



# St. Dominic SCHOOL

Our Foundation. Their Future.

## STATE OF THE SCHOOL REPORT

November 2022

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

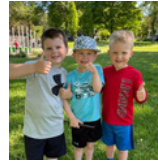
JOHN DEWEY





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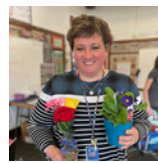
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State of the School

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# The story behind ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL



St. Dominic School is the parish school of the Church of St. Dominic 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 Lent 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. During Catholic Schools Week in the winter of 2022, the students completed multiple service projects for the Ronald McDonald House, Neighbor's Inc., and hospitals around the area.



# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

The 2021-2022 school year proved to be a very successful year for the students and teachers at St. Dominic School. Our students continued to thrive and grow academically, emotionally, and socially. 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 2022 Reading and Math tests for St. Dominic students and shows a comparison to the national norm.

## Math Results

	SDS	Norm
K	167	157
1	182	176
2	191	190
3	194	201
4	221	210
5	228	219
6	237	223
7	238	227
8	252	230

## Reading Results

	SDS	Norm
K	165	153
1	180	171
2	190	186
3	198	197
4	212	205
5	218	211
6	221	215
7	226	218
8	233	221



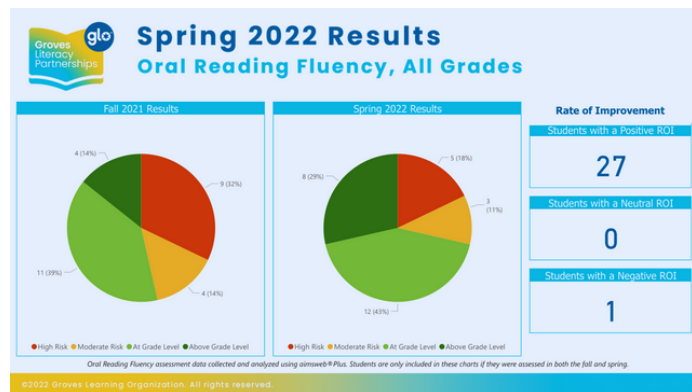
# BELIEVE AND READ

## SDS Finishes STRONG in Literacy!

In the spring of 2022, we completed our third year with the Believe and Read literacy/writing curriculum in partnership with Groves Academy. As part of the third year in the program, our K-3 classroom teachers, along with our Enrichment Teacher, focused on closing the reading gap for as many of our students as possible.

### Highlights!

- Response to Intervention (RTI) small groups boosted student understanding and confidence.
- The new second and third grade teachers were trained in the Groves Method and taught with fidelity.
- More than half of the students in kindergarten through third grade ended the year at or above grade level.



## Growing in STEM!



Last year was the inaugural year of our classroom teachers diving into STEM to more fully integrate it with our entire curriculum throughout the school!

The inclusion of technology and engineering has become more pertinent in society. We identified the importance of providing our students with STEM based activities to assist them in becoming global citizens. They are able to practice 21st Century skills with the 4 C's: communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration.

Students are able to utilize the 4 C's to answer complex questions. They are also able to make connections and complete activities related to what they have been learning in the general classroom.

The school's Maker Space was highly utilized and enjoyed by all grades.



2021-2022



# 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: 54.13%

Female: 46.80%

White: 90%

Other: 10%



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

\$143,294 awarded in financial assistance and scholarship dollars.  
62% of students qualify for assistance.

## FREE & REDUCED LUNCH

12% of students qualify for Free & Reduced Lunch.



## RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

Catholic: 65.13%

Non-Catholic: 34.86%

## ENROLLMENT

Preschool-PreKindergarten: 31 Students

K-8: 78 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.

From the SEL curriculum that teachers put into practice during the 2021-2022 school year, students were provided with many tools. They learned about the multitude of different emotions, practiced breathing and calm down techniques, and were introduced to the five social emotional core competencies: self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision making, relationship skills, and social awareness.

In addition to the classroom lessons, St. Dominic School was able to put in place 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 were afforded an additional day of counseling services per week for the 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 continue to recognize how important it is that we are educating mind, body and soul in our students.



# SCHOOL FINANCE



## BUDGET UPDATES

St. Dominic School has four main sources of revenue. These sources include tuition, fundraising, parish support, and grant writing. We work extremely hard each year to achieve a balanced budget. We also work diligently on expense control.



## PARISH SUPPORT

Support from the St. Dominic Parish enables the school to continue functioning. The parish helps to maintain the school building and employee salaries.



## TUITION

We want every family to be able to send their child(ren) to school at St. Dominic School. Over 60% of the students require tuition assistance.



## FUNDRAISING

St. Dominic School was able to exceed our fundraising goal by nearly \$40,000, bringing in a total of \$217,696 through various fundraising efforts. The Saints Night Out (SNO) fundraiser surpassed the goal and brought in \$94,926 alone. The goal for this fiscal year is over \$220,000.



## GRANT WRITING

The Administration team at St. Dominic School was able to secure \$34,000 in various grants dollars for the 2021-22 school year.





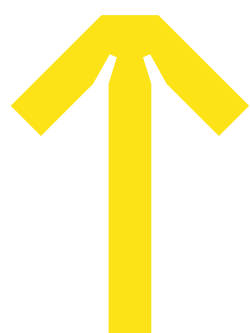
2022-23

**St. Dominic**  
**SCHOOL**

Our Foundation. Their Future.

This fall we welcomed a new middle school teacher and transitioned staff into new positions. During the transitions, it was important to St. Dominic School to continue to keep the school community in mind. Families were grateful that the transitions were internal.

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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