

St. Mary's to open doors to day students

By Neal Haldane
staff writer

Orchard Lake's St. Mary's Preparatory School will end a century-long tradition in September when the school eliminates its requirement that students live on campus.

After 100 years of being exclusively a boarding school, St. Mary's will open its doors to day students beginning with the 1985-86 school year," according to William Devine, superintendent and principal at the all-boy college-prep high school.

"We've talked about it for a number of years. We would like to open it up to students who want to attend our program but don't want to stay day and night."

Increased demand is one of two major reasons for the change, Devine said.

The demand is so high, the Archdiocese of Detroit is looking to locate another Catholic high school in the metro area, he said.

In the last 15 years, the private school has seen a great shift in the make-up of the student body, Devine explained. Back then, students needed a place to live because 80 percent came from other states, countries and houses outside the metropolitan area.

"THINGS HAVE changed so drastically, especially in the last few years," he said. "We are not getting the out-state students. Eighty percent of our current students are within a 30-minute drive of the campus."

The second reason behind the switch is better utilization of campus facilities, Devine said.

St. Mary's has 325 students attending classes and living in a dormitory that has room for 240. However, Devine said school facilities could accommodate 340 students.

The day-school option will be offered to current students and new freshmen, along with a limited amount of upper-class students who wish to transfer from other schools.

Day students will be charged \$3,500 a year to take classes at St. Mary's -- a figure derived after a check of costs at

Detroit Country Day, Cranbrook and other private schools, Devine said.

The day rate is \$1,000 cheaper than the charge assessed students who board at the school.

THE BOARDING rate still will be a bargain because the charge is kept low through donations and gifts the school receives, Devine said. Without the donations, the school would have to charge boarders around \$8,000 to attend school and live on campus.

The school already has sent letters to several teacher colleges informing graduates of St. Mary's need for additional instructors, especially in the mathematics, science and computer areas, he said.

"This will definitely help us become a better part of our community. Many people don't know anything about us probably because of the boarding aspect. Now we are reaching out to students who want to be part of our program."

memory lane

Continued from Page 3

Friends as Jan, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Farmington Hills City Council. Dolan, past president Kimberly Homeowners' Association, claimed to represent the homemakers of the community.

"I don't think they've ever had a woman who is not a career person," she said in an interview. "I could probably represent a large number of homemakers."

Dolan replaced Margaret Schaeffer, who resigned after being elected judge in the 47th District Court.

A DRUG RAID on a house at 31325 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills resulted in the arrest of six persons. Hills Police Chief Ron Holko said the six would be arraigned on charges ranging from sale or possession of narcotics to frequenting a place of illegal activity.

FARMINGTON HIGH's basketball team couldn't stop Tommy Stinson, who scored 32 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to help Ferndale win the non-league contest, 72-46. Randy Meier led Farmington with 13 points.

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