
St. Wenceslaus Catholic School



Annual School Report
2018-2019

St. Wenceslaus School

Mission Statement

St. Wenceslaus Catholic School is a family-centered faith community, committed to the intellectual and spiritual formation of our students. We provide a high quality academic program that builds leadership and self-confidence while nurturing a loving relationship with God and encouraging service to others.

Philosophy

St. Wenceslaus Catholic School intentionally promotes a family-centered atmosphere. We create opportunities for students to build relationships with each other and for families to connect with the school community.

Faith is the foundation of our mission. It is the guiding force of our school's purpose and existence. We work to develop a relationship with God through participation in the rich traditions of our Catholic Church. We teach our students to have compassion and empathy for the needs of others and facilitate activities that cultivate a serving heart.

Our academic goal is to ignite the intellectual potential of each student. Academics are tailored to meet each student's needs and maximize their learning opportunities. Our school challenges and supports students to reach beyond their level of comfort so that they may become confident leaders and learners.

St. Wenceslaus School Personnel

Administration

Father Kevin Clinton	Pastor
Father Eugene Theisen	Associate Pastor
Kim Doyle	Principal
Sherry Hartman	Administrative Assistant
Joan May	Technologist
Leah Zvanovec	School Marketing Director

Faculty

Jolene Busch	Preschool Director/Lead Teacher
Tammy Sirek	Preschool
Annette Stavos	Preschool STEM /Library
Lisa Schneider	Kindergarten
Jennifer Wetschka	1 st Grade
Kathy Giesen	2 nd Grade
Jennifer Rosen	3 rd Grade
Dawn Biren	4 th Grade
Ann Christy	5 th Grade
Becky Smisek	6 th Grade (& 7 th social studies)
Becky Zwirner	6 th Grade (Math 6-8, Science 6, Literature 7)
Jill McBroom	7 th Grade Homeroom (Religion and Science 7-8)
Jamie Schoenbauer	8 th Grade Homeroom (Social Studies, English, Literature 7-8)
Mike Tschimperle	Physical Education
Katherine Gorr	Music

Leah Zvanovec	Art
Support Staff	
Linda Smisek	Instructional Assistant Teacher
Theresa Radermacher	Instructional Assistant Teacher
Sarah Gullickson	Preschool Assistant Teacher
Annie Schmitz	Preschool Assistant Teacher
Lisa Langfield	Clubhouse Director
Kathy McNamara	STEM Room Coordinator
Elaine Harty	Support Teacher
Kait Schoenbauer	Counselor
Sandy Gallagher	Band

District 721 Support Staff

Lori King	Title 1
Theresa Rademacher	Health Aide
Taylor Farm	Special Education Teacher
Becky Wolf	Special Education Teacher
Angie Pahl	Speech Teacher

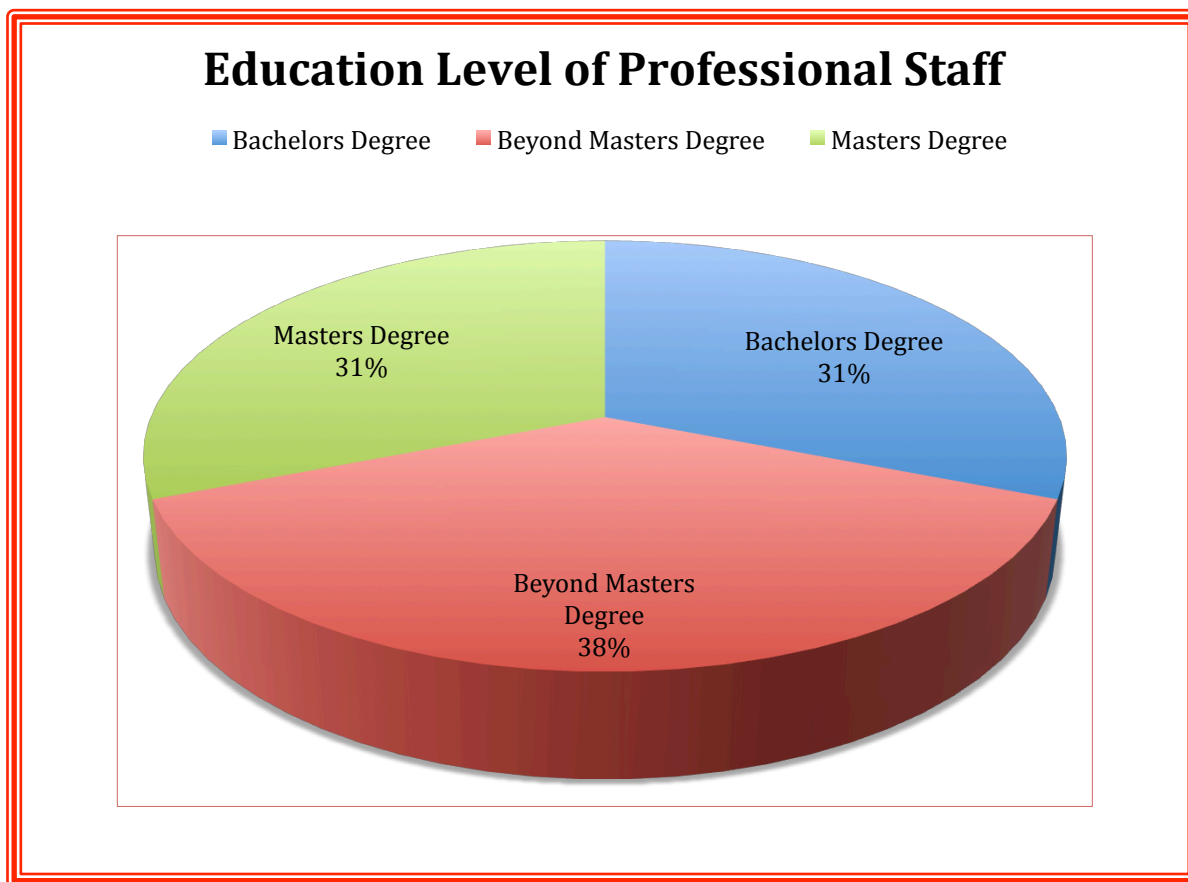
Kitchen

Nancy Moulton	Cook
Hedi Pelowski	Cook
Mary Wick	Head Cook/Director of Food Services

Maintenance

Pete Kartak	Custodian
Steve Schmitz	Head of Maintenance

St. Wenceslaus School Professional Staff Education Level 2018/2019



St. Wenceslaus Catholic School - History of Enrollment

	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
K- 8 students	305	270	252	241	225	225	195	178	194	194	168
Korean Students added	+ 9	+ 11	+8	+10	+8	+6	+1	+1	0	0	0
Preschool Added	+18	+36	+50	+39	+51	+46	+34	+56	+48	+42	+48
PreK-8 Total Students	332	317	310	290	284	277	230	235	243	236	216

Curriculum and Instruction

St. Wenceslaus School provides an excellent opportunity for spiritual, academic and social growth for children from preschool through grade eight. We welcome children of all religious backgrounds. Students from surrounding parishes without a Catholic school are welcome at St. Wenceslaus.

Our School, established in 1878, serves 216 area students. The average class size is 17 students. The school has 10 regular classrooms, as well as classrooms for art, physical education, library and computer. We also have a fully operational preschool program with 3 separate class sections and a daycare program for preschoolers and for school age children.

The school day begins at 7:30 AM and ends at 2:30 PM for students in kindergarten through grade 8. Preschool sessions are held in the morning between 8:00 and Noon. The daycare is open from 7:00 am to 8:00 am and then again from 11:00 am to 5:30 pm every school day.

St. Wenceslaus School is fully accredited in the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accreditation Association (MNSAA) for kindergarten through grade 8. In addition, our preschool program is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Education.

St. Wenceslaus is a STEM focused school.

Curriculum Areas taught every day

- > Religion
- > Language Arts
- > Mathematics
- > Science
- > Social Studies
- > Art
- > Music
- > Physical Education

Technology is used as a tool within each classroom. Students are taught how to use various applications and programs as part of the basic curriculum units. SWS is proud to supply devices for use to students in grades Preschool through grade 8. Laptop computers are available to grades 4-8 and I-pads are used in Preschool–grade 3.

STEM is a way of life at St. Wenceslaus Catholic School. We operate with in the parameters of STEM Infusion meaning that STEM philosophy is incorporated into all curricular areas and is not taught as a separate content area. Students are taught to

see themselves are positive learners with our growth mind set goals. Every grade level does engineering projects, photography and video skills, technology skills, citizen science and the outdoor classroom. Students work in collaborative groups often and are allowed to try, repeat and try again as they learn. STEM includes creativity, collaboration, critical thinking/problem solving, and communication skills.

Middle School

St. Wenceslaus School's middle school program begins in 6th grade. Middle school students are exposed to a wide variety of academic and enrichment experienced. Teachers work in specialized curricular areas. Band is an option the students can choose. Students are placed in elective courses for one period per day. These elective classes meet the various interests of the students.

Elective Courses - Grades 6-8

- Film Making
 - Team Sports
 - Foods
 - Pottery
 - Strategy Games
 - Girls Choir
 - MN History
 - Acting
 - Performing Arts
 - Art
 - Foods
 - Show Choir
 - Yearbook
 - Needlecraft
 - Boys Choir
 - War/Boot Camp
 - Math Help 8
 - Math Help 7
 - Robots
 - Book Club
 - Books/Movies
 - Photo Technology
 - Girls Sports
 - Boys Sports
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Co-Curricular Activities

St. Wenceslaus Catholic School offers co-curricular activities. Students in 6-8th grade can also participate in co-curricular activities at New Prague Middle School.

Co-curricular activities offered at St. Wenceslaus School:

- Girls Volleyball
 - Girls Basketball
 - Boys Basketball
 - Geography Bee
 - Spelling Bee
- STEM Competition
 - Lego League Competition
 - Regional Science Fair
 - Math league

Buddies and School Family Groups

Students learn to work with each other as a school community with the buddy program. Various grades pair up together for a variety of activities each year. For example, students in grades 4-6 help in the preschool with a special game day. Family groups have been a highlight with the students. The eighth grade students are the leaders of the family groups and there are students from every grade level in each family. These multi-age groups work on projects together each month. The family groups really solidify the community atmosphere at SWS.

Little Saints Preschool

St. Wenceslaus School preschool program serves 48 students ages 3-5. Students who are one year away from attending kindergarten are in the 4-5 class called Prekindergarten. Pre-K students attend on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. These students also have the option to come Tuesday and Thursday for Pre-K STEM class. There are two sections of Pre-kindergarten.

Students in the 3-4 year old program attend on Tuesday and Thursdays. Little Saints is fully licensed through the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Clubhouse Extended Daycare Program

Students who are in need of daycare before or after school hours attend the Clubhouse program. Clubhouse is open from 7:00 - 8:00 am daily and then from 11:00 am - 5:30 pm. Clubhouse is open only on school days for the 2018-19 school year. Clubhouse is a safe and affordable program to meet the needs of the working school families.

Special Services

As part of our philosophy, St. Wenceslaus School is committed to meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of students. We work with the special services team from New Prague Public Schools to assess and serve special learning needs of students. The classroom teacher is also responsible for implementing accommodations and supporting individual learner needs to the best of their ability.

- ❑ Special Education Services and Speech/Language Services (IEP)
- ❑ 504 Plans
- ❑ Intervention Plans
- ❑ Title 1
- ❑ Counseling

Assessment

St. Wenceslaus School believes an effective assessment system motivates students to learn, communicates with stakeholders, promotes school improvement, guides instructional decisions, and shares a common vision. Assessment tools and practices are varied, ongoing, authentic, and aligned with specific learning targets.

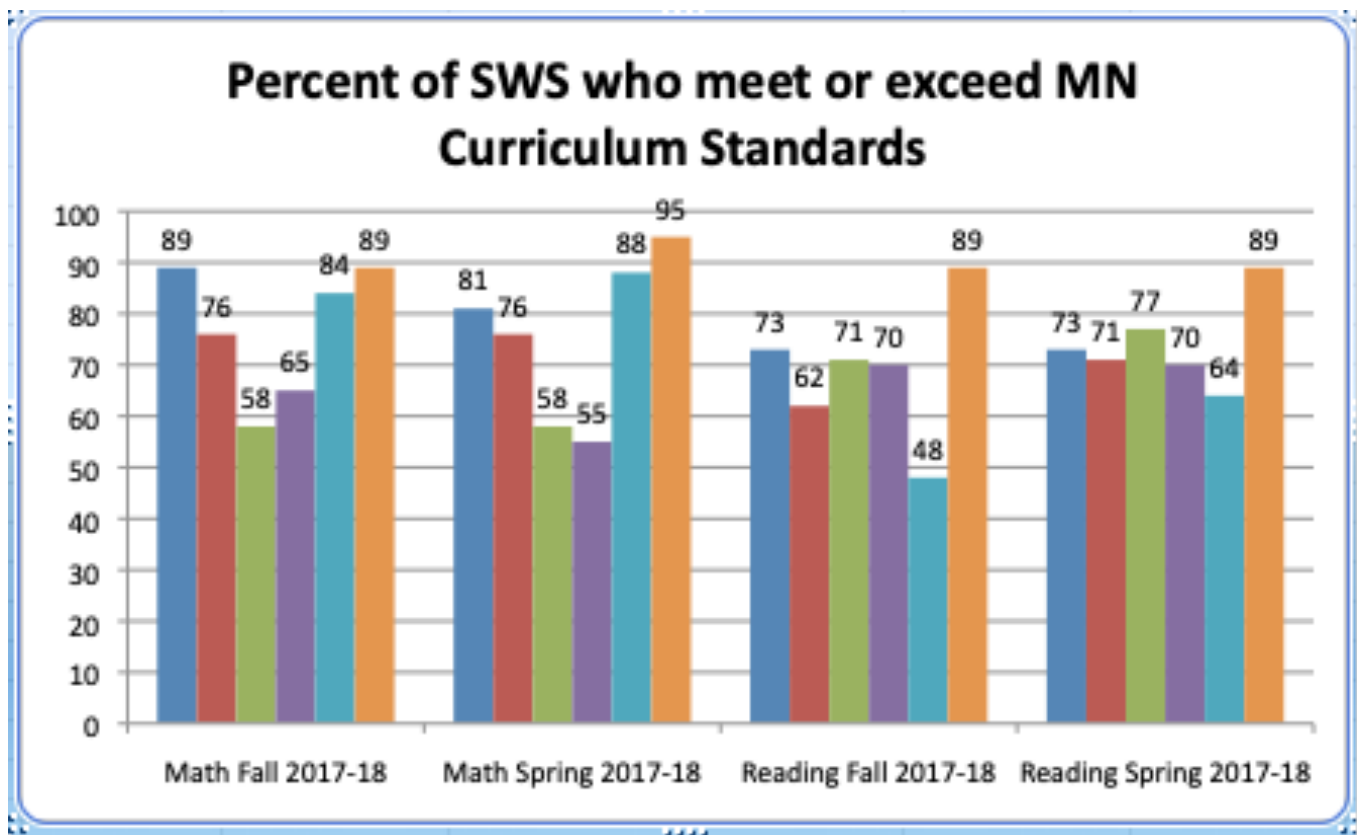
Regular and descriptive feedback is provided to students, and all parents, to positively promote learning. Assessments are used to understand and positively motivate the students as individual learners. Information gathered is used to understand the relationship between the learner and his/her progress toward achieving learning targets

NWEA Testing (MAP- Measures of Academic Progress)

Students in grades kindergarten through 8 are tested 2-3 times during the school year. This test measures academic progress and is used to give individual student information to parents and teachers. The tests measure student progress and growth from one test session to the next. This test is used to evaluate the school curriculum, the particular needs of an individual, class, or a need of the entire school.

NWEA Tests taken are in Fall, Winter, Spring.

Students have individual goals for improvement. NWEA gives students a projected growth based on their ability levels. The goal is for students to move toward their projected growth goals as they work on meeting the curriculum standards.



This chart shows a comparison in scores from Spring Fall 2017 to Spring, 2018 for students in grade 4-8. Each color indicates one class of students in grades 4-8. This is the percent of students who meet or exceed Minnesota Curriculum Standards

2018-2019 Tuition

Kindergarten (Full-time) - Grade 8	\$4218	Preschool Pre-Kindergarten M/W/F	\$1770
Kindergarten (Part-time) MWF	\$3218	3-4 Year -Old Program T/Th	\$1120
Korean Exchange Student	\$5565	Pre-K Stem Add-on Tues.	\$2360
		Pre-K Stem Add-on Tues./Thurs.	\$2950

Club House rates are in addition to tuition commitment. Rates are comparable to other local extended day options.

Fundraising 2018-19

Required Fundraisers

- ❖ Marathon - Sat., September 29 - \$150 per child K-8 \$50 preschool
- ❖ Sweepstakes – Wed., Jan., 30 - \$300 per family K-8 \$50 per preschool
- ❖ Fish Fry – April 5 - 10 ticket per K-8 family 5 tickets per preschool

Optional Fundraisers

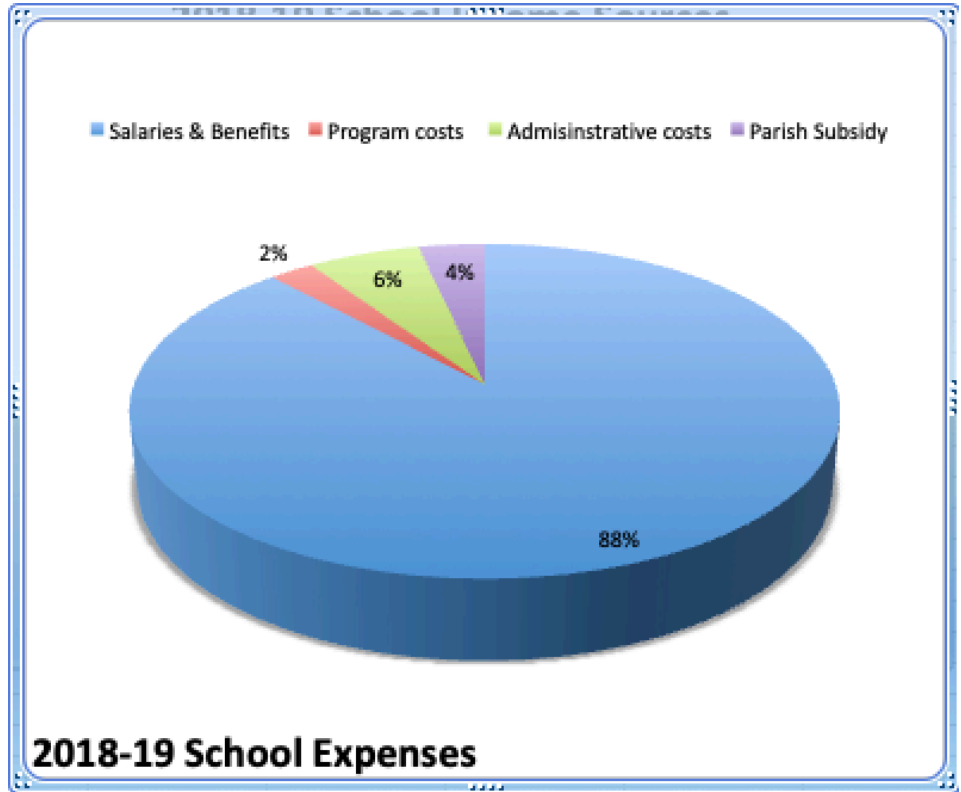
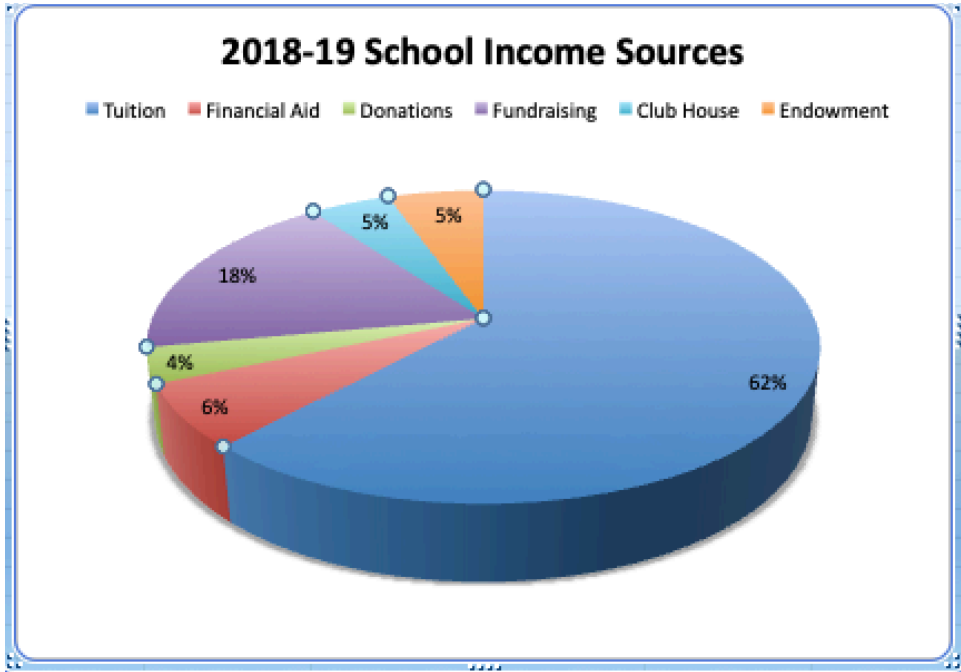
- ❖ Handmade Market - Sat., Oct. 27
- ❖ Pot-O-Gold - \$100 per ticket pulled on June 14, 2019
- ❖ School Auction and Dinner Event - Sat., March 16
- ❖ Golf Tournament - Fri., June 14

Financial Aid

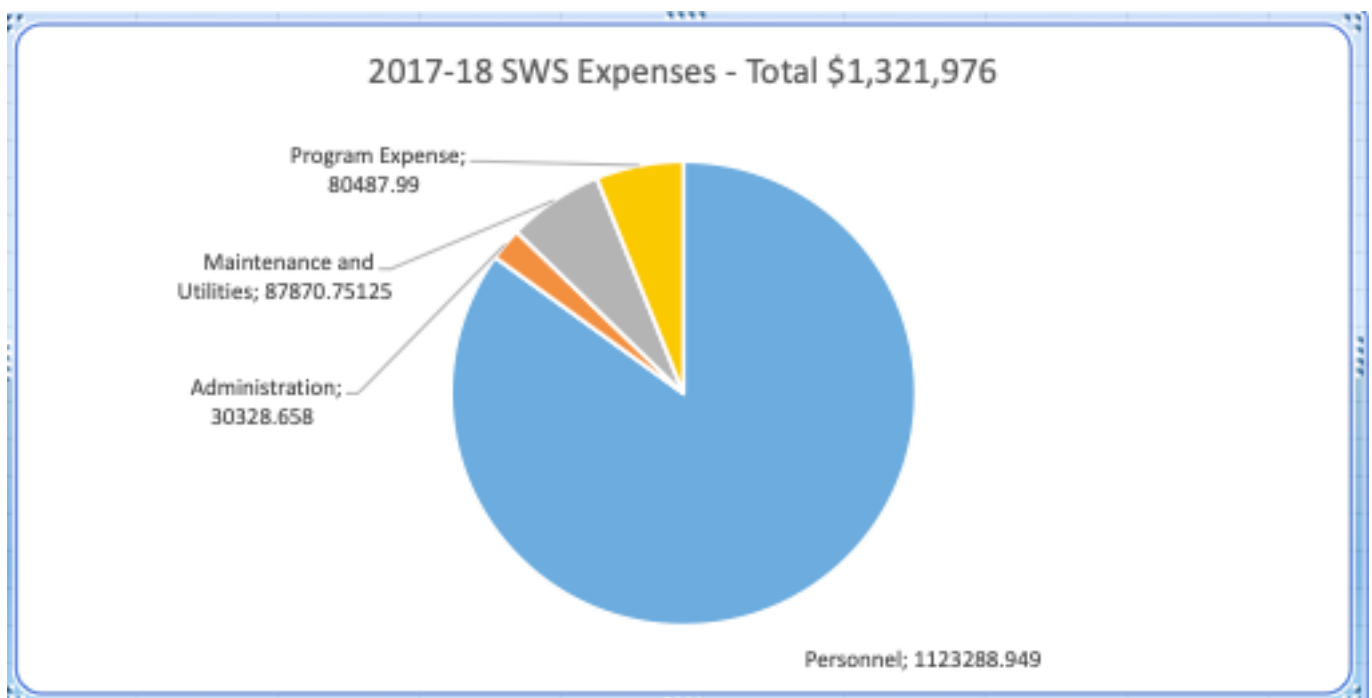
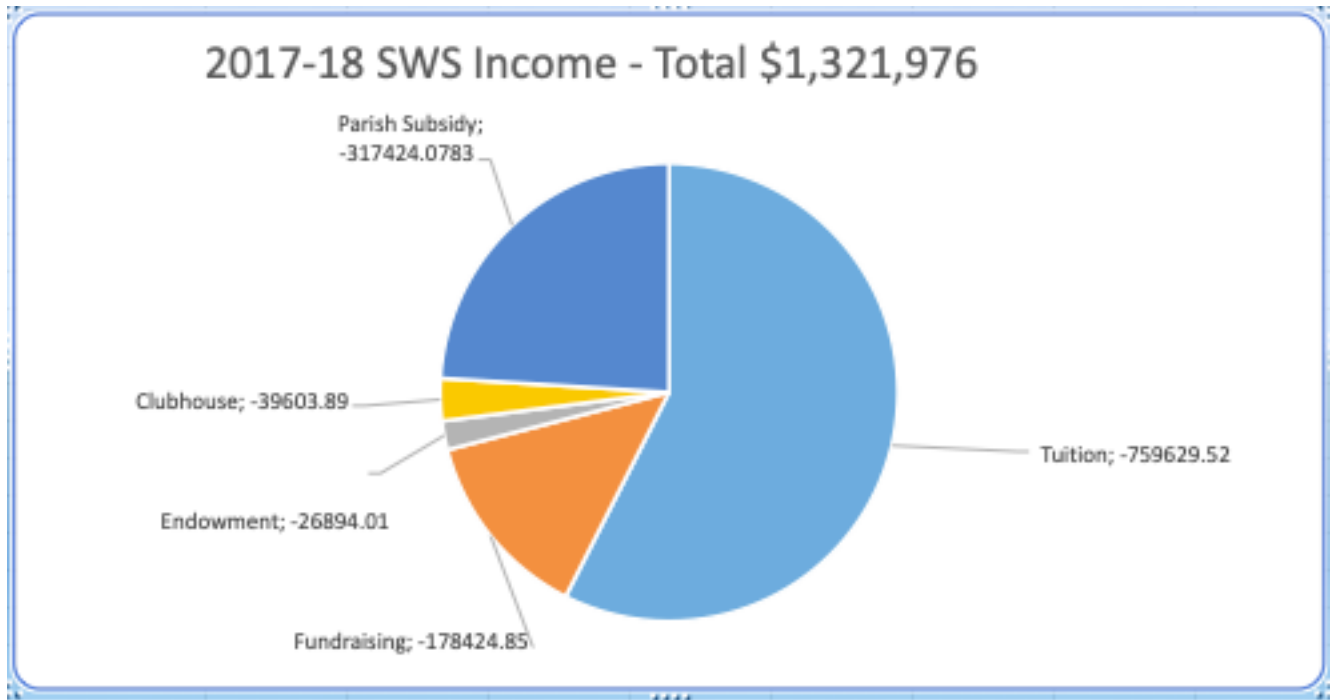
St. Wenceslaus School is committed to making our school financially accessible to everyone. Parents who wish to apply for financial assistance can fill out the online application for financial aid through TADS (Tuition Assistance Data Services). All financial aid information is processed by TADS and is strictly confidential.

School Operating Budget 2018-19

(Building & Maintenance costs not included)



School Operating Budget 2017-18 (Building & Maintenance costs included)



SWS Goals for the 2018-2019 School Year

1. Our school curriculum will provide a relevant experience for our 21st Century learners.

- Infuse STEM education into the curriculum.
 - A curriculum scope and sequence will be developed across grade levels to highlight STEM skills.
 - Our written curriculum will be updated to incorporate STEM initiatives.
 - Materials and resources will be purchased to carry out advanced STEM programs.
- Develop the faith of our students at a deeper level.
 - The IFG self-assessment/ACRE test will be incorporated into the annual evaluation of faith development for staff and students.
 - The staff will evaluate the way formal prayers are taught and how students are held accountable for learning them.
 - Personal or small group prayer opportunities will be expanded for students.
- Review curriculum standards for quality programming.
 - Teachers will update and coordinate curriculum standards across grade levels using assessment data as a guideline.
 - Testing will be reviewed to ensure the best measures of student growth.
 - Teachers will meet one-on-one with students to set personal goals.
- Meet a variety of diverse learning levels, interests, and needs with cutting edge curriculum goals.
 - Teachers will document a range of assessments to meet needs.

2. Our school will meet diverse needs of all learners.

- Determine individualized plans for struggling students.
 - Annual RTI training for all staff will take place.

3. St. Wenceslaus School will attract students and benefactors to our school community.

- Develop a plan to increase enrollment.
 - Banners/signage will be created to advertise and identify the school and preschool.
 - Develop a plan to market our school as a pre-K through 8 program.
- Formulate and institute an alumni outreach plan.
 - Mailing to increase number of email addresses to be gathered for alumni.
 - Alumni will be invited/informed of school activities.
- Formulate and institute an outreach plan to all stakeholders and other benefactors.

- A formal development plan will be created.
- In cooperation with the SWS endowment trustees, steadily build an endowment that will provide increased revenue for many years to come.
- Create a plan to revise and manage school website.
 - The school will add a section to the website to showcase our STEM implementation.
 - The preschool link/page will be reviewed and revised.

4. Administrative structures will ensure that SWS is a growing and thriving school community for future generations of students.

- Set budgets to sustain goals for growth in enrollment, curricular development, and staff compensation.
 - Tuition and fundraising structures will be studied to creatively increase financial outcomes.
- Provide professional development opportunities for staff.
 - Revise and update the existing staff professional development plan.
 - Financial support will provide for staff development in the priority curriculum areas.
- Enhance administrative support.
 - Staff schedules will be reconfigured to cover administrative duties.

5. The school will have a visionary technology plan.

- Sustain and refresh current technology and equipment.
 - A five year plan will be developed pinpointing which pieces of equipment will be scheduled for refresh along a five year timeline.
 - Funding sources will be investigated to support technology upkeep.
 - Develop financial sources for new and emerging technologies.
 - Technology grants will be researched.
 - A grant writer will be designated.
 - The school budget will allow for ongoing training needs of staff in the areas of technology.
 - Train staff in areas of new technology.
 - The school budget will allow for ongoing training needs of staff in the areas of technology.
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School Advisory Council Report to the Parish Coordinating Council

12/4/18

Positive Happenings at SWS

1. Marketing Initiatives are taking place with the Catholic School Center of Excellence (CSCOE) and SWS. One SWS parent is assigned each year as the school's marketing and enrollment coordinator. This position is funded through CSCOE. Monthly meetings give the coordinator many ideas to incorporate at our school. Marketing grants are also offered to the school.

-Marketing projects taking place:

- Professional school video focused on our STEM program.
- Website Design Project is completed with revisions continuing.
- Opening school year carnival for preschool and kindergarten students.
- Summer gatherings for each classroom and parents on the playground.
- Santa Workshop has been moved to Saturday morning, Dec. 8
- Several in-school activities – lock in, bring a friend day (done last year), preschool move up days.
- Dozinky parade was well attended/ preschool staff gave invitations out to young families.
- Toddler Time Night – very successful for the past two years.
- Parent Night gathering at Geisenbrau and one more to come during Catholic Schools Week in January.
- Social media photo contests using can Koozies
- Regular Facebook posting
- Banners displaying upcoming events for the front yard
- Mentorship Program development between young families and older parish members and or families with older children.

2. C-STEM Infusion into the school curriculum.

-SWS teachers continue to incorporate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) into the classroom and throughout every area of the curriculum. Students are immersed in STEM principles and philosophy. Students learn how to create, are allowed to fail, and then restructure or rebuild again with collaboration. This creates the best projects in the end. Students use the engineering design process with STEM projects. STEM includes use of school technology, outdoor lessons, photography and video production, coding and robotics.

-Teachers hosted a STEM night for school families. Several businesses and community organizations participated including CHART, New Prague High School Robotics Team, and Minnesota Microscopy Society. STEM night is a big hit with students and parents.

-The school now has one-to one devices for all students in the school. Grades 4-8 have laptop computers. Students in grades 6-8 are allowed to take these home Grades k-3 have i-pads to use within the classroom. Preschool has i-pads as needed.

-The STEM lab is a wonderful space supplied with many gadget, tools, stem supplies, robots, and almost anything that the teachers need to create wonderful STEM infused lessons

- Eleven teachers traveled to the ISTE (International Society of Technology Educators) conference in Chicago last June. This conference had \$30,000 for all around the world in attendance. All of the newest technology and STEM methods were available. Teachers came home energized and more knowledgeable.

-The 5 C's of STEM

- Catholic faith is within everything we do
- Collaboration on projects
- Creativity and innovation
- Communication
- Critical thinking and problem solving

3. Fundraising

Fundraising events have been extremely successful in the past years. The school meets and the aggressive fundraising budget of raising more than \$181,000 from a variety of events. Fundraisers to meet the budget expense include the following for the 2018-19 school year: marathon, sweepstakes drawing, fish fry dinner, Pot-O-Gold, Starry Night Auction, and the golf tournament.

-The Auction was a great success last year and continues to be one of the biggest events in town. Last year we had to cancel the event due to a snowstorm but were able to reschedule it for Sunday afternoon, the next day. The profits of the event met the required budget requirement.

Challenges

1. Enrollment

Enrollment and student growth remain our greatest concern. Although SWS had a good increase in enrollment 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 years, the 2018-19 school year saw a significant decline. This is due to a larger 8th grade class leaving and a very small kindergarten class coming in. Large tuition incentives were given for incoming new student in 2016 and 2017. These incentives brought in 20 new students each year. In 2018, the incentive was dropped and the school only recruited 3 new students.

Efforts to recruit new families are important for the school's future. The school currently has one classroom in every grade level with the exception of grade 7 in which there are two sections. The average class size is 17 students with some having a few more and some a few less. Our school falls within the average range for enrollment numbers with most schools having approximately the same enrollment numbers and issues.

1. Salary Increases for staff

Salary for staff increased by 1% for the 2018-19 school year. While this was a welcome increase by staff, SWS continues to struggle with salaries and being competitive with other schools. There is a concern about justice for some of our teaching staff as they compare salaries with local schools.

Studies in 2016-17 showed-SWS is 12% lower than the deanery for a starting salary and 4% lower for a 20-year teacher with a MA degree. Compared to St. Michaels in Prior Lake, SWS is 26% lower for a starting teacher (33,629) and 33 % lower for a 20-year MA teacher (59,800)

3. Finances

With declining enrollment numbers, it creates challenges in balancing the budget. SWS continues to explore opportunities to offer reduced tuition through financial aid and new family discounts while still meeting budget. Cutting staff to meet the budget would mean that we would cut programs, thus changing the quality of the education at the school. The school is predicting a larger budget deficit for the next school year.

4. Preschool/daycare growth. CSCOE encourages each school to have a strong marketing plan in place to recruit preschool enrollment. Schools where enrollment is going up have added or expanded their preschool and daycare options for the younger families. Some schools are adding a year round option for preschool children. At the very minimum, we are encouraged to add a full day, 5 day per week program to our preschool.

5. Playground Fence. Licensing rules stated that we must have a fenced in area around our playground for preschool children. This is now effective for any preschool program no matter how long it is. If we want to keep our preschool open, then we must fence in our playground. Our school parents would like to see the entire playground fenced in down to the hospital. It has become very dangerous for the children with the following: balls going onto Columbus Ave., balls going into the hospital lot and kids dashing between cars to retrieve them, strangers occasionally on the property during PE or recess, dogs messing up the play area. Last week there was a loose dog on the playground and the supervisors had to have the children come into the building with an emergency whistle.

Two bids have been gotten for this project. This might be a request for the Auction Fund-a-need drive.

6. How can the parish help support the school with our challenges?

Additional financial assistance?

Ways to promote the school to increase enrollment?

Reach out to families within the parish that would consider attending?