

# SAS

Saint Anthony School

*Learning. Loving. Living the Catholic Faith*



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
DIOCESE of DES MOINES



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021

*Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this report. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please note that this report contains photos taken before the COVID-19 Pandemic and may contain images of individuals who are not socially distanced or wearing face coverings.*

# LETTER FROM MS. RAES, PRINCIPAL

Dear St. Anthony Catholic School Community,

Thank you for choosing St. Anthony Catholic School and investing in Catholic education for your child. This investment will pay dividends for years to come. At St. Anthony, our students learn to contribute to and be a positive part of their family, community and the Church. We are proud to partner with parents to provide a wonderful education and environment where students thrive.

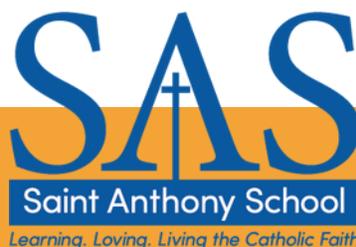


St. Anthony School educates three-year-olds through 8th grade and parents continue to have the school choice of Spanish Immersion, where students are biliteral and bilingual by the end of 5th grade, or the traditional English learning track. In 2020-2021, we added a third PreKindergarten class, this one with a focus on Spanish Immersion. It's exciting to have a growing enrollment. We also added some STEM and coding classes, which students loved. Some goals for the 2021-2022 school year are to add a Spanish teacher for all of our classes, add a Preschool class, and have an educational daycare on campus from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

At St. Anthony School we are thrilled to work with our families and parish community to help our students grow in God's love and acceptance of all. We appreciate the Catholic traditions on our campus throughout the year that we can participate in. We love our diverse school and church and their welcoming spirit. We are proud of our strong academics. We are blessed with a caring, dedicated and well-educated staff that is diligent in their effort to meet all learners' needs and help students find success. We are blessed with wonderful families who are involved and dedicated to Catholic education.

With much gratitude,

Ms. Jennifer Raes  
Principal



# OUR MISSION

St. Anthony School provides a quality education program through the Parish, with a focus on Christ as the reason for the school—the unseen but ever-present teacher in its classes, the model of its faculty, the inspiration of its students.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Des Moines are collaborative communities of spiritual formation and academic excellence, where students grow in faith and wisdom and emerge as responsible citizens dedicated to the practice of life-long discipleship.



# FACULTY AND STAFF

- **Administration**
  - Monsignor Frank Chiodo, Pastor
  - Father Guthrie Dolan
  - Jennifer Raes, Principal
  - Darcy Swesey, Admin Asst.
  - LaRissa Harrell, Lunchroom Dir.
  - Mark Paris, Business Manager
  - Nicole Sanders, School Nurse
- **SAS Junior and Plus**
  - Justina Glick, Director
  - Edith Porras
  - Kayla Swesey
  - Fran Chiodo
- **Transportation**
  - Kathy Niemann, Transportation Dir.
  - Leane Bank, Bus Driver
- **Related Arts**
  - Greg Hibbard, PE, technology
  - Mikayla Bonnema, Music, band
- **Title Teachers**
  - Tonya Eaton
  - Madi Jones
- **Preschool (3-year-old)**
  - Missy Himrich, Teacher
  - Armida Gonzalez, Aide
- **PreKindergarten (4-year-old)**
  - Kari Howard, Teacher English
  - Denise Vasey, Aide
  - Ilanit Vando, Teacher Spanish
- **Kindergarten**
  - Lynn Ernst, English
  - Marisol Guerra, Spanish
- **First Grade**
  - Nicole Ramaekers, English
  - Elena Nebot, Spanish
- **Second Grade**
  - Jennifer Forey, English
  - Maria Carriazo, Spanish
- **Third Grade**
  - Kaitlyn Austin, English
  - Enrique Gonzalez, Spanish
- **Fourth Grade**
  - Chloe Westering, English
  - Ana Rodrigo, Spanish
- **Fifth Grade**
  - Mary Barney, English
  - Ana Rodrigo, Spanish
- **Middle School**
  - Darren Hemann, Math
  - Charlotte Hunkele, ELA
  - Kelly Simpson, Science
  - Catherine Yost, Social Studies

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

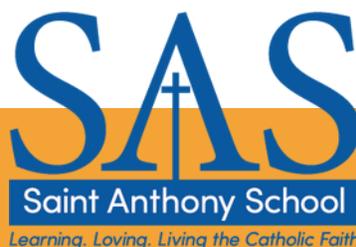
The role of the board of education/school board is to give advice, provide consultation, make recommendations and suggestions, give support and encouragement to the pastor/canonical administrator and program administrators, and establish policies with the approval of the pastor/canonical administrator which will enable the stated mission of the programs to be accomplished. A board of education/school board has purview for the education programs provided by the parish, region or diocese.

- James Sarcone, Chair
- Joe Fitzgerald, Vice Chair
- Jennifer Raes, Principal
- Kari Howard, Faculty Representative
- Mary Porter
- Harry Reed
- Ruth Sereg
- Sheila Thurston
- Joel Westrum

# HOME AND SCHOOL

Home and School is our parent association tasked with fundraising to support special projects and activities not covered by tuition. In doing so, this group helps initiate community events and enrich the educational experience for all students at St. Anthony School. Home and School meets every other month and all parents are welcome to attend meetings and take an active role in this important committee.

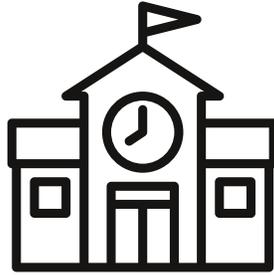
- Katie Fitzgerald, President
- Heather Carman, Vice President
- Karime Reveiz Westrum, Secretary
- Megan Palmgren, Treasurer



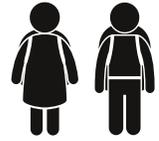
# SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021 BY THE NUMBERS

329

PS-8 Students



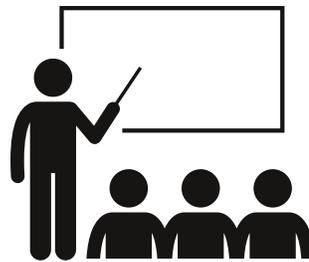
33



New Students (K-8)

51%

School Diversity



11:1

Classroom Ratio



\$301K

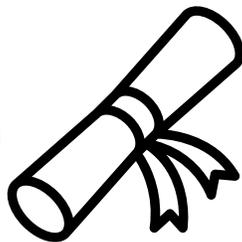
Provided in Tuition Assistance

34

School Masses

21%

Faculty with  
Advanced Degrees



49%

of K-5 students in  
Language Immersion Track

# A FAITH-FILLED ENVIRONMENT



*"We love sending our children to St. Anthony's School for many reasons, one of them being it is a Catholic school where our children can learn about Christ."*

*- St. Anthony Parents*



# FAITH

At St. Anthony, faith formation promotes a relationship with Christ and teaches students how to live the Gospel through love and service to others. While Catholic faith is the cornerstone of our school, we welcome students of all faith traditions.

Scripture, doctrine, prayer, and Liturgy are related to children at their developmental levels, beginning with their own experiences. Prayer is interwoven throughout the student's day. Prayer begins and ends each day at our school, is experienced daily in religion class and occurs before lunchtime. Additionally, students have the opportunity to celebrate Liturgy together once a week and are involved in the planning of school masses. Family and friends are always welcome these masses to celebrate the faith with our school community.

Through the lens of Catholic social teaching, we encourage our students to respect the diversity, dignity and beliefs of all in pursuit of knowledge and truth through critical thinking and constructive debate. This helps form strong principles, a moral center and a vibrant community that celebrates all achievements for the common good.



# FAITH HIGHLIGHTS



Thirty students received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We provided streaming of all faith-based activities for families to enjoy including our Living Rosary, Family Lenten Activity Night, and Confirmation Retreats.



Students in grades PS-8 participated in 34 school masses. In addition, two of our parish priests visited classrooms to share faith teachings. Our faculty provided 300 hours of faith instruction to all students.



100 percent of students participated in service-learning and raised money to support local charities and non-profit organizations.

# EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



*“We love the small class sizes, the priceless gift of bilingual kids due to the Spanish Immersion program and feel that the teachers and staff genuinely care about our children.”*

*- St. Anthony Parents*



# EXCELLENCE

St. Anthony Catholic School is fully accredited in the state of Iowa, and we challenge students to aim higher academically, spiritually and personally through faith-centered learning and a rigorous academic program aligned with state standards. Excellence is relentlessly pursued in academics by instilling a culture of continuous improvement.

Students in grades K - 5 take the FastBridge screening assessments three times a year. These assessments provide data and insights into student performance, growth, and academic needs throughout the year. In addition, FastBridge offers a snapshot of student performance and evidence-based measures for reading and math. This snapshot assists teachers in identifying student goals for learning and providing individualized student support to ensure these goals are met.

Students in grades 6 - 8 take the MAP assessment three times a year. The MAP tests assess each student's individual growth, allow each student to set goals for themselves, and provide a path to improve on skills where they are not yet proficient.

Through a partnership with Boston College, St. Anthony Catholic School offers the only language immersion education track in the diocese. The goal is to provide students with an opportunity to become bilingual and biliterate by the time they reach middle school.



# EXCELLENCE HIGHLIGHTS



This year, 91 students in Kindergarten through fifth grade experienced core subjects like reading, science, math and social studies in both English and Spanish as part of our Two-Way Language Immersion education track.



Eighty-nine percent of our students attended class in person and 11 percent participated in distance learning. One hundred percent of our students received a high-quality academic experience rooted in faith.



Every student is assessed three times annually to differentiate instruction and meet individual student needs. In addition, FAST and MAP assessments provide detailed personalized plans as academic needs arise through intervention and progress monitoring.



Every St. Anthony student has access to technology as an educational tool. Our classrooms are equipped with iPads, Chromebooks and interactive Smart Boards for 21st-century learning.

# A CARING COMMUNITY



*"We have loved our experience at St. Anthony's. The school and church have a mixture of cultures and people that represent our city, and we feel a strong sense of community being a part of both. The Spanish Immersion program is very impressive. Learning a second language is a tremendous skill that flows into all areas of learning and we believe it will open up many opportunities for our children."*

*- St. Anthony Parents*



# COMMUNITY

Our school has a rich tradition that binds our community and connects families, teachers and staff on a deeper level. Because of these relationships, they are personally invested in the success of our students and schools.

We believe that parents are the primary educators of their children. Therefore, parents are encouraged to be highly involved in their children's educational experience by participating in a variety of volunteer opportunities.

We teach love, care and concern for others as a part of our curriculum. Values of respect, discipline, diligence and compassion are instilled in all students. In addition, students in all grades have the opportunity to participate in community service and mission projects.

As a Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) school, we focus on prosocial behavior and teach our students about their role in fostering a positive and safe learning environment. Students experience positive reinforcement for meeting school-wide expectations and logical consequences for problem behavior. In addition, our students understand that their actions have a wider impact on the school community.



# COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



Our school serves students and families from all faith backgrounds, ethnicities, races, and cultures. Student diversity was 51 percent in 2020-2021. Moreover, 100 percent of our faculty in our Two-Way Immersion program hail from Spanish-speaking countries. The diversity of the faculty helps expose students in the language immersion education track to multiple dialects, cultures and traditions.



We served 329 students from across the Greater Des Moines region. We welcomed 33 new K-8 students into our school community.



Our streaming team used technology to include school families in our activities throughout the year including: Christmas Carols, Grandparents Day virtual sign parade, weekly school masses, concerts and school performances and more.

# THE BEST VALUE IN EDUCATION



*"As a parent, I'm overjoyed and happy with my child's education track so far at St. Anthony's. The classroom sizes are remarkable making the teacher-to-student ratio manageable for the teacher to really provide that one-on-one experience to each student. Overall, the value is just there, you see it, experience it, and live it because your child is happy learning."*

*- St. Anthony Parents*



# VALUE

The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic didn't prevent our students from receiving a high-quality academic experience rooted in faith. Our faculty and staff continued to foster positive, caring and faith-filled relationships with all students and families regardless if a student participated in remote learning or in-person instruction.

Outside of the classroom, we offered athletic programs that provide students with an opportunity to learn teamwork, responsibility, dedication and good sportsmanship. Additionally, enrichment activities and fine arts programs were available throughout the year to help develop student interests and potential talents.

Moreover, an education at St. Anthony Catholic School is an investment in your child's future, and no family is turned away for the inability to pay full tuition.



# VALUE HIGHLIGHTS



Sixty-four percent of our students received assistance from CTO and school scholarships totaling \$301,715 to make a Catholic education at St. Anthony possible.



Eighty-one percent of our 2021 graduates went on to attend Dowling Catholic High School this fall.



In school year 2020-2021, students participated in clubs, activities and athletic programs including band, choir, basketball, volleyball, track, and more.



Eleven percent of our student population benefitted from St. Anthony Catholic School's bus transportation.

# THE COST TO EDUCATE

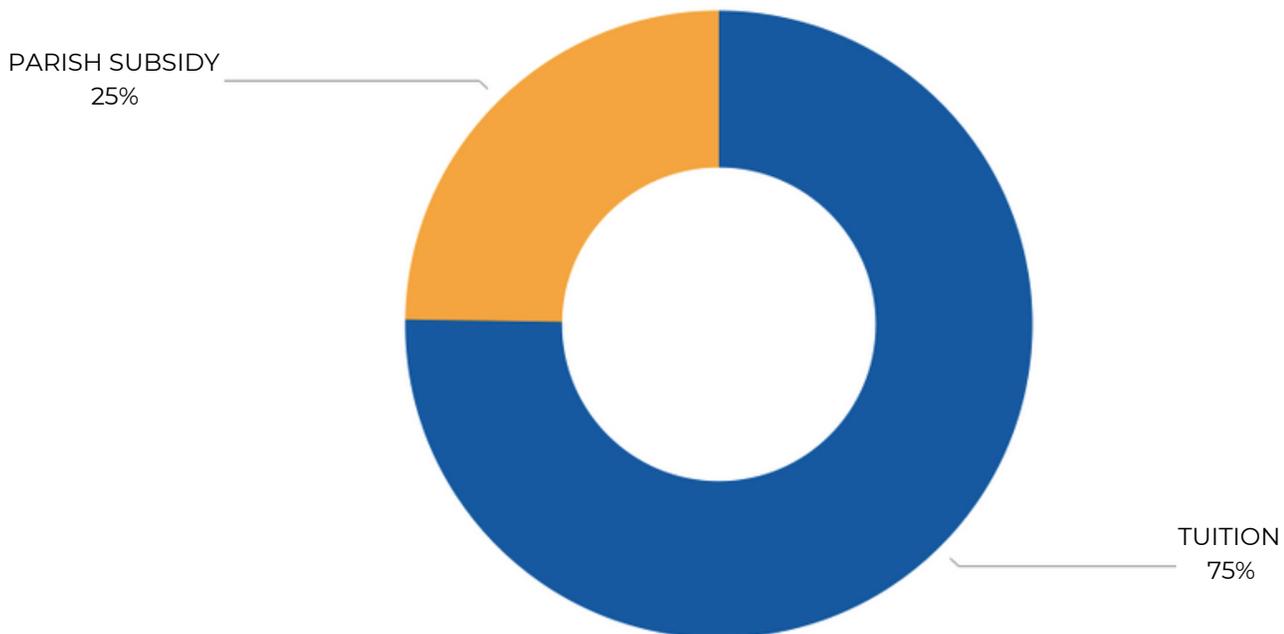
We greatly appreciate and understand the financial sacrifice our families make to provide their children with an education at our school. However, tuition only covers a portion of the cost to educate a student at our schools. The remaining amount is supported by parish subsidy, private donations, grants and tuition assistance resources.

Your tuition investment goes towards high-caliber educators, enhanced learning experiences, the latest technology as well as moral and emotional education for your child. In addition, we offer tuition solutions and assistance programs — no family is turned away if they cannot pay full tuition.

In 2020-2021, 64 percent of our students received tuition assistance from the Catholic Tuition Organization totalled \$301,715. The average award was \$1,724 per student.

## TUITION AND COST TO EDUCATE

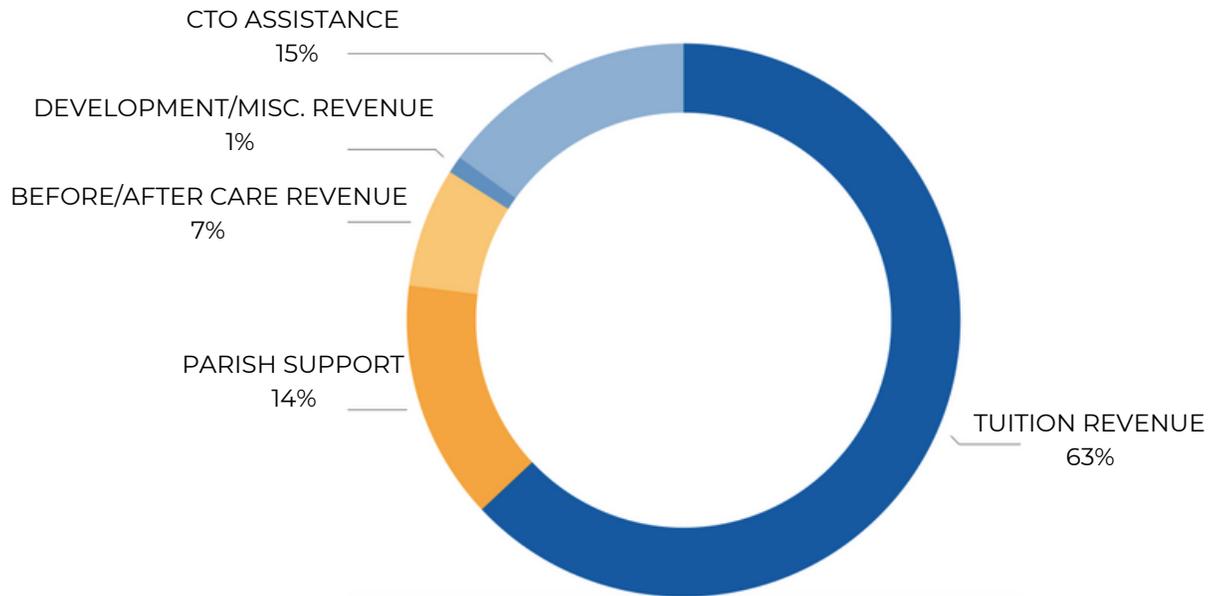
- Cost to Educate = \$5,465/student
- Average Tuition = \$4,112/student
- Parish Subsidy for all students = \$1,353/student



# FINANCIAL DATA

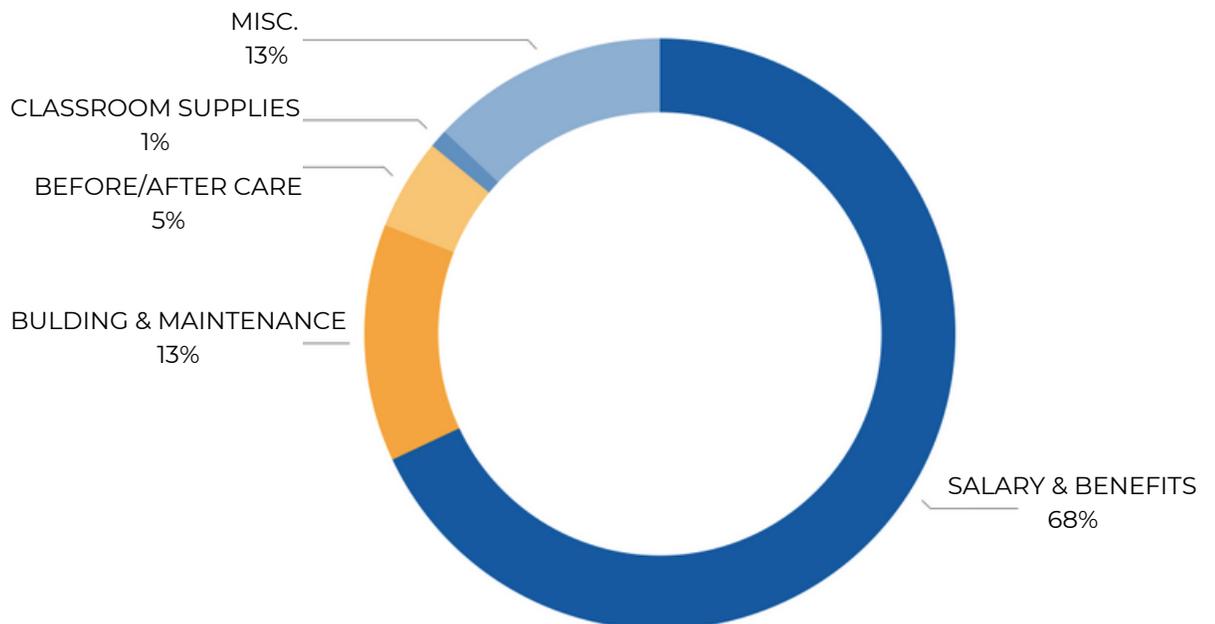
INCOME = \$2,025,380

- Tuition Revenue = \$1,283,697
- Parish Support = \$276,861
- Before and After Care = \$138,625
- CTO Tuition Assistance = \$301,715
- Development and Misc Revenues = \$24,482



EXPENSES = \$1,724,560

- Salaries and Benefits = \$1,179,857
- Buildings and Maintenance = \$217,528
- Before and After Care Programs = \$83,048
- Classroom Supplies = \$3032
- Misc. = \$241,095



St. Anthony Catholic School  
16 Columbus Avenue . Des Moines 50315 . 515-243-1874