

Holy Rosary Catholic School

2024-2025 Annual State of the School Report



Dear Families, Parishioners, and Supporters,

Since 1916, Holy Rosary School and Parish have been proud to offer families in the Detroit Lakes area a strong Catholic education rooted in faith, academic excellence, and service. These pillars continue to distinguish our school and shape the experience we provide for every student.

Holy Rosary School is blessed with a dedicated team of educators and staff, including 18 classroom teachers, a pastor/superintendent, a principal, an office manager, a school counselor, and 2 hot lunch staff. Our maintenance crew is shared in partnership with the parish, and we are especially grateful for the many volunteers who give their time and talents so generously. Together, this dedicated community works with care and purpose to support each of our students and their families.

This report provides an overview of Holy Rosary School's current status and initiatives. In it, you will find information about the School Strategic Plan, enrollment data, academic performance through standardized testing, financial resources, and our commitment to service in the community.

Thank you for your faithful dedication to Holy Rosary School. Your support, prayers, and partnership play a vital role in the strength and sustainability of our mission!

With gratitude,

Cathy Larson

HRS Principal

Fr. Nate Brunn

Pastor & Superintendent



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.

During the spring of 2023, 4 new goals were written which Holy Rosary School will work towards achieving over the course of the next 7 years. The information below outlines the 4 objectives and a description of what was accomplished this year.

Objective 1: Holy Rosary School will foster Christian character development in students.

Holy Rosary School began implementing Education in Virtues in the spring of 2024. It is our belief that when children are exposed to the virtues and given opportunities for practice, they begin to develop healthy habits and live as disciples of Christ. To date, we have taught 12 virtues. To promote the spiritual and moral development of our students, Holy Rosary School implemented a yearlong focus on virtues, assigning one virtue to each month of the school year. Principal Larson introduced the monthly virtue to the student body and sent home letters encouraging families to grow in that virtue together. A central bulletin board served as a visual anchor, displaying the virtue, its meaning, a saint who exemplified it, a prayer, and recognition for students who were "Caught Practicing Virtue". Teachers incorporated virtues into classroom lessons and daily routines. The initiative culminated in a spring music program celebrating each of the virtues learned. Faculty collaborated throughout the year to share and refine ideas, and the staff was encouraged by the positive impact seen throughout the school. We look forward to continuing this meaningful work in the years ahead!

Objective 2: Holy Rosary School will promote academic success of all students through enrichment and support opportunities.

Holy Rosary School is fortunate to have 2 dedicated volunteers who have provided additional academic support for our students, either in small groups or while working one-on-one. Our K-5 volunteer focused on developing math and reading skills on a weekly basis, and our Middle School volunteer worked with students weekly in any area where extra support was needed.

Principal Larson and all classroom teachers participated in professional development sessions focused on analyzing NWEA MAP data. During these sessions, teachers reviewed assessment results, collaborated to identify trends and areas for growth, and set targeted instructional goals. This collaborative approach ensured that data was used effectively to inform teaching practices and support student achievement.

Objective 3: Holy Rosary School will increase family engagement within the school community.

Holy Rosary School prioritized family engagement throughout the year with a variety of community-building events. In October, PreK-Grade 3 families gathered for a Family Fun Night, enjoying a potluck supper and board games together. In January, the PTO hosted a well-attended Family Bowling Night for all school families, complete with pizza and soft drinks. March featured the inaugural "Students vs. Staff Sports Night," where middle school students competed against staff in a spirited series of games, with concessions available and families invited to cheer from the sidelines. To close out the year, the PTO organized a June golf scramble and Summer Solstice Celebration at a local resort, offering families a chance to relax, connect, and share a picnic meal. These events helped strengthen the partnership between home and school and fostered a strong sense of community.

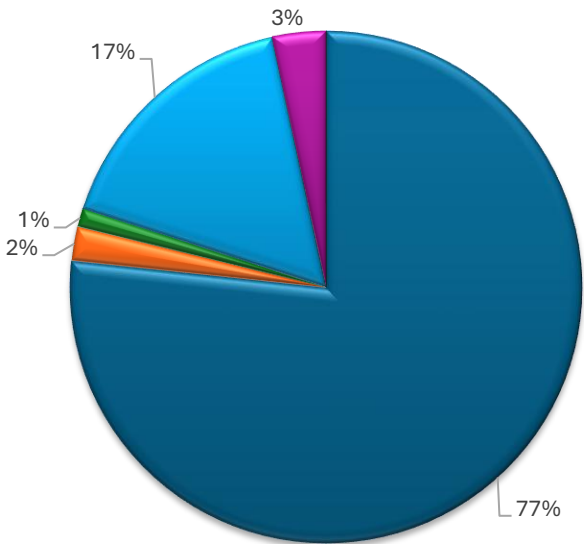
Objective 4: Holy Rosary School will become more financially stable to provide a quality education for students.

Parish and school councils reviewed financials during meetings every other month. We continue to work towards our goal of increasing teacher wages until they are at 85% of a public school teacher's salary. To keep up with annual operating expenses of the school and to continue fairly compensating our staff, it has become evident that there is a need for building an endowment so tuition rates can be kept affordable, fundraising expectations manageable, and the parish subsidy reasonable. The parish and school councils will continue to work with the pastor and principal to maintain a feasible balance between tuition, fundraising, and the parish subsidy.

Financial Report

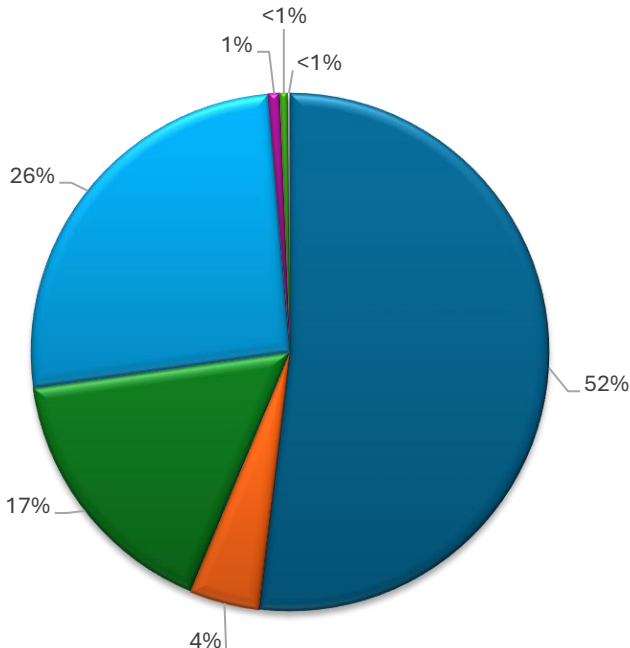
The following charts depict Holy Rosary School's revenue and expenses during the 2024-2025 school year.

Expenses



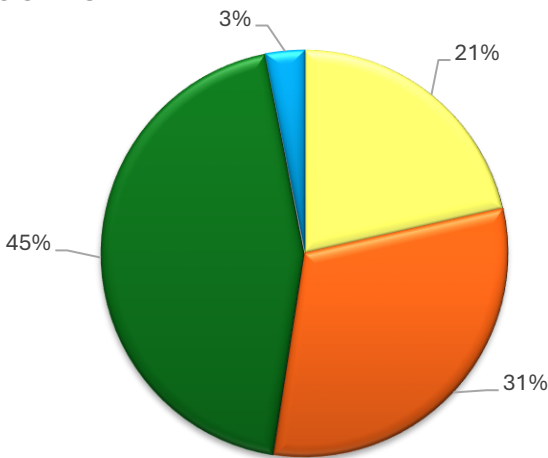
- Staff Salaries & Benefits
- Educational Equipment & Supplies
- Office Expenses
- Facility Maintenance
- Other Expenses

Revenue



- Tuition & Registration
- Donations
- Fundraising
- Holy Rosary Parish Investment
- Diocese of Crookston Investment
- Grants
- Other Revenue

Fundraising Income



- CUF Raffle
- Marathon
- Spring Interlude
- Various "Give Back" Initiatives

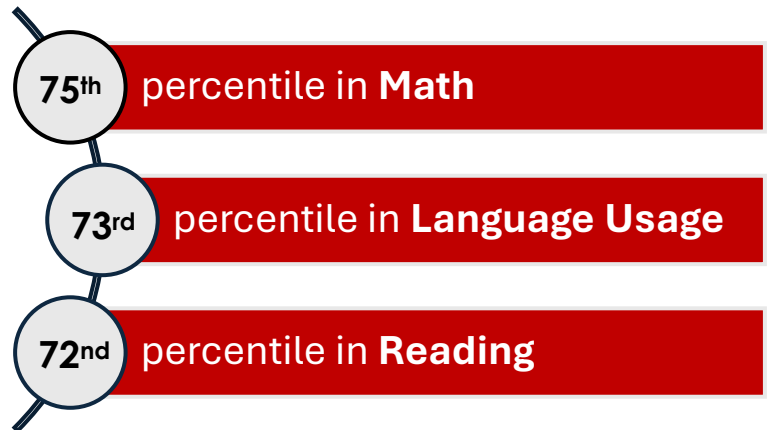
** "Give Back" Initiatives Include: *Our Family Labels, Arvig Donations, Box Tops for Education, and We Care Receipts.*

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 do not rely solely on standardized test scores to determine student success. The assessment data is used as a guide to monitor student progress, review curriculum, and adjust teaching strategies.

Spring 2025 testing results showed that Holy Rosary students averaged the Achievement Percentiles presented at the right.

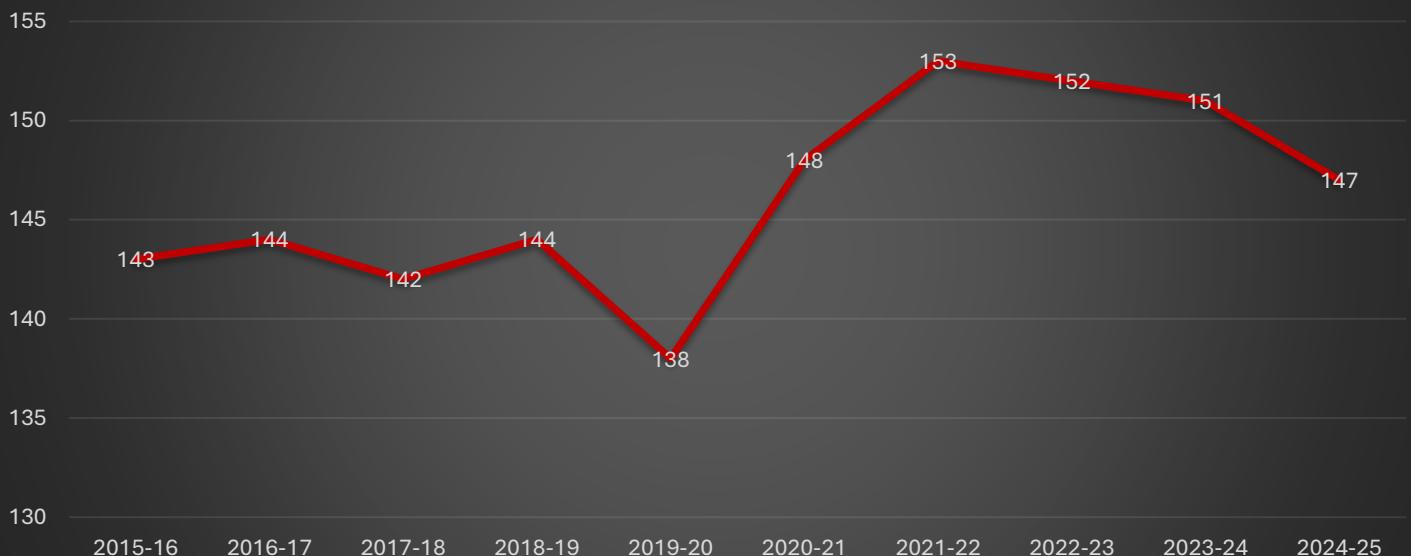
On average, our students achieved higher than 75% of the nation's K-8 students in Math, higher than 73% of the nation's Gr. 2-8 students in Language Usage, and higher than 72% of the nation's K-8 students in Reading.



Enrollment Trends

Enrollment declined slightly since last school year. We ended the 2024-25 school year with 147 students enrolled in KPrep through Grade 8. Our middle school enrollment was at an all-time high with 45 students in grades 6-8.

Enrollment Over the Past 10 Years



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 school family participated in throughout this past school year which reflect our dedication to service and reaching out beyond the walls of our building.

- ✚ Kindergarten Prep, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade families provided and served cookies for the Christmas program reception.
- ✚ 2nd Grade families served refreshments to those who attended the school Faith Fair.
- ✚ 3rd Graders visited Oak Crossing on a monthly basis and read to the residents.
- ✚ 3rd Graders made fleece scarves for their "reading buddies" at Oak Crossing.
- ✚ 3rd Graders raised money for the Salvation Army during the Christmas season.
- ✚ 4th & 8th Graders served the parish Palm Sunday Breakfast.
- ✚ 4th & 5th grade students took turns serving school lunch, wiping tables, and helping with lunchtime dishes.
- ✚ 5th Graders painted prayer rocks and planted them throughout the city of Detroit Lakes.



- ✚ 5th Grade students raised and lowered the school flag each day. They also served as our school Safety Patrol by ensuring that traffic stopped at the crosswalks for students crossing the street at the end of the school day.
- ✚ 6th & 7th Graders served families at the 8th Grade Graduation Dinner, and held a reception for 8th grade graduates and their families following the graduation Mass.
- ✚ 7th & 8th Graders made tie blankets for the Lakes Crisis Center and Health Resources.
- ✚ All students brought contributions for the local food pantry on a weekly basis.
- ✚ Daily prayer intentions were said for those in need during our Morning Prayer together & during our weekly school Mass.
- ✚ All students made bookmarks with inspirational messages for those in local nursing homes.



- ✚ During lent, each student was asked to contribute a box of cereal to the food pantry. 150 boxes of cereal were collected and donated.
- ✚ Each class took turns leading the "Stations of the Cross" on Fridays during Lent.
- ✚ Students participated in various Mass ministries throughout the year.
- ✚ As a school, we raised money for "TeachHaiti" and through our efforts, provided an education for 6 Haitian children who would have not received an education otherwise.
- ✚ We held a "Blue Mass" in honor of all emergency personnel. Those individuals were invited to Mass and then received a special blessing, notes and treats from our students.



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.



The 2024-25 School Year: So Much to Celebrate

Our Alumni in Action

Our Holy Rosary alumni continue to make us proud as they go on to achieve success. Whether excelling in academics, athletics, or their chosen careers, our graduates carry with them the values and foundation formed during their time at Holy Rosary. Their accomplishments are a testament to the strength of our school community and the lasting impact of a faith-based education.

Jon Patrick Stone is an alumnus in formation for the priesthood. The ritual for the Admission to Candidacy will happen at Holy Rosary Parish on August 17th at 9:00 a.m. Mass with Bishop Andrew Cozzens presiding. Admission to Candidacy for Ordination as Deacons and Priests is the precise moment when the candidate says in the presence of the Church, *I am morally certain that God is calling me to be his priest. I wish to give myself unreservedly to this mission.* The rite of Admission to Candidacy includes three components: the call to candidacy, the scrutiny of the candidate, and the blessing of the candidate. At this time, he will begin his formation in theology for the priesthood through four pillars: spiritual, academic, pastoral, and human, and he will then wear clerical attire (cleric shirt with white collar). His formation will continue at St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul MN.

This past spring, the Detroit Lakes High School held their annual Academic Awards night, and our Holy Rosary alumni continue to shine!

- 81% of our students who graduated from 8th grade at Holy Rosary, and now are students at DLHS, received an award for Academic Excellence which means they have maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.
- A 2021 graduate of Holy Rosary was nominated for the AAA Award. The AAA Award celebrates juniors and seniors for their work in the classroom, participation in athletics and fine arts, leadership skills, and connection to their communities.
- A 2021 graduate of Holy Rosary was chosen as the Section 8AAAA Academic All State Winner for Football. Players who receive this award must have outstanding football and leadership ability plus academic excellence.

We celebrate the achievements of our alumni with pride and look forward to seeing how they continue to grow, lead, and make a difference in the world!

We are so excited to unveil our new promo video!
Take a look inside our halls, classrooms, and hearts – you'll see what makes Holy Rosary School a place where faith, learning, and community come alive!



A Few Highlights from the School Year

- Holy Rosary School received a grant from the state of Minnesota, enabling us to purchase food from local farms for our hot lunch program. Throughout the school year, students enjoyed a variety of Minnesota-sourced items such as bison burgers, real maple syrup, honey, fruits, vegetables, tofu, and cheeses.
- Our 52nd Marathon in October was a success. 90 students & many families braved the windy weather & biked around Lake Detroit. Through the generosity of our supporters, we raised \$43,000 for our school.
- The 8th graders competed in the Envirothon at Detroit Mountain. Their teams placed 5th & 17th out of 38 teams.
- Nearly 200 grandparents joined us for our annual Grandparent's Day in October.
- In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, we celebrated our annual Pet Blessing Mass. Many different types of pets joined their Holy Rosary student for a beautiful outdoor Mass on October 4.
- We held our own school election in November and students had the opportunity to vote for a school saint. Taking 34% of the vote, Elizabeth Ann Seton won the election!
- Our middle school Knowledge Bowl teams placed 2nd, 3rd, and 4th during a very successful season.
- 7th grader, Reyna Aligada, won the school Spelling Bee and went on to place 5th at the Regional Spelling Bee in Fergus Falls.
- Students in grades 5-8 participated in the school Faith Fair in March. Each student studied a saint or biblical figure and created a presentation which was shared with others during an open house.
- Students joined Fr. Nate for a prayer service that included the burning of last year's palms; the ashes were then used for the Ash Wednesday Mass.
- While learning about the life cycle of a chicken, the kindergarten classroom incubated and hatched more than a dozen chicks this spring. Upon completion of the unit, the chicks were given to a local farm.
- Each class took field trips throughout the year to a variety of destinations. A few include: Tamarac, the MN State Capital, the MN Science Museum, the MN History Center, the Diocese of Crookston, Fischer Farms, St. John's Abbey, shows at the Holmes Theater, and "Ag in the Classroom" at MState.
- A prayerful retreat day was held for the students before dismissing for Easter break. The retreat consisted of a Sedar Meal, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Tenebrae Prayer Service, and Mass with Bishop Cozzens.
- The year concluded with a graduation dinner, Mass and ceremony to celebrate and bless our 11 8th grade graduates as we send them off to high school.

