

SAINT PIUS X

Catholic School



INSPIRED

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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Mission

Saint Pius X Catholic School partners with the parish community to provide a safe and effective learning environment, anchored in the Gospel Values, fostering spiritual development, academic excellence and stewardship, centered on the Eucharist.

ADMINISTRATION 2022-2023

Elaine Holmes, Principal
Allison Watson, Assistant Principal
Pam Ritten, Preschool Director
Kristie Sandor, Administrative Assistant
Joanne Verhiley, Office Manager
Erica Travis, Office Aide



Leadership

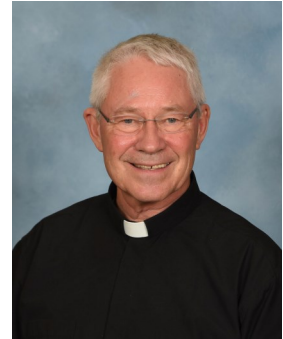
MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Msgr. William C. Schooler

I am grateful for the continued prayers and support from everyone involved in the mission of educating children in the practice of the faith. We have concluded another successful academic year, thanks to our parents and dedicated teachers.

"I am most grateful for the leadership of our principal, Elaine Holmes who laid the groundwork for our parish grade school."

I am most grateful for the leadership of our principal, Elaine Holmes, who has laid the groundwork for our parish grade school and built on it since we opened in August of 2008. Under her guidance, our school is an important and extremely vital part of the mission of our parish.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Elaine Holmes

In the 2022-23 academic year, Saint Pius X nurtured the growth of 542 students, marking a 2.7 percent increase from previous years. Complementing this, we provided a home to 116 preschoolers. Our approach involves not only academic education, but also instilling strong values rooted in our Catholic faith. Through our teachings, we focus on fostering a deep understanding of liturgy, worship, sacraments, and stewardship, teaching moral development and interpersonal skills. Central to our belief is recognizing that every individual is created in God's image and blessed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Our academic

"Our teachers and support staff, whose unwavering dedication and sense of responsibility significantly contribute to the success of each child's education."

curriculum continues to have high academic standards and student success. Our academics consistently rank among the highest in the Diocese of Fort Wayne/South Bend and the state of Indiana. This achievement is credited to our teachers and support staff, whose unwavering dedication and sense of responsibility significantly contribute to the success of each child's education. At Saint Pius X, we're fortunate to offer a wide array of opportunities beyond academics. Students can actively engage in various liturgical, music, and fine arts programs. From joining our band program starting in fifth grade to participating in our annual middle school musical production, students can explore their creative talents. Moreover, our art classes

proudly showcase student work for families to admire. Alongside these artistic avenues, we provide multiple athletic activities throughout the year in which the children may actively participate.



School Board

The Saint Pius X School Board assists the Principal and Pastor in matters of strategic and financial planning, school policy, public relations and marketing, as well as overall evaluation of whether the school is meeting its goals. Appointed Board members serve three-year terms. The Pastor and Principal appoint new members annually by way of parishioner nominations and as advised by the Board Selection Committee.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

The Saint Pius X School Board is a parish ministry that provides advice and assistance to the Pastor and the Principal in the governance of Saint Pius X Catholic School.

Over the past year the Saint Pius X school board worked to support the school community through significant changes.

In particular, the school board led a comprehensive parent survey that sought feedback, including strengths and areas for growth, from the five domains of the school's robust strategic plan. The survey included an additional section for administration evaluation per standard diocesan guidance for all diocesan schools. The school board divided into six sub-committees to synthesize the survey data and provide succinct reports to the administration. These reports highlighted the many strengths of the school community, areas for improvement, and key suggestions to bring those improvements to fruition. As the administration looks toward writing a new strategic plan, the data and reports provide helpful guidance.

The administration evaluation helped to navigate and prepare for a tremendous transition in school leadership, the first in the school's 15-year history. The data afforded the school community the opportunity to celebrate the many gifts of Mrs. Elaine Holmes and infuse the search for a new school administrator with specific findings that reflect the needs of the current community.

This past year was filled with hope and immense gratitude for the pastor, administration, faculty, and staff as they persevered through the past few years of unpredictability, extra demands, and unprecedented times in education.

Gratefully,

Lindsay Will

Appointed Members

Lindsay Will, President
Matthew Mulherin, Vice President
Doug Thain, Secretary
Jenny Dees
Lindsey Forsyth
Michael Sandroni
Theresa Shaul
David Vesilik

Ex-Officio Members

Fr. Bill Schooler, Pastor
Elaine Holmes, Principal
Allison Watson, Assistant Principal
Pam Ritten, Preschool Director
Betsy Quinn, Director of Stewardship
& Engagement



Inspired

We Provide Opportunity

The Strategic Plan goal to expand the extra-curricular offerings has been met and exceeded. During the 2022-2023 school year we returned to pre-pandemic activity levels for students of all ages and added a few new after-school club options such as Dance Club and Games and Puzzles Club.

Pictured to the right are some highlights from the 2023 Middle School play *Shrek, Jr. The Musical*. This annual student activity was back in full force this year with two performances held at the O'Laughlin Auditorium at Saint Mary's.



Activities Offered at Saint Pius X

ATHLETIC Cheerleading • Football • Softball • Soccer • Volleyball • Basketball • Track • Baseball • Lacrosse • Tennis • Girls on the Run

ACADEMIC Quiz Bowl • Science Fair • Robotics • First LEGO League • First LEGO League Jr

MUSIC Band • Cantor Ministry • Choir • Handbells • ISSMA Competition • School Musical

SPECIAL INTEREST Golf Club • School Mass Liturgical Ministries • Lego Club • Student Council • Craft Club • Dance Club • Games & Puzzles Club

2022-2023 *Christ the Teacher* Award Recipient:
Emily Jozwiak, Fifth Grade

"Saint Pius X has been a blessing to me over the years in so many ways. My journey at SPX started in 2018. Since then, I have been able to grow as a woman of faith, wife, mother, and as a teacher. I feel fortunate to have a school that allows me to enrich academics with the goodness of Our Lord and share the light of Christ. The family at Saint Pius X has blessed and humbled me with the opportunity to be the recipient of the Christ the Teacher Award. To have received this award brings me great joy and a deeper appreciation for the environment here at Saint Pius X."



MISSION OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The Saint Pius X Catholic School Athletic Program advances the overall educational mission of the Church by organizing teams, practices, facilities, equipment, and competitions to help every student develop and deepen their God-given physical abilities and gifts.

The Athletic Program budget, personnel, and operations are designed to ensure that the Christ-centered ethos of the parish, school, and respective families is respected and honored in all sports events.

The Athletic Program now serves more than 75 percent of students enrolled in fifth through eighth grade. To ensure the success of such a large youth ministry, parents are asked to make a volunteer commitment of support. In addition, other adults and community members volunteer their time and talent to this program.

Athletic Board

The Athletic Board advises and supports the Athletic Director on decisions for school-related athletic programs and policies. Board members are appointed to a three-year term. Nominations for new board members are held in April of each school year.

Appointed Members

Pete Byrne	Carrie Dumich
Jenny Frick	Timothy O'Malley
John Lalor	Patrick Mousaw
Thomas Strasser	Chris Varda

Ex-Officio Members

Thomas Farris	Athletic Director
Katherine Alexander	
Patrick Derksen	
Melissa Farmer	
Elaine Holmes	Principal
Allison Watson	Assistant Principal



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR TEAMS!

- The Consolidated Varsity Softball Team was a championship team
- The Consolidated Varsity Baseball Team won their championship game
- Varsity Boys Track won their first championship in 2023



Assessments

NWEA-MAP Testing

The following results are generated by the Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) testing through the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA).



Grade	% Proficient	
	Reading	Math
Second	92%	88%
Third	90%	87%
Fourth	87%	87%
Fifth	95%	92%
Sixth	96%	89%
Seventh	93%	100%
Eighth	92%	90%

2022-2023 ILEARN

The following results are from the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress.

Grade	% Proficient			
	English/LA	Math	Social Studies	Science
Third	65%	86%	X	X
Fourth	78%	86%	X	81%
Fifth	76%	83%	90%	X
Sixth	87%	90%	X	87%
Seventh	83%	75%	X	X
Eighth	87%	73%	X	X

IREAD-3: 98% Pass

Saint Pius X administered the Indiana Reading Evaluation and Determination (IREAD-3) in Spring 2023. Based on the Indiana Academic Standards, IREAD-3 is a summative assessment that was developed in accordance with Public Law 109, which requires the evaluation of foundational reading skills for students who are in grade three to ensure that all students can read proficiently before moving to grade four. The foundational skills assessed include: vocabulary development, comprehension and analysis of nonfiction and informational text, and comprehension and analysis of literary text. Students with adequate foundational skills will have greater success applying higher-level skills as they read to learn.

Children's Step-by-Step Stewardship Program



Stewardship: A Way of Life

Saint Pius X teachers, parents, and students embrace the message of stewardship—sharing one's time, talents, and treasure with others. The school offers many opportunities for service that enhance the educational experience, all inspired by the spirit of stewardship. We continue to foster the partnership between parents and the school for continuous and lifelong faith development and growth, while embracing stewardship as a way of life.

Each grade level participated in various activities that were meaningful and introduced students to the ways stewardship can become a lifetime commitment.

Kindergarten: The Needy

Students made pumpkin pies and placemats for the *Center for the Homeless* Thanksgiving Dinner. They also held a collection and learned about the *CASIE Center*, a local organization that helps kids in new or scary situations.

First Grade: Environment

Students learned about endangered species and "adopted" a rhinoceros. They participated in recycling and Earth Day activities, learning about caring for God's creation and collected bottle caps to make a mural.



Second Grade: The Elderly

Second graders had a virtual tour of Cedarhurst, a local senior living facility, and made lap blankets for the residents there. They painted terracotta pots that were planted with succulents and given to the residents at Story Point; visited there, sang songs and read to the residents.

Third Grade: The Hungry

Students learned about the parish's *Saint Vincent de Paul Conference* and visited the parish food pantry. They made cards for the annual *Giving Tree* program's food baskets and went to *Cultivate Food Rescue* and assembled meals to be frozen and given out the hungry in our community.

Fourth Grade: People with Disabilities

Students learned about people with different abilities and how they are served by organizations in our community, including the *Logan Center*, *Special Olympics* and *A Rosie Place*. They gathered donations of playground items for the *Autism Learning Center*. They also visited *SureStep* and

learned about the products they make for children and adults.

Fifth Grade: Military and First Responders

Students listened to a presentation about a veteran's experience in the military. They made Christmas cards to be mailed to active duty members overseas, and collected items for the *Robert L. Miller Sr. Veteran's Center* in South Bend. They also visited the fire station and learned how firefighters integrate their faith with their work. Students wrote letters and put together "lifesaver" packages to deliver to the fire station and to first responder parents of students at Saint Pius X, as well as the officers who assist us in car line.



Sixth Grade: Homelessness

Students visited the *Center for the Homeless* and helped with various clean up and projects and were invited to the center's Holiday Miracle Luncheon.

Seventh Grade: Respect Life

Seventh graders learned about how the *Center for Hospice Care (CFHC)* serves those nearing the end of life. Made fleece blankets for CFHC to provide for clients and grieving family members (including children who attend the center's summer camp). They collected books to be donated to the *Women's Care Center*, and made ultrasound gift bags and staff support gift bags.

Eighth Grade: Living the Beatitudes

Students reviewed stewardship as Living the Beatitudes. Each student developed a personal stewardship resume which reflected their years spent in the Step-By-Step Stewardship Program and service in preparation for their Confirmation.

Little Lions *Preschool*



The 2022-2023 school year was a successful year of playing, learning, and growing together in our preschool. The preschool team, consisting of 11 staff members, educated 116 students. Four classrooms housed a variety of flexible programming options, from two to three half-days a week for our youngest students, with options up to five full days for our older students.

Little Lions Preschool maintained a Level 3 rating with Indiana's *Paths to QUALITY™* and began the process of national accreditation with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). LLP also continued to be an approved provider for Indiana's On My Way PreK and Childcare Development Fund financial assistance vouchers. Ongoing projects continued to enhance our facilities, including fence repositioning to create more green space within the preschool playground and the addition of a bathroom in the basement classroom.

The preschool teachers were happy to welcome family members back into the classrooms as guest readers. We also brought back the tradition of stewardship parents planning "Happy Birthday Jesus" parties after Christmas Break and "St. Valentine's Celebrations" in February.



Preschool 3

Preschool 4

Preschool 4/5

Student Profile

Enrollment by Grade

	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019
Preschool 3	42	44	31	39	32
Preschool 4	27	28	36	61	39
Preschool 4/5	47	43	17	24	29
Kindergarten	69	66	58	51	59
First	71	60	48	61	62
Second	64	48	52	61	67
Third	49	58	53	70	71
Fourth	61	58	61	71	46
Fifth	59	66	60	50	63
Sixth	62	58	43	65	57
Seventh	61	49	60	61	58
Eighth	46	60	54	55	50
Total Enrollment	658	638	573	669	633

Classroom Structure

Preschool

- Three sections each in the 3s, 4s and 4/5s
- * One Teaching Assistant (TA) in every preschool classroom

Primary Grades K-2

- Three sections of kindergarten
- Three sections of first grade
- Three sections of second grade
- * TA in each classroom

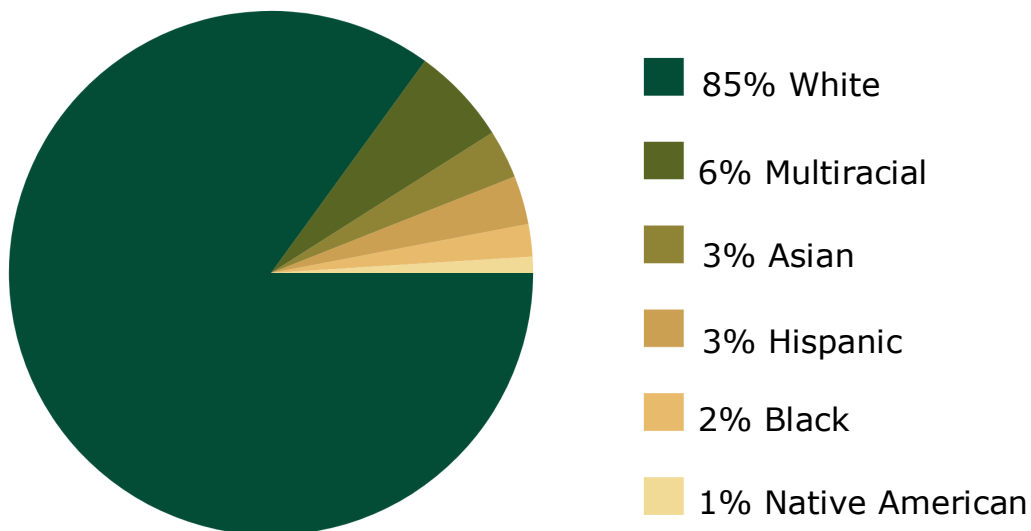
Elementary Grades 3-5

- Two sections of third grade
- * Two TAs
- Three sections of fourth grade
- * Two TAs
- Three sections of fifth grade
- * Two TAs

Middle School Grades 6-8

- Two sections for each grade
- * Two TAs

2022-2023 Ethnicity (Preschool-8)



Class of 2023

Each year teachers select recipients from the eighth grade graduating class for three awards. This year we renamed our awards to reflect a saint that exemplifies the qualities of each award.

Our **Christian Service Award** is named after *Saint Teresa of Calcutta* and *Saint Damien of Molokai*. These two saints are exceptional examples of what it is to live a life of service. Our chosen students have given many hours of service to our parish and our community.

Our **Seeking Truth Award** is named after *Saint Thomas Aquinas* and *Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton*. Both of these saints dedicated their lives to teaching and learning. Saint Thomas is a doctor of the church and Saint Elizabeth is the patron saint of Catholic schools. This award is given to the students with the highest overall GPA.

The **Christian Attitude Awards** are voted on by the students. The students are asked who in their class fits the following criteria: someone you respect, someone you trust, someone who regularly models the Gospel Values, someone who doesn't gossip, talk about, or hurt others, someone who almost always makes good choices.

Class of 2023 Award Recipients

Awards Selected by Saint Pius X faculty

Christian Service Award

St. Teresa of Calcutta	Frances Bradley
St. Damien of Molokai	Oliver Mitros

Seeking Truth Award

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Reese Hull
St. Thomas Aquinas	Oliver Mitros

Selected by Saint Pius X 8th grade students

Christian Attitude Award

Adelaide Dees
Raymond Veselik

Number of Graduates	Name of Accepting High School
31	Saint Joseph High School
5	Marian High School
6	Penn High School
1	Trinity Greenlawn
3	Other



Student Council 2022-2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL

The 2023 Saint Pius X Student Council was full of great ideas, successful solutions, and most importantly, lots of teamwork.

The Student Council worked to restart many popular activities that had been put on hold due to Covid-19. For example, the school dance, Catholic Schools Week assembly and field trips, and the 8th grade versus staff volleyball game. We made posters to keep the students informed of changes and upcoming events. Also, the Council took time to read to the younger kids. We made price adjustments to the PBIS store, where middle schoolers can buy prizes with signatures they earned for following the Gospel Values. Lastly, the Student Council organized another entertaining talent show.

Thank you to the teachers, staff, and HASA parents who supported us so that our ideas could be put into action.

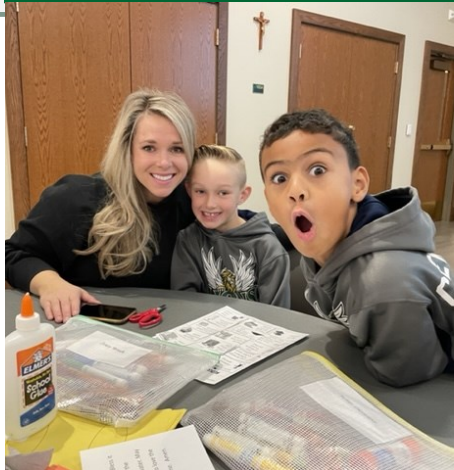
Reese Hull
2022-2023 Student Council

Student Council Members

Simon Berry	Secretary
Gabby Parrish	7th Grade Vice-President
Dave Cozzie	6th Grade Vice-President
Reese Hull	8th Grade Representative
Dario Albahari	8th Grade Representative
Quinn Hedges	7th Grade Representative
Harper Schmitt	7th Grade Representative
Logan Brackett	6th Grade Representative
Jack Byrne	6th Grade Representative
Clare Byron	5th Grade Representative
Danica Dorbin	5th Grade Representative
Maeve Kelly	5th Grade Representative



Parents as Partners



Saint Pius X Catholic School recognizes parents as the primary educators of their children. Following the teachings of the Catholic Church, we support the role of parents. Likewise, we expect parents to maintain communication with the school and support the school community. We value and rely on the partnership with parents and guardians of all of our students.

The many hours dedicated by parents and friends of Saint Pius X are invaluable to the overall operation of the school. We are thankful for your commitment and dedication to our mission, working with Christ at the core of all we do.

Home and School Association

The Home and School Association (HASA), the parent/school organization of Saint Pius X Catholic School, is a service ministry of the parish that serves as a liaison between the school, home, and parish communities. HASA performs and promotes stewardship and encourages communication and involvement by sponsoring programs and activities during the year. Following the stewardship philosophy set forth by the parish, HASA relies on the volunteer efforts of its members rather than collecting dues or mandating volunteer hours. Each parent is blessed with various resources, talents and abilities. Parents are asked to share their time, talent, and treasure to help make these programs and events possible.



HASA Appointed Board Members

Caitlin Giordano, President
 Jessica Blomeke, Co-Vice President
 Erica Travis, Co-Vice President
 Amanda McKendree, Secretary
 Amy Bona
 Betsy Pasquesi
 Tory Patrick
 Ashley Sicinski
 Kristen Wnek

Ex-Officio Members

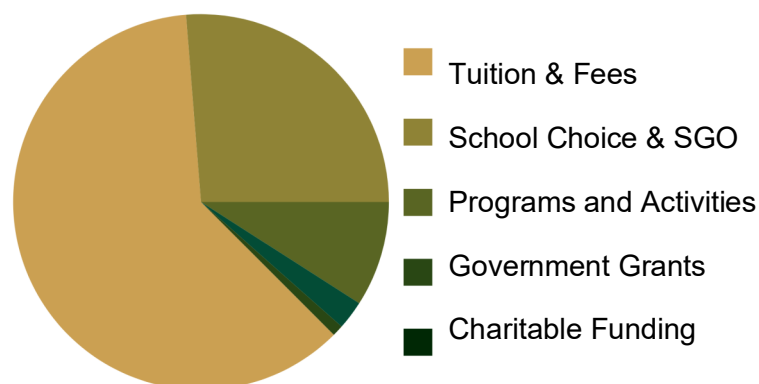
Elaine Holmes, Principal
 Allison Watson, Assistant Principal
 Kristie Sandor, Administrative Assistant
 Betsy Quinn, Director of Stewardship
 & Engagement

HASA Committees

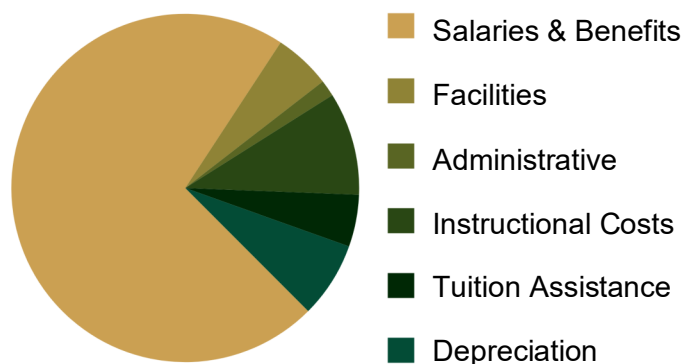
Friends & Family
 (includes New Family Ambassadors)
 Faith Formation & Service
 Celebrate Our Students
 Education & Information
 Teacher & Staff Appreciation
 Field Day

Numbers By the Books

School Income	2022-2023	2021-2022
Tuition and Fees	\$2,793,273	\$2,599,978
Indiana School Choice/SGO	1,198,640	862,448
Programs and Activities	413,432	364,529
Government Grants	112,735	149,875
Charitable Funding Sources	43,892	60,973
Total Income	\$4,561,972	\$4,037,803



Expenses	2022-2023	2021-2022
Salaries and Benefits	\$3,567,628	\$3,397,871
Facilities	262,597	218,830
Administrative	75,820	75,660
Instructional Costs	475,784	445,526
Tuition Assistance	240,191	44,960
Depreciation	350,682	387,488
Total Expenses	\$4,972,702	\$4,570,335
Net School Income / Loss	\$410,730	\$532,532



Charitable Funding Sources

Restricted Gifts	\$27,099	\$43,027
Charitable Funding Sources	4,024	5,091
Diocesan School Endowment	12,769	12,855

Programs & Activity Sources

Lunch Program	\$300,058	\$269,354
Extracurricular Activities	113,374	95,175

Charitable Gifts

We appreciate every gift of time, talent and treasure given to our school. Funds generated through *Amazon Smile, Meijer Community, Box Tops, You Can Lend a Hand*, and our *book fair* provide notable funding for resources and materials utilized in the classroom each day. This year Saint Pius X received gifts to support school staff salary increases and financial assistance gifts for families.

Wish List

- A second scoreboard for the main gym
- A curtain to separate the main gym into sections



Tuition Assistance

Saint Pius X distributed **\$1,673,805** in assistance this year.

212 students (40% of K-8 enrollment) received Choice Scholarships from the State of Indiana (vouchers), totaling **\$1,123,380**.

144 students (19%) received financial assistance, totaling **\$475,165**.

34 PreK and K-8 students received \$75,260 via parishioner donations to the Scholarship Granting Organization of Northeast Indiana (SGONEI).

DISCOVERING FAITH ■ SHARING GIFTS ■ EMPOWERING EXCELLENCE



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