



St. Patrick Catholic School

SUCCESS Every Day for Every Child

St. Patrick Catholic School

Annual Report for 2016-17

Summary

This year, our school continued to build upon the strengths identified through the re-accreditation process completed by the Michigan Association of Non-public Schools. After a thorough review of our school was done according to *the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools*, Katie Brydges, Regional Associate Superintendent of the Archdiocese of Detroit stated our school is “Affirmed for full Accreditation” through the Michigan Non-Public Schools Accrediting Agency (MNSAA). Her comments also included the following:

St. Patrick Catholic School has a strong sense of community. It is clear the current administration is committed, passionate, and dedicated to the continued growth of St. Patrick Catholic School...Along with your Catholic culture, your staff is also driven for the academic success of your students. The staff uses a variety of assessment tools and data to track student progress and growth. The faculty collaborates to develop individual and group goals to improve student achievement. You have so much to be proud of at St. Patrick Catholic School and we commend you for all your hard work!

This accreditation process along with a positive report from the State of Michigan for our preschool and extended day care license renewal confirm our commitment for SUCCESS: Every Day for Every Child. Our school community does this by providing students with a safe, challenging, nurturing environment in which children thrive and learn. Our multi-age classrooms and mentor programs provide opportunities for all students to develop leadership skills while enhancing individual growth in faith, knowledge, and service. The efforts of our children, teachers, parents, extended family, parishioners, local community members, and generous donors have created a wonderful Christ centered community. We are blessed and most grateful to God and all who mentor our children in their quest to live the Gospel message.

In gratitude,

Ruth Meiring

Principal

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CATHOLIC IDENTITY

- **Prayer and Sacraments**

- Celebrate weekly, Holy Day, and First Friday Mass liturgies
- Prepare and celebrate second grade First Reconciliation and First Eucharist
- Prepare and celebrate eighth grade Confirmation
- Marian prayer celebrations including May Crowning
- Monroe County Fatima statue on site for a week in October with individual classes leading a school wide decade of the rosary each day
- Student lead daily scripture and prayer during morning announcements
- Offer prayers on All Soul's Day in the cemetery with grandparents
- Attend exposition of Monstrance for International Children's Eucharistic Holy Hour
- Grade 2 attendance at Jesus Day
- Sacrament of Reconciliation for students
- St. Patrick Day prayer service
- Attendance at Archdiocese of Detroit Catholic Schools Week Mass
- Special Advent and Lenten prayer services including weekly adoration during Lent
- Living Stations prayer service led by junior high students for school during Holy Week
- Weekly school-wide prayer during Advent

- **Service**

- Participation in parish altar server training for grades 4-8
- Student readers, altar servers, and other student leadership for liturgies
- Design cards and letters of prayer and support for Archdiocesan seminarians including our parish seminarian
- Monthly school wide service projects to provide financial, material, and emotional support for various charities including Monroe Cancer Connection, IHM Ministry, St. Joseph Food Closet, Fr. Solanus Casey Center, Cross Catholic Outreach, Sisters of Christian Love (lunch program for the homeless), items for of Guatemala children and medical clinic delivered by St. Mary Catholic Central High School students.
- Cards sent to homebound and nursing home elders
- Rummage Sale with left over items donated to several non-profit groups for distribution
- Items collected and donated to create a lending library for children from abusive homes and underprivileged children in Monroe County
- Items donated to Father Solanus Casey Shelter and Southeast Catholic Charities
- Students visit the retired sisters at the IHM Motherhouse monthly for Mass and a community activity
- Assist at the Lenten Fish Fries

- **Faith Formation**

- Lenten focus on sacrifice, prayer, and almsgiving with weekly personal goals posted on a large wood cross at school entrance
- Student use of Catholic Children's Bible in all grades
- School wide participation in monthly Archdiocese of Detroit Virtue's Program
- Maryknoll Magazine (grades 3-6)
- Living Saints Museum (grade 5/6)
- Shared Christian values through buddy class and mentor programs
- Traveling Vocation Chalice in all classrooms and available to all school families
- Grade 7 Vocation Reflection Day at Sacred Heart Major Seminary
- Daily reflection on Saints during morning prayer
- Grade 3/4 participation in the Archdiocese of Detroit Catholic Schools Week poster contest

CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENTS

- Multi-grade classroom programs for students in all grades for enhanced learning
- Incorporate Common Core State Standards and AOD Religion Standards into curriculum using Curriculum Mapper
- Title 1 tutoring program for students needing extra support (grades k -4)
- IOWA assessments for grades 1, 3, 5, & 7; Interim assessments (grades 2-8)
- Speech pathologist, teacher consultant for visually impaired, occupational therapist, physical therapist, orientation and mobility specialist, psychologist, and other special services including teacher consultants provided by the Monroe County Intermediate School District
- Educational opportunity for students to interact with elders in prayer, technology and classroom activities as well as refreshments and photos for Grandparent/Significant Elders Day
- Algebra class attended at SMCC by two grade 8 students

- **Foreign Language**
 - Spanish class for students (grades 1-8)

- **Self-esteem and personal safety**
 - Think Safety First personal safety program
 - Concussion Awareness program for staff, parents, coaches, and students
 - Introduce monthly virtue trait, service project, and curriculum focus area at monthly assembly.
 - Attend presentation at St. Charles School by Ron Bachman to teach students how to promote positive behavior between peers (grades 5-8)
 - Student Council (grades 5-8) organize several school activities during the school year including Catholic Schools Week
 - Students host a grade 7/8 Monroe Catholic Schools Vicariate Dance
 - St. Mary Catholic Central High School onsite informational session for all grades on leadership and high school opportunities
 - Grade 8 visit to SMCC High School
 - Participate in the SMCC Homecoming Parade with SPS community members riding in a decorated truck

- **Social Studies**
 - National Geography Bee (grades 5-8)
 - Grade 8 trip to Lansing I with a visit to the Cathedral in Lansing
 - Participate in the Monroe County Historical Museum Christmas tree exhibit (grade 3/4)
 - Heritage Day (grades k-7 with grade 8 leadership)
 - Sent over 200 letters and cards to veterans with donated stamps from students and hosted a Veteran Mass, flag raising ceremony, and reception for Veteran's Day

- **Language Arts**
 - America and Me essay contest (grade 8)
 - Patriots Pen essay contest (grade 7/ 8)
 - Monroe County Spelling Bee (grades 5-8)
 - March is Reading Month school reading project with over 72,162 minutes read by staff and students
 - Reading assembly with PAWS for reaching school reading goal
 - Attend the Monroe County Young Authors Conference for enhancing writing skills and meeting a published author (grades 1-4)
 - Visit the Carleton Branch of the Monroe County Library to read to preschool and do crafts with selected students (grades 5-8)
 - Student creation of professionally bound hard cover class books (grades k-8)

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- Students created letters and offered prayers in gratitude to Father John for Priesthood Sunday
- Letters and notes of appreciation was sent to Sacred Heart Seminarians during Vocation Awareness Sunday
- Optional participation in the Monroe Bank and Trust Essay contest grades 1-8

- **Science and the Environment**

- Attend a week long session at Camp Storer environmental camp (grade 5/6)
- Participation in the Bee Hive Project to promote earth friendly practices with grade 5/6 attending a Green environmental program at the IHM Motherhouse
- Green School environmental program
- Participation in the Monroe County Lake Erie Water Festival for junior high students (grade 5/6)
- Dissection (grades 1-8)
- Field trip to Imagination Station (Kindergarten)
- School Science Fair using Monroe County Science Fair guidelines (grades 6 and 8 individual projects with all other grades doing group, class or individual projects)
- Water testing of local water with junior high students
- National Garden Clubs Woodsy Owl and Smokey the Bear poster contest (grades k-4)
- MI Department of Environmental Quality Earth Day poster contest (grades 1-4)
- Monroe Farm Bureau "Healthy Farm Foods" poster contest (grade 3)
- Summer Science Camp offered for students in grades 1-8
- After school Archeology Club
- After school Science Construction Club
- Staff members, parents, and students host a school booth with student displays at the Monroe County Earth Day Celebration

- **Physical Education and Health**

- Participation in ACES (All Children Exercising Simultaneously)
- CYO sports under the direction of the parish Men's Club offered girls volleyball and softball, as well as boys' basketball and baseball on our parish campus. CYO football was provided to boys at neighboring parish CYO programs
- Turkey Trot (grades k-8)
- Cheerleading Team
- Field Day (grades k-6 with grade 7 leadership)
- School sponsored 5 K Fun Run and Tot Dash
- Monroe County Health Department Hearing and Vision Testing

- **Fine Arts**

- Cinderella performed by the Chicago Windy City Players with student/staff participation (grades k-8)
- Vocal concerts held at Christmas and in May
- Living nativity
- Musical, Tales from The Cat in the Hat performed by grades 5-8
- Create a bee hive from recycled materials for the Flight of the Butterfly and Climate Change
- Grade 5-8 field trip to SMCC musical at the RRCA
- K-2 field trip to the MCCC Meyer Theater
- Art exhibit at the Monroe County Fair in the Little Red School House

TECHNOLOGY

- Curriculum Support
 - Accelerated Reader reading comprehension program
 - On-line student, teacher, and parent support and textbook for K-8 math program
 - On-line student, teacher, and parent support and textbook for Super Kids reading program
 - Interim on-line assessments for monitoring student academic growth
- Upgrade of computers
- Teacher Wiki sites for parent communication with homework, class activities, and links to educational sites
- School Reach communication system for parent alerts and updates implemented
- Power School electronic communication of posting of grades with parent/student access

COMMUNICATION

- New Family Orientation
- Monthly preschool and younger play group for local community
- Back to School evening information night for parents
- Fall Parent Teacher Conferences
- February Preschool Open House and March Preschool –Grade 8 Open House
- Quarterly progress reports and report cards
- Monthly calendars for hot lunch and school activities
- Electronic weekly parent newsletter
- Family school phone and address directory for e-mail, address, and phone connect

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- Participate in the Monroe County School Phone Book Recycling Project and paper recycling
- Host a school auction
- Host a St. Patrick Day Irish Stew, Soup, and Hot Dog Dinner with the school open house
- Family Science Fair Viewing and Activity Night
- Classroom tutoring by volunteer community members
- Monroe Bank & Trust Banking program (k-8) with grade 3/4 banking employees
- Successful donation of an Automated External Defibrillator to be located in St. Patrick Gym and School
- Over 100 businesses provide donations for the school auction

ACHIEVEMENTS AND RECOGNITION

- Over twenty students displayed art work and received placement awards at Monroe County Fair
- Woodsy Owl and Smokey the Bear poster contest with first place winners at the local level
- Monroe County Spelling Bee
- Carleton Branch Contest for Monroe Bank and Trust Essay Contest: Top winner with six other winners
- Ten participants at the Monroe County Science Fair. Students received one first place, three second place, one third place, and two honorable mentions in their prospective categories.
- Environmental Quality Earth Day poster contest (grade k-3) resulted in winner, and thirteen students receiving honorable mention
- Green School State recognition at the Evergreen or highest level for earth friendly practices
- Healthy School Award Gold Level Award
- School Choice Leadership Award for 2016
- Three grade 7/8 local winners in the VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest with one receiving third place at the district level, sponsored by the local Veteran Association.

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- Several 7th and 8th grade had their essays of gratitude to an individual priest published in the Michigan Catholic for Priesthood Sunday
- Student recognition given during a monthly assembly for student success in academics, good behavior, and other significant accomplishments

FACILITY/ENVIRONMENT ENHANCEMENTS

- Cleaning of parish grounds including the removal of grass and weeds with mulch placed around the upper elementary building
- Daily before and after school extended day program with time for homework, outdoor play, and other activities for those students needing adult supervision
- State licensed preschool and extended day care
- Hot lunch and milk service offered to our students in partnership with Chartwell Food Service including the option of on-line payment found on the Airport Community Schools web site.
- Students are provided student accident insurance coverage through the Michigan Catholic Conference Student Assurance Services Program for school and school related activities.
- Promethean interactive white board in all homerooms and the library
- Parent and student support for Super Kids reading website for students in grades k-2
- Parent and student support for k-8 math programs
- Accelerated Reader for reading comprehension assessments

PARENT LEADERSHIP

- Provide an official School Face Book page and a web site for marketing and communication
- Card ministry
- Review results from parent, student, and staff satisfaction survey and identify school improvement needs.
- Assisted in the revision of the school mission statement, philosophy, and goals
- Updated open house procedures and advertising
- Classroom representative to assist teachers and provide class information to parents
- Plant Sale at Rhulig Greenhouse
- Catholic Schools Week fundraiser at Anson Restaurant
- Welcome back lunch for teachers
- School Auction
- Family picnic for the first day of school
- Field Day hot dog lunch
- Halloween Carnival
- St. Patrick Day School Breakfast
- Santa Secret Shop
- Coordinate and assist at student events including Catholic Schools Week
- Provided grade 8 class shirts
- Gathering at local restaurant as fundraiser evens and social gathering

FACULTY/STAFF

- Principal and teachers' attendance at the Michigan Association of Non-public Schools State Conference
- Catholic Identify and AOD Virtue Project in-service in August and June
- Power School training for office personnel and teacher
- Principal participation in Crisis Management and ADHD webinars
- Professional development for latchkey supervisors

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- Central Michigan University Pre-student teacher during second semester
- Teacher selected to present at Archdiocese of Detroit August Professional Development Conference
- Principal attendance at all AOD and vicariate principal meetings and workshops
- Complete staff book study on *Pope Francis and Our Call to Joy. The Essential Guide of the Joy of the Gospel* by Diane Houdek
- Catechist certification enrichment topics for all teachers and the principal