

Dear Families,

As you know, the Connecticut General Assembly has raised the minimum age for automatic entry into public school in Connecticut. Specifically, Section 1 of Public Act 23-208 states that children will need to turn five on or before September 1 of the school year in order to be automatically eligible to enroll in a school kindergarten program.

As a nonpublic school, this is a law with which we must comply. That said, if in the assessment of a school a Pre-K 4 student whose birthday falls between September 1 and December 31 has demonstrated high aptitude in Pre-K 4, and the family is seeking a waiver to advance that student into the school kindergarten program, as the principal of St. Mary School, Deacon Dominic will be adopting the following steps to assess kindergarten readiness:

1. We will be following an assessment as recommended by the Archdiocese of Hartford to evaluate each student academically.
2. We will also be conducting a socialization readiness observation, which will be performed by SMS Administrators.
3. Once each of these evaluations have been completed, Deacon Dominic will use that data to make a determination as to whether we can offer admission to the applicant for kindergarten. This decision will be final.

As you know, as part of our application process we require a teacher evaluation from the applicant's Pre-K 4 teacher. Only once we review these evaluations will we review any waiver requests, per the process stated above.

We hope to begin the assessments in January for those students for whom we have received an application and teacher evaluation. For students of St. Mary School presently, these assessments will occur during the school day. For those students seeking a waiver outside of St. Mary School, we will schedule these evaluations with you separately.

We understand that this change in state law has created frustration and confusion for some. We are doing our best to navigate this new process and work with families so as to provide the best educational experience possible for all of our students.

Please reach out to Deacon Dominic Corrado or to Director of Admissions, Emily Lucibello, with any questions at all.

We thank you for your interest in St. Mary School, and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Emily Lucibello
Director of Admissions