

***St. Mary's School
Bird Island
2014-15 & 2015-2016***



Mission statement: St. Mary's School in Bird Island serves the area students in kindergarten through eighth grade by providing a Christ-centered Catholic education where academic excellence, self-worth and faith development go hand in hand in a safe environment.

Dear Parents, Family, Friends, Supporters, Parishioners, and Alumni of St. Mary's School,

During the past few years, our school has certainly been through a variety of transitions, but our core mission remains strong. Working together, students, faculty, staff, parents, and parishioners have come together with a spirit of cooperation and collaboration to help insure the best possible experience of learning for our students each day.

At the heart of our school are the children we serve. As I have said countless times over the course of my time at St. Mary's School, our students are simply the best! They are intelligent, self-motivated, inclusive, and filled with the spirit. They bring with them a variety of interpersonal, intellectual, and spiritual gifts they share with one another as well as parish community. In the process, they are instilled with the competence and confidence to be thoughtful people that possess critical thinking skills so they are able to take on whatever academic or personal challenge may come their way.

Much of our student success is tied to the commitment and hard work of our dedicated and talented faculty and staff. We are blessed at St. Mary's School because our teachers understand the importance of nurturing, meaningful relationships, and challenging students with high expectations. Our students are the beneficiaries of the outstanding commitment and experience that our faculty and staff offer.

Our parents and parishioners are to be commended for their continued commitment and support during the year. The strong spirit of dedication that is apparent among the stakeholders has helped forge a strong partnership that allows us to go from simply achieving the ordinary to achieving the extraordinary. We are richly blessed by our parents, supporters, and parishioners who share their time, talent and treasure with our school community.

As a school we have accomplished a great deal and have much to be proud of over the past few years. With pride we look back at the exciting highlights and accomplishments of the year as listed in the following pages of the Annual Report. From a renewed sense of optimism about the direction that our school is headed, together we will continue to move our school forward. Because of the partnership we have developed, St. Mary's School continues to be a center of academic excellence, student empowerment, and Christian service to others.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tracy Bertrand, Principal

Technology

- St. Mary's School connected with Facebook to reach out to our stakeholder's families and friends.
- St. Mary's School is the proud recipient of the BIO Legacy Foundation Grant of \$2300 toward our SMART TV upgrade.
- 1 to 1 iPads were implemented in grades 4 and 5
- Began the installation cycle of Smart TV's in classrooms
- Introduced "Sphero Robots" to the students

Awards, Recognitions & Achievements

- Math League earned 1st place in the Greater Minnesota Division
- Number of 5th and 6th graders represented St. Mary's School at the Regional Science Fair held in Mankato
- History Day project - 8th grade student placed in the top 15 in the state of Minnesota
- Math Masters teams from grades 5th and 6th represented St. Mary's School
- Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association approved
- Organized and participated in the "Purple Bag Project"
- 8th grader was awarded 1st place in the local and district level Peace Poster award
- 7th grade class was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the 347th Regional Support Group

Catholic Identity

- Students participate in weekly liturgies and the Sacrament of Reconciliation throughout the year
- Guardian Angels - 7th and 8th graders are paired with the 1st graders and Kindergarteners to help them find the music in the missalettes at Mass and other events and/or gatherings
- Celebrated First Communion and Reconciliation for the 2nd graders
- Students actively participate in the Catholic Schools Week celebration and Mass
- Fr. George visited the classrooms on different occasions
- Fr. George met with the 2nd graders to help them prepare for their First Communion and Reconciliation
- Fifth graders partake in server training
- Student led Advent and Lenten Prayer services
- May Crowning and Grandparent Day
- Staff prayed the Liturgy of Hours with the Vocations team
- Introduced and implemented Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- During Lent attend the Stations of the Cross

Stewardship

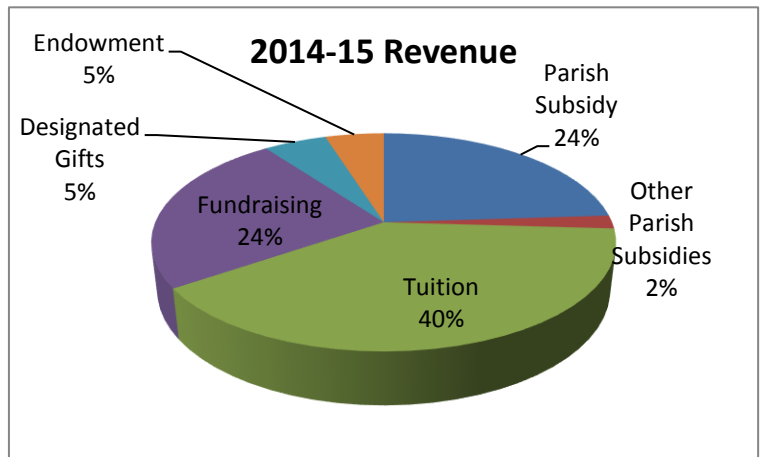
- Students participated in Operation Christmas Child Project
- Students worked at packaging food for Feed My Starving Children.
- The 8th grade and Mrs. Leonard raised money for the Special Olympics and participated in the Polar Plunge.
- Participated in a clothing drive for the needy

Financial Highlights

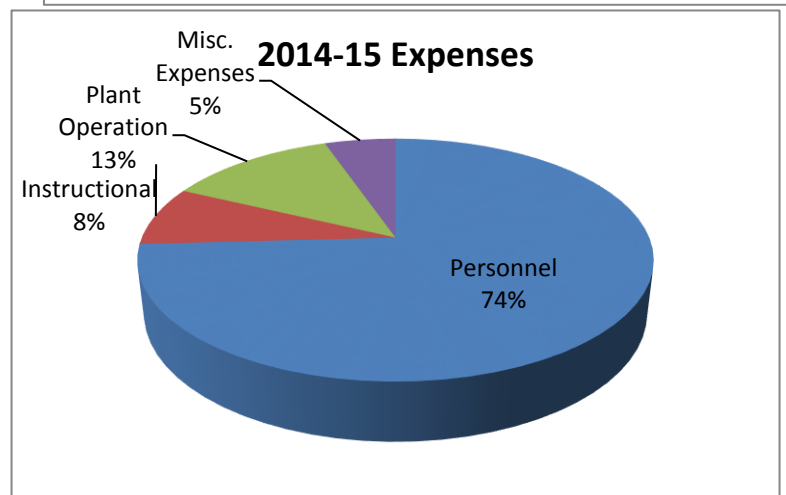
<u>Tuition Rate/Cost Comparison</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>
St. Mary's Average Annual Tuition	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,500.00
St. Mary's Average Tuition/student contact day	\$ 14.03	\$ 14.70
Total student enrollment via days	171	170
National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Average Tuition	\$ 3,880.00	\$ 4,140.00
Cost to Educate a St. Mary's Student (per student)	\$ 7,410.72	\$ 6,915.98
Cost to Educate a student in the public school	\$ 10,722.79	\$ 12,882.23
National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) average cost to educate a child	\$ 7,410.74	\$ 6,915.70

School Year 2014-15

Parish Subsidy	\$170,335.25
Other Parish Subsidies	\$ 13,875.00
Tuition	\$280,819.82
Fundraising	\$173,511.35
Designated Funds	\$ 37,207.95
Endowment	\$ 34,666.00

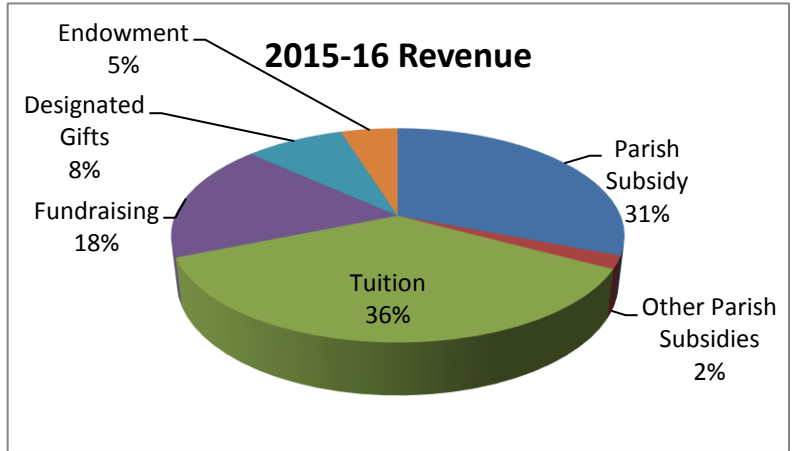


Personnel	\$577,146.96
Instructional	\$ 61,695.57
Plant Operation	\$ 98,301.54
Misc. Expenses	\$ 41,351.28

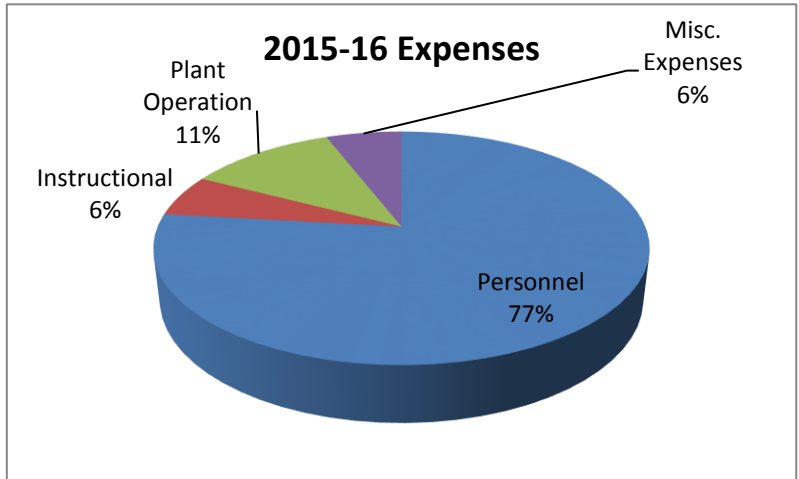


School Year 2015-16

Parish Subsidy	\$237,902.60
Other Parish Subsidies	\$ 15,000.00
Tuition	\$278,129.05
Fundraising	\$137,340.89
Designated Gifts	\$ 65,099.63
Endowment	\$ 37,600.00



Personnel	\$621,918.81
Instructional	\$ 47,060.24
Plant Operation	\$ 93,190.76
Misc. Expenses	\$ 47,701.29



Committee of Education Members 2014-15 & 2015-16

- Kyle Schlomann– Chairman
- Kevin Ziesmer– Vice Chairman
- Theresa Tersteeg - Secretary
- Trish Sheehan
- Todd Frank
- Jamie Kubesh
- Amanda Tersteeg