

Holy Rosary Catholic School

2018-2019 State of the School Report



Dear Parents, Staff Members, Parishioners & Investors in Holy Rosary Catholic School,

This past school year was my 17th of working in Catholic education and my 1st year as principal. I feel privileged to work in a Catholic school, and I am very honored to be the principal of Holy Rosary Catholic School. I appreciate the support I have received from pastors, school & parish staff, parents, students, former principals, and co-workers who have all reached out to me with kind and encouraging words as I've embarked on this new journey. I am looking forward to leading Holy Rosary School for years to come!

Here at Holy Rosary, we are fortunate to be able to provide a Catholic education option to families in the Detroit Lakes area. Faith development, academic excellence, and a dedication to service are key elements to Catholic education and set our

school apart from other educational options. I am passionate about Catholic education because I believe that for a child to grow in every way, we need to work to nurture the whole child: cognitively, morally, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Catholic school teachers and administration are privileged to have the ability to help their students develop all of these qualities. As a parent who enrolls her children in Catholic education, I appreciate that the values we work to instill at home are reinforced at school, along with an appreciation and love for Jesus and our Catholic faith.

This report will provide some information with regards to the current state of our school. It specifically addresses our School Strategic Plan, a summary of our financial resources, a summary of our standardized assessment results, enrollment trends, ways we serve others, and upcoming improvement initiatives.

Thank you for your continual support for our school. The Holy Rosary community is very blessed to have so many individuals who care about our school's ongoing success!

May God bless you & your family most abundantly!

Cathy Larson

Holy Rosary School Principal



School Strategic Plan Progress

Holy Rosary School is accredited through the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accreditation Association (MNSAA). The mission of MNSAA is to be a facilitator in improving the quality of nonpublic education in Minnesota through an accreditation process.

Part of the improvement initiative that MNSAA requires of Holy Rosary School is to produce a School Strategic Plan that includes objectives, action steps, and a timeline. Progress on our School Strategic Plan is reported to MNSAA on an annual basis.

The information below includes our 4 objectives and a description of what steps have been taken thus far to achieve these goals.

Objective 1: Holy Rosary School will become more financially independent.

Several steps have been taken to meet this objective. A new tuition management system has been implemented, through the use of an online software program. Using this method of collecting and managing tuition money has increased our overall tuition revenue. We are also actively working towards the establishment of an endowment fund to augment the school's operating fund. Through contributions made at our annual Spring Interlude fundraiser, we have deposited a significant amount of money into this fund. Holy Rosary School is also looking at new ways to increase our fundraising dollars and will implement some new ideas during the upcoming school year.

Objective 2: Holy Rosary School will meet the academic needs of each student.

Holy Rosary School reviews and updates our preschool through 8th grade curriculum on an annual basis. This past year we focused on math and social studies. When we review curriculum, we are looking at standardized testing scores to determine strengths & weaknesses in student progress, MN state education standards and how our curriculum aligns. A new math series was purchased this fall. A few of our teachers also have been meeting with other teachers in the Diocese to review standards and create a more uniform plan for what we're teaching across our Diocesan Catholic schools.

Objective 3: Holy Rosary School will provide a regionally competitive salary/benefit package to provide students with highly qualified teachers.

Holy Rosary School has been working towards raising the base pay for teacher salaries so that we are more competitive with what the public schools can offer. Currently, a new teacher at Holy Rosary would start at 72% of what a Detroit Lakes Public School teacher would be paid. Offering a more competitive salary would allow us to attract teachers and provide staffing consistency for our students. To help raise salaries, an endowment fund has been created and in the near future we hope to form a committee to work on building-up the fund.

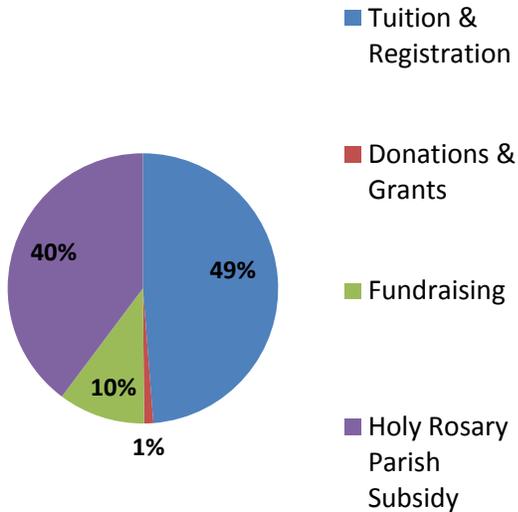
Objective 4: Holy Rosary School will maintain strong leadership for students and staff in Catholic education.

This objective was written when Mr. Mike Connell resigned as principal last year. Since then, Mrs. Cathy Larson has been hired as principal of Holy Rosary School. She completed an internship under the direction of Mr. Connell and also spent many hours with him in June to prepare for taking the position. Monsignor Timothy McGee, school superintendent, is Mrs. Larson's supervisor and administers an annual evaluation of her job performance.

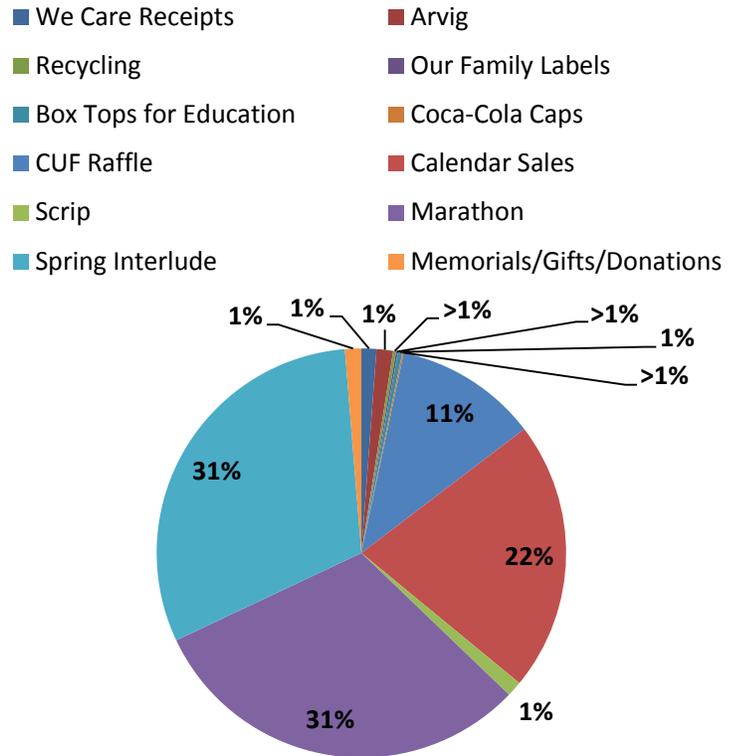
Financial Report

The following charts depict Holy Rosary School's revenue and expenses during the 2018-2019 school year.

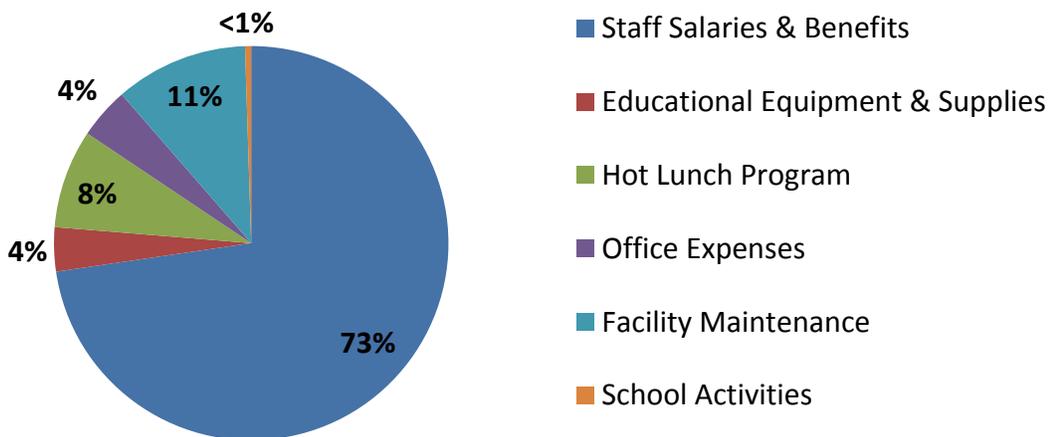
Revenue



Fundraising Income



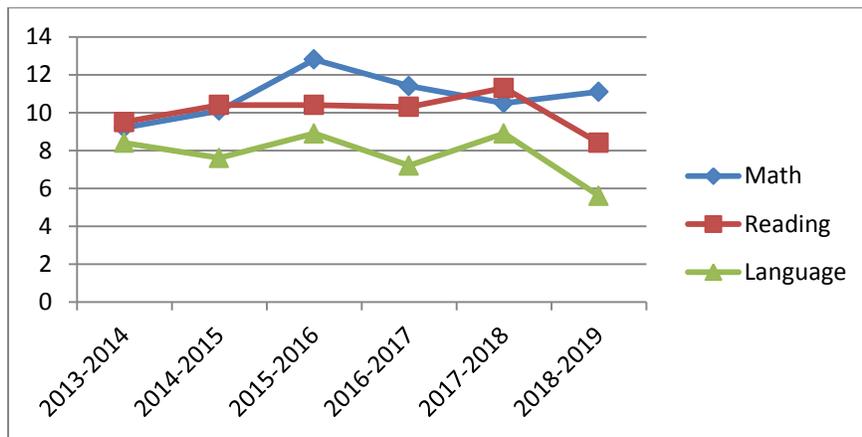
Expenses



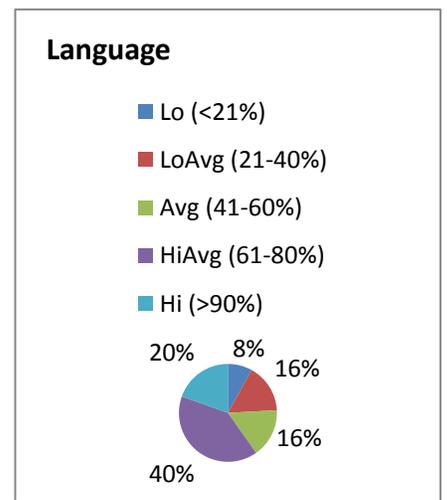
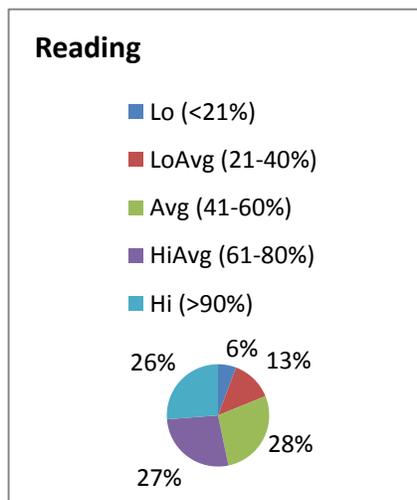
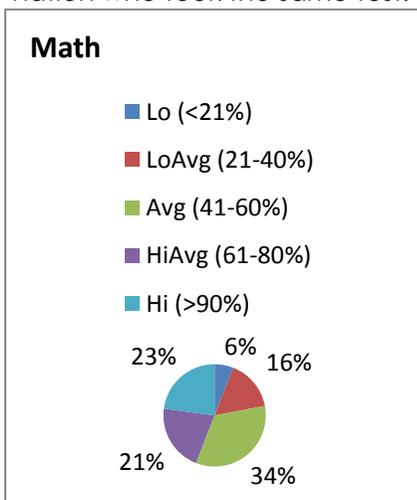
Assessment Data

Each fall and spring, Holy Rosary School administers the NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Test to our students. Students in grades K- 8 are tested in Math and Reading, and students in grades 2-8 are also tested in Language. The scores generated from these tests provide teachers and parents with a lot of information about student progress. Because so many factors (ie: class size, attendance, student ability to focus, state of mind, effort, etc.) play into the test results, we use the results as a tool and guide as we monitor student progress. In other words, we do not rely solely on standardized test scores to determine student success.

The line graph below shows trends in student growth during the course of the past 6 years. The plot points indicate the average growth per class throughout the whole school. The fact that we didn't see as much growth in Reading and Language this past school year is something that we will need to look into as we work to evaluate our Reading and Language Arts curriculum and teaching strategies for the upcoming school year.

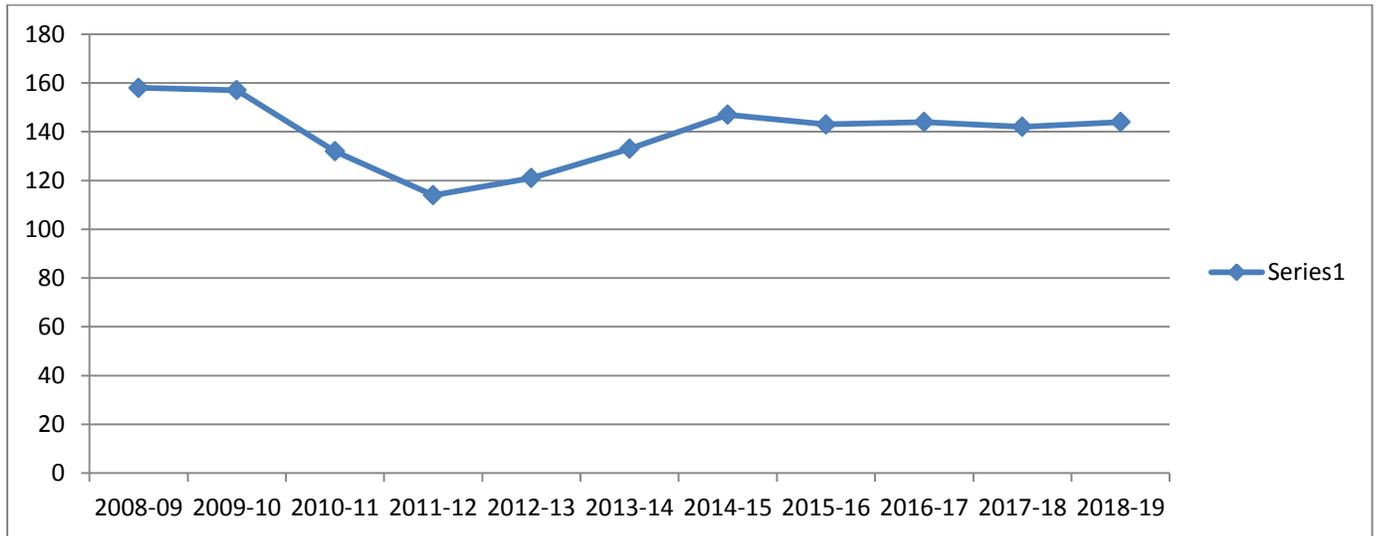


These charts show how our students stand as a whole in percentile ranking in each of the testing categories. A percentile provides us with a look at how our students' scores compare with others nationally in the same grade who took the same test. For example, in Math, 23% of our student population ranked "High", meaning they scored equal to or better than 90% of the students in the nation who took the same test.



Enrollment Trends

Holy Rosary School's enrollment has held steady for the past five years. During the 2018-19 school year, we had 144 students enrolled in preschool through grade 8.



Faith Development & Dedication to Service

Throughout the year, our students have many opportunities for developing a strong faith and learning to serve others. These are a few of the activities that our students participated in throughout this past school year that reflect our dedication to service and reaching out beyond the walls of our building.

- Our 2nd Graders serve a Lenten Soup Supper
- Our 3rd Graders read to residents at Oak Crossing on a monthly basis
- Our 4th & 8th Graders serve at the Palm Sunday Breakfast
- Our 6th & 7th Graders serve families at the 8th Grade Graduate's Banquet
- Middle School Students helped the Gardening Club ladies clean-up the church & school landscaping this spring
- Daily prayer intensions for those in need during our Morning Prayer together & during our weekly school Mass
- Delivered May Day Baskets to residents at area nursing homes & also shared baskets with those who attended our school Mass that day
- Students brought contributions for the local food pantry on a weekly basis
- Made Valentine cards for nursing home residents
- Raised money for "TeachHaiti" and through our efforts, provided an education for 3 Haitian children who would have not received an education otherwise
- Collected loose change during Lent to be donated to "Pennies for Patients" (The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society)
- Raised money for the "American Heart Association"

Upcoming Improvement Initiatives

Holy Rosary School is always looking for ways to improve in order to provide a quality education for our students. It is our goal to take on the following initiatives during the next couple of school years:

- **Improving Teaching Strategies & Student Success in Math:** This winter the teachers and principal were introduced to a new way of teaching students basic skills in math by an educator trained in *Math Recovery*. All teachers who teach math in preschool through grade 8 will attend a four day class to learn the new methods behind this strategy. *Math Recovery* strays from “traditional” ways of teaching math and provides a customized and unique way of instructing and assessing.
- **Communicating Student Achievement:** To better communicate student progress to parents at the elementary level, we are looking at updating our reporting methods to mastery-based reporting. This means that instead of students receiving a letter grade in each class during each quarter of the school year, their report card will reflect whether or not they have mastered the educational standards required by the state of Minnesota.
- **Increase Fundraising Revenue:** Holy Rosary School would like to incorporate “Giving Hearts Day” into their fundraising efforts. Our fundraising coordinator will attend training, and it is our hope that we can initiate this new fundraiser in February of 2020.
- **Create Another Source of Funding to Support the School:** To establish a lucrative endowment fund for augmenting the school’s operating fund, an “Investment Committee” will be created to develop investment strategies, identify potential donors, and monitor fundraising progress.

Holy Rosary School Mission Statement

Holy Rosary School Community is rooted in the word
and energized with the spirit of Jesus Christ.

We cultivate our community to live as Jesus
taught within the Catholic Tradition.

We strive to build gospel values
and promote academic excellence.