identity, commitment to academic excellence, and



Throckmorton shared a special moment during his 2012 investiture with Mary Davis, who twice served as Acting Head of School.

culture of belonging to remain steadfast. These are the school's constants. At the same time, they expect classrooms, programs, facilities, and teaching practices to evolve alongside the world their daughters will inherit. Great schools know the difference between what should never change and what must.

For Throckmorton, leadership has always meant honoring both responsibilities.

He inherited that perspective from his predecessor, Marlene Shaw, who recruited him to Memphis after the two met through an independent school accreditation process. At the time, Throckmorton was working at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia, where he taught English, handled administrative responsibilities, and led educational technology initiatives. Shaw recognized that unusual combination of experiences—and another credential that would later prove invaluable.

Throckmorton had studied architecture at Rice University before returning to earn a Master's in Teaching. That training shaped the way he thought about schools long before he became a head of school.

"Architecture teaches you to think about how people use space," he said. "I've always been fascinated by the relationship between buildings and the people inside them."

Building for the Future

It turns out that an interest in architecture is a valuable asset at a school. As Assistant Head of School, Throckmorton helped guide the planning, programming, and opening of Windland Smith Rice, the home of the Middle School. During his tenure as Head of School, the campus was transformed again with the Athletic and



Throckmorton with the Rev. Sandy Webb, Rector of Church of the Holy Communion, as demolition of Barth Gym began, making way for what would become the Athletic and Wellness Center.



Wallis Rogin '25 and Holden Taylor '25 represented the Early Childhood Center at Throckmorton's 2012 investiture, presenting their new Head of School with his very own Mr. T blue book bag.

Instead, he talks about what they make possible.

When Throckmorton directed the planning of his first

building, he wrote a philosophy of the Middle School space. "I'm not sure the architects had ever seen a client do that. Buildings matter because of what happens inside them," he said. "They're really investments in girls and in the people who teach them."

No project illustrates that belief more powerfully than Liza's Library.

The renovation of historic Moss Hall was already becoming necessary when tragedy struck the St. Mary's community in 2022 with the death of beloved junior kindergarten teacher Liza Fletcher. What could have become simply another capital project evolved into an opportunity to create something lasting in memory of a teacher whose joy had touched countless lives.

Throckmorton remembers inviting members of Fletcher's family and friends to visit the completed library before it officially opened in the fall of 2025. Everyone was taking in the moment quietly when someone

broke the silence by saying:

"It's impossible not to be happy in here."

For Throckmorton, the moment captured something essential about St. Mary's. The school could not erase grief, but it could choose how it responded. It could create beauty where there had been heartbreak.



Surrounded by joyful Lower School students, Throckmorton celebrates the grand opening of Moss Hall.

Preparing Girls for Tomorrow

The same philosophy shaped Throckmorton's approach to progress in other areas of the school.

When he first arrived in Memphis, technology looked very different from what it does today. St. Mary's had dedicated educators who were eager to innovate, but the systems supporting them had not kept pace.

Rather than simply adopting new technology, Throckmorton wanted to understand how each tool could improve teaching and learning.

"We weren't adopting systems just because they were new," he said. "We were asking how they helped us serve students better."

That question became increasingly important as technology evolved. St. Mary's invested in laptops, learning management

The Stories Behind the Bow Ties

For 23 years, Albert Throckmorton's bow ties became as much a part of St. Mary's as the traditions they celebrated.

Each tells a story. Some were gifts from students, faculty, alumnae, and friends. Others were chosen to mark special milestones.

As Throckmorton ties a bow on his remarkable career, these 10 favorites offer a glimpse into the moments, memories, and people behind the ties.



The Investiture Tie

The bow tie Throckmorton wore at his investiture as Head of School in 2012.



The First Day Tie

On Throckmorton's very first day as Head of School, every student surprised him by wearing a handmade red paper bow tie.



The Alumnae Tie

A gift from Ellen Parker '21, this became his signature choice for Alumnae Weekend.



The Blue Turkey Tie

This companion Turkey tie was a gift from St. Mary's 12th Head of School, Marlene Shaw.



The Holiday Tie

One festive bow tie carried Throckmorton from Thanksgiving celebrations straight through Christmas.



The St. Mary's Plaid

When plaid skirts became the new uniform, Gobble Shop Manager Cyndie Fogarty made sure Throckmorton had a new bow tie, too.



The Snow Day Tie

Throckmorton's unofficial snow day prediction. Worn whenever he thought winter weather might earn students a day off.



The Big Apple Tie

A gift from the cast of Annie Jr. when Throckmorton took the stage as Daddy Warbucks and sang "N.Y.C."



The Springfest Tie

A colorful tradition that signaled the announcement of the year's Springfest queen and princess.



The Derby Tie

The newest addition to the collection commemorates the Kentucky Derby-themed Parents Association auction.

systems, and integrated student information platforms, all while helping faculty become more confident using them in the classroom. The tech coordinators in the school became recognized leaders.

But even as those tools changed, Throckmorton found himself returning to a different question—one that eventually became a guiding principle for academic innovation.

"Are you teaching to your past," he asked, "or are you teaching to your students' future?"

For Throckmorton, the answer seemed obvious.

"Our girls are going to inherit a world that looks very different from the one we grew up in," he said. "Our responsibility isn't to prepare them for yesterday. It's to prepare them for tomorrow while making sure they understand the values that never change."

Leading Through Uncertainty

Those words would take on an entirely new meaning in the spring of 2020.

The strategic plans, committee work, and long-term projects that had filled his calendar suddenly became secondary to a single question: How do we continue educating girls safely?



Throckmorton with Jaxsen Cole '35 on the first day of school in 2021.

"The pandemic was an existential crisis," he said. "We didn't know how long schools would be closed. We didn't know when students would return to campus. We didn't know if parents would continue to have confidence in schools or keep paying tuition. Every decision became immediate."

Throckmorton immersed himself in learning everything he could. He joined weekly calls with the Mayor's task force, collaborated with leaders from other independent schools, and consumed public health information at a pace he never could have imagined.

"I joke that I became a public health wonk," he said. "But that's what the emergency required then."

Manoj Jain, MD, MPH, an infectious disease physician and task force member, introduced Throckmorton to pooled COVID testing, a cost-effective approach for estimating infection rates within a single community. Within days, St. Mary's had implemented testing for faculty, staff, and enough students to provide reliable data about the health of the campus.

"Our infection rate was incredibly low," he said. "I remember faculty members telling me, 'I feel safe,' which was



“Our responsibility isn’t to prepare students for the world we grew up in. It’s to prepare them for the world they’ll inherit.”

— Albert Throckmorton,
St. Mary’s Head of School

the assurance they were looking for in order to return. It was a ray of light in a dark time.”

While many schools remained closed for extended periods, St. Mary’s was fortunate to welcome students back to campus in August. The decision was made possible not only by careful planning but also by years of investment that suddenly revealed their true value.

Long before anyone had heard of COVID-19, the school had committed to modernizing its learning management system and helping faculty become comfortable using it. When classrooms closed, teachers did not have to spend weeks figuring out how to teach online. They already knew the tools.

“We closed school for less than one week,” Throckmorton recalled. “We brought the teachers together, established standards for remote learning, and started teaching.”

He is quick to shift the credit elsewhere.

“Our faculty were extraordinary,” he said. “The hardest part wasn’t remote learning. It was hybrid learning, with teachers teaching students in the classroom in real time and students at home asynchronously. They were essentially teaching every lesson twice.”

Looking back, Throckmorton sees COVID as one chapter in a much larger lesson about leadership.

A Voice Beyond St. Mary’s

Throckmorton’s influence extended well beyond the Memphis campus. Throughout his career, he became a respected leader in independent school education, serving on accreditation teams, presenting at regional and national conferences, mentoring new heads of school, and helping guide schools through periods of change.

His leadership with organizations, including the Southern Association of Independent Schools, National Association of Independent Schools, and others, allowed him to contribute to conversations about governance, strategic planning, technology, school culture, and compassionate leadership.

“People say that if you’re a head of school for a long time, you re-create yourself over the course of your career,” he said. “I think that’s true. I’m not the same person after 15 years.”

The years that followed COVID 19 would test that belief in ways no leader hopes to experience.

Even before the community had fully emerged from the pandemic, St. Mary’s experienced a series of heartbreaking losses.



In 2013, Albert cheers on the girls as USA Today mascot contest gives rise to the Turkey Nation.

A beloved teacher died unexpectedly before the school year began. Over the next twenty months, the school mourned the loss of three students. Then came the death of Liza Fletcher, a tragedy that captured national attention but was a deeply personal loss for the St. Mary’s community.

“We tend to think of crises as moments when everything falls apart, and leaders have to put the pieces back together,” he said. “I learned that crises are actually the moments when your values become most visible and hold the community together.”

Throckmorton often returns to a leadership mantra that became something of a compass during those years.

“Absorb chaos, project calm, give hope.”

What stays with him most is not the uncertainty or the fear but the way the community responded.

“There was tremendous trust,” he said. “People cared for one another. Faculty cared for students. Families cared for each other. It reminded us that St. Mary’s isn’t just a school. It’s a community.”

That sense of community is also what gives Throckmorton confidence as he looks toward the future. He smiles when he talks about new teachers arriving on campus.

“They’ll tell you, ‘This is the Disney World of schools,’” he says with a laugh. “They love being here because they love the students and trust the administration.”



Throckmorton celebrates the first day of his final school year alongside the Class of 2027. The class that began its St. Mary’s journey the same year he became Head of School.

The Delightful Albert Throckmorton

He describes St. Mary's girls as curious, joyful, and intellectually engaged. They're competitive when it matters, collaborative when it matters more, and eager to make a difference in the world around them.

Why Girls Schools Matter

Over the years, Throckmorton's understanding of girls education has deepened in ways he never anticipated.

He still laughs about his own background.

"I always tell people I probably wasn't the obvious candidate to lead a girls school," he said. "I went to an all-boys high school. I grew up with four brothers. My wife and I raised two sons. The only woman I ever dated was my wife."

Yet over two decades at St. Mary's convinced him that girls schools remain not only relevant but essential. He has watched students develop confidence by taking risks, discovering their voices, and stepping into leadership opportunities that might have looked different in another environment.

Just as importantly, he believes the school's Episcopal identity speaks directly to the challenges young people face today.

"In a world that's increasingly distracted, chapel creates a place to practice reflection," he said. "In a culture that can feel increasingly fragmented, it creates belonging. It reminds our girls that they are known, valued, and loved."

Throckmorton rejects the idea that schools like St. Mary's are relics of another era. Instead, he believes they are uniquely positioned to prepare thoughtful, compassionate leaders.

"I see our graduates as one of the greatest reasons to have hope," he said.



Throckmorton speaks to some of our youngest students during Early Childhood Chapel, one of his favorite parts of life at St. Mary's.

Preserve What Matters Most

That hope is strengthened every time he sees an alumna return to campus, this time holding her own daughter's hand. Those moments remind him that no head of school is ever the school's legacy. The real legacy is a community that faithfully passes its mission from one generation to the next.

As Throckmorton prepares to retire or, as he says, "re-purpose," he knows new leaders will bring fresh ideas. New buildings will eventually rise. Technology will continue to evolve. Education itself will continue to change.

He welcomes all of it.

Because if there's one lesson he hopes endures long after his final walk across campus, it's the same lesson that has guided him from the beginning.

Preserve what matters most.

Protect the values and traditions that define St. Mary's. Leave everything else open to transformation in service of the girls who will inherit the future.

That, Throckmorton believes, is how schools remain both timeless and relevant. 





Investing in Every Generation

Every day at St. Mary's, students benefit from opportunities made possible by those who believed in the school's future long before they ever walked through its doors.

A scholarship opens the door for a promising student. A teacher attends a professional conference and returns with fresh ideas for the classroom. A department launches a new initiative. A distinguished speaker inspires students to see the world in a new way.

Many of these opportunities share something in common: they are supported by the St. Mary's Endowment.

Annual gifts make an immediate difference, while endowed gifts create a lasting legacy by providing support in perpetuity. Each year, investment earnings from the endowment provide support for the school's operating budget while preserving the principal to sustain the fund for generations to come. Strategically managed with long-term stewardship and oversight by the Board of Trustees, St. Mary's endowment



Generations of generosity make moments like these possible. A strong endowment gives St. Mary's the resources and flexibility to support faculty innovation, embrace emerging educational opportunities, and create meaningful learning experiences for girls today and for generations to come.

HONORING Albert Throckmorton's Legacy The Innovation & Opportunity Fund

To celebrate the leadership and lasting impact of Head of School Albert Throckmorton, the Board of Trustees has established the Innovation & Opportunity Fund, a new unrestricted endowment fund that will provide St. Mary's with expanded, flexible resources that can support:

- **Faculty innovation** through classroom grants and creative teaching initiatives
- **Leadership development** for faculty and future school leaders
- **Global learning** and international experiences that broaden students' perspectives
- **Experiential education** that extends learning beyond the classroom
- **Emerging opportunities** that strengthen the school's mission and enrich the student experience

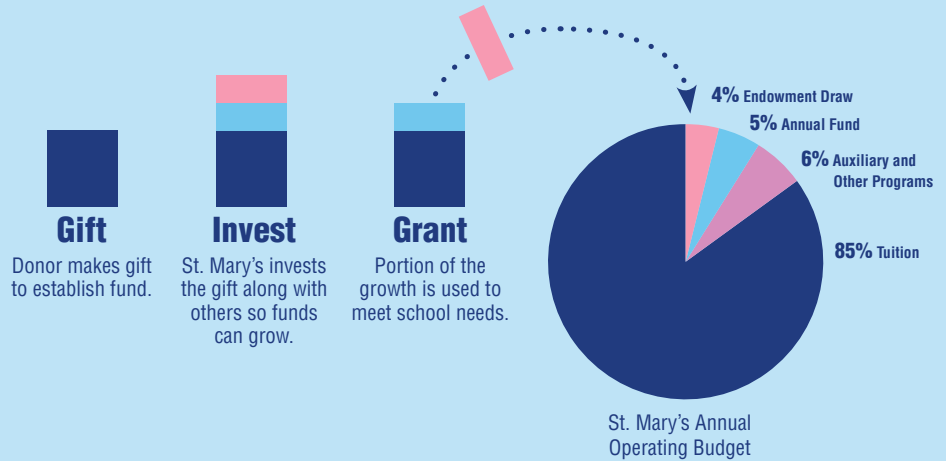
By providing permanent resources that can adapt to the ever-changing world and the evolving educational landscape, the fund will help ensure St. Mary's remains at the forefront of thoughtful, mission-driven education.

"One of Albert's greatest gifts to St. Mary's has been his ability to honor our traditions while embracing new possibilities," said Board Chair Susan Whitten Graber '86. "The Board established the Innovation & Opportunity Fund to carry that spirit forward, and we invite our community to partner with us in ensuring St. Mary's will always have the resources to innovate, adapt, and thrive."

The Innovation & Opportunity Fund reflects Throckmorton's belief that the strongest schools honor tradition while embracing thoughtful innovation. It is both a tribute to his leadership and an investment in future generations of St. Mary's girls.



How an Endowment Fund Works



provides stability today while protecting resources for tomorrow.

Through the current endowment, St. Mary's is stewarding over 50 funds established by generous donors who believed in the school's mission.

The largest portion of the endowment supports scholarships and financial aid, helping ensure that talented students can thrive at St. Mary's regardless of financial circumstances. Other funds invest in the people who make the school exceptional by providing opportunities for continuing education, specialized training, research, and professional growth for faculty and staff members. Additional endowed funds strengthen academic programs, provide resources for innovation, and create meaningful learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom.

For donors, an endowed gift offers the opportunity to create a lasting legacy. Funds may be established in honor or memory of a loved one, faculty member, classmate, or family, or created to support an area of the school that reflects a donor's passions and values. Existing endowed funds also welcome gifts of any amount, allowing every contribution to strengthen their impact over time.

The endowment is more than an investment portfolio. It is a reflection of many generations of belief in St. Mary's and the limitless potential of the girls who learn, lead, and serve here today—and for years to come. ■

To learn more about giving to the endowment, visit www.stmarysschool.org/endowment or contact Carrie Vaughan, Director of Philanthropy, at 901-537-1424 or cvaughan@stmarysschool.org.



Welcoming St. Mary's Next Head of School

Before officially becoming St. Mary's 14th Head of School, Dr. Caroline Flynn is spending a year listening, building relationships, and discovering the traditions and people that make the school extraordinary.

After a thoughtful eight-month national search that engaged hundreds of members of the St. Mary's community, the Board of Trustees unanimously appointed Dr. Caroline Flynn as the school's 14th Head of School. She will officially begin her tenure on July 1, 2027, following the retirement of Head of School Albert Throckmorton.

For Dr. Flynn, the year between her appointment and her arrival is not a waiting period. It is a year of learning.

"Right now, St. Mary's is my subject," she wrote to faculty and staff this summer. "I'm making my way through Patti Ray's book with a highlighter. It is an extraordinary gift to have such a rich guide to the history of the institution I will soon

have the privilege to lead."

That spirit of curiosity is already shaping the year ahead. Dr. Flynn is spending the year listening, asking questions, and learning what makes St. Mary's unique. Through planned visits to Memphis, she is intentionally building relationships and developing a deeper understanding of the school's traditions,

"From my first visit, I felt the warmth, sense of purpose, and deep commitment that define St. Mary's. I am honored to join this community and excited to build on the extraordinary legacy that has shaped generations of girls."

Dr. Caroline Flynn,
St. Mary's 14th Head of School



culture, and mission.

“As we get to know each other,” she wrote, “you’ll notice that I ask a lot of questions. Every conversation helps me better understand how St. Mary’s works, why certain traditions matter, and what this community values most.”

A PROVEN SCHOOL LEADER

Dr. Flynn currently serves as Principal at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School (OLPH) in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where she has led the school for the past six years. During her tenure, she developed and implemented a strategic plan, led accreditation efforts, strengthened fundraising and endowment initiatives, increased enrollment, improved student retention, and guided long-range planning. Before joining OLPH, she served in leadership roles at Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga, including Dean of Ninth Grade, Director of the Lacrosse Program, and member of the Founders Fellows

Leadership Development Program.

Her connection to girls’ education is both professional and personal. A graduate of Sacred Heart Academy, an all-girls school in Pennsylvania, Dr. Flynn credits her own educational experience with shaping the leader she has become. She earned her bachelor’s degree in international and global relations from Sewanee: The University of the South, where she also played varsity lacrosse. She completed a Master of Education in Independent School Leadership and a Doctor of Education in Educational Policy and Leadership at Vanderbilt University.

“From the beginning of the search, we were looking for a leader who would honor what makes St. Mary’s so special while thoughtfully leading us into the future,”

“Dr. Flynn has distinguished herself as an authentic, confident, and deeply relational leader who listens first, builds trust quickly, and inspires those around her. Her ability to bring people together, communicate with clarity, and lead with both head and heart positions her well to guide St. Mary’s into its next chapter.”

– Susan Whitten Graber ’86, Chair of the Board of Trustees and the Co-Chair of the Head of School Search Committee

said Susan Whitten Graber ’86, Chair of the Board of Trustees and the Co-Chair of the Head of School Search Committee. “Dr. Flynn has distinguished herself as an authentic, confident, and deeply relational leader who listens first, builds trust quickly, and inspires those around her. Her ability to bring people together, communicate with clarity, and lead with both head and heart positions her well to guide St. Mary’s into its next chapter.”

Throughout the search process, the committee sought a leader who aligned with the priorities identified by the St. Mary’s community: someone deeply committed to academic excellence, mission-driven leadership, and the development of each girl. More than 400 parents, students, faculty, staff, and alumnae contributed feedback that helped shape the leadership profile used throughout the national search.

INSPIRED BY THE CLASSROOM

During one of her first visits to campus, Dr. Flynn found herself sitting with preschool campers during Dino-Roar Detectives.



This summer, Dr. Caroline Flynn stopped by Dino-Roar Detectives camp, where she watched preschoolers collaborate, solve problems, and proudly share their discoveries.

“One little girl climbed into my lap to proudly show me how she was using tools to build a dinosaur,” she recalled. “Watching the children nearby share ideas, solve problems, and work through the occasional disagreement was a joyful reminder of the learning taking place all around them.”

Those everyday classroom moments, she says, are what first inspired her to become an educator.

Although she began her career studying economics and marketing, teaching always remained in the background. While coaching lacrosse at Girls Preparatory School, she accepted an opportunity in college counseling that soon led to teaching middle school history.

“I still remember my demo lesson on the 1929 stock market crash for a group of seventh graders,” she said. “What captivated me was the energy in the room. I saw how powerful it could be to take a complex idea, make it relatable, and create an environment where students were genuinely engaged.”

That same love of learning now shapes the way she approaches leadership.

BECOMING PART OF THE ST. MARY’S STORY

Dr. Flynn and her husband, Patrick, will relocate to Memphis with their daughters, Nancy Elliot “Nellie” and Carlin, who will become St. Mary’s students, and their son, Richard Henry “Richie,” who was born in late August.

“The journey ahead is especially meaningful because St. Mary’s will also become home for our family,” Dr. Flynn shared. “Knowing that our girls will grow



During her visit to campus this summer, Dr. Caroline Flynn met with Head of School Albert Throckmorton and members of the leadership team as she began a year of learning about St. Mary’s. She will return throughout the year for a series of planned visits, building relationships across the community before officially becoming Head of School on July 1, 2027.

up here, surrounded by people who will both challenge and support them, makes this next chapter especially meaningful for our family.”

During her finalist visit, Dr. Flynn came away with a deep appreciation for both the St. Mary’s community and the strong foundation she will inherit.

“I was struck by the warmth, energy, and authentic sense of belonging that defined each interaction,” she said. “As a graduate of an all-girls school, I experienced firsthand the indelible power of relationships formed in such an environment. Confidence, character, and a strong lifelong sense of purpose develop through these relationships.”

Dr. Flynn continued, “Thanks to the steadfast leadership of Mr. Throckmorton, the future is bright for St. Mary’s. It will be an honor to walk alongside him throughout the coming year, learning from his leadership and preparing to carry the torch forward with the exceptionally talented and dedicated faculty and staff

who bring St. Mary’s mission to life every day.”

Throughout the year, the St. Mary’s community will have opportunities to get to know Dr. Flynn as she returns to campus for a series of planned visits. She will spend time with students, teachers, families, trustees, and alumnae, listening, asking questions, and gaining a deeper understanding of the traditions, values, and relationships that define St. Mary’s. By the time she begins her tenure next July, she hopes to arrive with not only a deep understanding of the school but meaningful relationships across the community.

As the year unfolds, Dr. Flynn’s focus remains simple: learn first.

“I look forward to getting to know each of you in the months to come,” Dr. Flynn said. “Thank you for all you do to make St. Mary’s such an extraordinary community. I can’t wait to learn alongside you.”



THE SPIRIT OF '76 LIVES ON

Theresa Alissandratos Schnepf '76 helps her class celebrate 50 years with a gift for the future

When Theresa Schnepf '76 was asked to help lead an effort to establish an endowed fund in honor of her class's 50th reunion, her answer was simple.

"Gigi asked me to take this role. I couldn't say no," she said. "She is very persuasive!"

What began as a conversation with St. Mary's Director of

Legacy Giving Gigi Gould '70, soon became something much more personal for Schnepf: an opportunity to reconnect with women who had been an important part of her life half a century ago — and to help her classmates create a lasting legacy for generations of St. Mary's students.

Schnepf initially hoped to speak

with a dozen classmates before Alumnae Weekend in April. Her first call was to Lisa Morrow Morton '76, who had helped lead fundraising efforts before their 25th reunion in 2001. The pair spent more than an hour catching up.

"Just catching up with her made something click for me. How fantastic would it be if I could chat



like this with other classmates?” Schnepf asked.

So she kept calling.

By the reunion weekend, Schnepf had spoken with 20 of the 29 classmates who would attend. The conversations ranged from quick catch-ups to one that lasted two hours. They talked about what the past 50 years had brought, including the joys and sorrows. It was a gift each time recalling the years when they had been part of one another’s daily lives at St. Mary’s.

“We shared childhood memories, when we were once the most important people in each other’s lives, outside of family,” she said. “Then we went our separate ways. But we are still able to connect lovingly. How amazing is that?”

Those conversations also gave Schnepf an opportunity to talk about the Class of 1976 Endowed Fund and what their collective support could mean for future generations of St. Mary’s girls. An endowed fund provides long-term financial support for St. Mary’s by investing the principal and using the earnings to support the school year after year. These funds can provide lasting resources for priorities such as financial aid, academic programs, campus improvements, technology, the arts, athletics, and other areas of school life. The effort gained



things without fearing failure,” she said. “I would fall down, literally or figuratively, and a teacher or classmate would brush me off and help me arrive at a better result next time.”

That foundation stayed with her throughout her life, including her years in New York. “Without this early foundation, I would not have lasted two minutes in New York City,” she said.

Schnepf, who served on the St. Mary’s Board of Trustees from 2002–2005, has supported the school for more than four decades. She sees endowment giving as an especially powerful way for alumnae to extend that support far into the future.

Her advice to other classes approaching milestone reunions is simple: harness the energy of coming back together.

“Use the positive energy of a major reunion to fund the endowment,” Schnepf said. “It created momentum, enthusiasm, and success.”

For the Class of 1976, celebrating 50 years became more than an opportunity to remember their St. Mary’s experience. Together, they are helping ensure that experience continues for generations of girls to come. ■



Josie McNeely Walker, Thersa Alissandratos Schnepf, and Dabney Fargarson Holland



Members of St. Mary's 12-Year Club gathered at a Class of 1976 celebration. First Row: Kathleen Person Longoria, Kaky Ossorio Wakefield, Kim Brown Mullins, Virginia Donelson Curry, Robbie Loveless Archer, and Theresa Alissandratos Schnepf. Back Row: Martha Flowers, Dabney Fargarson Holland, and Cathy Love

momentum as Alumnae Weekend approached, and they reached their \$100,000 goal with over 50 percent participation.

For Schnepf, supporting the endowment is a way to give back to a school she credits with helping to prepare her for college, business school, and a career at JPMorgan.

“I am convinced St. Mary’s gave me the confidence to try new

To learn more about giving to the endowment, visit stmarysschool.org/endowment or contact Gigi Gould '70, Director of Legacy Giving at ggould@stmaryschool.org or 901-537-1472.

Turning Compassion Into Action



St. Mary's Honored with Statewide Service Award

This spring, St. Mary's Episcopal School received the Award of Excellence from Volunteer Tennessee, a statewide honor recognizing schools that demonstrate exceptional commitment to serving-learning and civic engagement.

Presented at the Tennessee Conference for Volunteerism and Service-Learning in March 2026, the award celebrates schools that make a measurable impact on their community. During the 2024–2025 school year, students across St. Mary's campus contributed more than 10,000 service hours. These hours supported organizations serving children, families, and vulnerable populations across Memphis through tutoring, meal delivery, donation drives, mentoring, fundraising, grantmaking, and environmental stewardship.

"Service at St. Mary's is a habit of the heart," said Head of School Albert Throckmorton. "When our students step into the community, they gain confidence, practical leadership skills, and a clearer sense of responsibility to others. That learning benefits our students and strengthens the entire Mid-South."

While the award celebrates a single year of achievement, it recognizes a tradition that has shaped St. Mary's students for generations. Service at St. Mary's is rooted in our Episcopal identity and our Bridge to Caring character program, which focuses on key traits including Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, Honesty, Thankfulness, Courage, Self-Control, and Cooperation.

For Chaplain Rainey Ray Segars '05, service is both an educational experience and a spiritual practice. "Scripture tells the story of a God who moves toward human need, and serving others is one of the clearest ways we become more like Him.

Service trains our eyes, minds, and hearts away from ourselves and toward others,” she said.

“As our girls grow, they are forming lifelong ideas about their neighbors, their vocations, and their identities. We want service to be woven deeply into how they understand themselves and their purpose.”

From Early Childhood classrooms to Upper School capstones, students move from awareness to action. Along the way, girls develop empathy, civic knowledge, project management, and the confidence to lead sustained community partnerships.

Additionally, St. Mary’s faculty and staff extend their service beyond campus, serving on nonprofit boards, coaching youth teams, mentoring students, leading arts outreach, and volunteering with local social service organizations. Community partners, including MIFA, Emmanuel Center, Madonna Learning Center, and many others, regularly collaborate with students on program design and implementation. Plus, our parents and alumnae also support logistics, fundraising, and volunteer supervision, making our initiatives truly communitywide.

Theresa Murray, Principal of Madonna Learning Center, shared “Our partnership with St. Mary’s has been such a meaningful gift to our students. Through shared activities, friendships, and opportunities to learn alongside one another, our students feel valued, included, and an important part of our community. We are also deeply grateful for St. Mary’s support through its Community Fund grant program, which has enriched the educational and creative experiences for our students.”

“We want service to be woven deeply into how they understand themselves and their purpose.”

Chaplain Rainey Ray Segars '05

Earning the Volunteer Tennessee Award of Excellence reflects years of student leadership, thoughtful curriculum design, and deep community partnerships. We are grateful to our students, families, faculty, staff, and partners whose dedication turns empathy into measurable impact across Memphis. ■



Service is one of the defining experiences of a St. Mary’s education. Members of the Class of 2026 volunteered together at the Mid-South Food Bank, helping fight food insecurity while learning the value of serving their community.



This summer, 7th grade students partnered with 901 POP to deliver repurposed floral arrangements to residents at Robinwood Retirement Center, sharing kindness and building connections across generations.



Through our partnership with Madonna Learning Center, second grade students discover that the greatest impact of service often begins with friendship.



A longstanding partnership with MIFA gives Middle School students the opportunity to put empathy into action by supporting families across Memphis through hands-on service.

Congratulations to the **CLASS of 2026**



THE 70 MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2026:

Matriculated to **43**
different colleges in
22 states and
Washington, D.C.

80% of the class will
continue their studies out of
state, pursuing opportunities
both far from home and
close to their passions.

2 students will
continue their
athletic careers at
the collegiate level.

25% of the class will
attend honors colleges or
scholar programs,
reflecting their dedication
to academic excellence.



12 members of the class received National Merit Scholarship recognition, including 5 finalists and 7 commended students.

7 seniors invested more than 100 hours in community service this year, earning the St. Mary's Century Award.

St. Mary's scholars pursued their passions with depth and distinction, with 9 students graduating as Global Scholars, 15 as STEM Scholars, and 5 as Fine Arts Scholars.

60% of the class earned the Tennessee Seal of Biliteracy.

CLASS OF 2026 AWARDS



Valedictorian
Lucy Roberts



Salutatorian
Eleanor Chandler



Honor Student
Molly Kirshbaum



Tabor Novak Award
Lillie Ireland



Mary M. Davis Loyalty Award
Meagan Miller



Spirit of St. Mary's Award
Quinn Ferebee



Ellen Feild Todd Award
Mary Quay Wilson



Cathedral Award
Lilly Coggin



Hazlehurst Gold Cross
Leighton Visinsky

CLASS of 2026



Cate Ciaramitaro and Leighton Visinsky lead their class into the church for Baccalaureate



Emma Thompson and Meagan Miller with their flower girls, Emerson Pruitt '38 and Claire Pruitt '39



Day Galbreath and flower girls, Mary Abbey Galbreath '34 and Katherine Smith '38



Amelia Simpson, Brooke Bechtel, Stella Pitzer, Sophie Fernandez, Sabine Wood, and Cat Coryat



Board members with their graduating daughters: Jeffrey Block and Amelia; David Visinsky and Leighton



Senior Sponsor and Upper School English Teacher Jessica Love helps Chloe Polk adjust her cap before the Baccalaureate service



Florence Yu, Stephanie Chen, Lucy Roberts, and Celine Kim



Maddie Barden and Ava Cohen pose for photos together after Class Day



Ellie Midha embraces her sister Claire '28 after the graduation ceremony



Eleanor and Caroline Chandler with their flower girls, Marian Philips '38 and Poppy Daily '38



Hafsa Qureshi cheers on her fellow graduates



Alumnae with their graduating sisters:

McNaron and Vivi '18 Gray; Cat and Mary Claire '22 Carney; Mary Quay and Ann '22 Wilson; Sadie and Sorrell '14 Dattel; Casey and Kaitlyn '19 Jang; Lucy and Angela '23 Roberts; Ivy and Georgia '23 Carls; Lindsey and Lauren '24 Massey; Sophia and Addison '22 Wilson; Amelia and Josie '24 Block; Cate, Grace '23, and Caroline '18 Ciaramitaro; Jennings and Hayden '22 Goode; Elizabeth and Mary Paige '24 Scott; Edie and Kelsi '24 Cowles; Barnes Bryant and Mary Harbert Stromberg Morgan '14; Chloe and Kennedy '24 Polk; Hafsa and Hadiyah '19 Qureshi



Alumnae mothers with their flower girl daughters:

Leah Bearman Pinkston '09, Dottie '38 and Ari '39; Nica Cabigao Graunke '10 and Natalie '38; Elizabeth Summit Gordon '07 and Eloise '38; Carey Faber Campbell '03 and Lucy '38; Blair Carter Tait '04 and Carter '38; Mary Jensen Nease '10 and Abigail '38; Audrey Bourland Hurst '03 and Lainey '38



Lindsey Massey encourages her flower girl, Imogen Rudy '38, while taking pictures



Administrative Assistant to the Associate Head of School, Donna Van Hoozer, gives Libby Michael '38 a flower before the ceremony



Leighton Visinsky and Rev. Sandy Webb pose for a photo after graduation. Leighton is the first graduate from St. Mary's to attend Rev. Webb's alma mater, Hamilton College, where she will be playing varsity lacrosse.



Kennedy Williams and her flower girl Avery Lord '41



Class of 2026 could be heard cheering for every graduate as she ran out of the church



Faculty and staff with their graduating daughters:
South Campus Computer Science Teacher Hal Roberts and Lucy;
Director of Admission & Financial Aid Nicole Hernández and Charlotte;
Assistant Athletic Director Kendall Visinsky and Leighton;
Head of Early Childhood Christina Block and Amelia



Alumnae mothers with their graduating daughters:
Katherine Dudley Gray '94 and McNaron; Cathy McCormick Wilson '88 and Mary Quay;
Murff Oates Galbreath '95 and Day; Lauren Brooks Poindexter '96 and Emily;
Essie Arrindell Williams '99 and Kennedy

ST. MARY'S

EPISCOPAL SCHOOL



Amirah Abdus-Salaam



Aleesha Awan



Maddie Barden



Brooke Bechtel



Amelia Block



Barnes Bryant



Lilly Coggin



Ava Cohen



Cat Coryat



Edie Cowles



Lil Cubbins



Sadie Dattel



McNaron Gray



Megan Gulla



Charlotte Hernández



MC Hitt



Addie Hook



Aubrey Hopkins



Ellie Midha



Meagan Miller



Campbell Norton



Jocelyn Oropeza



Sophie Patterson



Montana Pierce



Seraphine Saghafi



Baylus Schaffler



Elizabeth Scott



Caroline Shatley



Amelia Simpson



Audrey Stifter



Iris Trenthem



Leighton Visinsky



Alana Wade



Parker Wells



Katherine Williams

Class of 2026



Ivy Carls



Cat Carney



Caroline Chandler



Eleanor Chandler



Stephanie Chen



Cate Ciaramitaro



Eva Ferdinand



Quinn Ferebee



Sophie Fernandez



Day Galbreath



Allan Golden



Jennings Goode



Lillie Ireland



Casey Jang



Khloe Joshua



Celine Kim



Molly Kirshbaum



Lindsey Massey



Stella Pitzer



Emily Poindexter



Chloe Polk



Hafsa Qureshi



Lucy Roberts



Harper Robinson



Emery Taylor



Maggie Taylor



Ana Thompson



Emma Thompson



Marin Thompson



Ella Townsend



Kennedy Williams



Mary Quay Wilson



Sophia Wilson



Sabine Wood



Florence Yu

Teacher, Historian, and St. Mary's Lifelong Turkey

2026 Outstanding Alumna Dr. Patti Person Ray '65

BY WALLIS ROGIN '25

Dr. Patti Person Ray '65 became a St. Mary's girl in 1955, and 70 years later, you can still find her on campus making new memories and preserving the past.

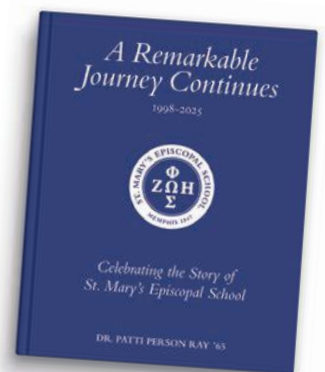
Throughout all of those years as a Turkey, many things have stayed the same.

"What was given to me as a student, and to current students, is the confidence to be myself," Dr. Ray said. "That has stayed consistent since 1955 when I started at St. Mary's."

Dr. Ray graduated in 1965 and then went on to earn her bachelor's degree in secondary education, a master's degree, and an Ed.D. in educational administration and supervision, all from the University of Memphis. Since 1975, Dr. Ray has been a steadfast educator, mentoring and championing students.

Teaching is her passion, and St. Mary's is her place. After teaching in public schools for 25 years and serving as the founding principal of Cordova High School, Dr. Ray found her way back to St. Mary's in 2000 to serve as the Upper School Head. After her retirement, she returned to teach history classes and is now serving as School Historian, connecting current St. Mary's girls with the generations of tradition and history that are foundational to the school.

One of the ways Dr. Ray is telling these stories is by writing a second edition of St. Mary's history book. Mary M. Davis, the school's first historian, wrote a chronology of the first 150 years of St. Mary's in her book "A Remarkable Journey 1847–1997: The Story of St. Mary's Episcopal School," and Dr. Ray has written the next chapter.



In "A Remarkable Journey Continues 1998–2025," Dr. Ray carries on the legacy and documents the remarkable stories that shape St. Mary's spirit.

HER OWN ST. MARY'S STORY

While a student at St. Mary's, Dr. Ray played basketball, participated in cheerleading, acted in many of the plays, designed the yearbook, and showcased her singing. But it was her mentors

and teachers at St. Mary's that truly shaped her experience.

"St. Mary's teachers are like parents helping children learn how to ride a bicycle," Dr. Ray said. "They run along beside you until you have the confidence to go it alone."

This confidence cultivated at St. Mary's helped Dr. Ray become a leader in education as the first female high school principal in legacy Shelby County Schools in modern times. She has also been a passionate advocate for young educators as an adjunct professor at Union University, Christian Brothers University, and the University of Memphis, and as a mentor and teacher for Memphis Teacher Residency.

"St. Mary's taught me how to be heard. I'm going to come to the table, and I'm not going to sit back, and that confidence comes from St. Mary's," she said. "It really sends all of us out with a strength that we don't know we have until it's challenged somewhere else."

A WITNESS TO GROWTH AND COMMUNITY

Upon returning to St. Mary's after 25 years in public schools, Dr. Ray witnessed many of the moments and memories that make St. Mary's magical.

"I have a lot of history at the school, and I've seen it grow," Dr. Ray said. "I think the binding strength of St. Mary's is in personal relationships that can form in an environment that is based on trust."

These relationships reflect the kindness and generosity consistent with what Dr. Ray saw when she was a student.

"One day I came in and on my desk was this big smiley face cookie from one of the students who left it with a little note that said, 'I think you might need this,'" Dr. Ray said. "I was amazed at how observant and caring the girls were."

Drawn back to teaching, Dr. Ray saw a need for a Global Issues class to educate girls about the importance of being globally aware citizens.

Dr. Ray was an early advocate of online learning. When



Dr. Patti Person Ray '65 shared reflections on the teachers, traditions, and lifelong confidence that shaped her journey during her Outstanding Alumna address at Alumnae Weekend.

St. Mary's became a charter member of the Online School for Girls, Dr. Ray immediately became a teacher on this new platform. Before and during COVID, she mastered hybrid learning in an online global studies course. As Upper School Head, she loved connecting with students in an online classroom as well.

"I love that I could put aside one hour a day, teach the students, and open their world and mine too," she said.

A HISTORIAN AND TEACHER

Now in her role as School Historian, Dr. Ray has found a way to continue teaching our community about the past.

"I love to teach. That's my core," she said. "I've tried to turn the historian job into a teaching job about the people who are so foundational to the school and why we're still here as the oldest independent school in the state of Tennessee. I love learning and teaching about the students who leave here and make this world a better place."

As part of her history lessons for the school, Dr. Ray helped start the annual Founders' Day, which celebrates the people who helped St. Mary's flourish. The 2025 Founders' Day celebrated Mary M. Davis and her book.

Similarly, Dr. Ray's new book features discovery, tradition, and care for St. Mary's.

"It's the discovery of things that is so rare, so unique, so St. Mary's that I'm just honored and excited to be part of that," Dr. Ray said. "The thing about history itself is that history creates connections in the uniqueness of the traditions that we preserve and protect. Those traditions are so St. Mary's, and here in



Surrounded by her family during Alumnae Weekend, 2026 Outstanding Alumna Dr. Patti Person Ray '65 celebrated a lifetime of service to St. Mary's.

the archives, I can file those wonderful moments."

Though she spends her time documenting the past, Dr. Ray is also constantly looking to the bright future of the school.

"We need to preserve the past and understand the people who got us here, but I hope in the future, we continue to adapt," Dr. Ray said. "There will be change, but at St. Mary's, we know how to do it. We're going to handle it with grace and strength and confidence." ■



Where She Was Meant to Be

After experiencing St. Mary's as a student, alumna, and parent, Laura Jennings Yacoubian '05 returns to serve the community that shaped her.

For Laura Jennings Yacoubian '05, St. Mary's has never been just a school. It has been the setting for lifelong friendships, a foundation of her values, and now the place she is called to serve in a new way.

Last spring, Yacoubian joined St. Mary's as Director of Alumnae, a role focused on strengthening the bonds among generations of St. Mary's graduates and helping alumnae remain

connected to the school long after graduation.

"St. Mary's has been part of my story since the third grade," she said. "I spent most of my formative years here, from Lower School all the way through graduation. The school prepared me for college and a career, but just as importantly, it instilled the value of giving back to my community."

The bonds she formed during

those years remain some of the most meaningful in her life.

"Many of my closest friends are the ones I sat next to in the classroom and in Chapel," she said. "There is something really special about the shared experience of St. Mary's. Whenever I meet another alumna out in the world, there's almost an immediate connection. It doesn't matter if we graduated 10 years apart or 50 — there's a shared

language of values and a common foundation that bonds us.”

Today, Yacoubian’s relationship to St. Mary’s has come full circle. She is now the mother of two St. Mary’s students: sixth-grader Helen and third-grader Lizzie. Seeing the school through their eyes has only deepened her appreciation for its impact.

“I have the joy of experiencing St. Mary’s again through my daughters,” she said. “Every day, I’m reminded how the school shapes the life of each girl who walks these halls. Seeing St. Mary’s as a student, an alumna, and a parent has been incredibly meaningful. Joining the administration feels like where I’m meant to be.”

In her new role, Yacoubian serves as the primary point of connection for the school’s alumnae community, helping create opportunities for graduates to stay involved through mentorship, volunteerism, events, and storytelling.

“I’m excited about listening to and sharing the stories of our alumnae,” she said. “St. Mary’s graduates are doing such interesting and world-changing things. I can’t wait to meet these women, hear about their journeys, and celebrate their accomplishments.”

Her goal, she said, is to ensure that every alumna continues to feel a kinship to the school that helped shape her.

“I want every alumna to feel that St. Mary’s is her biggest cheerleader, no matter how many years have passed since she graduated,” Yacoubian said.

Yacoubian brings extensive nonprofit leadership and community-building experience to the role, as well as



Whenever I meet another alumna out in the world, there’s almost an immediate connection. It doesn’t matter if we graduated 10 years apart or 50—there’s a shared language of values and a common foundation that bonds us. – Laura Jennings Yacoubian ’05

leadership experience in the medical device industry. She previously served as interim Executive Director and Director of Development of Temple Israel in Memphis. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Hendrix College and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Memphis.

Yacoubian will work closely with Gigi Gould ’70, who served as Director of Alumnae for more than two decades and is transitioning into a new role as Legacy Giving Director, helping alumnae and friends of the school support its long-term future through endowment and planned gifts.

“There’s truly no replacing Gigi,” Yacoubian said. “She has been such a light for the St. Mary’s community and has done so much to strengthen the alumnae network. I have tremendous respect for the path she has paved.”

Gould said she is excited to see Yacoubian step into the role.

“Laura brings both a deep love for St. Mary’s and a strong ability to build meaningful relationships,” Gould said. “I’m thrilled to see her carry forward the work of connecting our alumnae and strengthening this extraordinary community.”

As she looks ahead, Yacoubian hopes to help ensure that every St. Mary’s graduate carries forward the school’s commitment to excellence.

“St. Mary’s never wavers in its pursuit of excellence,” she said. “That foundation prepares each girl to make a lasting mark on the world — whether she’s pouring her heart into her neighborhood here in Memphis or leading on a global stage.”

And for Yacoubian, helping foster that lifelong bond is both a professional calling and a personal one.

“It’s truly an honor,” she said. “St. Mary’s helped shape who I am, and I’m excited to help strengthen the community of women it continues to send out into the world.”



CAMPUS NEWS

2025-26

Awards and Honors

Turkeybots Return to the World Stage

St. Mary's Upper School Turkeybots concluded another standout season, earning multiple regional honors before advancing to the VEX Robotics World Championship for the second consecutive year. Seniors Stephanie Chen, Eva Ferdinand, and Florence Yu, one of the few all-girls teams in the competition, captured the Teamwork Champion, Skills Champion, and Judges Awards during the season. Upper and Middle School teams also earned several Design, Think, and Innovate Awards. At the close of the year, the senior A and B teams retired their competition plates and signed banners that will hang in the Makerspace, celebrating four years of innovation, teamwork, and lasting impact on St. Mary's robotics program. .



Mays Writing Contest Celebrates Student Writers

Students in grades 1–12 showcased their creativity in the annual Mays Writing Contest, St. Mary's schoolwide fiction competition. Winning entries were selected by the student editors of *Belles Lettres* with special guest judge and alumna Elise Lasko '09 and published in the annual *Mays Magazine*.

The writing contest is made possible thanks to a generous gift from the May family. Use the QR code to read about this year's winners and their submissions.



Middle School Excels at Youth Legislature

St. Mary's eighth graders delivered an outstanding performance at this year's Middle School Youth Legislature at Memphis City Hall. Hosted by the YMCA, the civic education program gives students the opportunity to draft, debate, and vote on mock legislation. Four St. Mary's teams advanced to the General Assembly, with three bills passing. Teams of Leia Green '30, Alicia Arnand '30, and Madison Jefferson '30 and Ellis Weston '30, Jeannie Xu '30, and Ronshel Rose Kurusanthony '30 earned Best Bill honors, while Rachel Davis '30, Liza Weller '30, and Jeannie Xu '30 were recognized as Best Delegates.





Hilary Davis Robinson '90



Beverly Brooks



Wendy Gallik



Jeremy Gilbrech



Hal Roberts



Carol Fields

Faculty, Staff and Parent Recognized for Excellence

St. Mary's celebrated outstanding members of our community this spring with several annual honors recognizing excellence, service, and leadership.

Associate Head of School Hilary Davis Robinson '90 received the Hazlehurst Gold Cross Award, the school's highest faculty honor, in recognition of her extraordinary leadership and decades of devoted service to St. Mary's.

Director of College Counseling Beverly Brooks received the Apple Award, recognizing the extraordinary care and guidance she provides students throughout the college admissions process.

Early Childhood Physical Education Teacher Wendy Gallik was honored with the Creative Teacher Award by the Alumnae Association for inspiring imagination, joy, and confidence in our youngest learners.

Database & Information Systems Manager Jeremy Gilbrech received the Ellen Feild Todd Award for his outstanding behind-the-scenes service and unwavering support of the school community.

Computer Science Teacher Hal Roberts earned the Nanette Quinn Outstanding Teacher Award for his innovative teaching, dedication to students, and leadership of St. Mary's climbing program.

Parent volunteer Carol Fields was presented with the Gilmore Lynn Spirit of St. Mary's Award for her exceptional leadership of the Parents Association's 2026 Derby Affair and the 2024 Sneaker Soiree.

Community Fund Gives Back to the Mid-South

This spring, the student-led St. Mary's Community Fund (SMCF) awarded \$31,950 in grants to six Mid-South nonprofits: Carpenter Art Garden, Community Legal Center, Forrest Spence Fund, Hope House, Madonna Learning Center, and Reading with Mrs. Richardson. Since 1998, SMCF has contributed more than \$750,000 to local organizations while giving students firsthand experience in philanthropy, grantmaking, and community leadership.



Carillon Dedicated to Leith Catron

The 2026 *Carillon* yearbook was dedicated to longtime facilities team member Leith Catron, in honor of his 37 years of service to St. Mary's. Known affectionately as "Mr. Leith," he has welcomed generations of students with kindness, care, and a steadfast presence, making him a beloved member of the school community.



CAMPUS SNAPSHOTS



Springfest Celebrates Tradition

One of St. Mary's oldest traditions continued this spring as the South Campus community celebrated Springfest. Upper School students selected Margaret Fore '27 as Springfest Queen, while the sixth grade chose Heloise Humphreys '32 as Princess. The two students were recognized for exemplifying the qualities of a St. Mary's girl through leadership, kindness, and compassion. Queen Margaret was escorted by her pages, Abigail Nease '38 and Lainey Hurst '38.



Nursery Rhyme Day

Pre-Kindergarten students proudly performed their favorite nursery rhymes for family and friends during the annual Nursery Rhyme Day celebration. This sweet tradition celebrates the confidence the girls gain over the school year.



Shark Tank

Well, sharks? Do we have a deal? Our fourth-graders stepped into the Shark Tank to pitch their innovative inventions to a panel of St. Mary's expert judges. Each team had to present their invention in three steps: a pitch, a demonstration of their machine, and a Q&A session with the judges. The Shark Tank project is part of our school-wide STEAM initiative to help teach our girls confidence in technology, innovation, and themselves.



Upper School Spring Showcase

Virginia Reed Murphy '87 returned to campus for the Upper School Spring Showcase, introducing students to the power of playback theatre through storytelling, improvisation, and reflection. Her workshops invited students to listen deeply, build empathy, and see one another's experiences in a new way. Scan the QR code to read more about Murphy's work founding Everystory and her recent visit to St. Mary's.





Annie

Lower and Middle School students brought Annie! The Musical to life on the Buckman stage this spring. Directed by Taylor Ragan '07, the production paired Middle School performers with Lower School ensemble members, creating opportunities for mentorship both on and off the stage.



Field Day

Friendly competition was on full display during Field Day as students enjoyed games, relays, and team-building activities. While the rain moved Lower School students and their dads inside to Willmott Gym, Early Childhood girls strengthened their athletic confidence and coordination on Barksdale Field.



A Derby Affair

A Derby Affair was a record-breaking evening of celebration, generosity, and community. Thanks to the incredible support of our parents, alumnae, faculty, staff, sponsors, and friends, this year's Parents Association Auction raised more than any auction in St. Mary's history, helping provide an unparalleled education for generations of girls to come. Scan the QR code to view more photos from this unforgettable evening.



Keep up with all the amazing things happening at St. Mary's on Instagram.

Follow
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ATHLETIC NEWS

Trap

Our Trap team enjoyed another outstanding season, highlighted by hard work, dedication, and memorable performances. One of the season's highlights came at the annual Boyd Wade Invitational against MUS. After 17 pairs of shooters, St. Mary's held a narrow 8-7 lead, sending the match into the traditional knockout finale. Ivy Carls delivered the winning shot in a thrilling finish, securing the Turkeys' first Boyd Wade Invitational title since 2019.

The team carried that momentum into the National Championship in Columbus, Ohio, where sophomore Ava Dombroski led the



Varsity squad with a tournament-best 96 on Day 1 and finished with a two-day total of 188 (94%), including three perfect boxes of 25. Emily Cole and Esme Larschan also finished at 188 overall, while senior Lillie Ireland, Stella Hamilton, Allan Golden, and Suri Ghodadra helped 40% of the Varsity team finish the tournament shooting 90% or better. The JV squad also showed tremendous growth throughout the season, with every shooter competing in her first year and making significant strides that bode well for the future of the program.

Lacrosse

The lacrosse program enjoyed another outstanding season, highlighted by the Varsity team's run to the TSSAA Division II-AA State Quarterfinals, where the Turkeys finished with an impressive

11-3 record. Along the way, St. Mary's earned exciting regular-season victories over Ensworth (14-9) and Ravenwood (15-14). The season also featured several individual honors for Leighton Visinsky '26 and Amelia Block '26. Both were named to the Memphis All-Metro Team, the TGLA All-State Team, and the DII-AA West



All-Region Team. Amelia earned All-American honors, while Leighton received the Jackie Pitts Award and was named to the All-Academic Team.

The success extended throughout the program. Both Middle School teams advanced to the Shelby League Championship, finishing as league runners-up after seasons defined by teamwork and determination. At the Lower School level, the future of the program continued to shine as players developed their skills, learned the fundamentals of the game, and built a strong foundation under the guidance of coach Caryn Welsh.



Track

The spring track & field season featured record-breaking performances and strong finishes on the state's biggest stage.

Ejeme Ataga '27 broke the school record in the triple jump with a mark of 36' 2.5" at the Division II-AA West Regional Meet, while Ella Federico '29 set a new school record in the 400-meter dash with a time of 58.12 seconds at the State Championships. Ella and fellow freshman Leah Tate '29 represented St. Mary's in Knoxville, each earning a spot on the podium. Ella placed fourth in the 400-meter dash and seventh in the 800-meter run, while Leah finished seventh in the triple jump.

The Middle School team also enjoyed an outstanding season, finishing as Shelby League runners-up after consistently improving throughout the spring. The team demonstrated impressive depth, with athletes contributing valuable points across multiple events.

Alli Carner '30 added her name to the record book by breaking the Middle School discus record with a throw of 88 feet, 9 inches. The team's success was a testament to the hard work and dedication displayed throughout the season, laying a strong foundation for the future of the St. Mary's track & field program.



Tennis

The Upper School tennis team put together an impressive season, showcasing resilience and steady improvement throughout the spring. Their hard work paid off with a Division II-AA West Region Runner-Up finish and a round in the TSSAA State Tournament. The Turkeys hosted the opening round of the state tournament at Leftwich Tennis Center, where they battled Christ Presbyterian Academy in a hard-fought match. Although their postseason run came to an end, the team's competitiveness and fight were evident from start to finish.

With a young roster, the program's future is incredibly bright. The team earned several dominant victories throughout the season while continuing to develop both individually and as a unit. Their commitment, leadership, and perseverance made this season an important step forward for St. Mary's tennis.



Alumnae Weekend



This year's Alumnae Weekend had our alumnae turning the page together as they reunited to celebrate friendship and tradition. From a book signing by Outstanding Alumna Patti Person Ray '65 and a family picnic in the gym to reunion class gatherings throughout the city, alumnae gathered to honor St. Mary's and write new memories together.



The class of 1966 marks its 60th reunion.
Diane Taylor Newton, Jeanne Stevenson Moessner, Ree Wilson Cantrell, and Mary Lawrence Hughes Flinn.



Alumnae Weekend and Alumnae Board Chairs:
Tricia Hood Thomas '90, Alumnae Board President Emma Less '13, Alumnae Weekend Chair Jenay Gipson Boggs '06, and Alumnae Weekend Vice Chair Anna Utley Cassidy '13.



The class of 1971 celebrates its 55th reunion.
Back: Marty Jones, Nancy Goza Godbold, Jan Carruthers Sturdivant; Middle: Elise Dann, Jinka Hoover McLaurin, Ann Vandeventer Ince; Front: Catherine Dailey Berger, Avery Malone Kaserman, Jean Schelhorn.



The class of 1976 turns out in a big way for their 50th class reunion.
Front to back: Kathleen Person Longoria, Dabney Fargarson Holland, Cori Friese McLaughlin, Kaky Ossorio Wakefield, Kathy Lammons Rose, Lisa Morrow Morten, BJ Fiser Jones, Virginia Donelson Curry, Mary Walton Walker Allen, Theresa Alissandratos Schnepf, Robbie Loveless Archer, Julie Davidson Barton, Lu Jones Johnston, Nancy Muse, Sharon Hammer, Josie McNeely Walker, Sharon Hancock Brown, Burkley Mann Allen, Teri Blair, Crissy Garrett Haslam, Wyeth Outlan Burgess, Kim Brown Mullins, Allison Pitcock Fentress, Jan Valentine Wiygul, Cindy Sipes Thompson, Martha Flowers, Ginny Waller Zanca, Cathy Love, Allison Brown Coates, Valerie Zepatos Gosney.



The class of 1986 comes together for their 40th reunion.
Front: Kathryn Haggitt Fisher, Sissy Roberds Carpenter, Jean Vaughan McGhee, Laurie Langford Fox, Kim Malone Scott; Second row: Kay Seessel Rawlings, Elizabeth Cashman Dickinson, Kara Finnegan, Irene McDonnell Ayotte, Mary Helen Pender Moore, Elizabeth Stokes Bran; Third row: Lara Kriegal, Leigh Gordon Wright, Susan Whitten Graber, Marcelle Askew, Susannah Taylor; Back: Elizabeth Bowers Farrar, Cathy Cape Furey, Meg Gary Woodhouse, Liz Whitsitt McEwan.



The class of 1991 returns for its 35th reunion.
Back row: Heather Pearson Chauhan, Leigh Rawdon, Jennifer Breazeale Young
Middle: Tish Dudley, Elizabeth Middlecoff Allen; Front: Megan Saxon Murphree, Margaret Craddock McLean, Katie Meredith.



The class of 1996 reunites for its 30th reunion.

Front: Sharlene Sidhu Keithley, Andrea Martin Armani, Alexis Nussbaum, Gwyn Fisher; Middle: Jane Carr, Julia Chesney McDonald, Laura Ray Logue, Leslie Forell, Bernice Chen; Back: Courtney Ellis Felts, Ellen LeVaughn Kowalchuk, Courtney Shove Meador.



The class of 2001 gathers to celebrate their 25th reunion.

Back: Carey King Slocum, Susan Buckner Rose, Nishta Mehra; Third Row: Amanda Vogel, Katie Holladay Peak, Meena Sudheendran, Emily Harris; Second Row: Jenny Maddux Stenberg, Mira Patel, Joni Gossett Oates, Morgan Raines; Front Row: Courtney Taylor Humphreys, Saira Mahmood, Katie Runyan, Amrita Dirghangi Goel, Jennifer Hirsch.



The class of 2006 returns to celebrate their 20th reunion.

From back to front: Elise Herron, Aasiya Mirza Glover, Kristi Ryan, Elliott Machin Cooper, Beth Pazar D'Arcy, Morgan Beckford, Katie Camille Friedman, Catherine Smith Denman, Mishi Castroverde, Meredith Robinson, Grace Wheeler Davis, Minor Moore, Aubrey Turner, Courtney Foreman Guilfoile, Melissa Tsiu, Holly Hendrix Vitalis, Lindsey Edwards Rushing, Evie Lyras Haddad, Ellen Page Moore, Elizabeth Harris, Chandler Ford, Madeline Smith Lanigan, Neelam Khan Ali, Kimberly Johnson Radant, Amanda Ayerst Jemison, Katherine Fockler Steele, Lauren Bunch, Lauren Bowden Matteson, Chelsey Diffe Curry, Mamie Kostka Finch, Jenay Gipson Boggs, Lulu Wilson Wild.



The class of 2011 celebrates its 15th reunion.

Front: Whitney Wortham Priester, Teresa Hendrix Daniel, Tinsley McBride, Meg Gould Blaze, Shelby Chambliss Pascal, Rebecca Rinehart Howard, Katie Danehy Wagoner; Middle: Abby McAtee Gatliff and Anna Morten; Back: Morgan VanDyke Ivy, Allyson Patterson Dalton, Meg Cornaghie, Margaret McClintock Cosgrove, Clarkey Whitmire, Lucy Wade Shapiro.



The class of 2016 comes together for their 10th reunion.

Back: Halle Smith, Hannah Simmons, and Chalmers Benson; Front: Rita Chanda and Swarna Sakshi.



The class of 2021 gathered to celebrate their 5th reunion.

Back to front: Sophie Droke, Jennifer Ruffin, Ellen Feild, Emily Taylor, Caroline White, Ruth Callicott, Sadhika Ganguli, Evie Fowler, Rachel Beem, Laura Isaacs, Faith Preston, Ella Trotz, Ellen Parker, Kate Weller, Lane Wackerfuss, Margaret Couloubaritsis, Rose Rezaee, Miriam Gardner, Chloe Webster, Amelia Kreher.

Summer Flocktail Hour

Our 2000-2009 alumnae gathered this July for our Summer Flocktail Hour! It was a wonderful evening of catching up, sharing life journeys, and looking back on the cherished moments that make St. Mary's so special.

We extend a special thank you to Lauren Anderson Stone '01, as well as our host committee, Amy Reinhardt Robinson '00, Lizzie Gill Foreman '03, Anne Taylor Tipton Manning '03, Katherine Fockler Steele '06, Jenay Gipson Boggs '06, Mary Grace McQuiston Arehart '07, and Leah Bearman Pinkston '09 for their hospitality and for making the evening such an enjoyable event for everyone.



Audrey Bourland Hurst '03, Courtney Taylor Humphreys '01, and Jenny Maddux Stenberg '01



Erica Marchbanks '06, Catherine Smith Denman '06, Hanna Gordon Oysel '08, and Jessie Walker Wiley '04



The Class of 2002 at the Summer Flocktail: Jennifer Chung Mason, Ann Burruss Prascher, Elizabeth Campbell Granieri, Kelsey Freebing, Whitney Long Neal, and Margaret McQuiston



Mary Grace McQuiston Arehart '07, Hallie Flanagan '07, and Anna Bearman '07



Camille Wingo Christopher '04 and Catie Jane Berger Myers '05



Erin Sandefer Meeks '07 and Lauren Anderson Stone '01

MILESTONES

Marriages

Bhavya Jha '13

to Pavan Patel,
March 8, 2026

Lucy Chancellor '18

to Tom Fowlkes,
June 13, 2026

Maddie Rhodes '14

to Isak Lund
July 25, 2026

Births/Adoptions

Helen Downie Talbot
to **Abby Yandell Talbot '03**
November 3, 2025

Ellis Chesney Alexander
to **Emily Edwards Alexander '03**
February 12, 2026

Porter Weston Paul
to **Morgan Robbins Paul '06**
March 24, 2026

Alma Rose Nordyke
to **Ellen Bransford '06**
June 6, 2026

Logan Twist Lanigan
to **Madeline Smith Lanigan '06**
June 27, 2026



Henry Simon Hammer
to Hannah Stein Hammer '13
March 24, 2026

Lark Elizabeth Lindsey
to **Kate Foster Lindsey '07**
February 27, 2026

Fletcher William Brooks
to **Ayana Fletcher-Tyson Brooks '08**
January 8, 2026

Eli Burton Cain
to **Cristen Garrett Cain '08**
January 10, 2026

Maud Georgy Steiner
to **Wallis Tosi Steiner '09**
May 28, 2026

Louise Foster Stevens
to **Lucy Foster Stevens '11**
June 30, 2025

Leo Thrasher Kortepeter
to **Mary Peeler '11**
March 21, 2026

Theodore Alphonse Howard
to **Becca Rinehart Howard '11**
June 27, 2026

Henry Simon Hammer
to **Hannah Stein Hammer '13**
March 24, 2026

Rodgers Brashier Briscoe
to **Maddie Droke Briscoe '14**
April 15, 2026

Cooper Smith Dean
to **Katherine Donovan Dean '14**
December 16, 2025

Palmer Anne Lindberg
to **Mimi Billings Lindberg '14**
May 7, 2026

Hunter "Hunt" Alexander Lyles Jr.
to **Natalie Meeks Lyles '14**
July 9, 2026

Ann "Harris" Rose
to **Mary Katherine Harris Rose '14**
December 20, 2025



Theodore Alphonse Howard
to Becca Rinehart Howard '11
June 27, 2026



Morgan Robbins Paul '06 with son
Porter Weston Paul

MILESTONES



Mary Peeler '11 with her son, Leo and Anna Morten '11



Sarah Phillips Johnson '11 celebrates graduating with her Master of Science in Nursing from East Tennessee State University with her family

Professional Updates

Catherine Robilio Womack '82
Mastership Award, from the American College of Physicians

Nancy Austin Patterson '91
Vice President and Trust Officer of Hancock Whitney (corporate trust team) since December 2025

Nupur Sidhu Bal '98
President of the Virginia Bar Association

Claire Arnett Sumner '05
Sumner Deere LLC, founding partner

Laura Jennings Yacoubian '05
St. Mary's Director of Alumnae

Divya Moolchandani Schavio '08
Senior Director of Compliance at Optum

Erin Jewell '18
Capacity Management Analyst, Duke Health

Postgraduate Degrees

Sara Phillips Johnson '11
Master of Science in Nursing, East Tennessee State University

Isra Ahmed '18
Doctor of Dental Surgery, University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Jessica Lewis '18
Master of Laws in Taxation, University of Florida Levin College of Law



In Memoriam

ALUMNAE
Frances Kelly Buckner '45

FACULTY & STAFF

Betty Jane Barringer
Rita Bielskis
Cherry Falls
Sallie Harris
Carol Lacy
Elizabeth Lyon
Rachel Martin
Barbara Sands

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OUR MISSION

St. Mary's Episcopal School provides an unparalleled educational experience that challenges and supports each girl as she discovers her unique purpose and reaches her individual potential.

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Laura Jennings Yacoubian '05 P'33'36,
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*First-day joy from head to toe! Second grader
Dori celebrates the start of a new school year.*