



Dear St. Mary's School for the Deaf Stakeholders:

Happy New Year! Our staff and students returned to school from the winter break on January 4th to full in-person learning. COVID testing is continually being offered for Staff and Students, we continue to follow Erie County Department of Health Guidance (ECDOH) and will keep you informed of any changes. There were several positive cases after the break and although absenteeism was at a high, everyone had their hands on deck when they were here at school. The "Spirit of St. Mary's" is alive and well in terms of people doing extra and volunteering to help. I give a ton of credit to our students and staff who continue to be resilient and strong during this pandemic.

Thank you to the Parent Teachers Organization for sponsoring the Winter Wonderland, they truly are a Child First organization. All students had the opportunity to board Santa's sleigh and ride through the North Pole where Santa lives. Santa gave some clues as to where classes could find their special gifts and then continue their scenic route through "Holiday Valley Ski Resort".

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

Because of the recent snow days, Graduation for the Class of 2022 will take place on Thursday, June 23rd, and the last day of classes for SMSD students is Monday, June 27th.

The Foundation for Deaf Educations Annual Appeal is underway, and we are so close to meeting our goal! Every gift counts 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.

If you would like to tour our school, please feel free to contact us for a virtual meeting or arrange a socially distant visit.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and successful 2022!

Timothy M. Kelly, Superintendent