

2022-2023

# ANNUAL REPORT



St. Francis Parish School



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# Deacon's Spiritual Statement



My Dearest St. Francis Parents, Staff, and Teachers,

As we look back upon yet another amazing year at St. Francis Parish School, I can't help but marvel at the Glory of God's hand at work as He continues to bless this community of such strong faith. What a blessing it has been for me to witness the personal and spiritual growth of the staff, students, and their families; I know God has great plans for each and every one of them. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Our Principal, Kelli Gruszka, and Director of Pre-school, Kelli Baker, have remained steadfast in monitoring and building a strong and unified staff in the spirit of St. Francis, and our school continues to grow on many levels. I am enthusiastic about our teachers, new and tenured, that bring such life-giving energy and spirit to our school. Together, we can build upon a faith community that teaches our children the faith and values of our Catholic traditions, grounded in scripture, and how to live them in our daily life.

These principles begin with you at home, with the environment you set in prayer, at Mass, and being involved in the faith formation of your children, as a family. I am excited about a new year and new beginnings in the love and spirit of our Patron Saint, St. Francis of Assisi.

In Christ,

Deacon Francis Moore  
Member, St. Francis School Finance Council

# From the Principal's Office

Dear Family and Friends of St. Francis Parish School:

For 113 years, through the efforts and partnership of dedicated administration, parents, teachers, and staff, St. Francis Parish School has been a place where students can learn to be active members of their faith community and responsible citizens. We welcome families of all faiths and backgrounds to join us on our educational journey. We honor each child as an individual and seek to nurture their spiritual, intellectual, social, and physical growth, as our goal is that every child is successful in the classroom and in life.

Our improvements to learning, service, activities, and facilities never stop. We are committed to our students and families in all that we do. Our focus academically is to continuously review our expectations and ensure that students are provided with a rigorous education. We have set learning goals in engagement, higher-level thinking, and differentiated learning with the assistance of standardized testing and the addition of a strong resource team. Once again, we have been recognized by our PLTW S.T.R.E.A.M. program as a "Distinguished School." Our students are learning and having fun.

This past year's campus improvements included replacing 10 HVAC units, a complete facelift of our preschool, more security cameras, hiring a security guard, and the addition of a TK classroom. It is our goal to keep our beautiful school maintained and inviting for learning. We are blessed by the financial support of our Foundation and school families who give above and beyond tuition. I would like to thank our PTO and countless volunteers who help in every way possible. Their presence at our school and in fundraising is essential in supporting the financial health of our school and is critical to who we are as a community.

All of us at St. Francis Parish School look forward to partnering with your families for another year of Faith-filled Education.



**Kelli  
Gruszka**



# Mission Statement

Established in 1910, the mission of St. Francis Parish School (SFPS) is to provide excellence in Catholic education by preparing critical-thinking, disciplined, active Christian leaders. We continue to educate our students by abiding by our Core Values of:

## Spirituality

Our primary mission is that our children will come to know, love, and be excited to serve God as faithful citizens and active Christian leaders who will understand and defend their Catholic faith.

## Instruction

We strive toward excellence in Catholic education, educating the whole child while providing a joy-filled academic experience that challenges and encourages students to reach their academic and spiritual potential through modern curriculum and technology.

## Administration

An administration that is responsive, consistent, accountable, representative, inclusive, and engaging all stakeholders in the program.

## Communication

Create a positive community with mutual respect between teachers, administration, students, parents, and the parish through consistent communication.



# Strategic Priorities

## Deepen Learning

Due to the dedication of our teachers and staff, most of our students excelled on the annual STAR Assessments, with many students scoring two or three grade levels ahead in both math and reading. More detailed grade-by-grade data are shown on pages 8-9. Amazing coaching by our teachers and staff guided our student teams to awards in wide-ranging extra-curricular academic competitions. (Please see more information on page 10.)

During the 2022-2023 school year we participated in the Diocesan Academic Decathlon, Science Fair, Battle of the Books, and Knowledge Bowl. This is a testament to the hard work of our school team, students, and parents, as well as the innovation of our school leadership team.

## Continuous Improvement

In an effort to support our teachers as they enrich their professional careers, the board believes that it is important to provide time for our teachers to collaborate, receive professional development, and work within their professional learning communities (PLCs). These endeavors will have many positive effects on our students and will improve an already stellar education at St. Francis Parish School. PLC interactions will allow us to work on WASC certification, review the effectiveness of our curriculum vertically across grade levels and look at effective approaches to differentiated learning.

## Building a Supportive, Faith-based Community

We pride ourselves on the strength of our Catholic community, which includes teachers, staff, students, parents, and parishioners. We offer weekly Mass on campus, and parents are welcome to attend! Here at St. Francis, we celebrate our faith and traditions throughout the year, with All Saints Day and St. Albert's Science Day in November, a Christmas music program in December, Stations of the Cross during Lent, Easter celebrations, and May Crowning & First Holy Communion in May. We strive to live out our faith & love for our neighbors with food collections for local charities and providing Blessing Bags to feed the hungry here in our hometown.

# 2022-2023 FAST FACTS

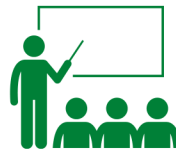


## 418 TOTAL STUDENTS

Average Class Size: 22:1

198 : Grades 1- 5      119: Grades 6-8

38 : Kindergarten    63 : Preschool



## 30 PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS



## GRADUATES

42 - 8th Grade

“Our teachers at St. Francis share **151 years of teaching at St. Francis** over 250 years of teaching all together.”



## 311- FAMILIES



## FAITH

92% Students: Catholic

8% Students: Other Faiths



## BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

20 Participants

**29** - NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN ACADECA or KNOWLEDGE BOWL

## ACADEMIC SUMMARY

STAR Reading Grade Level

STAR Reading- St.Francis

STAR Math- Grade Level

STAR Math - St. Francis



St FRANCIS is performing 37% over grade-level for reading and 41% for math.

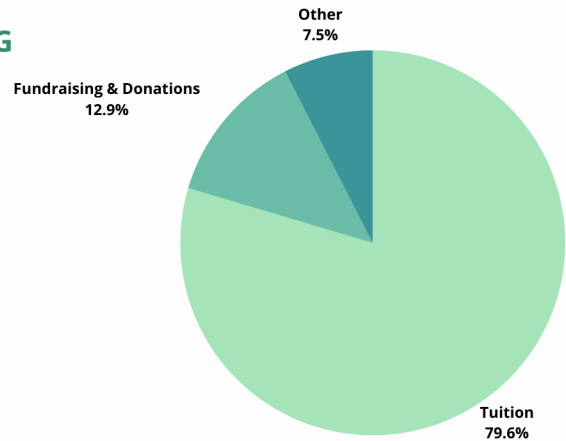
# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

We planned the year with a budget for 357 students enrolled, not counting the preschool. When school started, we had an enrollment of 373 students and ended the year with 366 students. We budgeted a profit for the year of \$55,000 plus fundraising, in order to rebuild our reserve account and allow for much-needed CapEx items. We finished the year just below our target profit but we were able to increase our CapEx spending due to our incredible donors and all of our fundraising support. Our Finance Committee would once again like to thank all of our teachers and staff for the hard work and commitment to provide an excellent learning experience for our students. We had a wonderful year due to the love, prayers, and the support of our parents, students, staff, and families here at St. Francis Parish School. We look forward to many more successful years!

**Fundraising is a crucial supplementary income for our school.** Tuition makes up the majority of our income and that is used primarily to cover the actual costs to educate each child. Our school receives additional funds through fundraising and grants that we use for additional expenses such as building and ground maintenance, exploring, procuring, and training in new programs.

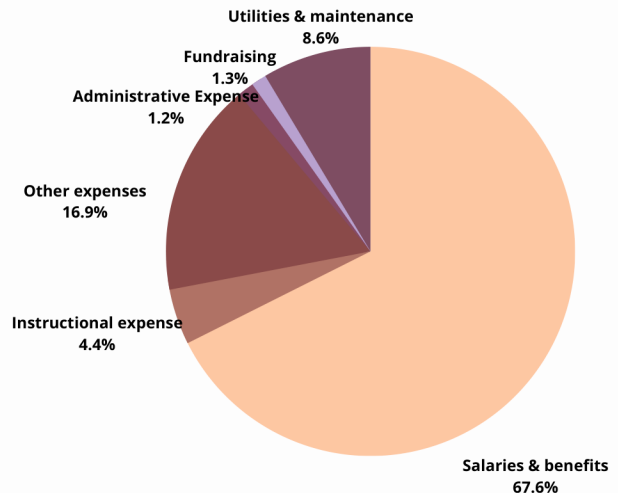
OPERATING INCOME		
Tuition	\$3,496,466	79.6%
Fundraising & Donations	\$563,823	12.9%
Other	\$330,686	7.5%
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$4,390,975</b>	

**TOTAL OPERATING INCOME**



OPERATING EXPENSE		
Salaries & Benefits	\$2,854,438	67.6%
Utilities & Maintenance	\$363,014	8.6%
Instructional Expense	\$184,854	4.4%
Fundraising	\$54,392	1.3%
Administrative Expense	\$52,042	1.2%
Other Expenses	\$716,835	16.9%
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>\$4,225,575</b>	

**TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES**





# ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE REVIEW

## STAR Reading Grade Equivalency Fall 2022

Grade Level

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Year of the Test								
Fall 2016	NA	2.8	4	5.3	5.9	7.3	7.8	9.6
Fall 2017	1.9	3	3.9	4.8	5.7	6.3	8.4	9.1
Fall 2018	1.9	3.2	4.2	5.1	6.3	6.5	6.9	9.5
Fall 2019	1.9	2.9	4.2	5.2	6.3	6.8	7.6	8.3
Fall 2020	1.5	3	4	5.2	6.2	7.2	7.9	10.4
Fall 2021	2.1	3.6	4.2	5	6.4	6.9	8.4	9.1
Fall 2022	1.4	3.3	4	5	5.7	7.5	7.3	9.4

## STAR Reading Grade Level Equivalency Fall 2022 (Returning Students)

Grade	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Grade Equiv	1.4	3.3	4	5	5.7	7.5	7.3	9.4

# ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE REVIEW

## STAR Math Grade Equivalency Fall 2022

### Grade Level

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Year of the Test	Fall 2016	NA	2.3	3.6	4.7	5.9	8.2	11.4	12.9+
Fall 2017	NA	2.5	3.5	4.7	6.6	6.9	12.4	12.9+	
Fall 2018	NA	2.4	3.7	4.8	6.6	8.6	10.1	12.6	
Fall 2019	NA	2.6	3.8	4.9	6.7	8.1	12.6	12.5	
Fall 2020	1.9	2.6	3.5	4.8	6	9.6	11.4	13	
Fall 2021	1.3	2.6	3.6	4.8	7.3	9.2	10.9	11	
Fall 2022	1.7	2.8	3.8	4.8	6.1	9	9.4	11.7	

## STAR Math Grade Level Equivalency Fall 2022 (Returning Students)

Grade	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Grade Equiv	1.7	2.8	3.8	4.8	6.1	9	9.4	11.7

# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Thanks to our comprehensive academic program and strong teaching staff, we are delighted to present our extra-curricular academic achievements.



## Diocese of Fresno Academic Decathlon

- 1st PLACE OVERALL
- 2nd PLACE LOGIC
- 1st PLACE ENGLISH
- 1st PLACE FINE ARTS
- 2nd PLACE MATH, SOCIAL STUDIES
- 3rd PLACE RELIGION



## History Day

- 27 STUDENTS COMPETED
- SEVERAL HONORABLE MENTIONS & 4 STATE FINALISTS FOR INDIVIDUAL PAPERS, INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE, DOCUMENTARIES, GROUP WEBSITES



## Knowledge Bowl Kern County

- TOP THREE IN 7/8 MATH
- TOP THREE IN 5/6 ENGLISH
- TWO TOP-TEN INDIVIDUALS IN 5/6



## Knights of Columbus Essay Contest

- 1st PLACE
- 2nd PLACE



## KERN COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR

STUDENTS THAT MOVED ON TO K.C. SCIENCE FAIR

- THREE 5TH GRADERS
- THREE 6TH GRADERS
- THREE 8TH GRADERS
- One 2nd place finish at county level
- One 1st place finish at county level
- One student project was nominated for Thermo Fisher Junior Innovators Challenge



# OUR YEAR REVIEW IN PHOTOS



Scouts



Athletics



St. Albert's Science Day



1st Holy Communion



Go Chargers!!



1st Place Acadeca Champs



CrabFest



Community



Monthly Virtue Awards



Faith



Fun



Friends



# SCHOOL BOARD STATEMENT

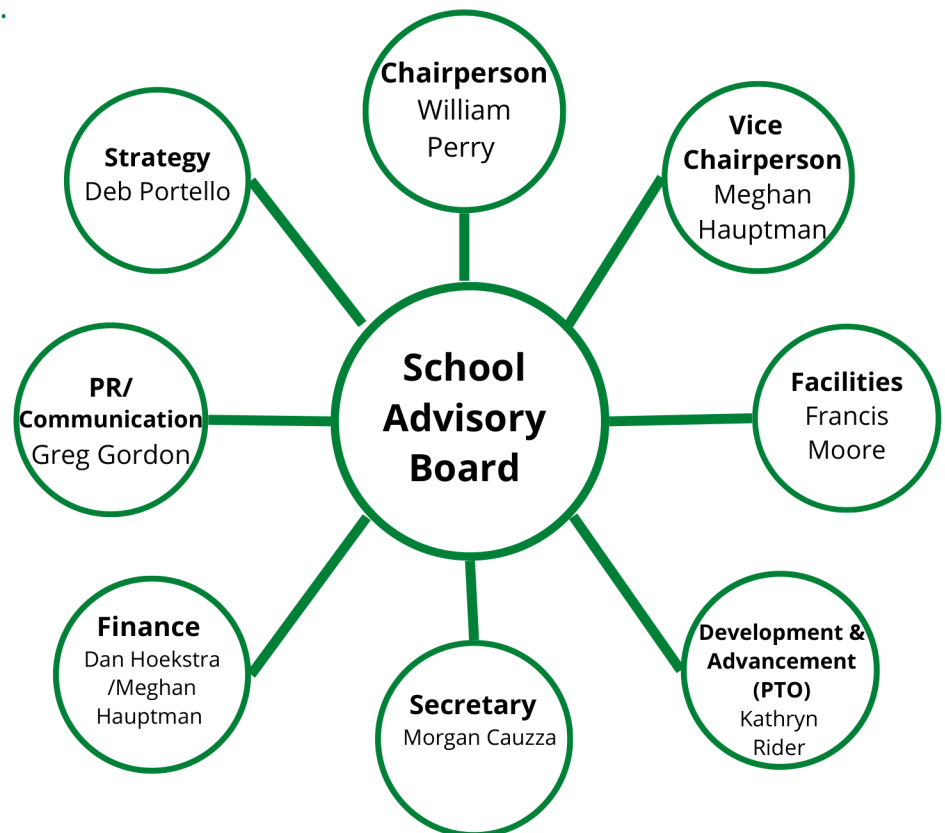
Wow, another school year is under way! The years just fly by, but I think we can all say we are very blessed to be a part of the St. Francis community! Our School Advisory Board is set to begin meeting on Tuesday, August 29th. We are excited to announce that Meghan Hauptman was elected for her second term working with finance as well as our newly elected member Jessica Gianelli. I would also like to thank Deb Portello for her past three years of service to our school community.

We would like to invite all community members at our school to be actively involved by joining us at the board meetings and getting involved with committees. Our community is much stronger with greater family engagement. Keep an eye out for the weekly newsletters for dates of our meetings!

In closing, I would like to thank our administration for all the behind-the-scenes work they put in to help create a safe and enjoyable experience for our children's educational growth. Without them, none of this would be possible.

St. Francis, pray for us!

-- William Perry  
(SAB President for 2022-23)



# PTO Statement



The Saint Francis Parish School PTO mission is to foster and promote a better understanding and a closer relationship between school, home, and the church. Our goal is for parents and teachers to effectively work together in communicating, educating, and financially supporting the best possible Catholic education at St. Francis Parish School.

To cultivate a rich atmosphere of clear communication, our PTO strives to be inclusive to all parents, grandparents, and caregivers.

The PTO takes pride in providing events to bolster our community and learning environment, such as St. Albert's Day, Blessing of the Animals, and The Spring Fling Carnival.

St. Francis PTO funds school needs big and small that are not covered by the school budget, from essentials like ergonomic chairs to extras like drama programs or field trips.

Please contact us with any questions:

[PTO@stfrancisparishschool.com](mailto:PTO@stfrancisparishschool.com)



# CLASS OF 2023



Every year we are amazed at how much our graduates have grown academically and spiritually over their years at St. Francis Parish School. They are dedicated students who support each other and the community. We have great expectations for them and look forward to hearing about their journey to high school and beyond. We are very proud of our graduates and wish them much success in the years ahead.