



ST. PATRICK

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT

WE PRAY! WE LEARN! WE ACHIEVE!

Dear St. Patrick Community,

We are pleased to present to you the annual report for St. Patrick Catholic School. This report reflects some of the many accomplishments along with important financial and statistical data from the 2017 -18 academic year. We hope that through this report you will see the vital role our school plays in spreading our parish's mission.

Nothing can replace the foundation a Catholic education provides. The way the Catholic faith is integrated into every hour of the school day is what makes a St. Patrick's education unique and it is what will continue to elevate us beyond every other educational option available to families.

Because of the generous support of parishioners and the community, more than 2,500 graduates have been supported in this educational endeavor. With your support, St. Patrick Catholic School is able to continue its mission of We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve! for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support of this valuable and important mission of St. Patrick Catholic Parish.

God Bless!

Rev. Mike Alber
Pastor

Mr. Randy Hodge
Principal

Mrs. Keelie Honsowitz
School Board Chair

Mrs. Annalise Laumeyer
School Board Vice Chair

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Connect with us:

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Our Mission: We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!

2017-18 School Board

Reverend Larry King
Reverend Mike Alber
Deacon Don Sobolewski
Mr. Randy Hodge, principal
Mrs. Keelie Honsowitz, board chair
Mrs. Annalise Laumeyer, vice chair and marketing co-chair
Mrs. Nancy Wohlscheid, recording secretary
Mrs. Lisa Bartlett, policy co-chair
Dr. Bruce Beachnau, finance chair
Mrs. Brandi Bengel, mission effectiveness co-chair
Mrs. Jen Davlin, mission effectiveness co-chair
Mr. Marc Nichols, planning co-chair
Mrs. Shayla Schnieder, policy co-chair
Mrs. Teresa Schneider, planning co-chair
Mrs. Melissa Schrauben, development co-chair
Mr. Mark Thelen, technology chair
Mrs. Sue VanLente, marketing co-chair
Mr. Michael Wolfston, development co-chair

For a listing of this year's School Board members, please visit the school website and click on administration.

Becoming a disciple

Student Ambassadors and Students for Life

Students in grades 9-12 created a Student Ambassador Team this past year.

The students helped guide visitors and provided support during the visit of Saint Padre Pio's relics where hundreds of guests from other parishes came to St. Patrick. They also planned and led many successful events throughout the school year to help build the faith of their fellow Shamrocks. The group was responsible for putting on the Living Nativity, a live Stations of the Cross, and the all-school All Saints Day Mass in the gym, among other things.

The Student Ambassadors were also inspired to start a Students for Life Chapter at the school. The idea was sparked after a group of St. Patrick students heard Christen Pollo, executive director of Students for Life of Michigan, speak. The Student Ambassadors approached Pollo following the event and asked about starting their own chapter. Pollo was so inspired by the students that she visited and spoke to secondary students following the All Saints Day Mass.



We Learn!

We Learn! St. Patrick Catholic School prides itself on a tradition of excellence. For more than 110 years the school has provided a personalized learning experience known to boost academic performance. Research shows that Catholic school graduates have higher test scores, are more likely to graduate high school, earn scholarships, and attend college. Our local data affirms that research.

- Expanded our 1:1 Chromebook pilot program with the incoming freshman class
- Expanded the dual-enrollment classes offered through Aquinas College right on campus
- Offered Heartland Institute of Technology classes
- Provided classes in multiple world languages (Spanish and German)
- Students in the German class traveled to Germany to practice their skills

Just like family

Program pairs elementary and high school students together

Big Rocks Little Rocks is a very successful mentoring program which involves nearly every student in the school. Each student in DK through 5th grade is a “Little Rock” who is paired with a “Big Rock”, an older student in grades 6-12. Big Rocks sit with their Little Rocks in church; they help them with various projects throughout the school year; and they serve as role models to the younger students. Little Rocks enjoy going to games and cheering on their Big Rocks; they love seeing them in the hallways; and they are always warmly greeted and recognized when they cross paths outside of school. Big Rocks Little Rocks is only possible because of our unique situation - all of our students from preschool through 12th grade are housed in one building - just like a family!



From Michigan to Nevada

8th graders use technology to form educational partnership

The class of 2022 was one of the first middle school classes to have access to the new Chrome Book cart. Intent on making technology an integral part of the curriculum, Mrs. Martin developed useful ways to make it part of the English Language Arts classroom experience. The goals of all lessons were to make the technology beneficial to the learning experience as well as to prepare students for high school and post-secondary experiences.

While learning standard research writing practices, the 8th grade had real practice with editorial work and building better communication skills by pairing up with an 8th grade class in Las Vegas, Nevada. The other class was writing research papers and our 8th graders were learning proper editing skills. The class from Las



Vegas would send their paper to a partner student and our students would edit the paper. Mrs. Martin's class used zoom.us, a standard, free video conferencing site, to meet one-on-one with the Las Vegas students every Thursday.

In these conferences, our students learned critical communications skills. The students were able to enhance their academic language, meet with students from a different geographical and cultural location, and improve necessary writing skills. This experience mimics that of a business meeting that would take place today. It proved to be an incredibly worthwhile experience for everyone involved.



"This technology let us share our ideas with our partners quickly and it also allowed us to experience how other students from different areas learn... By using technology during this project I got to learn that even though we live in two totally different places, most of us were actually very similar... Overall this project was very stressful but it was an interesting experience that I will never forget."

-Abby Weller, SPS 8th grade student

We Achieve!

- Two middle school students, Joshua Snitgen and Mya Kahn, started a middle school Hack (Coding) and Robotics Club with Mr. Austen advising
- Quizbowl won its preliminary round and advanced to the tournament round on Quizbusters. They finished second in the league in the regular season and in the league tournament.
- High school students started a writing club with Mr. Holman advising
- Kiah Schneider started an American Sign Language club
- We hosted two exchange students

Spring 2018 Average RIT Scores

Reading			
Grade	School	Diocese	National
1	186.5	179.8	177.5
2	196.0	191.6	188.7
3	200.8	202.3	198.6
4	207.2	209.5	205.9
5	208.9	215.1	211.8
6	219.1	219.5	215.8
7	226.1	225.4	218.2
8	226.2	227.9	220.1

Language Usage			
Grade	School	Diocese	National
1	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	195.8	193.5	189.7
3	202.0	204.8	200.0
4	206.2	211.3	206.7
5	212.6	215.9	211.5
6	219.1	221.0	215.3
7	226.6	226.2	217.6
8	226.2	229.2	219.0

General Science			
Grade	School	Diocese	National
1	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	N/A	194.8	N/A
3	203.2	202.0	195.4
4	206.6	207.6	201.0
5	208.6	210.8	205.7
6	210.0	213.6	208.6
7	218.7	217.8	210.9
8	219.6	221.6	213.5

Mathematics			
Grade	School	Diocese	National
1	186.0	183.1	180.8
2	194.1	193.0	192.1
3	202.0	203.6	203.4
4	207.0	213.6	213.5
5	210.8	221.1	221.4
6	222.5	226.9	225.3
7	232.5	233.4	228.6
8	234.2	240.1	230.9

These scores are for the NWEA MAPs (Measures of Academic Progress) test. This test is taken in the fall and spring by many schools throughout the country and helps teachers gauge how their students are progressing throughout the school year. All schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids take the MAPs test in both the fall and spring.

A history of champions

Shamrock athletics has another successful year

- The varsity football team finished as the state runner-up in Division II 8-man football
- Two members of the varsity football team earned All-State honors
- The varsity volleyball team won the Burton Bendle tournament
- The varsity volleyball team qualified for Team Academic All State
- Amelia Schrauben, volleyball, set new school records for most assists in a career and most aces in a career
- Two members of the varsity volleyball team earned CMAC honors
- Tyler Coyne earned CMAC honors during the boys cross country season
- The JV Volleyball team brought home 1st place trophies in two tournaments
- The varsity girls basketball team won their fourth consecutive district title
- The boys bowling team won their first-ever regional title
- Kayla Shaw, bowling, finished 20th in the state tournament
- Stephen Wernet, bowling, finished 17th in the state tournament
- Three members of the varsity boys basketball team earned CMAC honors
- Three members of the varsity girls basketball team earned CMAC honors
- The varsity baseball team won the Kris Popp Memorial Tournament
- Seven varsity baseball players earned CMAC or Academic All State recognition
- Six varsity softball players earned CMAC recognition
- Four members of the boys track team earned All-Region honors
- Ten members of the girls track team earned CMAC or All-Region honors
- Together, the girls and boys track teams broke two school records and earned 123 medals
- Thirteen seniors were recognized as CMAC Scholar Athletes



Fine Arts

Art is about taking chances and getting messy. Students worked through a variety of challenges; some were organized and created by Mrs. Gorzen and some were student created to give themselves a deeper connection to their project. Art class ranges from developmental kindergarten to independent senior classes. Students of all ages are challenged to try new materials, get out of their comfort zone by taking risks, and grow from their challenges.

This school year, our students learned the following in their classes:

- DK students learned about a variety of art techniques.
- Kindergartners played with a variety of paints and connected many of their lessons to books.
- First-grade students learned about oil pastels and different types of artists.
- Second-grade students played with rulers and grids to create a variety of projects.
- Third-grade students went on a field trip to the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) and connected their learning about creatures from the museum's collection to their own creature creations
- Fourth graders were taken out of their comfort zone by creating art using their mouths and feet to hold their pencils and paint brushes. They learned about artists who work past their disabilities.
- Fifth graders learned about using yarn as a medium and created yarn monsters, which each had their own personality.
- Middle school students created works of art that used a wide range of art materials.
- High school students built on all the knowledge they learned over their many years in art class. They created a variety of drawings, paintings, and two-dimensional work within the first semester. They also created unique gingerbread houses as a food sculptural challenge. They worked in three-dimensional work during the second semester creating bowls out of magazines, complex designs on an icosahedron sculpture, and large scale creatures out of tape which hung throughout the school.
- The independent study art students this year were able to create the senior class gift, a large painting of the St. Patrick's cross and shamrock including the entire class' fingerprints. It has been installed within the school on the second floor near the top of the center stairs.



Art Club is open to middle school and high school students who are interested in learning more about art and who want to try new things after school. The students in Art Club this year were interested in a variety of projects and were given the opportunity to explore a variety of mediums. In Art Club, students created slime, painted, got messy, built a marble run, and tried a new technique of fluid painting.

School Play

On March 22 and 23, we held two amazing performances of our school play “What Happened After Once Upon a Time.” Thank you to our directors Jessica Schneider, Melissa Chamberlain and Mattie Timmer.

St. Patrick Teacher Makes the Megyn Kelly TODAY Show

Math teacher Terry Austen's video goes viral

What would you do for a carmel apple pie?
That was the question for Mr. Terry Austen that sparked a viral video and lead to the Megyn Kelly TODAY Show coming to St. Patrick's in April.

It all started when Natalie Smith entered geometry class one day, and remarked about how boring geometry was. That sparked an idea for Mr. Austen who said, "Would it help if I breakdance?" Natalie replied, "Yes! And I'll bake you an apple pie." and the idea was hatched.

Following their lesson for the day, the students went into the hallway and watched Mr. Austen breakdance. Natalie recorded the video and uploaded it to YouTube the next day to share it with Mr. Austen. However, the world soon found the video and it went viral.

And when Natalie delivered on her promise, Mr. Austen used the gift as an opportunity for a lesson. The students taped a video with Mr. Austen explaining the concept of pi with a real pie. He said, "I really try to show them the why and the how behind the concept, before showing them the easy tricks to get to the answer quicker."



If you missed the video, you can watch it at Today.com by searching "Meet the math teacher who teaches the concept of pi with real pie."

Ready to start doing God's work

Michael Steffes Jr. ('08) ordained to the priesthood

Father Michael Steffes Jr. was the sole candidate ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Grand Rapids on Saturday, June 2 by Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak. Father Michael graduated from St. Patrick in 2008.

He grew up in Portland with twin brothers, Jacob and Joseph, and a sister, Naomi. He spent a lot of time at St. Patrick playing on various sports teams. Following graduation from St. Patrick, he attended St. John Vianney College Seminary at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, and the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois.

Fr. Michael said he knew he wanted to be a priest from about the age of five and he was encouraged in his



vocation by Freda Bauer, a parishioner at St. Patrick, who would often watch the Steffes siblings. "She was like another grandmother to me. She helped raise me and my siblings and was always very loving, and made me feel very comfortable. She was also a very religious lady and one day we were talking about church and I told her that I wanted to become a priest someday."

his formation, "He was on fire with his faith. He was a perfect guy for St. Patrick, because he was a religion teacher who was also a sports guy. He made me realize that you didn't have to be one or the other; in fact, they go together very well!"

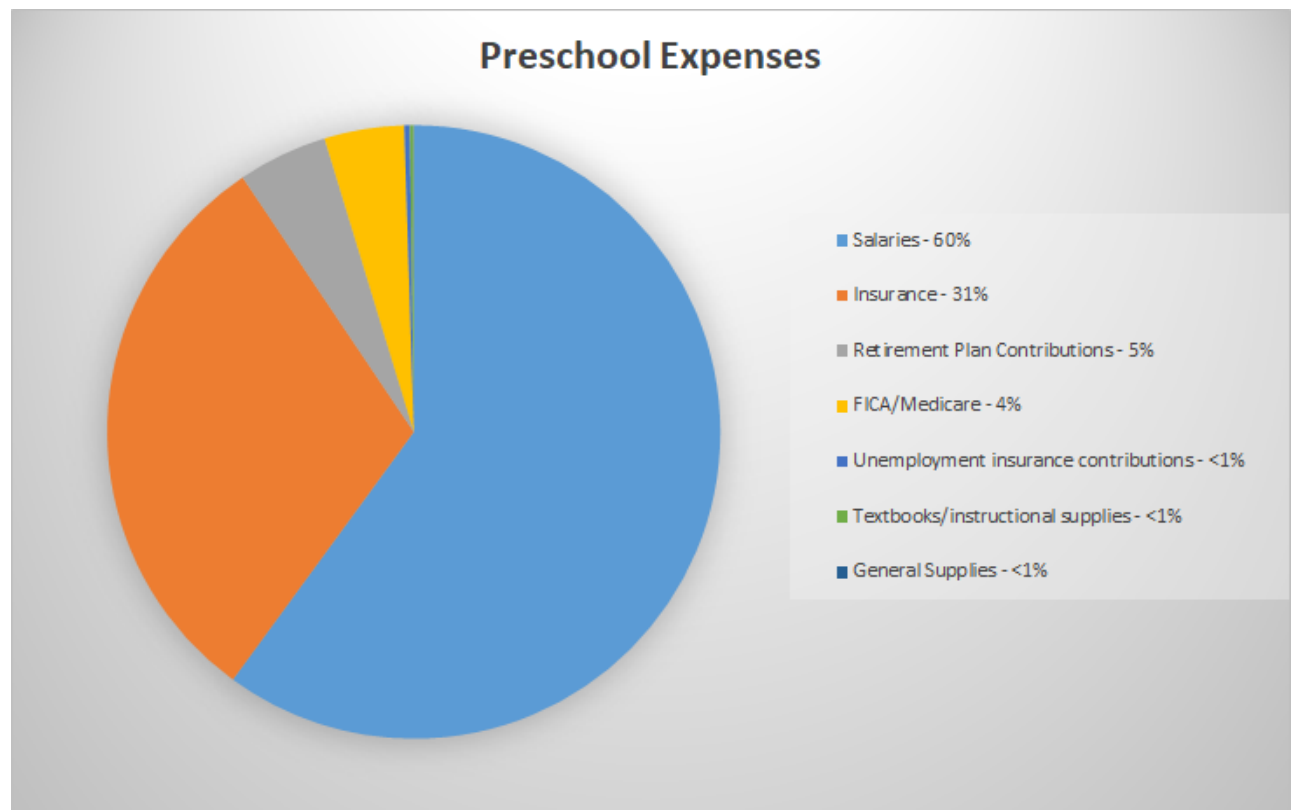
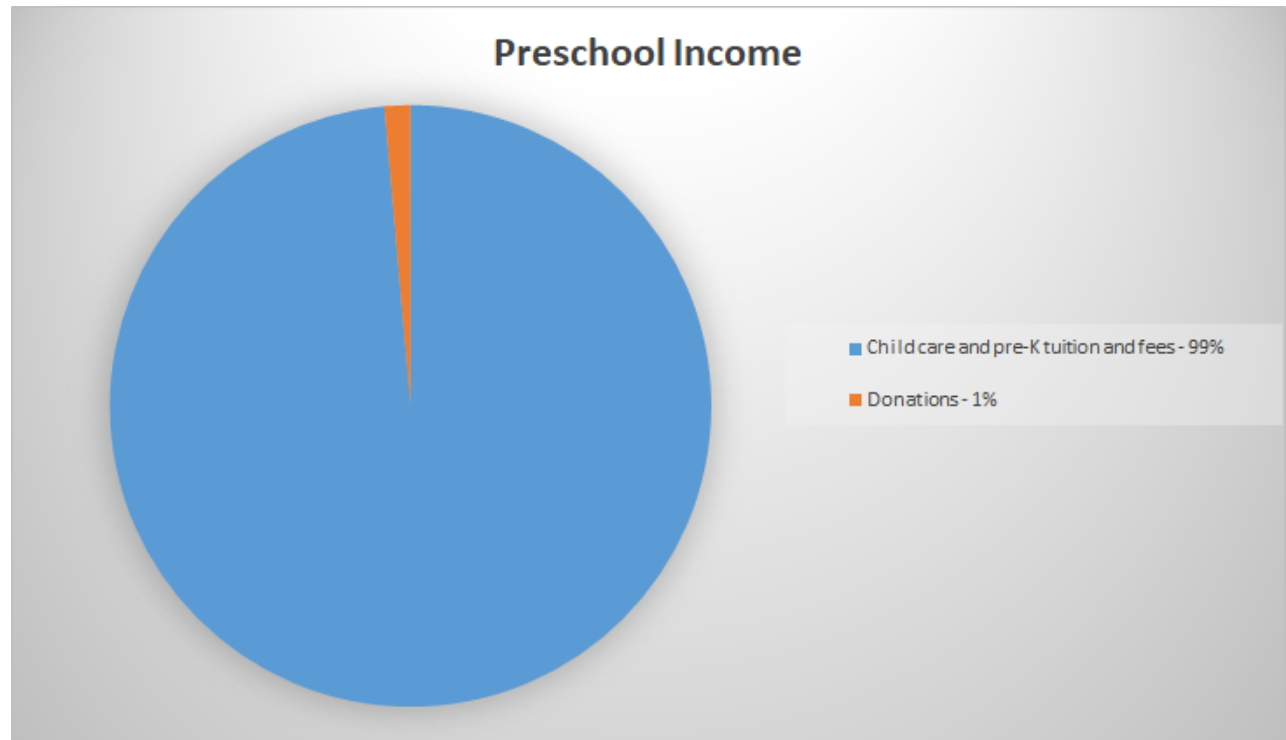
He also credits his theology teacher from senior year Brian Spitzley for playing a part in

Father Michael's first assignment is as parochial vicar of the Parish of the Holy Spirit in Grand Rapids.



Fr. Michael with some of his classmates

Preschool Finances

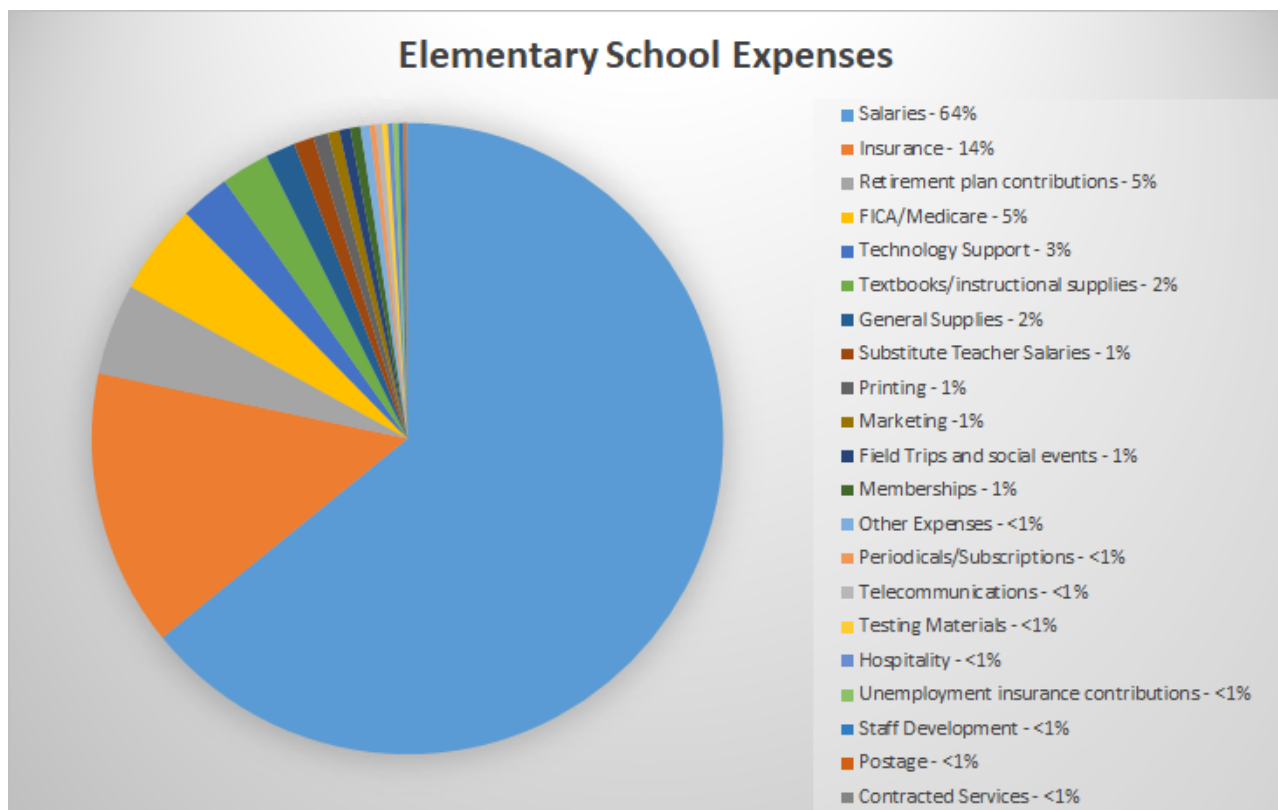
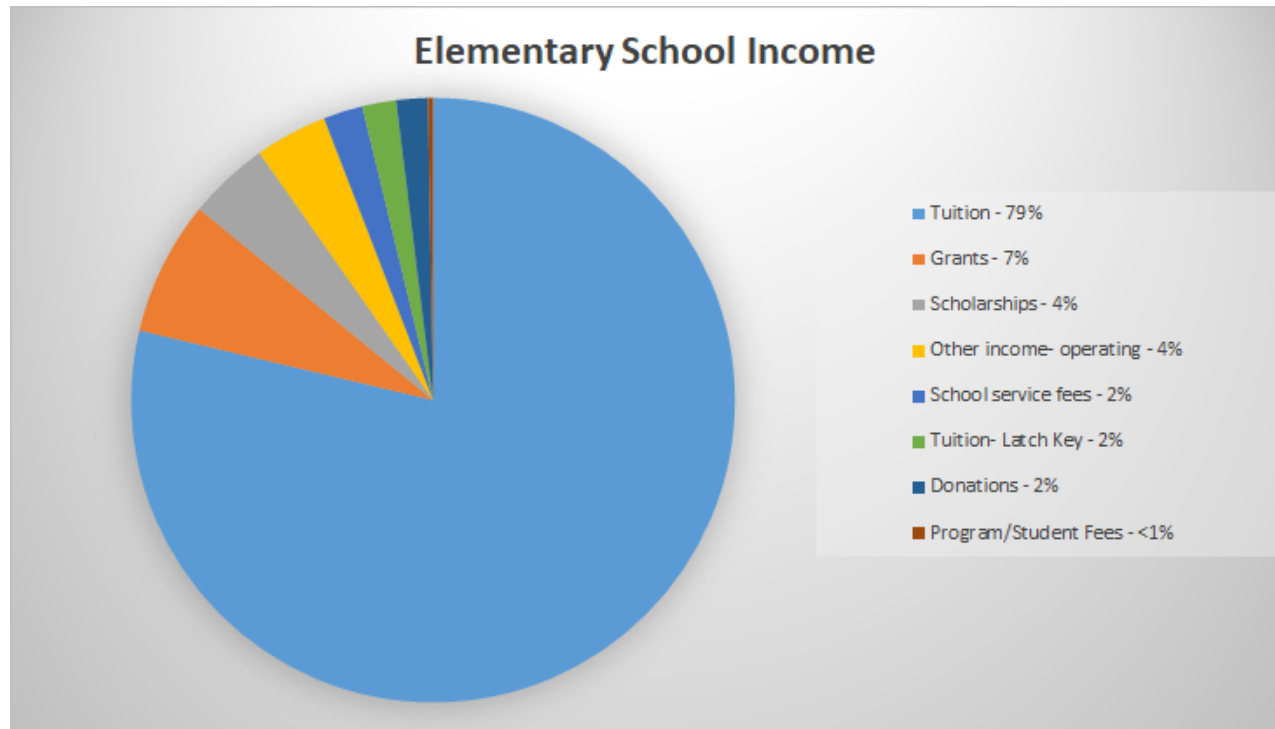


Footnotes:

1. Salaries include a one-time accrual of two months to align school and fiscal year end.

These reports are intended to give a snapshot of finances in the school. For a detailed report or if you have questions, please contact Mike Johnson, business manager, at mikejohnson@portlandstpats.com

Elementary Finances

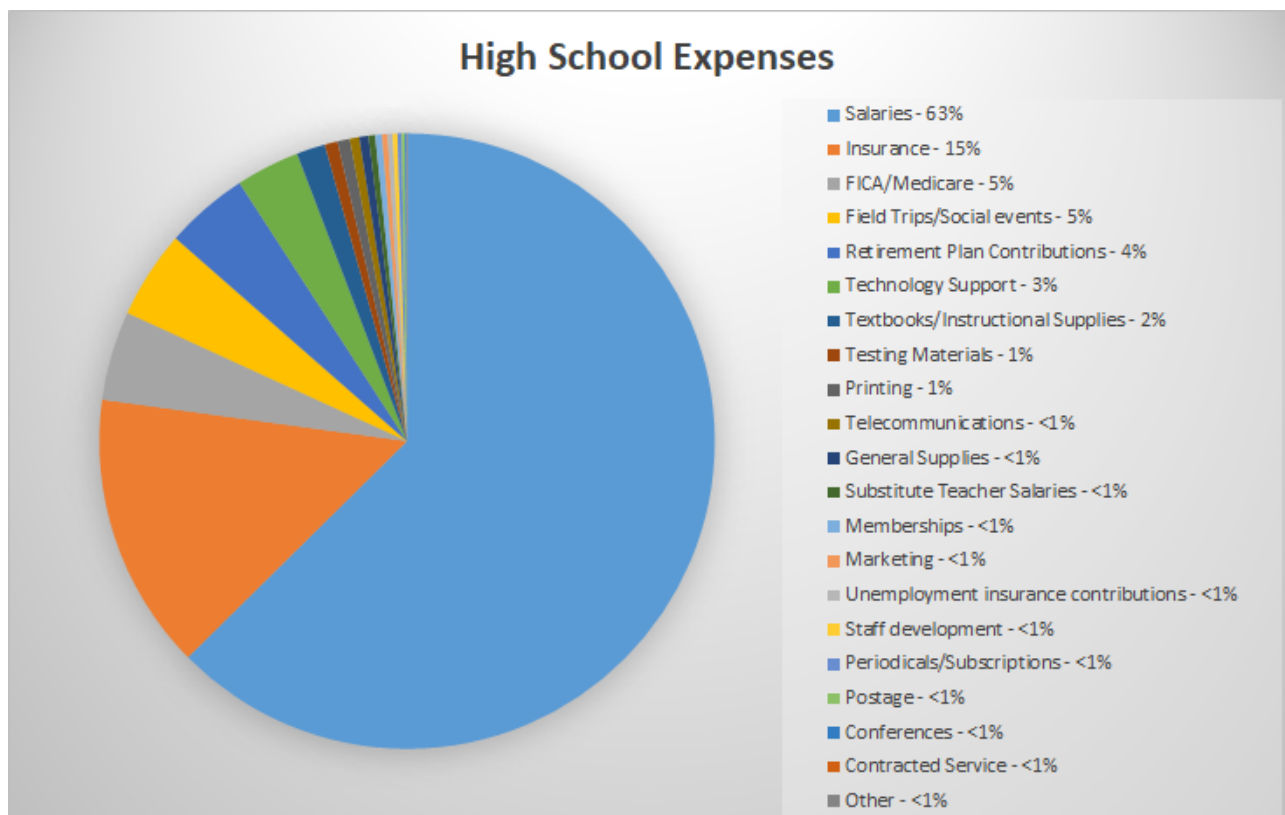
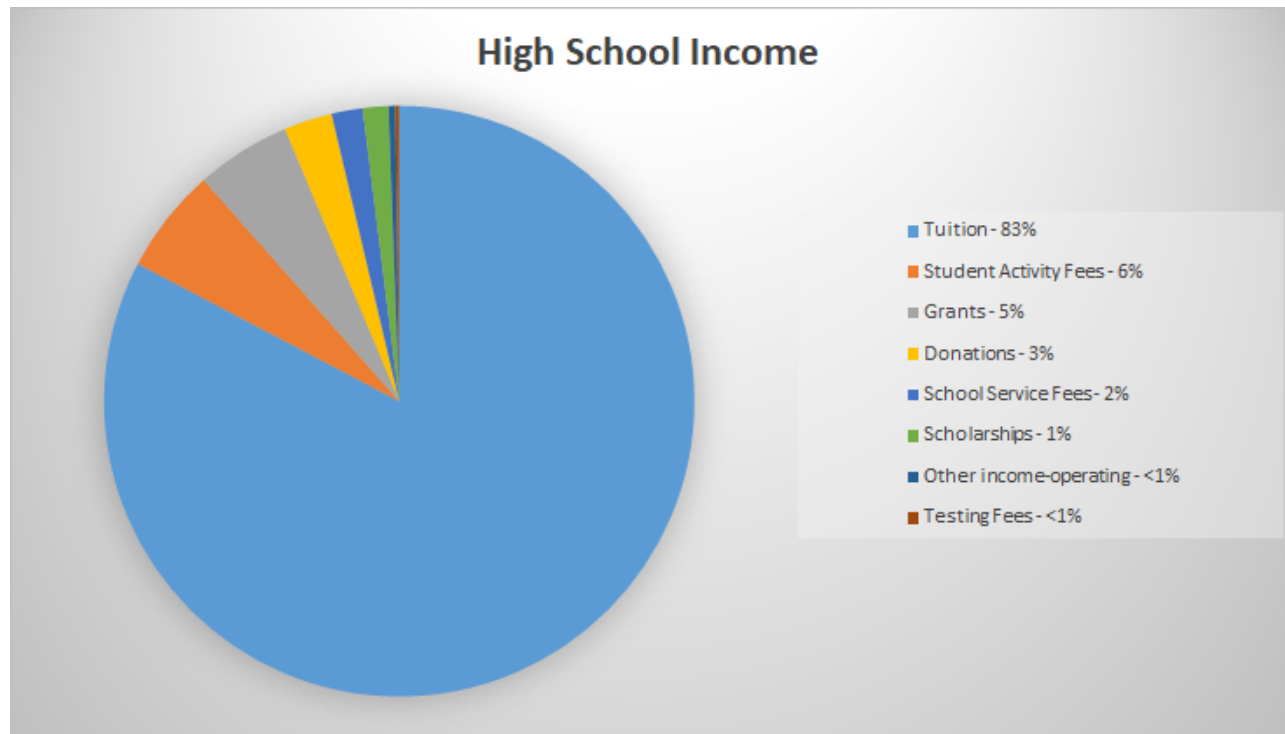


Footnotes:

1. Salaries include a one-time accrual of two months to align school and fiscal year end.

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High School Finances



Footnotes:

1. Salaries include a one-time accrual of two months to align school and fiscal year end.

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Providing support for students

Tuition Angels and Father Flohe Foundation help children receive a Catholic education

Tuition Angels: A Gift for Today

Each year there are families who would love to provide their child with a Catholic school education, but they simply cannot afford it.

The gifts provided to the Shamrock Scholarship Fund provide direct tuition assistance to families who need it now.

Through our Tuition Angels program, you can help a family with all or part of their tuition costs. Most of them will be able to pay the full price one day, just not right now.

Please consider an annual donation or sponsoring a child through graduation by making a one-time or recurring gift via cash, check or credit card.

Father Flohe Foundation: A Gift for Forever

The Father Flohe Foundation was founded in 1988 with a mission to ensure the stability of St. Patrick School as a DK-12 school for future generations. Since it's founding, the Foundation has provided over \$1,500,000 to assist with offsetting the cost of tuition of St Patrick School. With nearly \$700,000 of support in the last eight years alone! The Foundation's support of St Patrick is entirely due to the financial support of St Patrick's generous alumni, friends, and community. The Foundation is a 501(c) 3 organization, which means contributions are tax deductible.

In addition to direct contributions to the school, the Foundation also:

- Awards the Fr. Flohe Education Bell Award, which is awarded annually to an alumnus of St. Patrick School who in their life has exemplified the high goals and accomplishments that a graduate of St. Patrick can achieve.
- Funds three scholarships for seniors graduating from St Patrick's
- Provides funding for the Shamrock Newsletter
- Coordinates a celebration for each graduating high school classes' 50th reunion
- Provides grants to St Patricks teachers to enhance classroom curriculums and tools.



Thank you for your support!

St. Patrick Catholic School would not be where it is without the generous support of our families and donors. This is just a small way to say THANK YOU to everyone that has donated to St. Patrick Catholic School in the past year.

- Jerry and Jan Bozung
- John and Catherine Brennan
- Julie Brennan
- Thomas Brennan
- Deward and Roni Christmas
- Sharon Davis
- Ray Fedewa
- Mike and Sue Fox
- Patricia Glossi
- Susan and Marion Godfrey/Heil
- Heather Davis-Hendges
- Craig Huhn
- Michael and Susan Klein
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- Charles Kraft
- Dave and Mary Kramer
- Tyler and Kaitlyn Kramer
- Ronald and Katherina Kuszewski
- Phil Leik
- Keith and Rosemary Neller
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- Barb Trierwiler-Pung
- Don and Pauline Schafer
- Elaine Schafer
- Scott and Mary Ann Schafer
- Tony and Michelle Smith
- Gladys Stiffler
- Lori Stolte
- Aaron and Rebecca Thelen
- Dick Trierweiler
- Robert and Sue VanLente
- James and Joyce Walser
- Harvey Whitman and Judy Lunde-Whitman

