

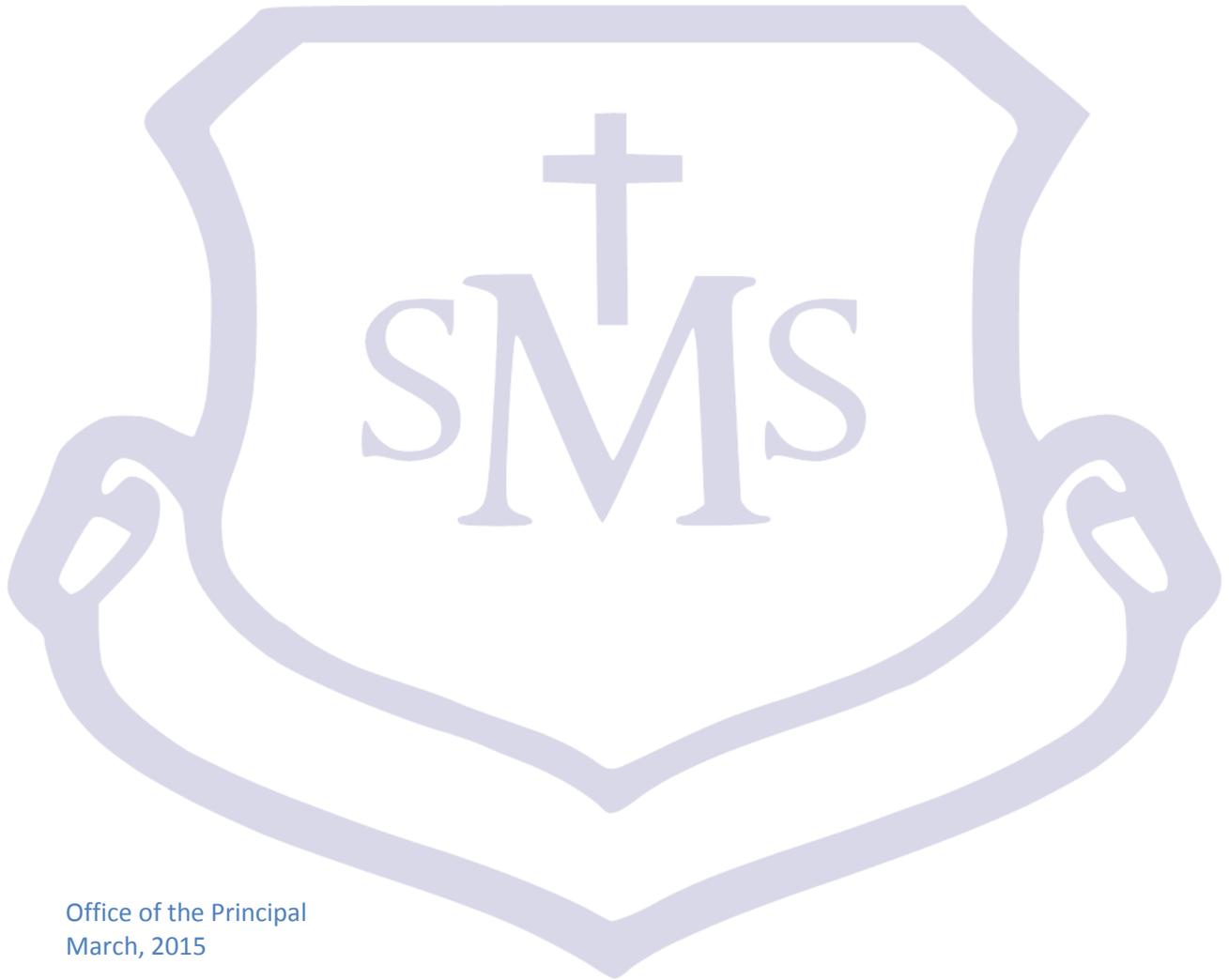


ST. MARY'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL - MORRIS, MN

St. Mary's School

State of the School Report

2014-2015 Academic Year



Office of the Principal
March, 2015

2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR – STATE OF THE SCHOOL

Mr. Joseph Ferriero, M.Ed.
Principal

Introduction

St. Mary's School is on a journey to create a school that fulfills its mission to provide an environment that promotes Catholic Christian values for all. The evidence shows that the work of our dedicated staff, skilled teachers, and the strategic leadership of our School Board, is producing substantial and meaningful improvements for our students.

We have begun augmented student learning by improving and enhancing the curriculum; assessing student learning systematically; providing greater support to student learning; and increasing the use of technology. We have also worked to strengthen teaching by overhauling how our school observes and evaluates instruction; by instituting summative evaluations for teachers; by beginning to improve professional development; and by building a culture of accountability for outcomes for all children. We are diligently working to increase the community's trust and confidence in our school, through consistent communications and increased transparency and by engaging parents as our partners more effectively.

The work we have done is already producing results. Thanks to our talented staff and dedicated teachers, student achievement has improved, with gaps narrowing and overall achievement rising. We are committed to sustaining all of St. Mary's strengths, and to building on these successes to improve engagement and outcomes for all students.

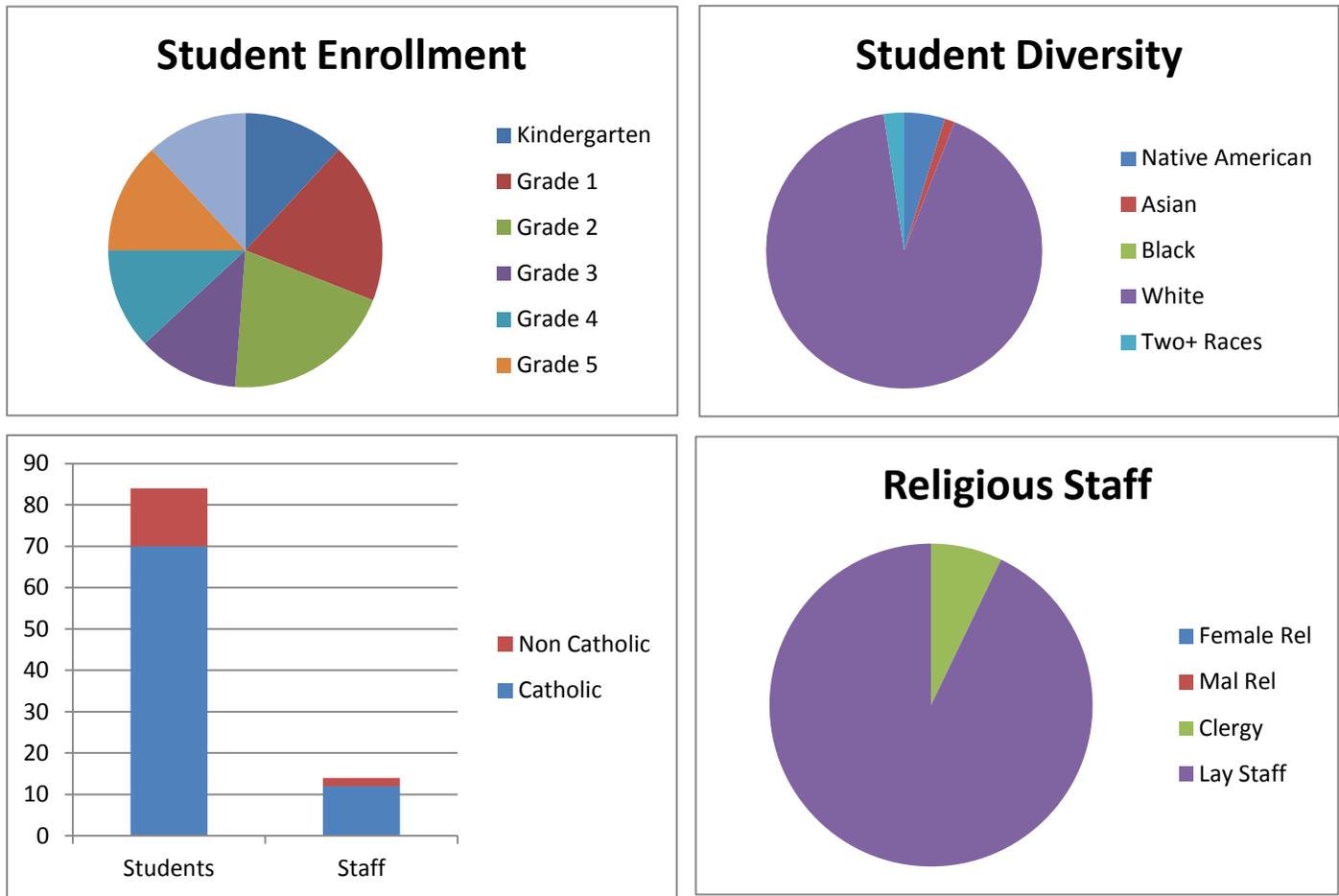
Goals

1. Student Learning: Promote the intellectual growth of all students
2. Professional Staff: Consistently and collaboratively lead students of diverse learning styles to learn at or above the appropriate grade-level standards
3. Engagement and Outreach: Engage parents and students to be partners with staff in facilitating learning both in and out of school

Objectives

- A. Rigorous curricula, differentiated instruction and expanded learning opportunities will enable all students to thrive and fulfill their academic potential.
- B. Professional development programs and activities will strengthen our faculty's ability to contribute to measurable improvements in student achievement.
- C. A staff recognition program will identify and celebrate excellent teaching.
- D. Parents will receive timely information about their children and the school to be engaged in the education of their children.
- E. A variety of communications tools will be used to regularly share with parents, students and the Morris community positive information about our school, staff and students, celebrating in particular the achievements of our students and staff.
- F. An efficient budget that aligns with and supports the attainment of school goals and that reins in spending on budget categories that are rising at a faster rate than the cost of living.
- G. Well-maintained and safe facilities that enable focused and effective teaching and learning, and that are repaired and updated in an architecturally sensitive and fiscally responsible manner.

Snapshot



Goal Indicators

1: Student Learning: Promote the intellectual growth of all students

Students have been showing increased success on our two major standardized tests: NWEA (MAP) and AIMS WEB. Growth comparison is substantial in comparison to 2013-14 school year. Students who are performing below average percentile receive additional Title 1 support in both reading and mathematics.

2: Professional Staff: Consistently and collaboratively lead students of diverse learning styles to learn at or above the appropriate grade-level standards

Teachers continue to use in class support from parents, volunteers and students from the University of Minnesota, Morris. Teachers have also been breaking students into smaller learning groups for more individual and differentiated instruction. Lesson plans reflect different learning styles and proper academic segregation while involving all students and encouraging social growth.

3: Engagement and Outreach: Engage parents and students to be partners with staff in facilitating learning both in and out of school

Parent volunteers are use to assist/lead many different activities, fundraisers and events. Staff keep constant communication with parents through weekly newsletters, frequent emails, phone calls and other methods of communication. Staff keep and maintain the schools web presence both via stmarysmorris.com and using social media such as Facebook.

Meeting Objectives

- A. Rigorous curricula, differentiated instruction and expanded learning opportunities will enable all students to thrive and fulfill their academic potential.
- Staff has begun to assess curricula and begin to revamp starting with Social Studies
 - Teachers use small group activities and one-to-one learning
 - Chromebooks are used in upper grades to provide individual learning
- B. Professional development programs and activities will strengthen our faculty's ability to contribute to measurable improvements in student achievement.
- Principal is evaluating online workshops through ASCD and Simple K-12
- C. A staff recognition program will identify and celebrate excellent teaching.
- One teacher will be recognized at the end of the year with the "Outstanding Teacher" award
- D. Parents will receive timely information about their children and the school to be engaged in the education of their children.
- Parents receive a weekly News & Notes email every Friday @ 3:00pm
 - Full page insert in the parish bulletin on Sundays
 - Teachers maintain a website with information related to classes
 - School website it updated daily
 - Parent Facebook group where parents can ask questions/get information
 - Online Principal Chat where parents can chat directly with the principal
 - Text messaging service & SchoolReach systems in place
- E. A variety of communications tools will be used to regularly share with parents, students and the Morris community positive information about our school, staff and students, celebrating in particular the achievements of our students and staff.
- Weekly Samplings in Morris Sun Tribune
 - Working to start a monthly St. Mary's Talk Show on Local Radio Station
 - School Facebook page & Mr. Ferriero's Twitter page promote positive messages about the school
- F. An efficient budget that aligns with and supports the attainment of school goals and that reins in spending on budget categories that are rising at a faster rate than the cost of living.
- Many areas of the budget have been reduced due to smarter spending
 - Additional budget money is set for items such as technology
 - Tuition will remain the same to help maintain school population
- G. Well-maintained and safe facilities that enable focused and effective teaching and learning, and that are repaired and updated in an architecturally sensitive and fiscally responsible manner.
- Custodians were provided with a daily and weekly checklist of items that must be worked on.
 - Monthly deep cleaning crew is being pursued
 - Administration, along with custodial crew, will monitor building repairs on a monthly basis