



ST. PETER'S SCHOOL
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St. Peter's School Annual State of the School Report 2014-2015



Mission and Philosophy—Our Rule to Live By...

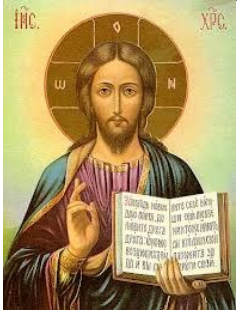
Mission - St. Peter's School offers our students an opportunity to live out the Gospel of Jesus in community, worship, and service. Catholic teachings and values are integrated into all areas of the curriculum which fulfills the message of Jesus for all students, staff, and faculty.

Philosophy - St. Peter's School believes that it is the duty of a Catholic school to educate the whole person—body, mind and spirit. St. Peter's School is dedicated to providing a Christian atmosphere of learning in which Catholic beliefs, practices, and traditions are imparted to students and academic excellence takes place. Through our commitment to instruction in all areas of faith and academics, we believe that our students are prepared to live as responsible Catholic Christians in today's world, while keeping in mind and striving for their ultimate goal of eternal life with God.



6th Grade Graduates

Catholic Identity—The Reason We Exist



+ Celebrate School Mass Weekly and on Holy Days of Obligation

~Students help plan and participate in ministries in a classroom mass about every six weeks and are involved in ministries during all the school masses throughout the school year.

+ Go to Confession once a Month (Grades 3-6)

~2nd Graders start attending confession after their 1st Confession

+ Daily Morning Prayer as an entire School Community

+ Stations of the Cross during Lent

~Each classroom is in charge of presenting the Stations of the Cross to the parish community.

~5th and 6th graders did a powerful Living Stations again this year

◆ Celebration of 1st Reconciliation and 1st Communion in 2nd Grade

~2nd Graders, accompanied by a parent, participated in a morning Retreat as part of their immediate preparation for 1st Communion.



+ Class and School Service Projects

~Tie Blankets were made at our Birthday Party for Jesus in December and then donated to Birthright in Marshall, MN.

~As part of our service project component of Catholic Schools Week, each classroom picked a month and made cards for those receiving local meals through the Meals-on-Wheels program.

~ Collected food for Prairie Five Food Shelf in November

~1st and 2nd graders cleaned up the yard around school and church by picking up garbage and sticks in April.

~3rd and 4th graders sang Christmas Carols at First Securities Bank in December.

~Student Council organized a San Lucas fundraiser for the school to participate in during CSW.

~Mardi Gras—Students raised funds for “The Cure Starts Now” to support the charity started in part by the late Laruen Hill.

~A grant was received by Student Council to build and plant a school garden which we hope to grow vegetables for our Hot Lunch program in the fall.



+ Daily Prayer in Each Classroom

~Each classroom takes time to memorize prayers of our Catholic Faith according to our curriculum.

~Each teacher is dedicated to weaving prayer and faith opportunities throughout the school day.



+ Guardian Angels

~The 5th & 6th graders are paired with a kindergarten student at the beginning of the year to sit with at Mass and do special projects with throughout the year.



+ Advent Birthday Party for Jesus

~Students have an opportunity to go to several different activity stations to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

~Each year we have incorporated a service project into the afternoon of activities.

Catholic Identity—The Reason We Exist (cont.)

+ Advent Angel Program

~Students draw a name out of a bucket and send secret notes and small items throughout Advent, and then at the party, each person, reveals who they had and gives a small gift. They are also encouraged to pray for their Advent Angel throughout all of Advent.

+ Annual Christmas Program

~The real meaning of Christmas is portrayed by the students through a caper of songs and themed skit. The program is put on for the local Elementary School and our families and supporters.

+ Catholic Schools Week



~A week long celebration with a theme of faith each day

~Bishop LeVoir celebrated our school Mass with the students on Monday, visited classrooms, and ate lunch with them as well.



+ May Crowning

~The 5th and 6th graders process in with Mary and crown Mary with a crown of flowers. The 2nd graders are part of the procession dressed in their 1st Communion clothes as a special honor. All students and staff in the school are given a flower to present to Mary after she is crowned. It is a time for us to honor Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth.



+ Fr. Craig & Fr. Irenaeus visits the Classrooms for Instruction

~Fr. Craig & Fr. Irenaeus have a schedule to visit each classroom every-other week. Students in grades 3-6 go to confessions once a month before weekly Mass.

+ Many Areas of Faith Formation are Integrated into Each Classroom

- ~ Sacred Space in each classroom
- ~Rosaries available in each classroom
- ~Meal Prayers
- ~Prayers displayed on bulletin boards
- ~Saint Devotions
- ~Bibles available in each classroom
- ~iPads with Bible and religion games available



+ Faculty and Staff Pray Together

- ~Monday mornings before the school week begins, faculty meets for a short prayer in the hallway.
- ~Wednesday mornings the staff meets with Fr. Craig or Fr. Ireneaus and does the Morning Liturgy of the Hours Prayer together.
- ~All staff meetings begin with prayer.

+ 100 Hail Mary Prayers for Those Who are Sick in our Parish or Need Special Prayers

~100 Hail Mary prayers are offered up for our parishioners and family and friends dealing with serious illness. Students and staff can submit names of people who need special prayers. As a school, we each say two Hail Mary prayers at morning



prayer and see their name on a special paper with a poem that gets sent to the person we are praying for. We added the priests in the Diocese of New Ulm in the month of April and said 100 Hail Mary's for them throughout the month.



School Profile—Our Family Makeup

Enrollment Numbers for 2014-201 School Year: 61 Students/34 Families (Preschool: 11 students; K: 8 students; Grade 1: 4 Students; Grade 2: 12 Students; Grade 3: Students; Grade 4: 5 Students; Grade 5: 8 Students; Grade 6: 7 Students)

7 ~ 6th Grade Graduates

1 ~ Non-Catholic Family

11 ~ 1st Communicants

Estimated Enrollment 2015-2016 – 72 Students (including preschool numbers)

Curriculum and Instruction— Teaching and Learning

⇒ Updated the Religion Curriculum and will order a new Religion Series next year.

◇ Each year the teachers update the curriculum handbook to reflect the academic rigors of our school

◇ There is an in-depth review of certain subject areas and update of those subject area textbooks completed once every 7 years

⇒ Implemented Our Policy for the Ongoing Process of Reviewing and Updating our Curriculum and Textbooks

◇ Each year the faculty works hard to keep to this review process in order to keep current with the best academics we can offer our students

⇒ Implemented the use of 11 iPads in the classrooms and updated internal infrastructure to include wireless access points for the iPads.

◇ Switchboard, router, and access points for wireless were installed last summer

⇒ Implemented New Science Series in grades K-6 with Integrated Science

◇ Science was also made a specialty area with our new 1st/2nd grade teacher

⇒ Library Updates

◇ Continued to update the library and classroom libraries (with new books) with the funds earned through our Scholastic Book Fair during Catholic Schools Week

◇ An automated system was installed during the summer 2014 and teachers, staff, and volunteers entered and tagged each book in the library to import them into the new system.

⇒ AR Goals and incentives

◇ Our students quizzed on 1,801 books which is 14,667,514 words .

◇ 2,436.4 points were earned throughout the school year

◇ Used AR reward system for AR points achieved for Grades 1-6

◇ Classrooms implemented incentives programs for AR achievements

⇒ Professional Development

◇ Staff participated in the Diocesan Faith Formation Days in September in New Ulm

◇ Faculty participated in the Annual Area Faith Community's retreat day in January featuring Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas and Ann Hutchinson on Humor in the Classroom.



Learner Performance—Academic Gauge

Standardized Assessments – Iowa Testing of Basic Skills (ITBS)

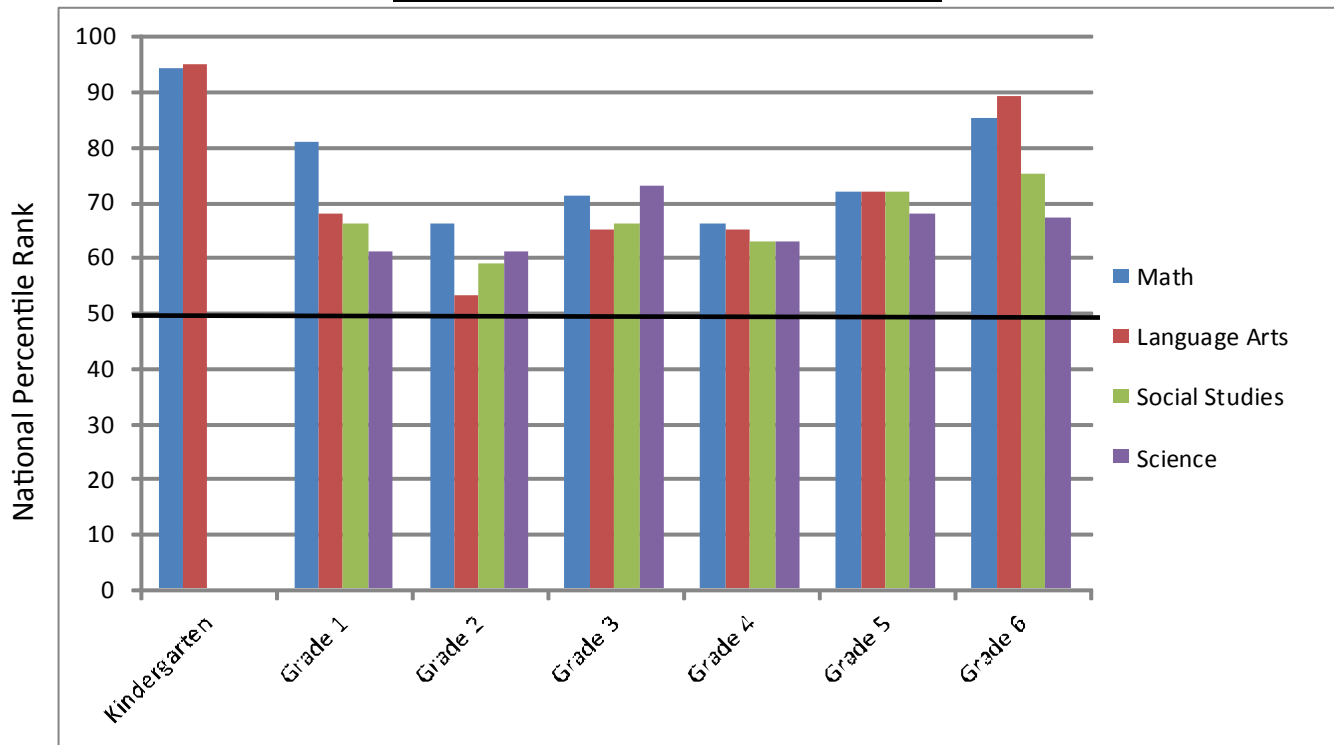
St. Peter's School uses the ITBS for its standardized testing assessment. ITBS is a "norm-referencing" test that compares a student's performance to others who have taken the same test under the same conditions.

Grades K-6 are tested in the spring of each school year. Individual results for each student were sent home to parents. The graph on the following page shows the class average National Percentile Rank for St. Peter's students Kindergarten through 6th grade. It is compared to the average 50 percentile rank. Our goal is to have all classes over the 50 percentile rank.



Learner Performance—Academic Gauge (cont.)

ITBS Test Results for St. Peter's School



- ◆ National Percentile Rank is based on the national norms—50% is the average range
- ◆ Science and Social Studies are taught together in a classroom which means the information tested could have been taught last school year or will be taught next school year. Kindergarten did not test in Social Studies or Science. St. Peter's School implemented a new science curriculum and new science series this school year. The scores in science increased significantly with our new curriculum and new series.
- ◆ All classes met the 50% or higher in all core subjects. All complete composite scores for each grade ranged from 59%—92%.

Results Summary by Grade Equivalent

Grade Equivalent means that our students have mastered content that places them academically in the number grade and the month of the school year. Below are the average GE for Language Totals, Math Totals, and a Complete Composite total for each grade. The Social and Science GE totals area included for grades 1-6.

Kindergarten: Language (1.5 Grade Equivalent) ~ Math (1.6 Grade Equivalent)
Complete Composite (1.6 Grade Equivalent)

Grade 1: Language (2.1 Grade Equivalent) ~ Math (2.3 Grade Equivalent) ~ Complete Composite (2.2 Grade Equivalent) ~ Social (2.1 Grade Equivalent) ~ Science (2.1 Grade Equivalent)

Grade 2: Language (2.8 Grade Equivalent) ~ Math (3.2 Grade Equivalent) ~ Complete Composite (3.1 Grade Equivalent) ~ Social (3.1 Grade Equivalent) ~ Science (3.1 Grade Equivalent)

Grade 3: Language (4.3 Grade Equivalent) ~ Math (4.5 Grade Equivalent) ~ Complete Composite (4.5 Grade Equivalent) ~ Social (4.5 Grade Equivalent) ~ Science (4.9 Grade Equivalent)

Grade 4: Language (5.5 Grade Equivalent) ~ Math (5.5 Grade Equivalent) ~ Complete Composite (5.5 Grade Equivalent) ~ Social (5.4 Grade Equivalent) ~ Science (5.4 Grade Equivalent)

Grade 5: Language (7.2 Grade Equivalent) ~ Math (7.1 Grade Equivalent) ~ Complete Composite (7.2 Grade Equivalent) ~ Social (7.5 Grade Equivalent) ~ Science (7.3 Grade Equivalent)

Grade 6: Language (10.6 Grade Equivalent) ~ Math (9.9 Grade Equivalent) ~ Complete Composite (9.7 Grade Equivalent) ~ Social (9.4 Grade Equivalent) ~ Science (8.4 Grade Equivalent)

School Climate and Facilities—Our Environment

* Awards and Recognition

- Honor Roll continued for students in grades 3-6
 - Principal's Honor 4.0-3.8
 - High Honors 3.79-3.444
 - Honors 3.443-3.0
- AR School Recognition
 - For grades K-6 prizes were given in increments between 2-400 points and beyond
- 4 students won the Blue and Gold Citizenship Award
- There was 1 Perfect Attendance and 4 Excellent Attendance winners
- One 6th grader, Josh Steffen, received the Knights of Columbus Mentor Award and a \$40 cash prize
- Several Students qualified for Presidential awards for academic excellence and physical fitness
- 12 students were recognized for serving on our Student Council
- 3 students were recognized for Yearbook
- Artsonia Awards were given out to every student for their published artwork

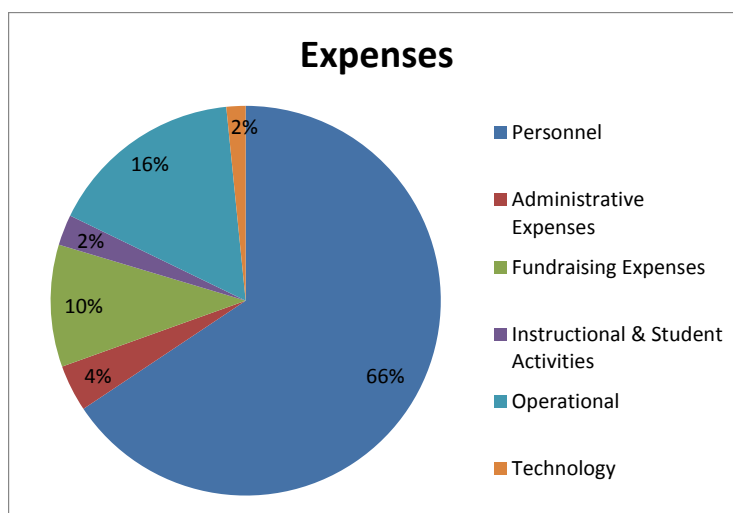
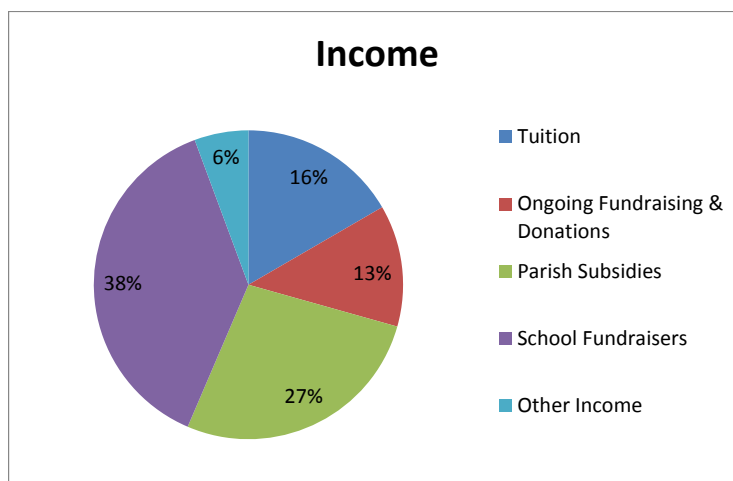


* Facilities Enhancements

- A new bench on the playground was during the summer
- 11 iPads were purchased for student use and 4 iPads for teacher use
- Summer Projects: Fundraising for new computers in computer lab, install a secured front door with fobs and system for buzzing into the school during the day, and planning for the 60th Anniversary celebration to be held on September 19, 2015.
- Garden built on church property for students to grow vegetables for the Hot Lunch Program
- Paver blocks were installed around the flagpole to have easier access for students on flag duty.



Actual Numbers as of June 11, 2015



- ◆ The school continues to rely on our fundraising efforts to contribute the budget and overall functions of the school.
 - ◆ Marathon donations were down this year as we did not make our goal.
 - ◆ The Catholic United Financial School Raffle was a huge success with our goal of \$10,000 and our actual amount raised at \$15,200.
- ◆ Tuition will remain the same next year at \$1350 for 1 student families, \$1900 for 2 student families, and \$2400 for 3+ student families.
- ◆ St. Peter's School was blessed with private donations from parishioners and also by memorials given to the school after a loved one passed away. This money was designated primarily for technology unless otherwise stated by the donors. New computers for the computer lab are the highest priority in technology.
- ◆ A grant was received by Student Council to build a school garden.



Personnel—Keeping a Strong, Supportive Staff



St. Peter's School is blessed to have a supportive staff that is dedicated to the learning of each student both in academics and in faith. Their ongoing commitment to the school is evident in the activities they participate in, the extra work they apply themselves in, and the positive atmosphere they create throughout the school. We look forward to the 60th year of St. Peter's School next school year and are excited at the opportunity to work at St. Peter's School.

School Strategic Plan (SSP)– The Vehicle to Our Future

A driving force behind major projects and updates to the school is the School Strategic Plan (SSP) created when we became accredited with MNSAA. This Plan gives the structure by which we continue to thrive, grow, and be held accountable in that growth. The main goal is to always provide the very best Catholic education to our students so they can have a safe and nurturing environment to grow into their best selves.

One great group that came out of a need from our SSP Objective 1, Strategy 3 was the formation of a new parent group called PEACE (Parents Excited About Catholic Education). This group was developed over the summer in 2014 and was fully organized by the fall kick-off in August. The group sought out memberships from current school families and held events and activities throughout the school year for both parents and students. Their open meetings throughout the school year were geared at helping parents discuss topics of interest and relevance for school and as parents in general. Although the numbers were low for some meetings, their presence in the school was well known. They also held Box-Top Challenges and helped increase the amount received for that program. The PEACE group did a lot for staff recognition during Teacher Appreciation Week. PEACE hopes to see an increase of parent involvement in next year's meetings and events. The PEACE group was a wonderful addition and support to St. Peter's School.

Another area that was focused on this spring from the SSP was also in Objective 1. The Administrative Council and Education Committee approved a proposal for a security system on the front door. This will allow the school door to remain locked during school hours and be monitored from the office. It will also allow the doors to be programmed to be open for special night meetings. This will be installed this summer.

The students have been enjoying the use of the 11 classroom iPads that were purchased last fall with funds from Sister Rosemarie Dvorak's family. Each teacher has a page of apps and special online programs for students to use during the day. Each classroom teacher also received an iPad to use in their classroom. The student iPads are currently being rotated throughout the classrooms with the hopes of purchasing more in the future.

It has been an eventful and exciting year at St. Peter's School. The students have shown growth academically and spiritually. Each year we get to teach your child, we are dedicated to live out our mission at St. Peter's School to provide "an opportunity to live out the Gospel of Jesus in community, worship, and service" in order to educate the whole person—body, mind and spirit.

God Bless!



School Strategic Plan— The Vehicle to Our Future (cont.)

