

St. Wenceslaus Catholic School



Annual School Report
2019-2020

St. Wenceslaus School

Mission Statement

St. Wenceslaus Catholic School is a Christ-centered family 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

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.

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.

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 Eugene Theisen	Canonical Administrator
Kim Doyle	Principal
Sherry Hartman	Administrative Assistant
Joan May	Technologist
Nancy Moulton	School Marketing Director (PT)

Faculty and Staff

Sarah Gullickson	Preschool Director/Teacher (PT)
Tammy Sirek	Preschool Lead Teacher (PT)
Devin Dobesh	Preschool Lead Teacher
Annette Stavos	Preschool STEM Teacher /Library
Annie Schmitz	Preschool Teacher (PT)
Betty Jirak	Preschool Aide (PT)
Linda Smisek	Preschool Adie/ K-8 Aide
Lisa Schneider	Kindergarten
Jennifer Wetschka	1 st Grade
Kathy Giesen	2 nd Grade
Carly McDonald	3 rd Grade
Ann Christy	4 th Grade
Becky Smisek	5 th Grade (6 th Literature, English, Social Studies)
Lori King	5 th Grade (Literature and English) (PT)
Becky Zwirner	6 th Grade Homeroom (Math 5-8, Science 5-6)
Jill McBroom	7 th Grade Homeroom (Religion and Science 7-8, Math 8)

Jamie Schoenbauer	8 th Grade Homeroom (Social Studies, English, Literature 7-8)
Mike Tschimperle	Physical Education (4/5 time)
Katherine Gorr	Music
Katherine Piquette	Art (PT)
Theresa Rademacher	Instructional Assistant Teacher (PT)
Anita Sirek	Clubhouse Director (PT)
Kathy McNamara	STEM Room Coordinator (volunteer)
Elaine Harty	Support Teacher (volunteer)
Kaitlyn Fadden	Counselor (PT)
Sandy Gallagher	Band (private)

District 721 Support Staff

Michelle Redfearn	Title 1 Teacher (PT)
Theresa Rademacher	Health Aide (PT)
Becky Wolf	Special Education Teacher (4/5 time)
Angie Pahl	Speech Teacher/Special Ed. (PT)

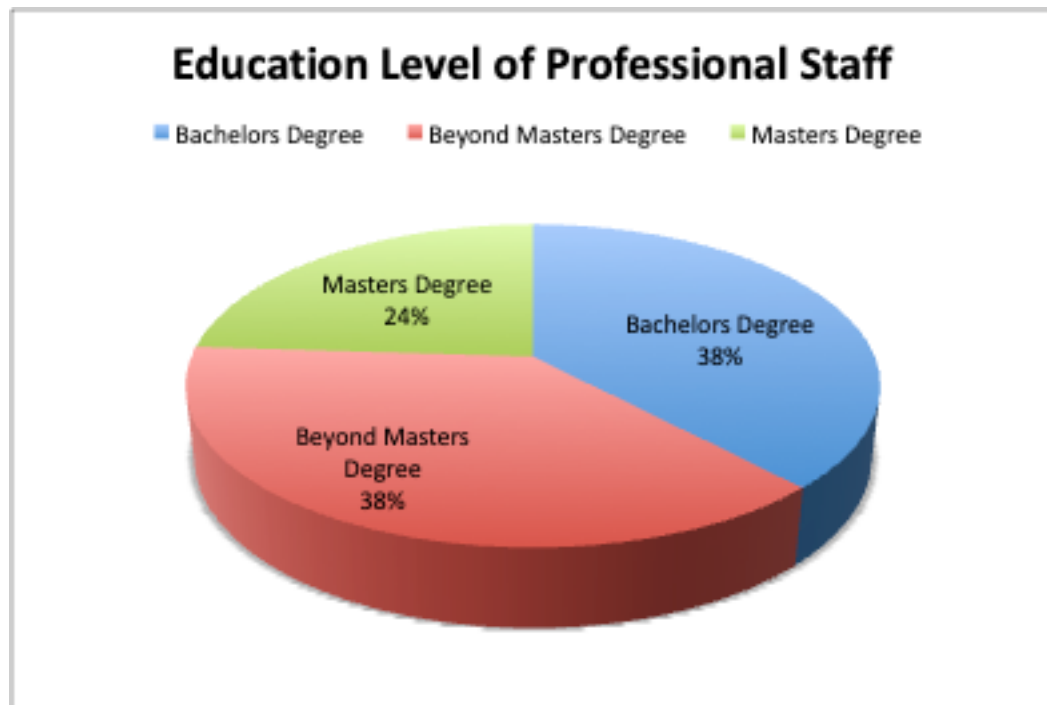
Kitchen

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

Maintenance

Tony Brezina	Custodian
Steve Schmitz	Head of Maintenance

St. Wenceslaus School Professional Staff Education Level 2019- 2020



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	19-20
K- 8 students	305	270	252	241	225	225	195	178	194	194	168	151
Korean Students added	+ 9	+ 11	+8	+10	+8	+6	+1	+1	0	0	0	+2
Preschool Added	+18	+36	+50	+39	+51	+46	+34	+56	+48	+42	+48	+63
PreK-8 Total Students	332	317	310	290	284	277	230	235	243	236	216	216

St. Wenceslaus Instruction

School demographics/make-up: 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 and currently have **88% Catholic and 12% non-Catholic students**. SWS has a low rate of racial and economic diversity. Most families live within the New Prague school district boundary but SWS also has students enrolled from every surrounding district (Jordan, Montgomery, LeCenter, Belle Plaine, and Lakeville)

Programs: Our School serves 216 area students. The average class size is 17 students. The school has 9 homerooms in K-8 and 3 homerooms in preschool. The school also has classrooms for art, music, physical education, library and computer. The school offers an extended care program for preschoolers and for school age children.

Hours: The school day begins at 7:30 AM and ends at 2:30 PM for students in kindergarten through grade 8. Club House extended care is open every school day from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Preschool sessions are offered part time and full time from 9:00 to Noon or 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Preschool extended care is open from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM and then again from 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM every school day.

Accreditation: 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.

Curriculum Areas taught every day

- | | | |
|---------------|------------|--------------------|
| > Religion | Literature | English |
| > Mathematics | Science | Social Studies |
| > Art | Music | Physical Education |

St. Wenceslaus is a STEM focused school. Science, technology, engineering, and math are infused into all areas of our academic curriculum

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 as 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. 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
- Photography
- 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

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. 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 solidify the community atmosphere at SWS.

Little Saints Preschool

St. Wenceslaus School preschool program serves 63 students ages 3-5. Students who are one year away from attending kindergarten are in the 4-5 class called Prekindergarten. Pre-K students may attend 3 to 5 days per week either half days or full days. Students in the 3-4 year old program attend half days or full days on Tuesday and Thursdays. Little Saints is fully licensed through the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Preschool Extended Care

Preschool students who are in need of extended care before and after school hours may arrive early from 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM and stay from 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM.

Preschool extended care is open on all school days.

Clubhouse Extended Daycare Program

Students who are in need of daycare after school hours attend the Clubhouse program. Clubhouse is open from 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM. Clubhouse is open on all school days. Clubhouse is a safe and affordable program to meet the needs of the working school families.

Special Services

St. Wenceslaus School is committed to meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of all students. SWS works 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 grow and take responsibility for their learning goals, 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)

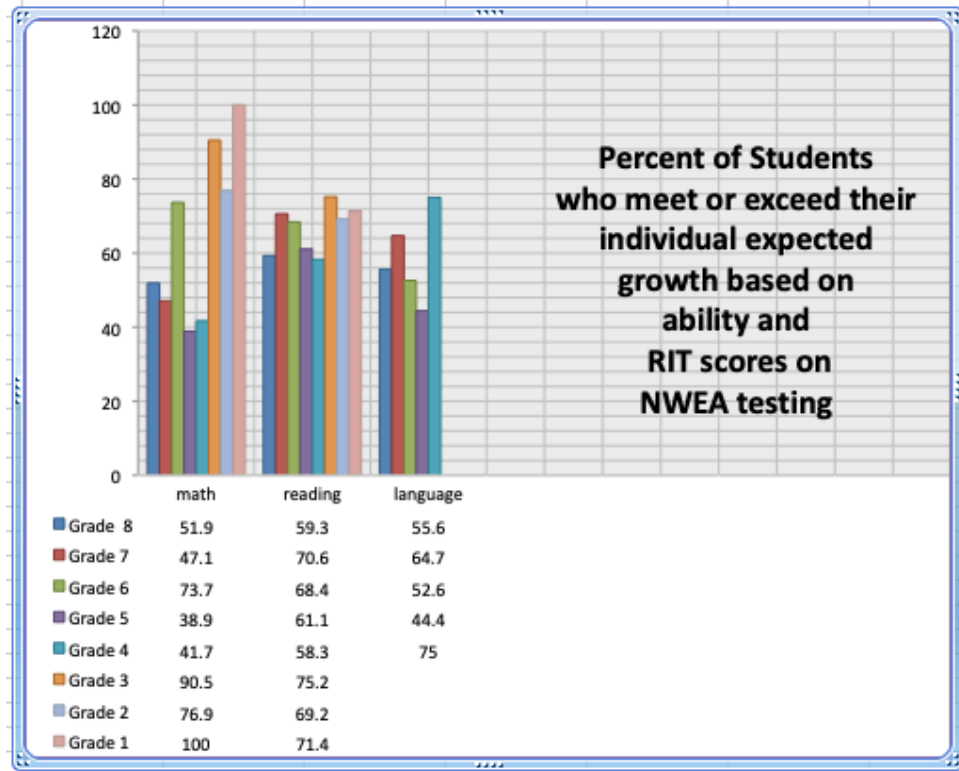
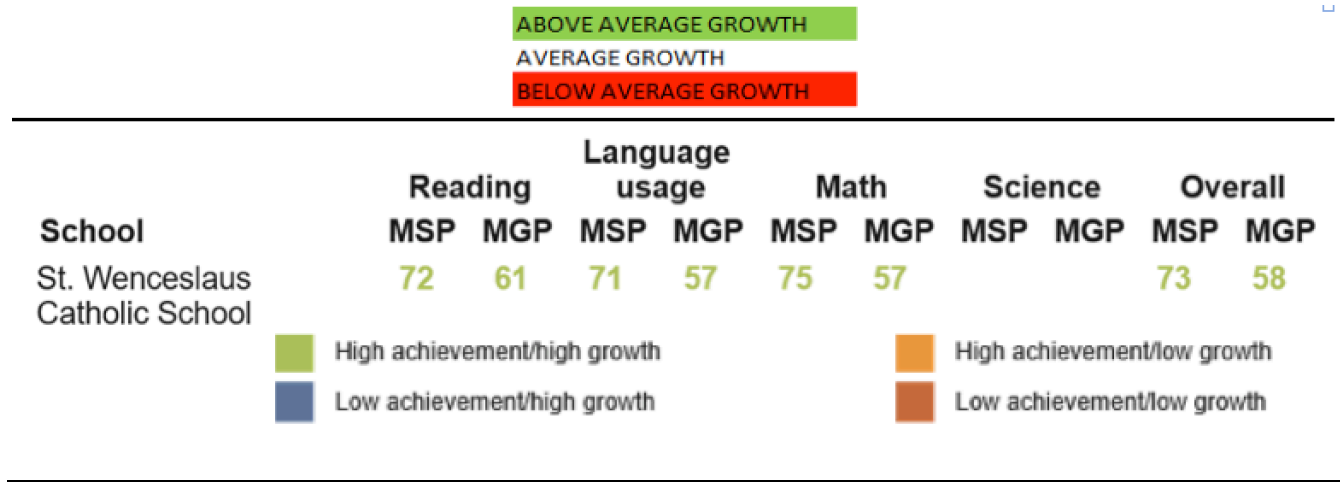
Students in grades kindergarten through 8 are tested 2-3 times during the school year. This test measures academic progress and is used to give individual student information to parents and teachers. The tests measure student progress and growth from one test session to the next. This test is used to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

NWEA Tests taken are in the Fall, Winter, and 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.

NWEA Growth Chart for 2019-20 students:

This picture below shows how St. Wenceslaus students did overall in their growth for the 2018-19 school year. The Green scores indicate that the school scored above average on the test. The category that best describes our school is one of “High Achievement/High Growth”.



The chart above shows a comparison in scores from Fall 2018 to Spring 2019 for current students in grade 1-8. Each color indicates one class of students. This is the percent of students who exceeded their growth as indicated by their ability level. Our staff is able to zero in on curriculum areas where each class of students scores lower and make directed efforts to improve curriculum and teaching methods to make sure all students are learning.

We recognize significant growth in the area of reading comprehension over the past two years, which has been in line with our school improvement goal of raising reading comprehension levels of our students.

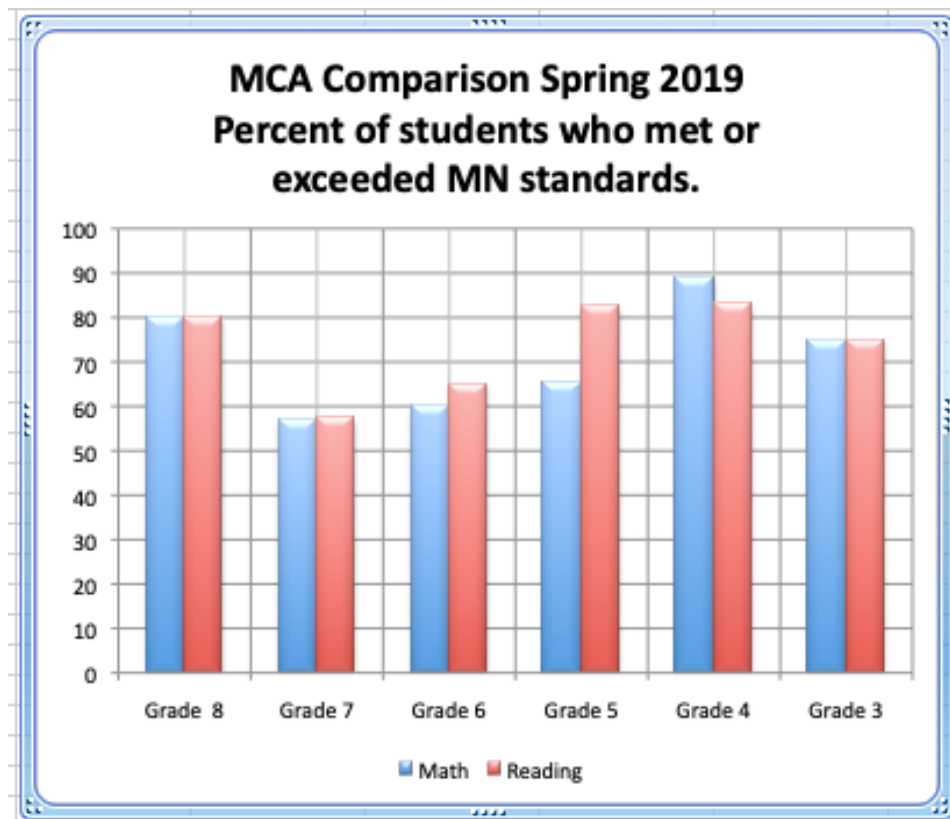
Growth Goals

2017-2018 - Improve Reading Comprehension through focus on Vocabulary Development

2018-2019 – Continue to Improve Reading Comprehension with focus on learning continuum for each student.

2019-2020 – Increase student Math skills through focus on student weakness areas.

Comparison to MCA – student scores from spring 2019



The chart above shows the students in grades 3-8 in spring 2019. These scores show a comparison to the Minnesota State tests called the MCA's. St. Wenceslaus does not take the MCA tests because these are tests designed for public school goals. However, we are often asked how the SWS students compare. This chart shows the percent of students who meet or exceed the MN standards.

Keep in mind: SWS does not pull out any special education students when testing and test results reflect all students in the school.

2019-2020 Tuition

Kindergarten	\$4000	Preschool Pre-Kindergarten M/W/F – half day	\$1830
Grades 1-8	\$4500	Preschool Pre-Kindergarten M/W/F – full day.	\$2730
Korean Exchange Student	\$5000	Preschool Pre-Kindergarten M-F – full day	\$4550
		3-4 Year - Old Program T/Th – half day	\$1220
		3-4 Year - Old Program T/Th – full day	\$1820

Extended care rates are in addition to tuition commitment. Rates are comparable to other local extended day options. We charge \$6 per hour for before and after school care.

Fundraising 2019-20

Required Fundraisers

- ❖ Marathon for Nonpublic Education - \$150 per child K-8 / \$50 preschool family
- ❖ Sweepstakes - \$300 per family K-8 / \$50 per preschool family
- ❖ Fish Fry -10 tickets per K-8 family / 5 tickets per preschool family

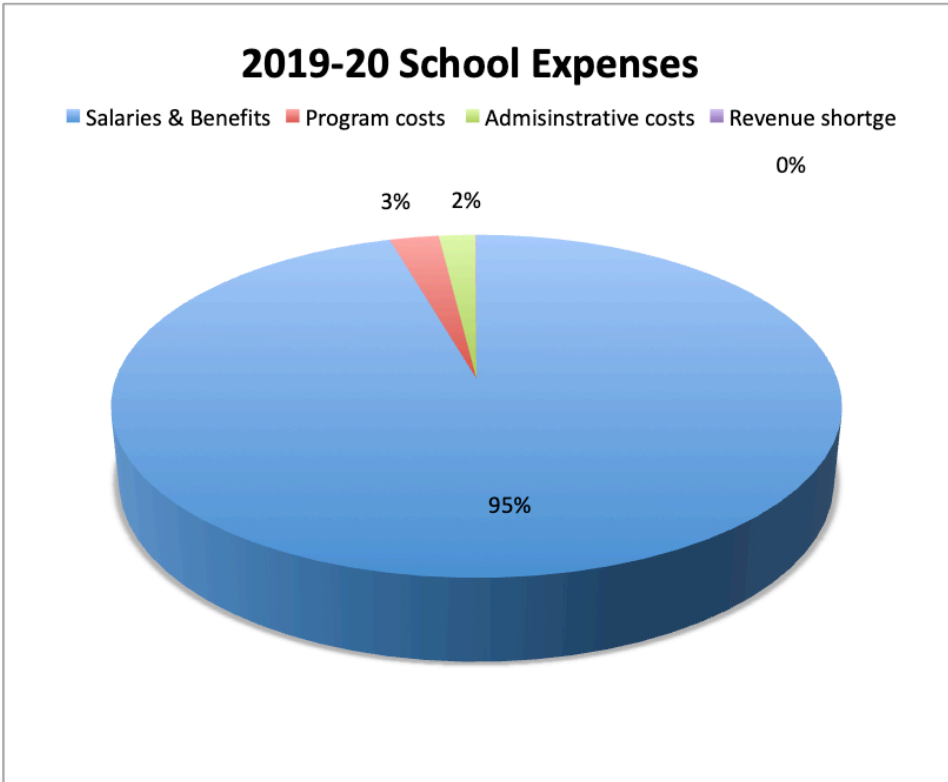
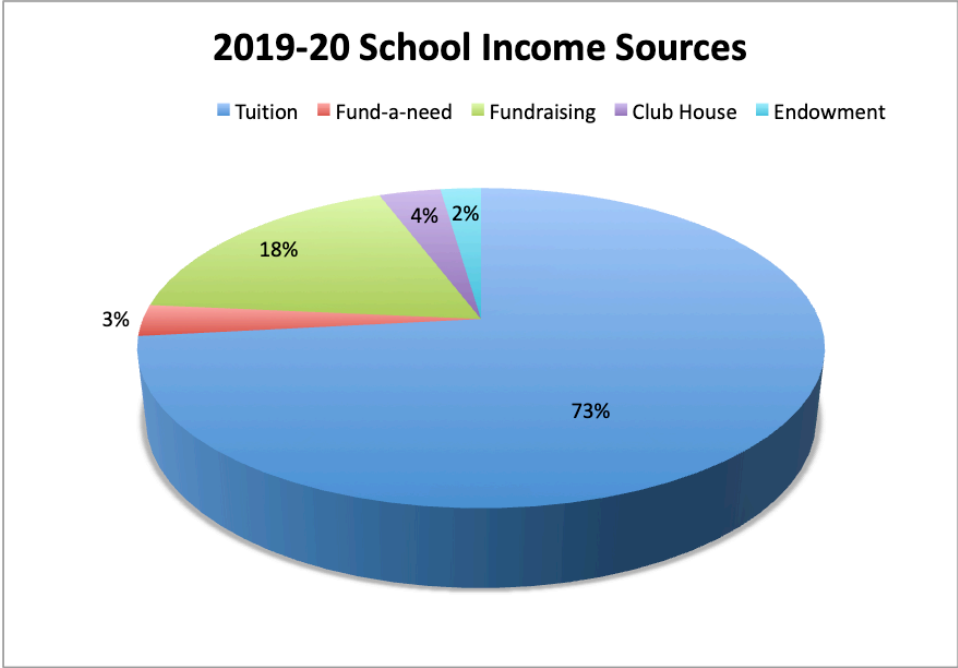
Optional Fundraisers

- ❖ Handmade Market -
- ❖ Pot-O-Gold
- ❖ Starry Night Auction and Dinner Event
- ❖ Golf Tournament

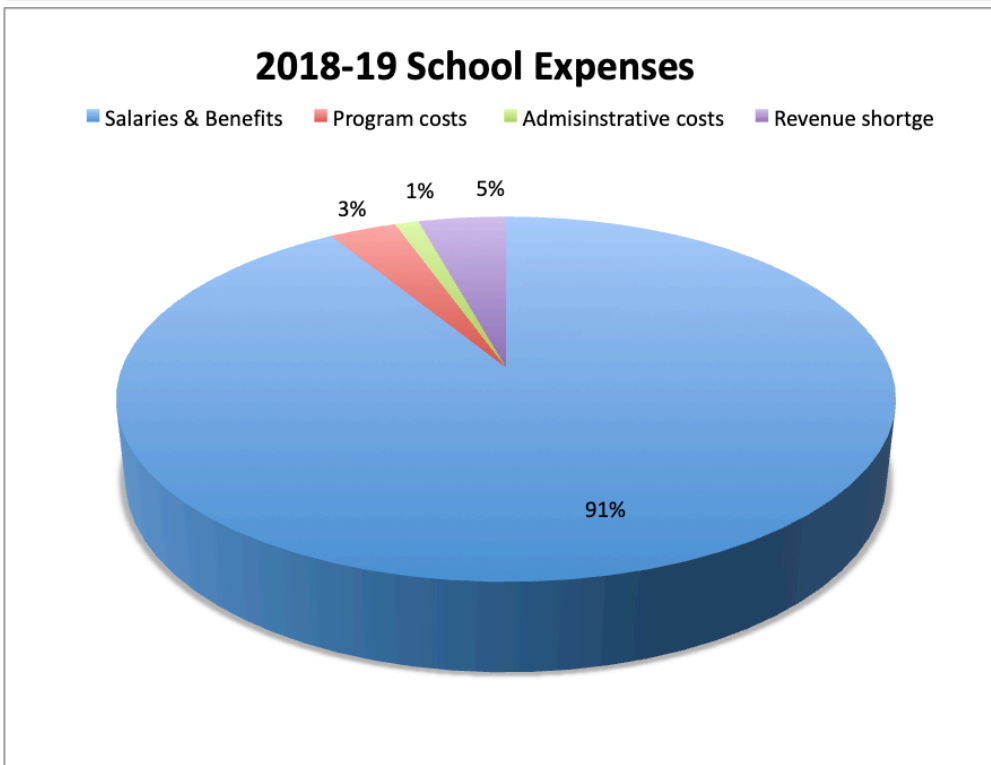
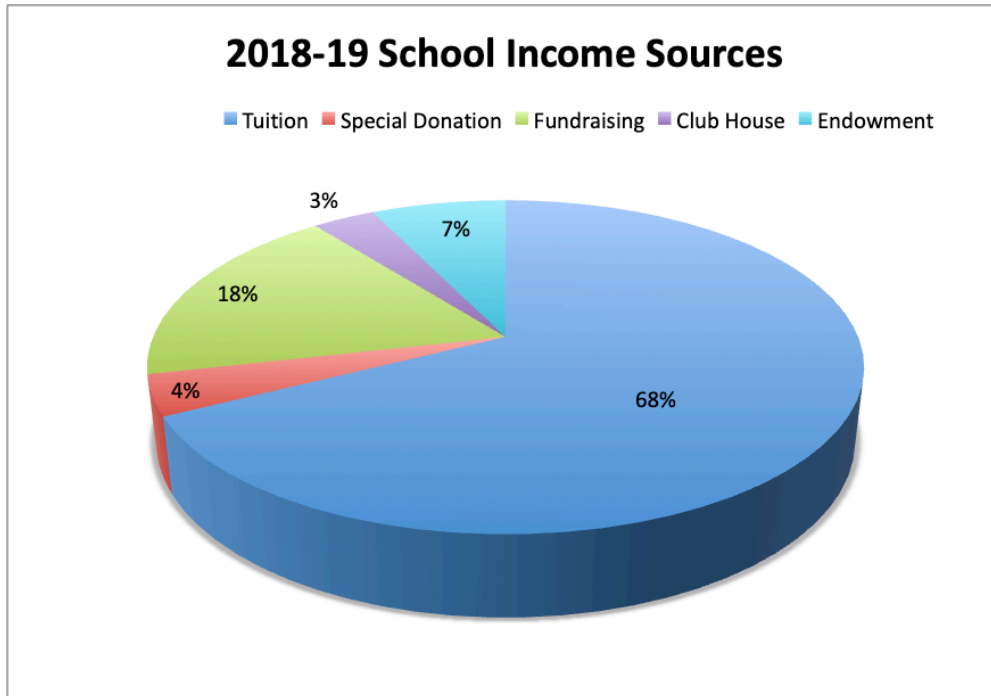
Financial Aid

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 2019-20 (Building & Maintenance costs not included)



School Operating Budget 2018-19 (Building & Maintenance costs included)



Review of School goals and challenges for the past year 2018-2019

Where We Were

- STEM – Focus on level of excellence we have here and with our technology as a whole.
- Student Fair has been exceptional allowing parents and the community to see what it is that the kids learn.
- Staff Training continues in all areas of STEM with one-one classes, group conferences, paired and shared training experiences and teacher to teachers learning PLC sessions.
- CSCOE Support – We all know how to explain this. We love CSCOE!
- Fence Grant – Allowed us to open the full day preschool/daycare program
- Marketing Support – Allowed us to be creative with recruitment and retaining the current families.
- Training Sessions – Help staff and volunteers focus effort on marketing and development.
- Staff Changes – Budget Pressures – Teachers leave the school, we don't backfill one position, budget vulnerability and not being stable, overall ability to function with less.

Areas of Encouragement

- Dedication and Commitment – Staff and Parents – Focus on how hard working our staff is. How dedicated our parents are. The idea is that if we can work this hard, why can't we get more support from the parish.
- Father's Support – Mass mentions of SWS, visibility in school building has increased.
- Teacher's Excellence – Continued excellence in everything, learning new ideas and doing great job with our children.
- Fundraising – Exceeded our budget goal....AGAIN. Tie this back to hard working nature.
- Academics – Strong test scores, best technology in Archdiocese, innovate and new ideas each year.
- Kindergarten Enrollment Increase – Pretty straight forward here. We have worked hard to market our program and to get our numbers to rise.
- Areas of Concern
- 5 Year Budget Projection – Asked for this last year and we couldn't create this. Working with parish now to help create this vision....see next bullet point.
- Calculating Exact Budget – Making progress, but still work to do here.

- Fundraising per family – Worried about this pressure taking its toll on families (parish can help with this)
- Staff Constraints – Need funding to increase coverage. Teachers are working hard but are stretched and stressed with the amount they need to do to keep the school programs moving forward.
- Limited on Staff adjustments – Due to budget – Growth of program will only happen with additional resources raised or given to the school.

Where We're Going

- Dedication and Commitment – Growth in Numbers – How can the parish work hard with us? We are discussing ways that the parish can be involved in the school and that the school families can be more involved with the parish.
- Driving financial growth from other sources (especially fundraising efforts)
- Alumni Support – Alumni Board, SWS Endowment – We are working on building this base of stronger support by making alumni connections.
- Parish Promotion of SWS – Other ideas from the PCC or others? We seek advise and welcome other ideas for parish groups. We will be doing a survey in February and invite all parish members to participate in it.
- School Participation at Mass- How can we get the children more involved in the Sunday Liturgies?
- Festival Involvement – Can we make our school presence known?
- Open House once a year – specifically for Parish to learn more. Many parishioners have not been in the building in many years. We need to find ways to invite them in.
- Funding for SWS Programs – Essentially asking for more financial support from parish.
- Teacher Salary – How can we keep the same numbers of teachers, increase their salaries and not out price ourselves by have higher tuition rates.
- Complimentary Staff – We would like to hire more support staff positions to assist the teachers and administration in the work that they do so that they are not over worked and over stressed.
- Budget Collaboration – Continue momentum that allows the school to create a long-term vision of growth and sustainability.

SWS Goals for the 2019-2020 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.
 - Financial resources will be secured for continual enhancement of the STEM lab.
- 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.
 - Leadership roles will be added for students in preparation and participation of liturgies.
 - Opportunities for students to connect their faith to real world situations will be added to the curriculum.
- 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.
 - PLC groups will communicate with each other about developing curriculum objectives
 - In light of STEM focus, teachers will review and adopt state or national science standards.
- Meet a variety of diverse learning levels, interests, and needs with cutting edge curriculum goals.
 - Teachers will review teaching techniques to serve diverse learners.
 - Teachers will participate in professional development to ensure that best practices are used within the school.
- Develop the students into responsible citizens through the curriculum.
 - Implement an annual year-long service learning plan with a focus on a charitable organization or social issue.

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

- Determine individualized plans for struggling students.
 - RTI guidelines and intervention logs will be made easily accessible.
- Add additional programs to the school to meet the diverse interests of the students.
 - A world language program will be explored.

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

- Develop a plan to increase enrollment.
 - Continue to revise existing plans and develop new plans 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 “meet the staff” section to our school website.
 - A link for alumni to submit contact information online will be added to the webpage.

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

- Enhance administrative support.
 - A list of administrative functions that can be delegated to current school staff will be developed.

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.