

Vision: Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Des Moines, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and the mission of the Church, 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

Mision: To Develop and inspire learning for life by providing a world-class education within a Catholic environment for our students.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

We believe...

- ❑ Catholic schools exist to enable students to learn the traditions and doctrines of the Catholic Church and to carry out the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in their daily lives.
- ❑ Each student in Catholic schools experiences the value of human dignity and the concepts of peace and justice to enable them to be participants in global society.
- ❑ Catholic schools and parishes are partners with parents in the education of the children.
- ❑ Catholic school educators apply research-based curriculum and instructional strategies that enhance the learning of all students.

ESSENTIAL LEARNINGS

Students in the diocesan schools will

- ❑ Access and use information effectively
- ❑ Apply technology competently
- ❑ Think critically and creatively
- ❑ Solve problems independently and cooperatively
- ❑ Reason scientifically, mathematically and historically
- ❑ Accept church, civic and personal responsibility
- ❑ Anticipate and constructively react to change
- ❑ Communicate ideas and feelings effectively in various ways
- ❑ Demonstrate global awareness, cross-cultural understanding and social justice principles
- ❑ Cultivate an understanding and appreciation of the arts

DEMOGRAPHICS

Student Profile

Enrollment by Grade

Grade	Total
Kindergarten	78
First Grade	78
Second Grade	78
Third Grade	78
Fourth Grade	78
Fifth Grade	78
Sixth Grade	75

Seventh Grade	72
Eight Grade	69
Total Enrollment/Total # Families Served	684/410

Enrollment by Gender

Grade	Male	Female
Kindergarten	46	32
First Grade	43	35
Second Grade	36	42
Third Grade	42	36
Fourth Grade	46	32
Fifth Grade	51	27
Sixth Grade	43	32
Seventh Grade	39	33
Eight Grade	41	28
Total	387	297

STAFF PROFILE

In 2008-2009 there were 43 members on the St. Francis administrative and teaching staff. Our support staff consisted of 21 adult staff members.

Administrative and Teaching Staff

Degrees				Years Experience					
BA	BA+12 credits	BA+24 credits	MA+	0-4 20+	5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
16	8	9	10	18	3	10	6	4	2

Additional Staff

Office	2 Full Time 1 Part Time
Technology	1 Full Time 1 Part Time
Nurse	1 Part Time
Kids Care	4 Adults 6 Part Time high school students
Food Service	6 Part Time
Teacher Associates	6 Part Time

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The educational cost per pupil for 2008-2009 school year was \$3,850. This amount does not include the capital expenditures for the new kindergarten furnishings. Additional financial support comes from the parish budget and the Home and School Association. The parish as a whole provides the building facility and the majority of the furnishings.

Cost Per Pupil Breakdown (Based on 655 students)

Tuition/Fees	\$2,275	(58%)
Parish Contribution	\$1,365	(37%)
Miscellaneous	<u>\$210</u>	(5%)
Total Cost	\$3,850	

School Expense Budget Breakdown

Salaries/Benefits	\$2,248,349	(83%)
Administrative/Program Costs	\$162,980	(6%)
Building and Maintenance	<u>\$211,500</u>	(11%)
Total Expenditures	\$2,622,829	

OVERALL IOWA TEST OF BASIC SKILLS RESULTS

This chart shows longitudinal data on the ITBS. The purpose of this data is to track student achievement over time. Please note: A single class is followed diagonally down the chart. (F=Fall Testing / S= Spring Testing)

National Percentile Rank

Reading Comp.	2001-02 (S)	2002-03 (F)	2003-04 (F)	2004-05 (S)	2005-06 (S)	2006-07 (S)	2007-08 (F)	2008-09 (F)
Grade 3	96	99	99	97	97	97	93	94
Grade 4		97	99	99	99	99	97	95
Grade 5			98	99	99	99	95	95
Grade 6				88	98	98	96	90
Grade 7					92	99	98	96
Grade 8						94	98	97

Math PS	2001-02 (S)	2002-03 (F)	2003-04 (F)	2004-05 (S)	2005-06 (S)	2006-07 (S)	2007-08 (F)	2008-09 (F)
Grade 3	94	99	99	98	97	97	96	92
Grade 4		97	99	99	99	99	99	93
Grade 5			91	99	99	99	99	96
Grade 6				99	99	99	99	99
Grade 7					99	99	99	99
Grade 8						98	99	97

Science	2001-02 (S)	2002-03 (F)	2003-04 (F)	2004-05 (S)	2005-06 (S)	2006-07 (S)	2007-08 (F)	2008-09 (F)
Grade 3	97	99	99	99	99	97	98	95
Grade 4		97	99	99	99	99	99	96
Grade 5			99	99	99	99	99	98
Grade 6				98	98	99	99	97
Grade 7						99	99	97
Grade 8							99	97

Composite	2001-02 (S)	2002-03 (F)	2003-04 (F)	2004-05 (S)	2005-06 (S)	2006-07 (S)	2007-08 (F)	2008-09 (F)
Grade 3	97	99	99	99	99	98	99	96
Grade 4		97	99	99	99	99	99	96
Grade 5			98	99	99	99	99	97
Grade 6				97	99	99	99	96
Grade 7					96	99	99	97
Grade 8						98	99	99

* National Percentile Rank compares the school average of St. Francis of Assisi to the averages of other schools across the country.

* Composite Total includes Reading, Language, Math, Social Studies and Science scores.

Percentage of Students scoring in the Proficient Level

The State of Iowa uses the following proficiency levels to measure achievement: Less Than Proficient, Proficient, and Advanced. The percentage of students scoring in the Proficient is a combination of Proficient and Advanced ranges.

Percentage of St. Francis students scoring in the Proficient Range on Iowa Test of Basic Skills 2008-2009

Grade Level	Reading	Math	Science
Grade 3	96	92	95
Grade 4	97	94	96
Grade 5	96	96	97
Grade 6	89	97	97
Grade 7	97	98	97
Grade 8	99	97	98

2008-2009 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT GOALS

READING

During the 2008-2009 school year, fifth grade students at St. Francis of Assisi School will show an increase from 26.9% to 32% of students who are in the advanced range in Reading Comprehension as measured by the national school norms on the ITBS Reading Comprehension assessment.

MATH

During the 2008-2009 school year, fourth grade students at St. Francis of Assisi School will show a decrease from 9% to 7% of students who are in the less than proficient range in Math as measured by the national school norms on the ITBS Math Problem Solving assessment.

SCIENCE

During the 2008-2009 school year, fourth grade students at St. Francis of Assisi School will show a decrease from 9% to 7% of students who are in the less than proficient range in Science as measured by the national school norms on the ITBS Science assessment.

2008-2009 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS

READING

Reading	2007-08	2008-09
Grade 4	26.9	
Grade 5		24.7

Decreased by 7.3 % of the students; after analyzing our H.E.A.R.T. online data from AEA 11, we were able to identify the students who dropped from the Advanced Range to the Proficient Range and also the students that dropped from the Proficient range to the Less Than Proficient range so that we use extra support to increase student achievement levels;

MATH

Math	2007-08	2008-09
Grade 3	9	
Grade 4		6.1

Decreased by 2.9% of the students

SCIENCE

Science	2007-08	2008-09
Grade 3	9	
Grade 4		2.1

Decreased by 6.9% of the students

2008-2009 SCHOOL GOAL RESULTS

Indicators of Success in Other Local Goal Areas

SPIRITUAL GOALS

St. Francis School students will continue to experience a variety of prayer formats.

Progress toward Goal

All students participated in Advent and Lenten Prayer Services as well as Rosary in the months of October and May

School Masses were cantered by students in grades one through eighth grade; each class took turn in planning and facilitating the Mass on their assigned day for the entire school

Students in grades 3-8 experienced guided meditations in prayer

Fourth graders continued to complete Gospel reflection after each school Mass

Second graders learned appropriate Mass parts

All kindergarten students attended Mass from the beginning of the school year and learned the *Our Father* as well as other prayers.

Faculty experienced a variety of prayer forms during their faculty meetings with online slide videos, teacher created slide shows, and centering prayer during a Faith Formation Day.

SOCIAL GOALS for 2008-2009

1. The St. Francis School faculty and staff will continue recognizing students through monthly character awards.
2. The St. Francis School faculty and staff will review the social skills program in accordance to the discipline plan reflected for their grade level.

Progress Toward Goals

Monthly character awards were awarded to two students per grade section following the Character Counts themes

The social skills of *Body Basics, Line Basics, and How to Follow Directions* were taught and emphasized during first trimester. Second trimester social skills taught and emphasized were *How to Participate in a Discussion* and *How to Apologize*. Third trimester social skills taught and emphasized were *How to Give and Accept a Compliment* and *How to Respond to Teasing*. Administration addressed specifically *How to Negotiate, How to Apologize, and How to Disagree* with all students referred to them by teachers

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR 2008-2009

THE BUILDING LITERACY TEAM (BLT) will work to strengthen curriculum in the area of written language by piloting written curriculum and grammar alignment in grades sixth through eighth grade with the revised Standards and Benchmarks.

THE MATH LITERACY TEAM (MLT) will work to strengthen student accuracy and fluency of math facts using “Thinking with Numbers” and/or “Mastering Math Facts” strategies to enhance the math curriculum.

THE SCIENCE LITERACY TEAM (SLT) will be represented at an Iowa Science conference, form a study team on Inquiry-based instruction, and send three teachers to Star Lab training through AEA 11.

The Related Arts Team will use the message board within our Infinite Campus software program to communicate schedule changes, concerns, and share new ideas with homeroom teachers.

The Faith Based Character committee will continue to study Positive Behavior Supports through AEA 11 and plan for school-wide implementation in 2009-2010, and continue school-wide support of prayer services, rosaries, and special liturgies.

THE FACULTY AND STAFF

- Continue work on the topic of differentiation through classroom implementation and application.
- Share ideas and strategies of differentiation during faculty meetings and staff development days.
- Continue implementation of the new Diocesan Progress Report
 - Kindergarten through Fifth grade teachers will refine meanings for current proficiency levels.
 - Sixth through Eighth grade teachers will define and clarify grade level expectations as they participate in a pilot project with the Diocesan Schools Office on Standards Based Reporting.

TECHNOLOGY

This was another big year for technology as the Parish / School Technology Team worked overtime to ensure the four-year technology plan continued. Thirteen classrooms in grades Kindergarten through Third, and the music room were outfitted with ceiling mounted projectors with Button Mate controls. Additionally, nine Mimio boards, thirteen QOMO wireless tablets, a mobile lab with 13 laptops and locking power station, and one document camera were purchased to be shared among the classrooms. Staff implemented *Infinite Campus*, to replace the outdated *Administrators Plus*, *Gradequick* and *Edline* programs.

MEDIA

An integral part of learning focuses on reading. St. Francis of Assisi School is committed to nurturing the reading ability and interest of every student through an ever-growing library collection. During the 2008-2009 school year the collection increased by 1,069 books bringing the collection total to 18,890. During the 2008-2009 school year there were 30,662 books checked out to 738 patrons.

SERVICES

READING RECOVERY

This half-time program is a short-term intensive tutoring intervention program intended to serve the lowest achieving first-grade students. Students are chosen for this program by school staff, and selection is based on prior reading achievement, diagnostic testing, and teacher recommendations. Its goals are to promote literacy skills and reduce the number of first-grade students who are struggling to reading. Tutoring, which is conducted by our trained Reading Recovery teacher, takes place daily for 30 minutes over 12-20 weeks.

Student Classroom Support

Grades K-5

The 80% K-5 Student Support Program develops a plan to assist each student to obtain the maximum benefit from their educational experience. Instruction takes place in individual and small group settings. The program currently serves 21 students. Recommendations are made by classroom teachers whose assessments indicate less than proficient scores in literacy and math skills, after classroom interventions have proven to be unsuccessful.

Students in the program have demonstrated significant growth in areas of comprehension, fluency, writing, math problem solving, and math computation. The number of students needing extra support has increased the last three years.

Grades 6-8

This full-time program continues assisting any student who was receiving support that must carry-over from fifth grade and includes new referrals throughout the school year. The program currently serves nineteen students, many with comprehensive 504 Accommodation plans, IEP plans, and other interventions necessary for student success. This program also helps transition students from the basically self-contained elementary classrooms into a more transitional middle school setting. The support teacher also works with students on study and organizational skills

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM / TALENTED AND GIFTED EDUCATION

Enrichment education is designed to extend instruction beyond the basic classroom curriculum. This year the enrichment program has translated into whole class programming for all grades. This meant working with grades K-5 for one-half of the year and with grades 6-8, one grade level per trimester. We were able to provide this opportunity in lieu of Spanish programming this year. Along with our work in the classroom, the Curriculum Enhancement committee worked with teachers at all grade levels to help enrich curriculum in certain areas where resources are limited. Some events included cultural dance workshops, WWII panel, an inspect expert, and Poetry Alive.

Some of the extended programming after school includes Geography Bee prep, National History Day, Mock Trial (coached by parent volunteers), and Dowling Catholic Speech contest preparation assisted by Dowling Catholic High School students in conjunction with our enrichment coordinator.

Programming in Talented and Gifted Education is designed to meet the needs of high achieving and high ability students. Students are selected according to Diocesan guidelines centered on standardized test scores and teacher observations. Pull-out programs vary yearly according to student needs and interests.

Both the Enrichment Program and Talented and Gifted Education programs are facilitated by a teacher whose contract is at 80%. These programs are mandated by the Iowa Dept. of Education.

GUIDANCE PROGRAM

This program is also mandated by the Iowa Dept. of Education and is facilitated under the direction of one full-time licensed school guidance counselor. Instruction occurs throughout the year in grades K-5

according to the diocesan standards and benchmarks per grade level and in grades 6-8, twice weekly, and one grade level per trimester. Individual and small group counseling is ongoing according to student and family needs. Outside resources are incorporated to increase student understanding beyond normal classroom instruction. Our guidance counselor would like to work more in small group settings at the middle school level, but we are finding her time is currently utilized to the maximum.

KIDS CARE

Kids Care is a before and after school program. The program offers care before school from 7:00 AM to 8:20 AM and after school from 3:20 PM to 6:00 PM. All students in grades K-8 are welcomed to attend. Last year the program served 167 students. On an average 40 students attend in the morning before school, and 110 attend after school. Kids Care is available for families on Professional Development Days and during Spring break as well. A homework room under the direction of a certified teacher enhances the supervision and academic growth of our students on Monday through Thursday afternoons.

SCHOOL LUNCH

Our school lunch program continues to provide nutritious and delicious meals to our students. Students may purchase extra entrees in grades 3-8 and A La Carte purchases are designed for the middle school students with hearty appetites after their regular lunch is completed. The lunch program purchased a new administrative program, *School Dining Systems* in June to replace the outdated *Café Terminal* program. This web-based program allows on-line access to student accounts to keep parents informed of account activity and balances.

HIGHLIGHTS & SUCCESSES

AEA 11 tech fair- 8 students participated

Musical performances in 6, 7, and 8 grade

Geography Bee

History Day competition- 8th grade: one presentation and one documentary moved onto state; 6th grade received a commendation

Odyssey of the Mind- 2 teams qualified for Nationals

Mock Trial- 4 teams participated with one team qualifying for state

Future architects- completed a model of the new Olympic Training Center

ISU women in Science- 28- 8th grade girls participated

Band- solo and ensemble contest 48 1's and 1+'s

All city band festival- marched at DCHS homecoming

Selected 3-5th graders to sing at Pastoral Center

2 students in Opus (grade 6 & 8)

Mastering Math facts implemented first grade

Intramural sports: basketball, track, volleyball

Standards Based Progress Report for grades K-5

Student council- 12 MS students

Science Fair- 8th grade

Shakespeare Faire- 8th grade

Howans of importance writing

Letters to service men/women

Student support program served 28 students throughout the school year.

8 1st grade students were served in the Reading Recovery Program.

17 students participated in Dowling Catholic High School's Speech Paradigm Tournament.

10 students participate in the local Geography Bee, with one student finishing 7th in the state competition.

Three of the eighth grade students received the Presidential Scholarship from Dowling Catholic High School.

20 middle school students participated in Student Council.

10 students participated in Odyssey of the Mind competition.

Chess teams received K-3 and K-6 Team Championship honors.

Mix-It-Up days at lunch promoted new friendships.

Many service and mission opportunities were experienced by our students including:

Monthly mission awareness activities raised money for organizations.

Over 150 meals served to homeless youth.

125 fleece blankets were donated to the Central Iowa Youth Shelter.

Eighth graders participated in a service project at Camp Sunnyside.