



## **St. Mary's Institute—a STREAM School**

The idea of emphasizing the subject areas of **STEM**: **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, and **M**ath helps to prepare a more agile, educated workforce for our country's future. However, in recent years, it has been increasingly evident that our economy is truly driven by innovation— and the creativity and communication nurtured through the "Arts" is an **essential** component to innovation and worthy of emphasis as well. As a Catholic School, "**R**eligion" is woven throughout all subjects and completes the picture for a holistic approach to education. As a STREAM School, SMI uses this interdisciplinary approach to bridge subject areas—*Catholic Schools education for 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners!*

### **Making Learning Relevant**

STREAM Education allows academic concepts to be coupled with increased **real life application** in all the disciplines. Students become involved in hands-on projects where problem solving, collaboration, and the results of their efforts make lessons more relevant than a textbook alone. **Increased technology** to enhance learning is emphasized, and **career connections** as well as **exposure to working professionals** further relates students to their own learning and their futures! It helps answer the "Why are we learning this?" question.

### **Interdisciplinary Connections**

STREAM intentionally connects disciplines to drive instruction. In the real world, content knowledge is interwoven, layered and sophisticated, not experienced in isolation. STREAM Education promotes the coordination of topics around central themes, and encourages the exploration of concepts in relation to one another. While disciplines are essential, STREAM asks where does my subject area blend with yours. This framework promotes deeper understanding and the transference of knowledge outside specific disciplines.

### **Strong Economic Future in Our Own Backyard**

**Partnerships with local businesses are vitally important to increase availability of 21<sup>st</sup> century educational experiences.** Authentic educational opportunities and platforms for learning about areas rich with career opportunities spanning all STREAM disciplines will be sought within our community businesses, academic institutions, and cultural centers. These larger school-community relationships are integral to STREAM success and a measure of achieving a truly common goal: a bright future for our students.