

A Message the Superintendent

November 2022 Dear St. Mary's School for the Deaf and the Deaf Community:

Our school is off to a great start, as we conclude the first quarter of the 2022-2023 academic school year. Our students, staff, and parents, continue to work as a cohesive team, ensuring that all student goals are achieved before, during, and after school. It has been wonderful and exciting to be back to in-person activities. The Family Orientation Dinner, Deaf Awareness Week, Family Conference Night, and the Residential Skating Party, were all a success! Our Elementary students were excited to go Trick or Treating around campus on Halloween. On Tuesday, October 11th, the Father Gallagher Gymnasium was dedicated Anne Kist for her 34 years of dedicated work with our students in Physical Education and Athletics at SMSD.

Teacher Kirsten Helm and her students were excited to hold the SMSD Annual Mock Election on Tuesday, November 8th. Staff and students were excited to welcome several local Government Officials including, Mayor Byron W. Brown, Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz, Assemblywoman Monica P. Wallace, Majority Leader Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes, Erie County Legislators April Baskins and Howard B. Johnson, Senator Timothy Kelly, Buffalo City Councilmen Mitch Nowakowski and Ulysees O. Wingo, Karen Howard a Community Advocate and the Executive Assistant to Senator Pat Gallivan, NY State Commissioner of Motor Vehicles Mark Schroeder, and Buffalo City Court Judge Samuel Davis. Our local Government Officials did an excellent job of supporting our School and teaching our students the importance of voting.

Thanksgiving and the kick-off to the Holiday Season is upon us. SMSD Welcomes Residential Students and their family to the 26th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, November 16th, at 6:00 P.M in the Old Chapel. SMSD is also excited to welcome back the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra on Tuesday, November 22nd, at 10:00 A.M., as they kick-off their Holiday Season with a Concert in the Father Gallagher Gym.

SMSD will be closed November 23rd, November 24th, and November 25th, in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

St. Mary's School for the Deaf continues to work on our school improvement plan in preparation for our re-accreditation visit in 2023.

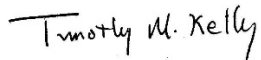
The Foundation for Deaf Education's Annual Appeal is underway, and we are getting closer to meeting our goal! Every gift makes a difference, and donation of all sizes are welcome. Please visit the [Foundation's page](#) on our website for more information or to donate. Because of community members like you we can offer our students so much more.

SMSD partners with many community organizations and is a valuable resource to Western New York. We are committed to our Belief Statement and our Mission Statement. We remain student-focused and student-centered in our approach to Deaf Education.

For more information on events, please call the school at (716) 834-7200.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and safe Holiday Season

Child First!



Timothy M. Kelly
Superintendent