



St. Dominic SCHOOL

Our Foundation. Their Future.

STATE OF THE SCHOOL REPORT

November 2021

Education is not
preparation for life;
education is life itself.

JOHN DEWEY





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State of the School

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The story behind ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL



St. Dominic School is the parish school of St. Dominic Church in Northfield, MN. Our school will celebrate its centennial in just five short years. Through the dedication of parishioners who have come before us, we are able to provide a Catholic education to families in our community.

In 1925 a site was chosen for a parish school and ground broke on August 8, 1926. The school was originally named the Rosary School, and the dedication service was held on August 7, 1927. The School Sisters of Notre Dame from Mankato ran the school. In the first year, the school had nearly two hundred students.

In addition to grades one through eight, the school also offered the first two years of high school, which was maintained until 1942. In 1928, at the request of the Bishop, a diocesan boarding school was opened to accommodate boys of the diocese. The boys were housed on the top floor of the school. The following year, the boarding school was expanded to include local girls. Rooms were provided in the convent and school for this purpose until the boarding school officially closed in 1947.

By 1959 the school expanded with an addition that contained four classrooms, a large gymnasium, cafeteria, offices and a faculty room. That same year, the school name was officially changed to St. Dominic School.

In 1991, kindergarten was added to our school classroom offerings. In 2007, our Preschool opened offering multiple schedules for children ages 3-5. In 2016 our full-time Pre-Kindergarten class opened and became available to children one year away from Kindergarten.

Today, we continue to offer the Northfield area a unique educational solution for our families. Our students in grades Preschool-8th benefit from a strong faith-based education, along with rigorous academics and a family of friends and teachers who support their development.



OUR MISSION AND VISION

Our Foundation. Their Future.

Our Mission: St. Dominic School inspires children to excel as confident leaders, critical thinkers, and responsible citizens in a Catholic, values-based community.

Our Vision: As the parish school of St. Dominic Church, we provide a Catholic and Christian based learning environment for families who desire an academically superior education regardless of economic status.

In the fall of 2021, the St. Dominic School Board began the Vision 2026 project. Over the next five years, our school will take the opportunity to strategically plan for the future of Catholic education in the Northfield community. To begin this process, a Vision statement was created to guide the strategic planning.

Next, the Core Team will begin interviews and surveys with stakeholders to gain a better understanding of where we are at as a school now and then plan for where we are headed in the future.

It is our goal that by the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, a strategic plan will be finalized to guide St. Dominic School. This plan will set in motion the tasks needed to move our school to even greater heights in time for our centennial celebration in 2026.



SPIRITUAL LIFE



DAILY FOUNDATION IN FAITH

All Preschool-8th Grade students receive daily lessons in our Catholic faith. In Preschool-1st Grade we use the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies to help our youngest students make connections between the Sunday gospel and their lives.

Our students in grades 2nd-8th use the Christ Our Life program through Loyola Press. Each grade level has a focus/concentration of study. For example, 4th grade focuses on the Ten Commandments, Beatitudes and Apostle's Creed. Our 6th graders learn about the Old Testament, while our 7th graders learn about Jesus' life through the New Testament.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Our 2nd grade students who were baptized Catholic will be instructed during their school day in preparation for completing their First Reconciliation and First Communion.

WEEKLY SCHOOL MASS

All students attend weekly mass. Our Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten students attend once a month on special feast days. Each week a different grade level is responsible for planning and leading our school mass.

FAITH OPPORTUNITIES AT SCHOOL

Reconciliation Services

All students who have completed their First Reconciliation participate in both an Advent and Lenten service. These two opportunities provide our students the pathway to forgiveness.

Advent Prayer Services

All students and staff participate in a weekly Advent prayer service on Mondays. This is a student lead prayer service by our middle school students. Not only is this a time for our school community to come together as one to prepare for the birth of our baby Jesus, it provides our middle school students the opportunity to be faith leaders within our school.

Learning through Service

It is very important that the students of St. Dominic School learn by giving of themselves to those in need. Our students participate in an Advent Giving Project. Each year our middle school students partner with an organization. In 2020 we supported Toys for Tots, and in 2021 our school is supporting The Drawer by collecting personal items to be distributed to homeless shelters.



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

The 2020-2021 school year proved to be a very successful year for the students and teachers at St. Dominic School. In the midst of a pandemic, our students not only thrived, but they GREW! We were able to have our K-8 students participate in all three rounds of NWEA/MAP standardized testing. The results show that St. Dominic School students are outperforming the national average in both Reading and Math. Below are the results from the Spring 2021 Reading and Math tests for St. Dominic students and shows a comparison to the national norm.

Math Results

	SDS	Norm
K	168	157
1	183	176
2	184	190
3	211	201
4	219	210
5	229	219
6	227	223
7	245	227
8	247	230

Reading Results

	SDS	Norm
K	163	153
1	180	171
2	187	186
3	208	197
4	208	205
5	219	211
6	221	215
7	231	218
8	234	221



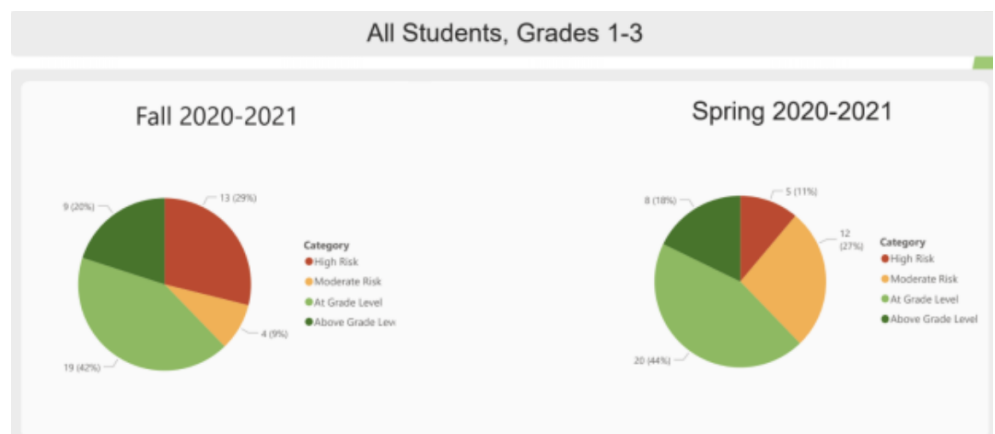
BELIEVE AND READ

SDS Finishes STRONG in Literacy!

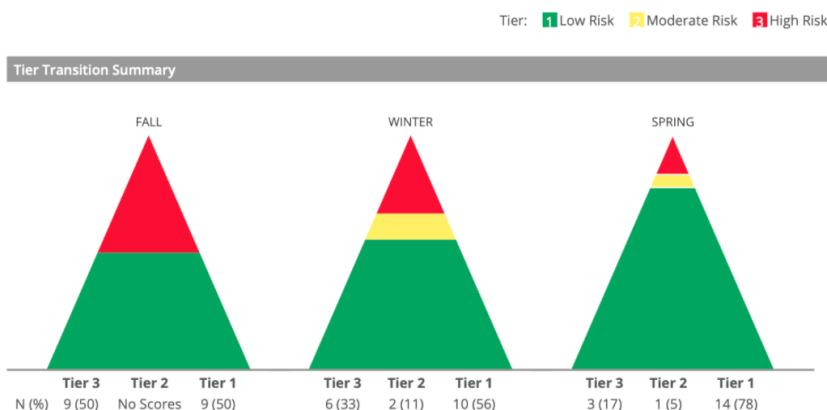
In the spring of 2021, we completed our second year with the Believe and Read literacy/writing curriculum in partnership with Groves Academy. As part of the second year in the program, our K-3 classroom teachers, along with our Enrichment Teacher, focused on closing the gap for as many of our students as possible.

Highlights!

- In Fall 2020, 29% of our Gr. 1-3 students were considered high risk for not meeting grade-level benchmarks in Literacy. By May 2021, we reduced our high-risk students to only 11%.
- Every one of our 3rd-grade students moved out of the high-risk category by the end of the year. This means that every student closed the gap for literacy and was ready for 4th grade.
- In our 1st grade classroom, we closed the gap for 28% of the students in just one academic year!
- All of our teachers and St. Dominic School have met the criteria to be a Certified Believe and Read School.



First Graders Excel in 2020-2021



In fall 2020, only 50% of our students met 1st grade literacy benchmarks. By spring, 78% of our students had met their literacy benchmark. Within one school year (during a pandemic) we were able to close the gap for 28% of our 1st grade students!



2020-2021



OUR STUDENTS

St. Dominic School inspires children to excel as confident leaders, critical thinkers, and responsible citizens in a Catholic values-based community.

DIVERSITY

Male: 49.22%
White: 84.38%

Female: 50.78%
Other: 15.62%



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

\$100,804 awarded in financial assistance and scholarship dollars.
45% of students in K-8 qualify for assistance.

FREE & REDUCED LUNCH

11% of students qualify for Free & Reduced Lunch.

*Lunch has been free since Jan. 2021 for all students.



RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

Catholic: 68.75%
Non-Catholic: 31.25%

ENROLLMENT

Preschool-PreKindergarten: 29 Students
K-8: 99 Students



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING



Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is a curriculum that supports positive mental health for our students and staff. The students and staff of St. Dominic School are committed to supporting the well-being, both mentally and physically, of our school community.

In the fall of 2020, our school began our journey through Social Emotional Learning. We started with our teachers and staff. After establishing a foundation in SEL, our school moved towards implementing curriculum with our students in Preschool-8th grade.

Our second phase of SEL has two parts. First, we had a custom curriculum written for our school. Our "Saintly Emotional Learning" blends the skills of regular SEL with learnings from our Saints. Each month, our students and staff learn about a new Saint. Along with studying the Saint, students learn the SEL skills such as perseverance and self-awareness, which they can emulate from that Saint.

The other piece of phase two is our selection and participation in the Peace of Mind 2.0 program through the Catholic School Center of Excellence and Phoenix Counseling Services.

Our school was one of ten selected in the Archdiocese to participate in this program. We are afforded an additional day of counseling services per week this school year, as well as professional development training for all staff members in the Nurtured Heart Approach.

In the wake of the pandemic, as educators, we know how important it is that we are educating mind, body and soul in our students.



SCHOOL FINANCE



BUDGET UPDATES

In the 2020-21 school year the St Dominic School board revised the school budget, realigning the categories to better suit the school's needs. Through this process, our School Board created a strategic financial plan to help mitigate the school's budget deficit which was caused due to the pandemic.



BUDGET

Through the process of realigning the school's budget, coupled with our fundraising efforts and grant writing, we are happy to report a successful financial year for the 2020-21 school year.



TUITION COLLECTION

The St. Dominic School Board took an active role in collecting past due tuition from current and former families. Through these efforts, the School Board was able to collect \$30,000 owed over the last 6 years.



FUNDRAISING

Even though we are in unprecedented times with the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Dominic School was able to exceed our fundraising goal by nearly \$50,000, bringing in a total of \$154,000 through various fundraising efforts like, the Schulze Matching Grant opportunity, our school Marathon, Saints' Night Out, and our Annual ask for the SDS Hope Scholarship.



GRANT WRITING

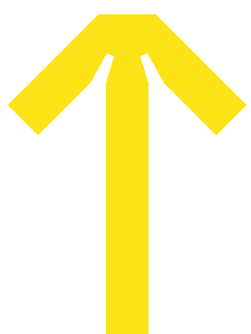
The Administration team at St. Dominic School was able to secure \$103,000 in various grants dollars for the 2020-21 school year.





This year we welcomed eight highly talented new staff members to our St. Dominic School team. Our new staff members hold positions as grade level teachers, specialists, and administrative support.

Combining the strength of our returning teachers and staff, along with the new staff members, St. Dominic School has formed a strong foundation for student success. Please keep our teachers and staff in your prayers!



OUR FACULTY





St. Dominic SCHOOL

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