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St. Mary School Crowned 2016 Recycle-Bowl State Champion Keep Akron Beautiful presents award and Proclamation from Mayor Horrigan

Akron, OH- St. Mary School was crowned as the Ohio state champion of Keep America Beautiful's [Recycle-Bowl](#), the national recycling competition for K-12 students, teachers and school communities. Recycle-Bowl, which engaged more than 700,000 k-12 students and teachers from nearly 1,300 schools spanning 47 states and the District of Columbia, took place over four weeks in the fall, culminating on America Recycles Day on Nov. 15, 2016. Recyclables recovered during the 2016 competition totaled 2.2 million pounds, which prevented the release of 3,150 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO2E). This reduction in greenhouse gases is equivalent to the annual emissions from 655 passenger cars.

Keep Akron Beautiful has been hosting a localized mixed paper drive competition for seven years, working with Akron Public Schools, private schools who are willing to participate, and River Valley Paper Company. In 2016, 24 Akron public schools and 8 private schools participated in the competition, recycling **21.52 tons or 47,460 pounds** of paper citywide, which is 1,310 pounds more than in 2015. St. Mary School was recognized as the **Overall Winner** of the month-long competition by recycling the most paper per pound, per student with 28.82 pounds of paper per student or 2.4 tons total.

For the first time in Keep Akron Beautiful's history, a school was recognized on a national level of the Recycle-Bowl Competition. "It's encouraging to see students of all age groups and from all parts of the country get so excited about recycling both at school and at home," said Brenda Pulley, Senior Vice President/Recycling, Keep America Beautiful. "Congratulations to St. Mary School, our Ohio state winner."

Keep Akron Beautiful CEO, Jacqui Ricchiuti, visited St. Mary's School on May 23, 2017 to present Principal Dr. Patricia Nugent and members of the school's student council with their Recycle-Bowl State Winner certificate, mounted in a recycled-content plaque. St. Mary School was also presented with a proclamation from the City of Akron, proclaiming Tuesday, May 23, 2017 as "St. Mary School Day" in the City of Akron recognizing them for their commitment to recycling in the City of Akron.

This paper drive was designed to prove that Akron's school staff and students, parents, community members and local businesses can help save trees, which purge the atmosphere of greenhouse gases just by giving our trash a second life. The receptacles are still in place and are accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Filling up the collection bins helps the schools raise money for clubs, their recycling efforts or team uniforms. For more information on the competition or on paper recycling at the Akron school locations, contact Helen Dauka at Keep Akron Beautiful, (330) 375-2116.

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Keep Akron Beautiful is a 501(c) (3) agency celebrating 35 years of serving the citizens of Akron by improving Akron's quality of life through beautification and responsible environmental management. For additional program information, visit www.keepakronbeautiful.org.