COMMUNITY OF SAINTS
REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

State of the School Report

2022-23

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.

From the Principal

Dear Community of Saints Members,

As I reflect on the conclusion of the 2022-23 school year, I am realizing there is a common theme as to how I feel this time of year–and that is a sense of gratitude.

Personally, this was one of my most challenging years, and while it does not surprise me, when there was a window of time that I wasn't able to be present, the Community of Saints staff, students, and their families showed up. They showed up with an abundance of support, and they continued to demonstrate excellence in living out the mission and vision of our school.

This year we continued to improve the educational and safety experience of our students and staff. Thanks to generous donors and grants, facility-wise we were able to remodel our library to include 4 new classroom/office spaces. We also installed new classroom and office space blinds, exterior building doors, and additional security cameras. The exterior wall on Haskell Street was repaired, and we began strategically investing in the temperature regulation of our boiler heating system.

"Thank you to all of our school community members and partners--we have felt your presence and support in the past, and we feel it and need it now more than ever. Thank you for believing in our mission and vision, and helping us live and breathe them."

Our professional learning community grew and made progress to support our staff and work to best meet the various needs of individual students. New and continued partnerships are included in this State of the School Report. We also look forward to our next steps in the 2023-24 year, which include launching a peer coaching model and implementing a new K-3 phonics curriculum.

We have accomplished so much this school year, and we look forward to the continuation of growth and opportunities to come in 2023-24. Thank you to all of our school community members and partners--we have felt your presence and support in the past, and we feel it and need it now more than ever. 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

School Strategic Plan

The State of the School Report contains highlights and data from the school year that reflects progress and planning to continue working toward the goals and timeline of our Strategic Planning. This past year marked year one of the seven year MNSAA cycle and the first year of working to make progress on our recently created and data driven strategic plan. All stakeholders are involved in this process, as we highly value stakeholder input and participation during this process.

MNSAA
MINNESOTA NONPUBLIC SCHOOL ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION

Objective 1 - Community of Saints is Vital and Viable

STRATEGY 1) Retain Stable Enrollment and Re-Evaluate Further Enrollment Growth
STRATEGY 2) Retain Current and Recruit High Quality Staff
(STRATEGY 3) Increase Financial Support
(STRATEGY 4) Maintain Facilities and Grounds

Objective 2: Community of Saints has a positive school climate.

(STRATEGY 1) Cultural Responsiveness
(STRATEGY 2) Support Social Emotional Learning Growth and Development
(STRATEGY 3) Increase Family Involvement and Engagement.
(STRATEGY 4) Increase Student Leadership and Involvement

Objective 3: Community of Saints helps students reach their full academic potential.

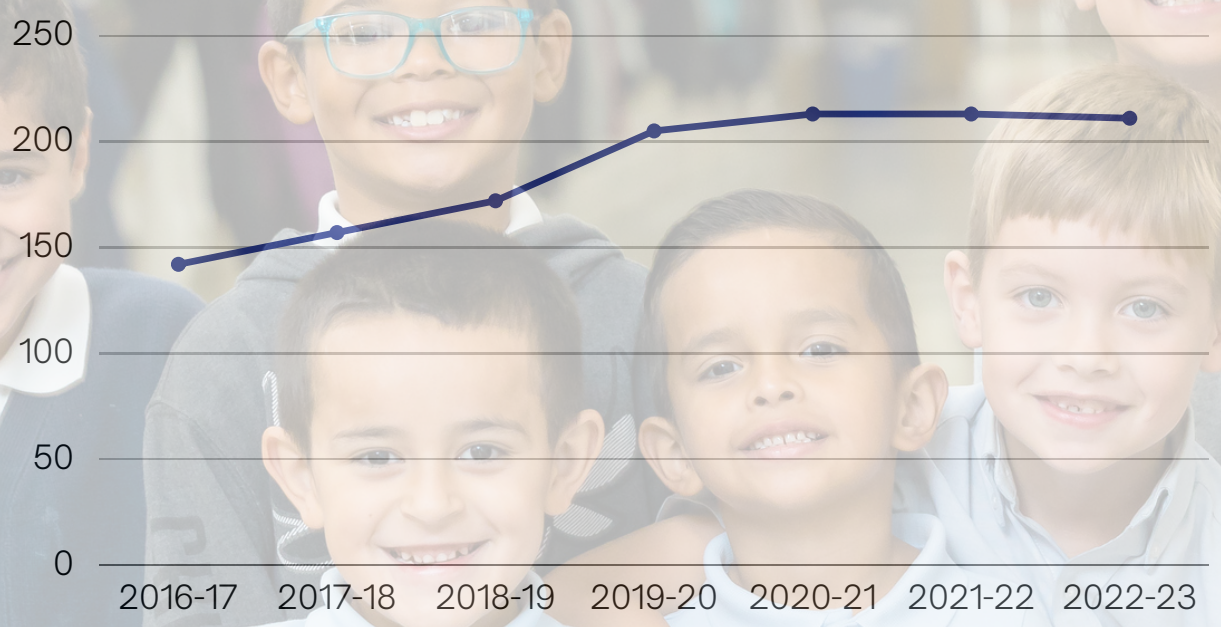
(STRATEGY 1) Collaborative Learning Community
(STRATEGY 2) Data Driven Learning
(STRATEGY 3) School Wide Curriculum Fluidity

Who We Serve

We continue to serve a racially and-financially diverse student body. Our K-8 enrollment has remained stable while building a strong foundation with waiting lists this year in preschool, kindergarten, and first grade.

Stable Enrollment

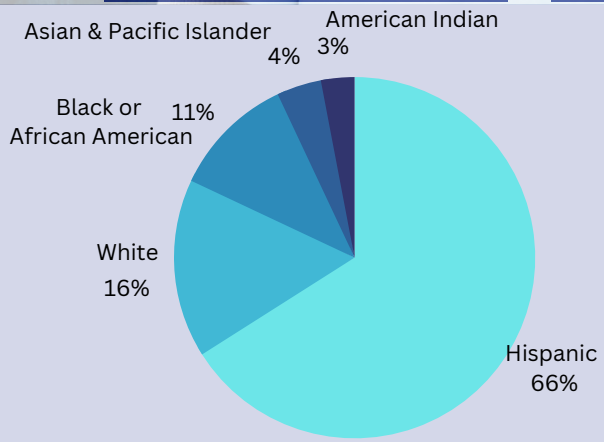
7 year K-8 enrollment history



42% Multilingual Learners

72% Qualify for Free or Reduced Price Lunch

86% Catholic



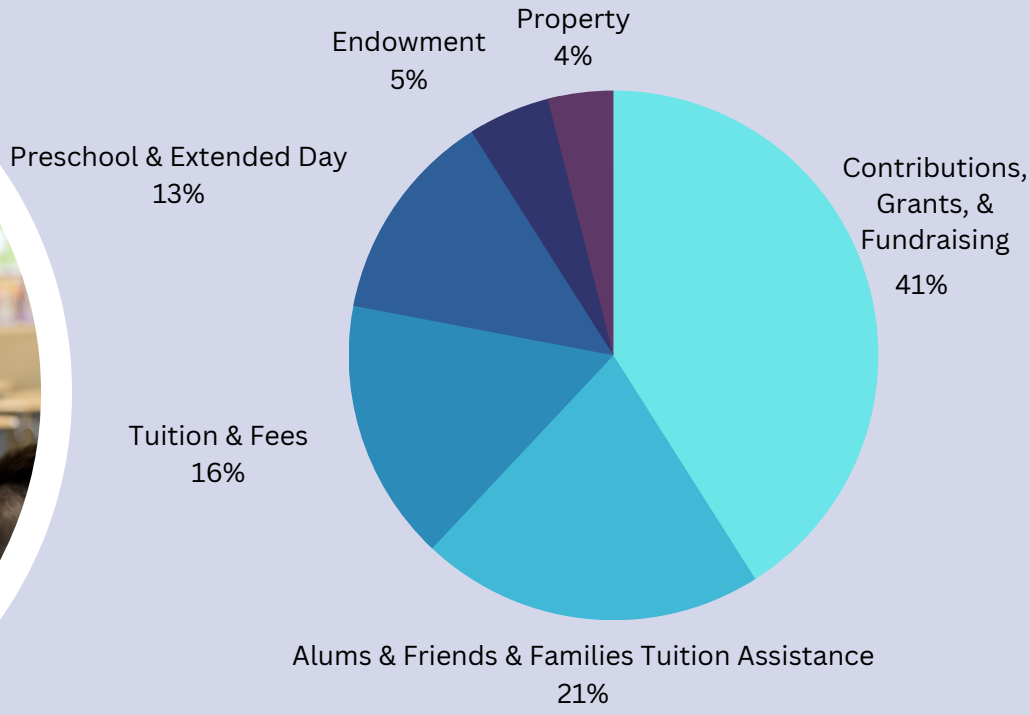
COS is a Drexel Mission School

Community of Saints is one of ten schools in the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis named a St. Katharine Drexel Mission School. Sister Katharine was known for founding the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament who were and still are devoted to serving the poor and the underserved. Drexel Mission schools are schools that serve families where 50% or more qualify for free/reduced lunch, 50% or more of students identify as students of color and school enrollment exceeds 100.

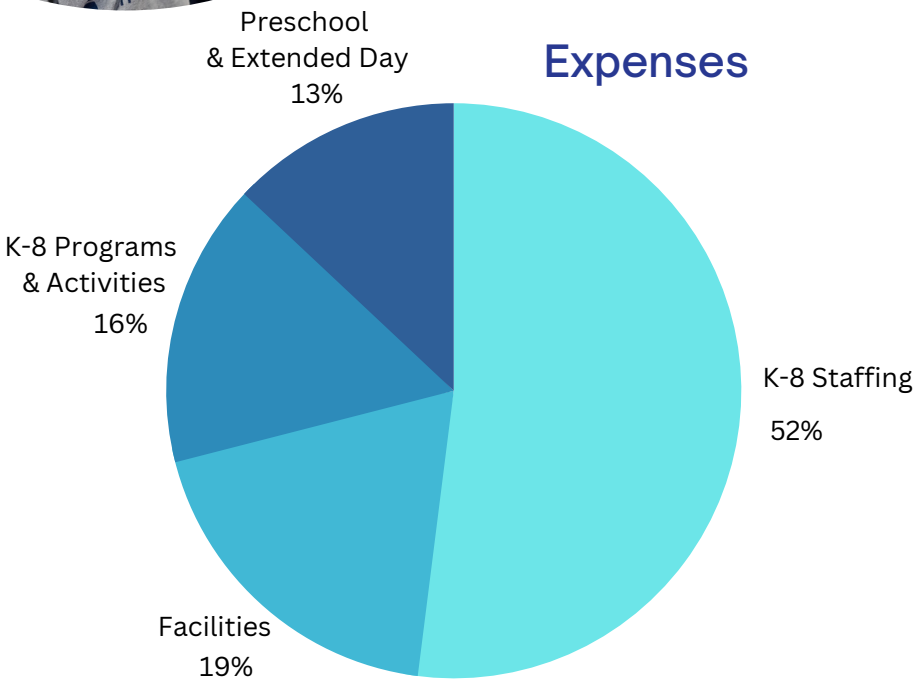
Financial Overview

We continue to partner with the Catholic Finance Corporation and the Parish Accounting Services Center (PASC) for accounting services, budgeting, and financial planning and forecasting.

Income



Expenses



"Each time you and I make a gift, we make an investment. We make an act of faith what what we do makes a difference. don't sell yourself short. You make a difference."

Fr Steve Adrian

Educating the Whole Child

We teach the whole child through partnerships and programs that support students academically, physically, socially, and emotionally.

Higher Powered Learning

Community of Saints has been partnering with the University of Notre Dame through the Alliance for Catholic Education's (ACE's) Higher-Powered Learning Program (HPLP) for the past five years. This past school year included multiple visits and collaborations with the HPLP Notre Dame leadership team, and internal coaching of math and reading teachers from the Community of Saints HPLP leadership team.

STEM Trustey Fellows

COS STEM leadership team continues to implement coaching and best instructional practices after concluding 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 COS STEM leadership team specifically coached staff in implementing instructional resources in alignment to the Next Generation Science Standards. Last school year they wrote and were rewarded a second grade Dashbot STEM innovation grant that they helped teachers organize, prep, and roll out this school year. The team also led the weekly STEM Club.

Achievement Network (ANET)

ANet is a nonprofit program that is dedicated to educational equity. They support underserved schools in boosting student learning with great teaching and leadership. COS completed its fourth year of partnership with ANet. This year's main objective was to articulate and implement a consistent math and ELA assessment framework, and use assessment data to gain insight and provide feedback that supports instructional decision making and student accountability.

City Connects

COS has collaborated with Boston College City Connects for the past seven years. City Connects site coordinators serve school families by building a network of support through the domains of academics, social/emotional, family, and health. These needs are identified through whole class reviews, individual student reviews and Student Study Team meetings. This past school year City Connects and counseling staff also led a Social Emotional Learning curriculum selection process which will be implemented in the 2023-24 school year.

Hoy & Associates

COS school currently partners with Hoy & Associates for school counseling services. These services support students with mental health and academic needs that are integrated into the student's everyday school experience. Thanks to COVID grant funding, during the 2022-23 school year COS hired a full-time counselor in addition to a part-time counselor to provide a year of mentorship as veteran counselor JoEllen Flak retired at the end of this year.

Catholic Identity

The Catholic faith and teachings of the Church are integrated into the everyday culture of Community of Saints. Students participate in daily prayer and religion class, where they learn more about their Catholic faith and how to love others as Christ loved.

Classroom Saints

A saint was named for each classroom. Students learned about their saint throughout the year. Artistic saint profiles were recently displayed outside each classroom.

Weekly Mass

Students attend Mass each Thursday morning. Additionally the students gather throughout the year for special prayer services, including Stations of the Cross.

Service Learning

All students participate in service learning projects throughout the year. Examples include food drives, cards and resources for local community members, and environmental clean up.

Saints Projects

Our 5th grade class continued the annual tradition of saints projects and a presentation at Mass. They share with all of us that "God wants everybody to be a saint, and that means you and me!"

Sacramental Prep

Many COS students receive sacraments through local and sponsoring parishes. We help support with First Communion & Reconciliation education in 2nd grade and Confirmation in 8th grade.

Dia de los Muertos

We observe religious holidays as well as religious traditions. For Dia de los Muertos an ofrenda was built in the church to remember our lost loved ones.

Additional Highlights

Community of Saints continues to be blessed with staff and volunteer leadership that drives forward the mission and vision of Community of Saints.

Minndependent Leadership Award

Principal Bridget Kramer won the Leadership Award from Minndependent, the largest statewide organization serving private and independent schools. Bridget was recognized for her strong mission-driven leadership.

Alums & Friends & Families Success

2021-22 was a record setting year:

- $468K raised for tuition assistance
- 590 donors
- More student tuition assistance with over 92% receiving support

Board of Directors Leadership

We receive tremendous leadership, wisdom, and support from our Board and four subcommittees:

- Development
- Facilities
- Finance
- Marketing & Enrollment