

2020-2021 SCHOOL REPORT

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL



Purpose Statement

St. John's Lutheran School prepares students for service, mission, and leadership through its academic strength, partnership with parents, and Christ-centered environment.

Core Values

Faith, Excellence, Partnership, and Opportunity.



COVID-19

We began the school year with in-person learning, five days per week, on August 19, 2020; we maintained in-person learning for the duration of the school year.

We know that in-person school is our ideal practice of teaching and learning. We also know that children learn more than academics at school, they also learn social and emotional skills. To that end, we created a COVID Health and Safety Plan to ensure "safe and responsible" policies, procedures, and preventive measures that allowed us to offer in-person teaching and learning at school.



Our school year looked a little different than past years and we had minimal COVID interruptions. We met together in classrooms for learning, we ate lunch in the cafeteria and classrooms, we enjoyed recess and the outdoor classroom, we went on virtual field trips, we played school sports, we participated in academic contests, we enjoyed fun activities during National Lutheran Schools Week, and we worshiped in our weekly chapel service.

We thank our school leaders, School Board, health officials, and staff for creating and executing our school re-opening plans. And we thank our school parents for their trust and confidence that our Health and Safety Plan provided safety and protection for our St. John's community.



FAITH

Jesus. Prayer and Worship. Christian Values.

- School Theme: GOD REMAINS
- School Verse: "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you". 1 Peter 5:10
- Eight child baptisms in 2020-2021 school year (due to direct school ministry).
- Six adult members joined St. John's in 2019-2020 (due to direct school ministry).
- Offered a Winter VBS and "Journey to Bethlehem" and "Journey to Easter" events and resources for Preschool-Grade 4.
- Provided weekly chapel services during the school year, with monthly preschool chapel chats.
- Celebrated baptism birthdays with chapel services.
- Participated in National Day of Prayer stations on campus.



EXCELLENCE

Academics. Teachers. Educational Technology.

- Grade 8 (Class of 2021): Graduated 10 students; seven graduates will attend LHSS.
- Academic Team (Grades 7-8) participated in competitions with other Lutheran schools.

FACTS & INFO

- Enrollment (Oct 1, 2021):
Preschool: 53
Grades K-8: 129
- Student Church:
St. John's: 54%
Other Lutheran: 9%
Other Church: 13%
None: 24%
- PS-8 Staffing (full-time and part-time):
Teachers: 18
Administration: 4
Support Staff: 13
- Awarded \$107,303 in tuition assistance to K-8 need-based families.
- 95% of K-8 children received a tuition discount or financial aid.
- Eligible K-8 children received an average of \$2,956 in tuition reduction (includes financial aid and discounts).
- School improvements: installed hand sanitizer stations, replaced school athletic field fence, installed new playground surface, created a "digging pit", installed a playground shade structure, purchased picnic tables and benches, installed ADA-compliant classroom door handles, added protective screens for school lobby desk.



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- Provided new and expanded outdoor classroom learning opportunities.
- Administered standardized tests in April 2021. School testing results:

	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5	Gr 6	Gr 7	Gr 8
English Lang Arts NPR	66	67	70	55	79	81
GE	4.4	5.6	7.1	7.1	10.8	13+
Math NPR	72	54	67	56	75	73
GE	4.6	5.0	6.8	7.3	10.2	11.8

NPR: National Percentile Rank | GE: Grade Equivalent

- Awarded 5-year National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) status.
- Nominated for three NLSA Powerful Practice Awards: church and school relationships, outdoor classroom, and Cadets (peer tutoring program).
- Teachers leaving at end of 2020-2021: Molly Baker (Gr 1), Sharon Florine (Gr 1), Kelly McCord (Music), Nick Platipodis (Phy Ed).

PARTNERSHIP

Home + School + Church = Working Together.

- Hosted 40+ veterans at Veteran's Day Chapel.
- Partnered with Care Connections to support families with Christmas gifts.
- Virtual school auction raised \$70,000 for tuition assistance and resources.
- Offered in-person and virtual parent nights and parent-teacher conferences to build home and school partnerships.
- Hosted a virtual Grandparents Day to connect children with grandparents.
- Hosted two Book Fairs to purchase library books.
- Connected preschool with the Community Garden project.

OPPORTUNITY

Beyond 3R's. Leadership. Service. Mission.

- Children participated in individual and group service and mission projects during National Lutheran Schools Week.
- Offered a virtual Christmas program with songs and videos.
- Raised \$8,177 to support American Heart Association research.
- Students participated in school sports: volleyball, soccer, and basketball.
- Recognized children for BE Awards (BE responsible, BE respectful, and BE safe).

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Principal David Florine announced his retirement, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Since February, the Head of School Call Committee has been actively searching for a suitable replacement; in fact, over 50 candidates have been considered and half of those have been actively pursued. Unfortunately, we have not yet found the right fit. As a result, we are implementing an alternative leadership plan for the upcoming school year.

This alternative leadership plan is twofold. First, Principal Florine has graciously agreed to remain on staff at St. John's in a part-time capacity to provide ongoing school support, including necessary preparations for the 2021-2022 school year. Second, a School Leadership Team (SLT), comprised of teachers and staff members will be appointed. Managed by Principal Florine, the SLT will oversee the daily operations of the school. Although this solution is temporary, we are confident that it will allow us to provide the same level of excellence that has become synonymous with St. John's.

Please know that the Head of School Call Committee continues to search for the person God has chosen to serve us here at St. John's. We ask for your ongoing prayers as we move through this process, knowing that God's timing is always perfect.