

2020-2021

ANNUAL REPORT



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Community of Saints Members,

As I reflect at the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year, I feel such a sense of gratitude. Over and over, I have communicated with staff and school families that I am so grateful to journey through uncharted waters with such an amazing community, and I truly mean it. As a community, we problem solved and achieved success through challenges and scenarios that I would have never even considered possible.

Throughout the school year, we pivoted back and forth through three different learning models: full distance learning, hybrid learning, and full in-person learning. No matter the learning model the whole school was experiencing, we continued to offer full distance learning as an option during the entire school year in order to meet the different needs of our families. Operation of all of these moving pieces is not an easy feat, and our school staff did it well. Our teachers and staff continued to care for the whole child with love, care, attention, and detail.

We are grateful for our amazing families, and their flexibility and grace during the school year as well. While our day-to-day decisions were made with the intention to prioritize the safety and well being of our students, we also knew that the protocols and learning model shifts and structures required a great deal of flexibility and sacrifice at times for our families.

As we look ahead to the 2021-22 school year, I look forward to being together again in one place as a whole community, and returning back to many of our normal ways of operation. I also look forward to continuing to apply some of the lessons and knowledge we gained over the last several months that made us grow as educators and people in unique ways.

In conclusion, thank you to all of our school community members and partners. We have felt your presence and support in the past, and we felt it even stronger during this school year. Thank you for believing in our mission and vision, and helping us live and breathe them. It is truly an honor to serve our families, and we do so through the core values of faith, inclusivity, and love.

Peace and Love, Bridget Kramer



Mission and Vision:

We are **committed** to providing **every one** of our students a sense of **belonging** within a community rooted in **faith, inclusivity, and love**. Together with their families, we create a foundation to achieve excellence by developing their unique God-given talents.

RESPONSE TO COVID

Our Commitment to Health and Safety

A glimpse at some of the many measures we took to support the health and safety of our school members:

- NanoSeptic self-cleaning products for door handles and levers
- Six additional touchless sinks for hand washing
- Floor markings to maintain social distance and building traffic flow
- Screenings upon entry of building
- Sanitation stations in each classroom
- Desk shield dividers for students and staff
- Individual student supplies provided by COS
- Washer and dryer installation
- Bathroom sink dividers
- Cohort travel throughout the building
- Office space modifications to reduce foot traffic
- Additional water filling station
- Water fountains off limits - water filling stations only
- Baskets for students to individually store arrival/dismissal gear



Our Commitment to Living Our Mission

Through grants and partnerships we made significant investments in technology and innovation to promote and sustain an inclusive learning environment. We deployed a technology solution that streamlined the teaching experience and allowed virtual learners to participate in real-time along with their classmates for core subjects.

An integrated system that included:

- Hi-definition speakers
- Voice-activated lesson capture and device control
- Virtual whiteboard
- Learning software enabling our school to offer continuous learning for all our students regardless of their environment whether in the physical classroom or at home.

In Addition:

- Each student had access to their own chromebook
- All services in the past continued, regardless of the phased approach: Title One services, Special Education Services, Counseling Services, and City Connects Services
- School staff collaborated to implement trauma informed strategies to support students through their pandemic experience; this emphasis will continue during the 2021-22 school year

MNSAA STRATEGIC PLAN

The State of the School Report contains highlights and data from the school year that reflect progress on our Strategic Plan. We are proud of our progress on this plan since created in 2015. This past year marked year six of the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA) cycle and we have been working through our self study. From there, we will develop a new data driven strategic plan based on the findings in the self study. All stakeholders are involved in this process, as we highly value stakeholder input and participation in the process.



Objectives & Strategies

- **Objective 1: Community of Saints is vital and viable**
 - Strategy 1: Stabilize Enrollment
 - Strategy 2: Implement a Visionary Governance
 - Strategy 3: Increase Financial Support
- **Objective 2: Community of Saints has a positive school climate**
 - Strategy 1: Respond to Cultural Diversity
 - Strategy 2: Promote Positive Relationships
 - Strategy 3: Welcoming and Safe Facilities
- **Objective 3: Community of Saints helps students reach their full academic potential**
 - Strategy 1: Data-Driven Instruction
 - Strategy 2: Collaborative Learning Community
 - Strategy 3: Support Student-Centered Learning



EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD

(MNSAA Strategic Plan - Objective 2-Strategies 1-2 & Objective 3-Strategies 1-3)



Community of Saints is one of five schools in the Twin Cities that has been partnering with the University of Notre Dame through the Alliance for Catholic Education's (ACE's) Higher-Powered Learning Program for the past three years. This school year concluded the three-year roll-out partnership and included continuation of the whole school implementation as well as response to COVID. Next school year, we will be self-sustaining and consult with HPLP as needed.

COS is one of nine schools nationally to participate in a three-year fellowship sponsored by The Center for STEM Education of the University of Notre Dame (STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). This past school year the emphasis of professional development was "productive talk." In the 2021-22 school year COS STEM leaders will specifically support staff in implementing instructional resources in alignment to the Next Generation Science Standards.



In partnership with the Achievement Network (ANet) and the GHR Foundation, we adopted a new English Language Arts instructional series that has been identified by EdReports reviews as high quality, equity enriched resources that provide opportunities for rigor and multiple tools to support individuals in reaching their fullest potential.



COS has collaborated with Boston College City Connects for the past five years. City Connects site coordinators serve school families by building a network of support through the domains of academics, social/emotional, family, and health. City Connects support will increase to full-time for the 2021-22 school year due to our large gains in student enrollment. This past school year City Connects began a partnership with the Every Meal family food security program that we plan to expand next fall. We also plan to implement a school-wide social emotional program called Zones of Regulation.



Latino Enrollment Initiative (LEI) of Notre Dame identifies and assists Catholic schools with offering a framework to transform schools in order to attract and serve Latino families. During the 2020-21 school year, Administration participated in LEI 2.0 to further our understanding of providing a welcoming environment, and specifically to serve our families during COVID-19 unique circumstances. Next school year, the Administration plans to enroll in ACE's English as a New Language program.

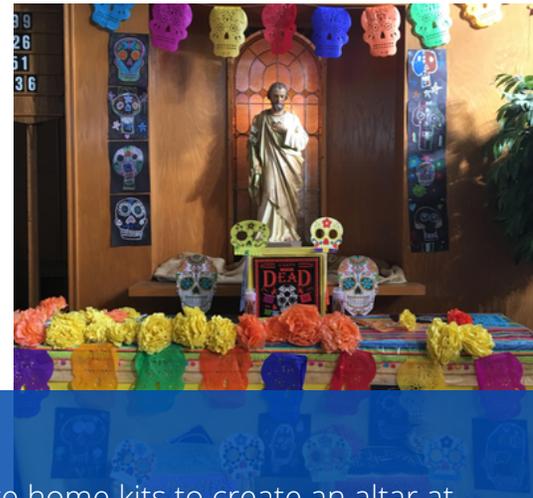
COS school partners with Catholic Charities for a part-time school counselor. This counselor helps support students with mental health and academic needs that are integrated into the students' everyday school experience. For the 2021-22 school year, the same counseling service structure will continue through David Hoy & Associates.



CATHOLIC IDENTITY

The Catholic faith and teachings of the Church are integrated into the daily life of Community of Saints. Students participate in daily prayer and religion classes. This year we held Mass twice a week to allow for spacing in the church.

Our students are encouraged to live their faith through service learning projects to support others in our community. Students at all grade levels perform service learning projects as well as participate in school-wide service.



Images:

1. Weekly Mass with Father Steve Adrian
2. Día de los muertos - all families received take home kits to create an altar at home
3. All Saints Day Mass - 5th graders created a video: "God Wants Everybody to be a Saint - And that Means You and Me!"
4. Food Drive - all students participated in service projects
5. Saint Prayer Cards - created by students for the saints assigned to each classroom.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

(MNSAA Strategic Plan - Objective 1-Strategies 3 & Objective 2-Strategies 3)

Community of Saints continues to partner with the Catholic Finance Corporation to work on 3-5 year financial projections. This work is crucial for our future planning.

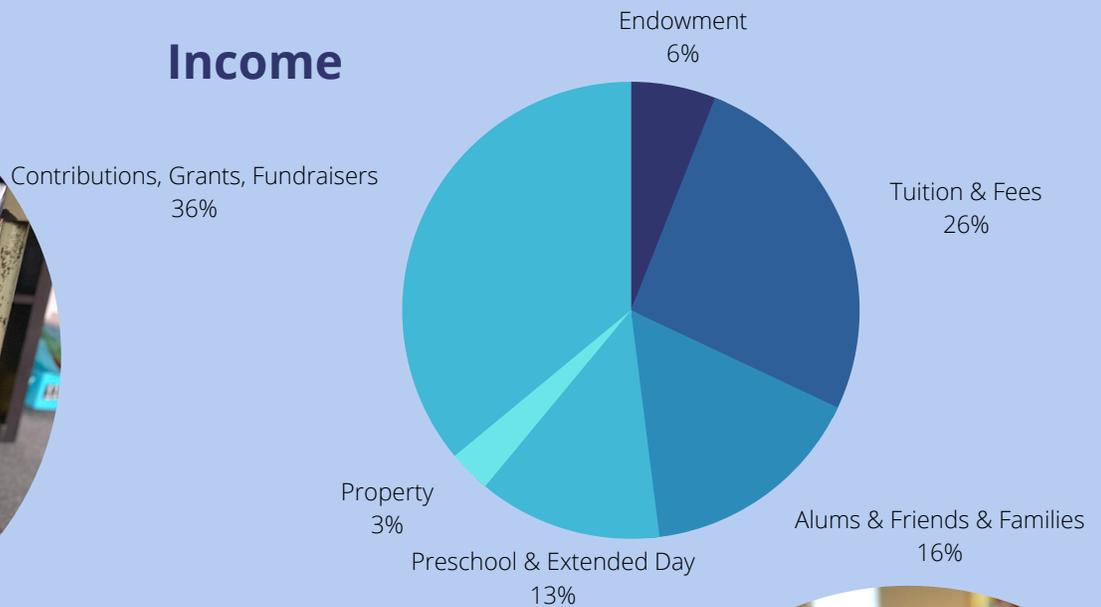
Noteworthy Highlights:

- In spring of 2020, Community of Saints applied for and received a federal PPP Loan. The loan was 100% forgiven in the winter of 2020-21 school year.
- The “Building Our Future on Good Ground” capital campaign launched in spring of 2019 to decrease the debt of purchasing the property and facility improvements. The campaign has raised \$688,000 with \$894,000 pledged of our \$1 million goal. This year Community of Saints completed major roof repair.

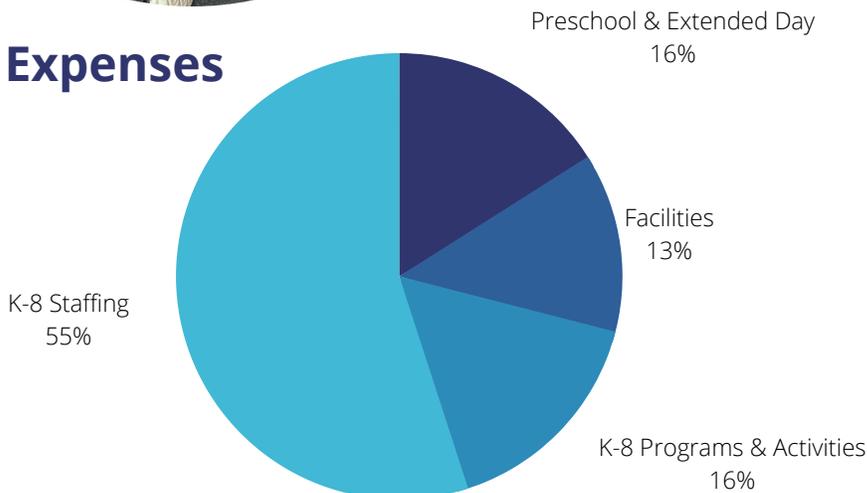
2020-21 Budget



Income



Expenses

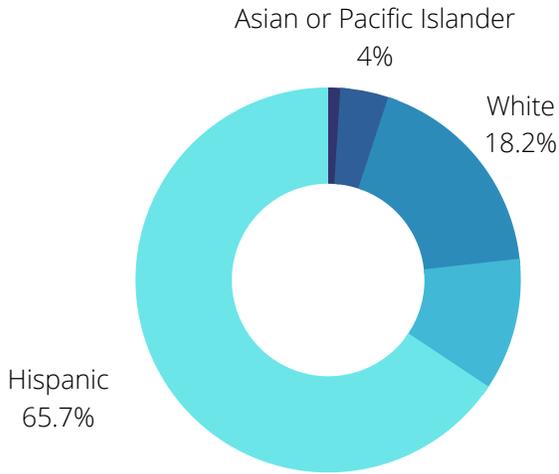


ENROLLMENT

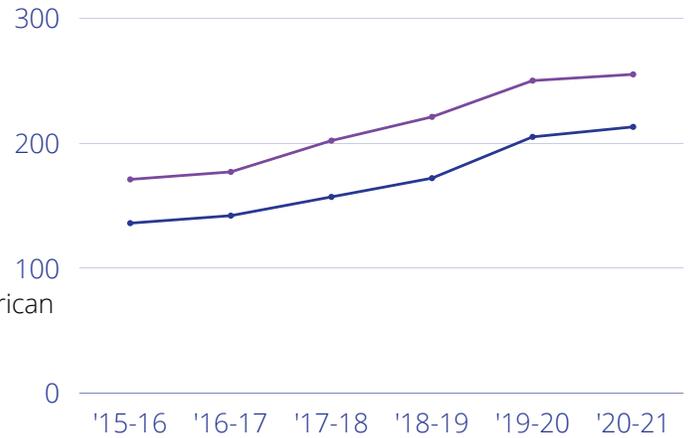
(MNSAA Strategic Plan - Objective 1-Strategy 1)

Enrollment increased again in 2020-2021. This marked the 5th straight year of enrollment growth - over 60% growth. Our retention continues to be strong - close to 90%. We now have 219 students K-8 and 258 total preK - 8. Additionally we had our largest kindergarten class of 36 students.

Student Race



Enrollment Growth



33

Percent of students are English Language Learners

59

Percent of students qualify for free or reduced lunch

60

Percent enrollment increase the past 5 years

92

Percent of students receive tuition support

A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Board of Directors

(MNSAA Strategic Plan - Objective 1-Strategy 2)

Members

- Father Steve Adrian
- Phil Boelter
- Joe Cullen
- Jesenia Eduarte
- Roy Ferber
- Melinda Frias, Chair
- David Hottinger
- Maggie Lee
- John O'Halloran
- Dawn Reding
- Leti Silva
- Mike Smeby
- Father Paul Treacy
- Gary Wilmer



Board of Director Committees

- **Development:** David Hottinger (chair), Doug Lieser, John O'Halloran, Paul Ramos, Leti Silva, Father Paul Treacy
- **Facility:** Gary Wilmer (chair), Joe Cullen, Steve Kowal, Bridget Kramer, Michelle Youness
- **Finance:** Dawn Reding (chair), Phil Boelter, Roy Ferber, Bridget Kramer, Mike Smeby
- **Marketing/Enrollment:** Jesenia Eduarte (chair), Melinda Frias, Katie Hartz, Maggie Lee, Doug Lieser, Angie Lopez, Maricruz Hernandez Martinez

Alums & Friends & Families Tuition Assistance Fund

(MNSAA Strategic Plan - Objective 1-Strategy 3)

Our Alums & Friends & Families (AFF) annual fund for tuition assistance provides support for 90% of families at Community of Saints. Our mission wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our donors and the commitment of our AFF committee.

Our success for the July 1- June 30, 2021 fiscal year:

- **524** - Unique donors in fiscal year 2021 (as of 6/15/21)
- **\$351,851** - Raised in fiscal year 2021 (as of 6/15/21)

