

Holy Rosary Catholic School

2021-2022 State of the School Report

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

Since 1916, Holy Rosary School and Parish have been providing 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.

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, standardized assessments, 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 was implemented through the use of an online software program. Using this method of collecting and managing tuition money has increased our overall tuition revenue, and currently, we are on track to collect 100% of the tuition due by the end of June. 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 and memorial donations, we have deposited a significant amount into this fund. It has been an ongoing goal to reduce the parish subsidy, and we ended the fiscal year with the parish subsidy at 30% of the total revenue for the school. This is down 15% from two years ago, when the subsidy was at 45%. Fundraising contributed to 14% of the total revenue, which was slightly less than last year; fundraisers will be reevaluated this summer.

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. When we review curriculum, we are looking at standardized testing scores to determine strengths & weaknesses in student progress, and evaluation the MN state education standards and how our curriculum aligns to them. Although we reviewed Science curriculum during the 2020-21 school year, we kept that our focus during the 2021-22 school year as well. We honed in on the need for providing hands-on learning opportunities for our students by purchasing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) materials, creating an outdoor learning space, becoming familiar with the new state education standards for Science, and attending workshops to learn new ways for enhancing our science program. During the winter of 2020, we had several teachers begin a professional development course called "Math Recovery", which focuses on early numeracy development in students. Due to the start of the pandemic, we were unable to continue those courses. This spring and summer, we have been fortunate to be able to get the teachers back in to the courses and learning these methods again so they can be implemented in the classroom.

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

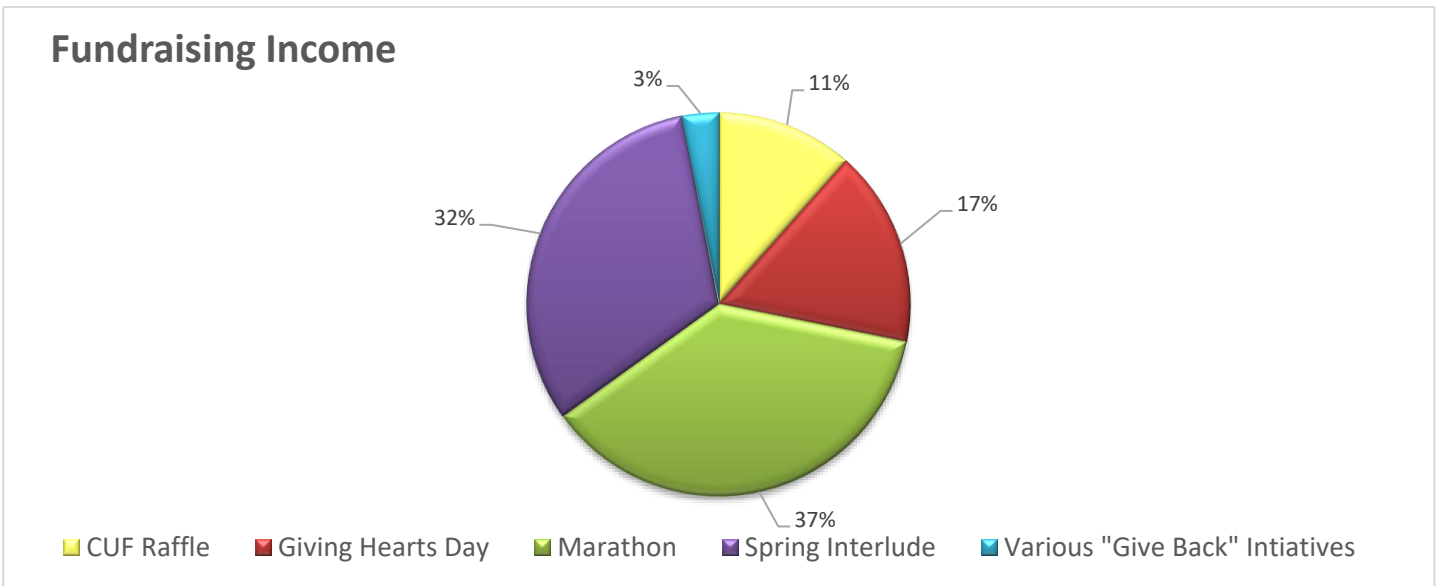
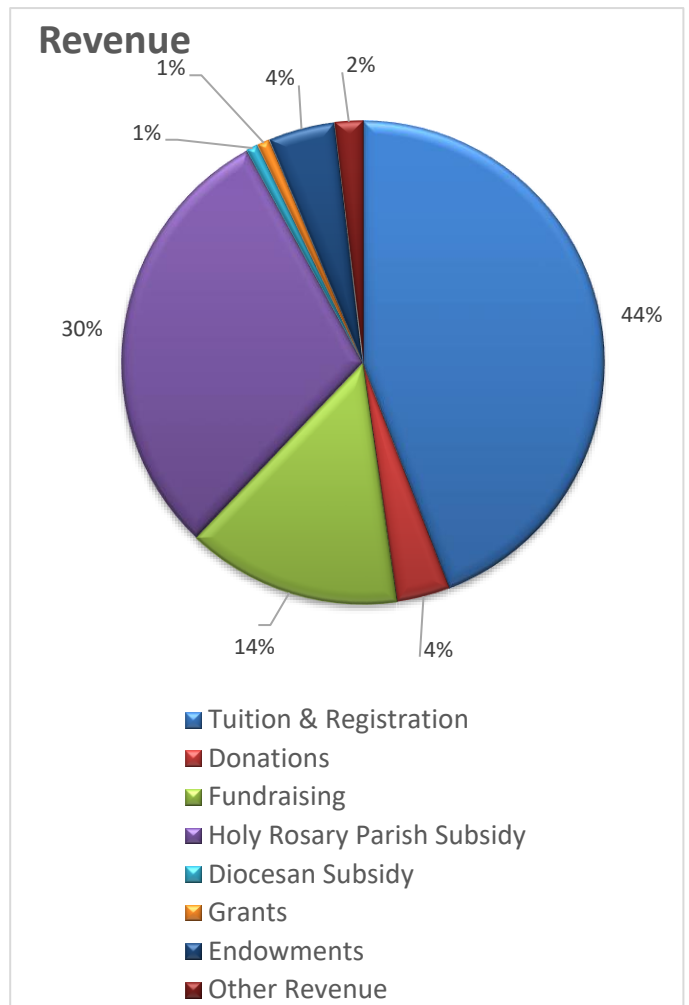
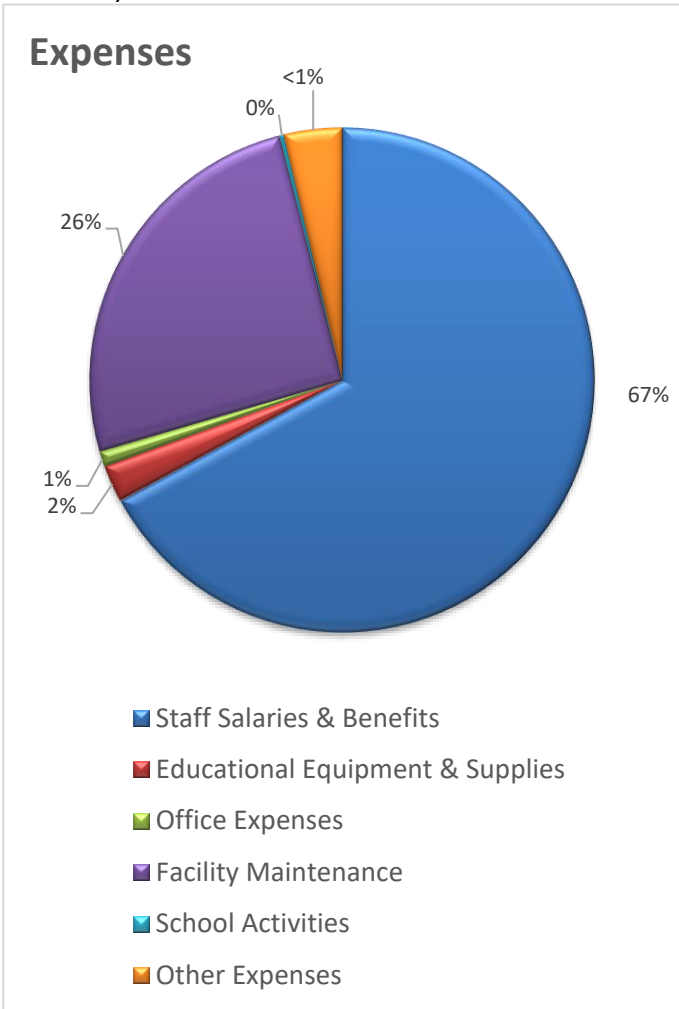
Holy Rosary School has been working towards raising the base pay for teacher salaries so that we are more competitive with what the public schools can offer. Offering a more competitive salary would allow us to attract teachers, retain quality teachers, and provide staffing consistency for our students. This year, we were able to increase teacher salaries by 4%, so they are at 77% of a Detroit Lakes Public School teacher's salary. This was made possible through our fundraising efforts and an increase in tuition for the upcoming school year. An endowment fund to support teacher salaries continues to be developed. It is our hope that we can continue to increase compensation each year by 2% until we attain 85% of the Detroit Lakes Public School's salary.

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 four years ago. In May of 2018, Mrs. Cathy Larson was hired as principal of Holy Rosary School. In December of 2019, she completed her Master of Education degree in Elementary Administration through the University of Mary, Bismarck. Father Chuck Huck, school superintendent, is Mrs. Larson's supervisor and administers an annual evaluation of her job performance. Mrs. Larson continues to partake in professional development opportunities to aid in maintaining strong leadership for Holy Rosary School.

Financial Report

The following charts depict Holy Rosary School's revenue and expenses during the 2021-2022 school year.

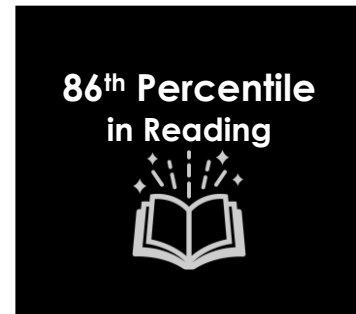
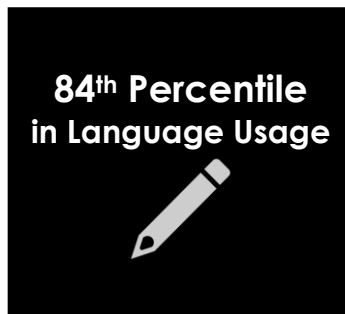
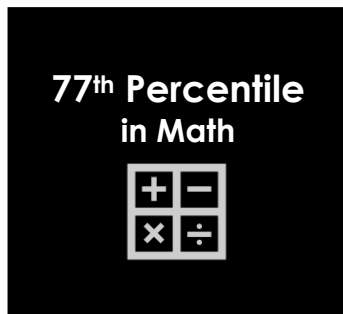


** "Give Back" Initiatives Include: Coca-Cola Caps, Our Family Labels, Arvig Donations, Box Tops for Education, Recycling, Amazon Smile, & We Care Receipts.

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.

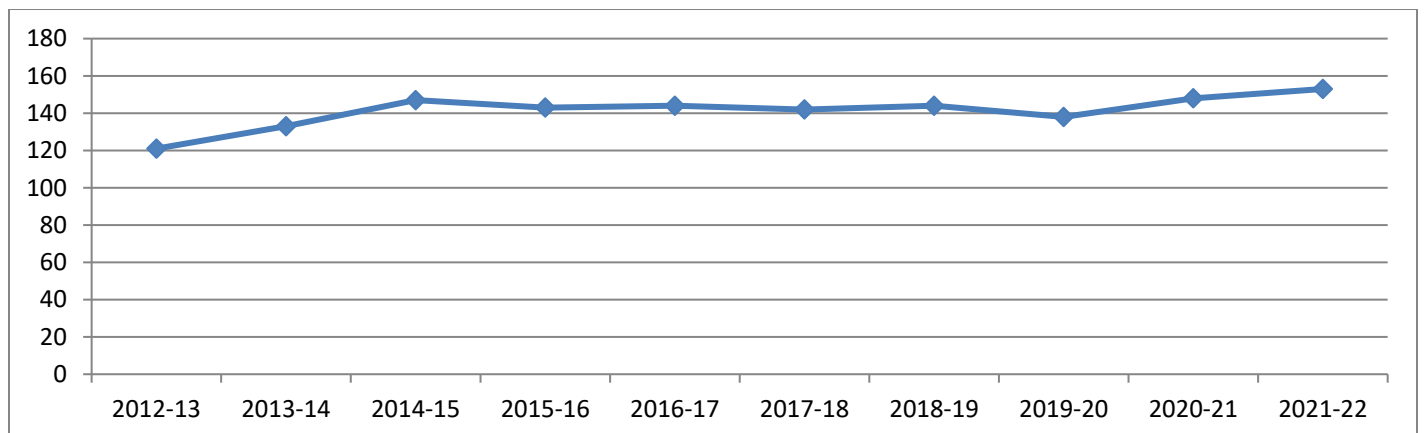
Spring 2022 testing results showed that Holy Rosary students averaged the following Achievement Percentiles:



This means that, on average, our students scored higher than 77% of the nation's K-8 students in Math, higher than 84% of the nation's Gr. 2-8 students in Language Usage, and higher than 86% of the nation's K-8 students in Reading.

Enrollment Trends

Enrollment numbers have increased as we ended our school year with 153 students enrolled in KPrep through Grade 8, the highest we've been in over 10 years. Registration for the 2022-23 school year has been continuous and we are projected to increase again.



Improvement Initiatives

During the summer of 2021, Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Crookston were approached by Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation. Fr. Chuck & Mrs. Larson were interviewed by a representative of the foundation and visited about the strengths and challenges that Holy Rosary School endures. After the meeting, the school was presented with the opportunity to participate in a "challenge grant" in which the foundation would match new donations given to the school by December 31, 2021, in the amount of \$25,000. We reached our goal and in February of 2022, we received a check from the Schulze Foundation in the amount of \$25,000. Total funds raised from this endeavor equaled over \$50,000! We were extremely excited about the opportunities this funding would provide. The endeavors we plan to take on are outlined below.

First, we would like to develop an alumni association. It is our goal to build up a strong, functional alumni database and keep it current, so that we can stay connected with our alumni and communicate regularly about the current state of Holy Rosary School. In the future, we would also like to hold routine alumni gatherings to celebrate our school community. This past school year, we increased our marketing efforts and with extra funding, we would like to continue our marketing efforts and look for new avenues for reaching out to increase our enrollment.

Adding Spanish to our curriculum is another way the funds will be used to better our school. As a result of hiring a part-time Spanish teacher, students will have a lesson in Spanish one day per week. Teaching our students basic Spanish throughout their years at Holy Rosary will give them opportunities to explore a new culture and gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for that culture. Through the study of the Latin roots of Spanish and English, students will be challenged to better understand the English language, and it will give them a head-start on learning the Spanish language before they are required to take the course in high school or college.

With access to these funds, Holy Rosary School will now be able to provide counseling services, as we have hired a counselor for the 2022-23 school year. This will be a great benefit to us as mental health concerns have risen over the past couple of years. Having a counselor on staff will provide our students with an opportunity to meet with a professional as needed. In addition, our counselor will visit the classrooms once a month to provide lessons in life skills and support their social emotional well-being.

Lastly, we have started working towards the enrichment of our science program by adding multiple opportunities for more hands-on learning. We have teachers who are passionate about science & hands-on activities, they just needed the materials to do it. Adding STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) to our curriculum more regularly, will give students opportunities to be challenged, problem solve, and work as a team, while learning various core concepts. We have been able to begin purchasing various materials for STEM related activities. We also would like to implement some Robotics opportunities for our students, so that those who are strong in this field can improve their knowledge and skillset, and work as a team with others who share the same gifts. We have started working towards creating an outdoor educational space/pollinator garden in cooperation with the Becker County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Pelican River Watershed District, and we plan to have it completed and ready to use in the fall of 2022. We are excited about this opportunity! Not only will students be learning the life cycles of such plant and animal life, but they will learn to be better caretakers of the Earth and God's creation. Finally, our science textbooks and materials, such as microscopes, are outdated. We need to explore the possibility of new textbooks so that students are presented with the most current and accurate information, and we also need to invest in new materials to provide students with optimal learning experiences and to support hands-on opportunities.

We are grateful for the Schulze Family Foundation and the funding they are providing so that we can continue to be a school of excellence as we build hope, faith, and futures!



Faith Development & Dedication to Service

Throughout the year, our students have many opportunities for developing a strong faith and learning to serve others. Although COVID protocols made it challenging to do some of our traditional service projects, we did what we could. These are a few of the activities that our school family participated in throughout this past school year that reflect our dedication to service and reaching out beyond the walls of our building.

- In lieu of reading to the residents at Oak Crossing, like they traditionally do, our 3rd Graders made artwork for the residents and wrote notes to them on a monthly basis.
- Middle school students cleaned the grounds of the Care & Share Homeless Shelter in Crookston and also the grounds in front of the Holy Rosary Rectory.
- Students adorned the church entrance with sunflower artwork to represent Ukraine, along with a sign that said, "Pray for Ukraine". Students participated in the special Mass which was held to pray for an end to the war.
- Daily prayer intentions were said for those in need during our Morning Prayer together & during our weekly school Mass.
- Our 4th & 8th Graders served the Palm Sunday Breakfast.
- We held a "Blue Mass" in honor of all emergency personnel. Those individuals were invited to Mass and then received a special blessing, and notes and treats from our students.
- All students brought contributions for the local food pantry on a weekly basis. This past year, students contributed a total of 814 pounds of food and \$752.84 to the local food pantry.
- Each class took turns leading the "Stations of the Cross" on Fridays during Lent.
- Students all participated in various Mass ministries throughout the year.
- Our 6th & 7th Graders served families at the 8th Grade Graduation Dinner.
- Students made cards for those who serve in the military and sent them out on Veteran's Day.
- As a school, we raised money for "TeachHaiti" and through our efforts, provided an education for 3 Haitian children who would have not received an education otherwise.
- During Lent, Holy Rosary students each contributed \$1. Funds collected were used to purchase items for to be made into baskets of items such as puzzle books, prayers, and decks of cards. Baskets were distributed to patients who were undergoing chemo or dialysis treatments.



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.

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"Building Faith, Hope, and Futures"