

ST. THERESE CATHOLIC ACADEMY

ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

"Behold...I make all things new!" - Revelation 21:5



ST. THERESE CATHOLIC ACADEMY
IGNITING FAITH, MINDS & DREAMS SINCE 1927

GREETINGS, STCA FAMILY!

Our 92nd school year will certainly go down as one of the most unique in St. Therese history! The spring of 2020 brought changes that none of us could have predicted when we embraced the theme, "**Behold, I make all things new!**" However, this theme could not have been more fitting for this past year.

We embraced a **dual-leadership model** by welcoming our new vice principal, Mrs. Teresa R. Day, to lead our academic program, and this setup was paramount in our transition to a remote learning setup with many of our families in need of support. However, despite the many challenges of 2020, **this past year was filled with blessings and continued growth for our community.** We served 168 children from 123 families and ended the year with 165 students, our **highest end of year enrollment in over a decade!**

While the financial ramifications from COVID-19 resulted in significant reductions in tuition for dozens of families, **God was most definitely good to us** throughout the year. We saw increases in all of our fundraising efforts and were blessed in with two major gifts from the Knights of Columbus (see p. 4). Further, we had a loan forgiven and were able to pay down our historical debts by over \$130,000. Truly, God is good!

- Mr. Matthew D. DeBoer, Principal

FINANCIALS

2019-20 Revenue

Tuition + Fees	\$963,420
Subsidies, Fulcrum & Scholarships	\$269,935
Development	\$384,718 (+70%)
+ Auction	\$148,545 (+27%)
+ Annual Fund	\$107,490 (+75%)
Other Revenue	\$ 46,894

TOTAL \$1,664,967 (+3%)

2019-20 Expenses

Salaries + Benefits	\$1,168,239
Supplies	\$ 45,285
Programs	\$ 88,142
Oper. + Maint.	\$ 50,827(-40%)
Development	\$ 5,312
Other Expenses	\$ 147,744

TOTAL \$1,505,549 (+1%)
NET INCOME \$ 159,418 (+20%)

2019-20 STCA Tuition Assistance
\$368,074 for 76 families

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE SCHOLARS & TEACHERS

Wayne J. Melonson Legacy Scholarship Fund Update

Established in December 2017 to fund tuition assistance for legacy students & multichild families and high school scholarships for 8th Grade graduates earning awards at commencement, our scholarship fund continues to grow. In 2019-20, we received **33 gifts totaling an amazing \$23,077.** To continue to honor the legacy of Mr. Melonson, who continues to bless our community from above, we will install a memorial plaque on our campus on his birthday, October 6, 2020.

Congratulations to valedictorian, Nadia Ray, a 9-year STCA Allstar who received this year's Wayne J. Melonson Academic Excellence Award and a scholarship to Kennedy Catholic High School.



Teacher Excellence Fund Update

Launched in January 2019, this fund was established to help increase our salary scale and fund continued education and professional development for our amazing "Dream Team" of teachers. In our first six months, we received 70 gifts totaling \$13,101. We began the year with a \$60,000 fundraising goal, and put this front and center for our auction fund-a-need. Our St. Therese Family responded with great love as we brought in **\$72,512 from 156 unique gifts! THANK YOU!**

ACTIVE FAITH



Virtual Faith in Action & Holy Week

When we shifted off campus, we wondered what faith in action would look like. Looking back, we can celebrate that we livestreamed our daily morning and afternoon prayer assemblies, shared a Passover meal over Zoom with buddy classes, our 8th Graders pulled off a virtual Passion Play to conclude a virtual Holy Week, and we began a weekly Rosary for Justice to discern our call to *act with justice!* It remains true that **"We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!"**



"We are Called to Act with Justice"

The tragic murder of George Floyd hit all of us hard in the final weeks of school. In times of tragedy, we don't always know what to do, so we hit our knees and prayed. Our staff led the weekly Rosary for Justice, our middle school students organized a socially distanced prayer service, rally, and march for racial justice (with hundreds in attendance), and our 2nd Grade students processed their grief by articulating their dreams in conjunction with a powerful mural reinforcing our belief that Black Lives Matter. Our work for justice is by no means complete, but rooted in our faith, we march onward together.



INSPIRING ACADEMICS

Student Support Services Expanded

One major goal for our academic program this year was increasing and improving support services for our students. We ended the year with **11 students engaged with services provided in partnership with Seattle Public Schools**. All of these students - and more - also have newly adopted STCA Student Support Plans (SSP). During remote learning, we adapted these SSPs and wrote **18 Remote Support Plans**. Our Student Support Services Coordinator and School Counselor roles were made possible by our 2017 Auction Fund-a-Need.



Remote Learning Reinvention

Our Blended Learning program, dedicated staff and families, and the grace of God allowed for a remarkable transition to remote learning. With a few hours notice, **all students went home with their school-provided laptops and tools to learn from afar**. It took a few weeks to build routines, but we persevered for the final 12 weeks of the year from home. There were amazing projects completed: Animal Research in K-2, a virtual Poetry Slam, death penalty debates in middle school, a virtual Science Fair, and the virtual Talent Show to name a few. The learning curve was vast, but the creativity of all was awe-inspiring! This success speaks to the **essential and strong partnership between school and home** that makes *excellence happen on purpose!*



Preschool Summer Program Successfully Launched

We were planning to pilot a summer preschool program throughout the year. While COVID-19 altered the scope of this endeavor, we **served 18 students from 12 families in our debut 8-week preschool summer program**. With a theme of "Allstars around the World," our team led the students through learning about the 7 continents and various cultures across the globe. With a mix of academic and socially-distanced recreational activities, all signs point to this as an initiative that is here to stay! As one parent shared at pick-up one day, **"This program was a real game-changer for our family!"**



DYNAMIC COMMUNITY



Blessed by the Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus Council #676 are dedicated to investing in and supporting local ministries that align with their mission and values. Their focus this year was on Catholic schools. Of the 72 schools in the Archdiocese of Seattle, two were chosen to be blessed with major gifts this year, and we were one of them! At the start of Advent and on St. Patrick's Day, we were invited to their gatherings to share a meal, and we unexpectedly left both of the events with **blessings (checks) totaling \$100,000!** Thank you again, Knights - your blessing could not have been better timed or more appreciated!

Solidarity Amidst the Storm - The Family that Prays Together, Stays Together

2020 has been a year like no other, but our St. Therese Family has truly stayed together during these times. **Our families remained committed to us** through the dedication of their time and willingness to pay tuition for a completely different way of doing school that asked MORE of them. Thanks to this dedication from our families and the generosity mentioned above, we were able to creatively keep our entire staff employed and **formed a Family Support Team that made outreach to families** to check-in with them, offer a friendly ear or conversation partner, and connect them to resources when needed. There was no blueprint for how to navigate this unprecedented time, but with faith and hope, we stayed together. For this, we are grateful!

The Class of 2020 is Making Us Proud!

+ **8th Grade - 100% of our 8th Grade graduates were accepted into Catholic high schools**, including several full-ride scholarships! This marks the **third consecutive year** in which all of our students were accepted into at least one Catholic high school!



+ **STCA Alumni - Our Class of 2016 graduates** made their marks at various local high schools. This fall, you'll find STCA grads attending: **Seattle U, Howard University, Princeton University, the College of Charleston, Hampton University, and beyond!**

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020-21

"Do JUSTICE. Love MERCY. Walk HUMBLY with our God." - Micah 6:8

Every year we discern a theme rooted in Scripture to guide our school year. Last year's theme could not have been more apropos as we truly did *make all things new*. We do not yet know what God has in store for the 2020-21 school year, but we do know what God expects of us: the prophet Micah makes that clear in the verse articulated above.

This is our call, no matter the circumstances. Thus, as we embark on yet another school year filled with uncertainty and unpredictability, we pray in gratitude for our community of families and supporters and for guidance to heed the call to **do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.** With our students and Dream Team of teachers lighting the way, we're excited to see where listening to this prophetic call will lead us in this school year and beyond!

