

Saint Patrick Parish & School

Annual Report

18 19



2019-2020 Staff Directory

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Father Luis Mejia

Parish Office Manager: Barb Wolter

Religious Ed Director: Barb Wolter

Business Manager: Mark Paris

Scott Smyth

School Staff:

2019-2020 School Year

Principal: Kandice Roethler

Secretary: Linda Wuebker

Kindergarten: Sarah Finn

1st Grade: Amy Smith

2nd Grade: Rachel Rothmeyer

3rd Grade: Julie Hudnell

4th Grade: Jeff Grange

5th Grade: Lindsay Baker

Middle School Math and Science: Connie Auxier-Grau

Middle School Language Arts: Megan Sassatelli

Middle School Social Studies and Religion: Darcy Spellman

Physical Education: Alan Brasch

Music: Nicole Norman

Counselor: Maureen Becker

Title I Reading/English Language Learners: Madonna Bloom

K-2 Associate: Blanca Cortes

Gingerbread Preschool: Cherri Johnson

Preschool Associate: Kayla Rothmeyer

Custodian: Clara Murillo

Maintenance: Bob Smithson

Lunchroom Staff: Diane Hull and Theresa Cromwell

2019-2020

Contributing Committees/Volunteers

School Board

President: Danny Splendore
Vice President: Kathi Lipovac
Secretary: Peter Meis
Andrea Tunink,
Shawn Kenney,
Enrique Cruz,
AnneMarie McDevitt

Finance Council

Gary Becker
John McGee
Pat Cornelius
Bob Vallejo

Regina Guild

Kay Finneseth
Robin McCaulley
Diane Stout

Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight: Jon Wilson
Deputy Grand Knight: Jim Archer

Strategic Planning Committee

Kandice Roethler
Mike Kealhofer
Craig Hastings
Gary Becker
John McGee
Kathi Lipovac

Home and School

President : Eileen Splendore
Beth Gittins
Mindy Farmer
Cherie Welch

Religious Education/Faith Formation

Kindergarten/First Grade	Lourdes Sweet and Angie Farley
Second Grade	Jeanne Hill and Emily Hill
Third Grade	Paola Bello Rodriguez and Sharitzky Romero
Fourth/Fifth Grade	Ervin and Alfanid Hernandez
Sixth/Seventh/Eighth Grade	Megan Sassatelli Sarah Iben Tom Fickbohm Samantha Fickbohm
Ninth grade/Confirmation Prep year 1	Deacon Dennis Patrick
10th grade/Confirmation Prep year 2	Jim Archer
Office and Catechist Helpers	Sebastian Hernandez, Riese Archer, Nubia Torres, Michelle Tobar, Chase Archer
RCIA	Barb Wolter Juan Cisneros

Letter from Father Luis



Saint Patrick Catholic Church

1312 3rd Street, Perry, IA 50220 • 515-465-4387

Welcome everyone!

While I am fairly new to the parish of Saint Patrick's, I am excited to be in the role of the pastoral leader of this wonderful parish and school community! We are in a great time with strategic planning occurring at the Diocesan level and beginning our journey with the newly ordained and installed, Bishop William Joensen.

Our parish is filled with people devoted to the various ministries to which they were called. This includes Extraordinary Ministers to our homebound and nursing home brothers and sisters, all Liturgical Ministries (musicians, readers, Eucharistic Ministers, altar servers, gift bearers etc.) as well as catechists, bible studies, the Knights of Columbus, Reginia Guild and so many, many more!

As we all embark on our journeys this year, we are all on common ground guided by our faith. We have been called to live our lives with Christ and be a model to those around us. As our faith teaches us, we welcome all with open arms and are called to be the loving neighbor to those in our community. I get to witness this in our youngest children who attend the blessing that is our Catholic School.

While the work may be heavy, I am excited to help continue to move the parish and school forward. The potential within Saint Patrick Parish is great and endless. You are a community that is welcoming and loving, additionally you are generous with your support for those beyond your church whom are most in need.

I look forward to seeing everyone at mass during the weekend and through the various events that define us as a Catholic Church.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Luis Meija".

Father Luis Meija

Parish History Story

St. Patrick Parish is blessed with a long and diverse history.

It all began with Father Brazil, a mission priest saying mass in the homes of area Catholics in 1871. These were later moved to a “wooden garage” located by the Jones building on 3rd and Otley.

As the parish grew, three lots were purchased at Third and Lucinda for \$15.00 per lot, and a small, frame church was built there in 1874. The building was very plain, having been built by the congregation. Because there were no pews, members brought their own chairs. On the day before the first Mass was said, members of the parish were building fencing to protect it from the numerous horses and cattle which roamed the countryside.

The parish soon outgrew this church, and plans were drawn for a red brick church that was completed in 1883. In 1900, the parish approved the construction of the present church. The red brick church was torn down and the cornerstone for the new church was laid on August 18, 1901. The current church was formally dedicated on August 10, 1902.

The makeup of the congregation is as diverse as its history. Originally built by Irish immigrants and home to their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, St. Patrick's continues to be home to a thriving immigrant community. Many of the current congregants hail from Latin America - Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica etc.



Red Brick Church—built 1883



Current Church—built 1902, circa early 1900s



Current Church—built 1902, circa 1980s



Current Church—built 1902, current pic

Letter from the Principal



St. Patrick Catholic School
1302 5th Street
Perry, IA 50220
(515)465-4186

www.stpatricks-perry-ia.org

Greetings all!

This last school year at Saint Patrick's School was an amazing one! The staff and community were beyond welcoming and inviting. It made year 1 at the school one for the record books. I wanted to share with you all a few of my highlights for the year and it was hard to pick just a few.

As a staff, we started the year off with championing the phrase, "we are Saint Patrick's!" This became our living word and described who we are collectively as a staff and as a school. It was a phrase that I had used since starting day 1 and it is a phrase that now hangs on a banner in our gym. Mid-way through the first trimester, we asked staff, parents, and students to share with us what they think of as ways to give greater meaning to that phrase. The responses we gathered were some of the most heart-warming statements I had heard to date.

We welcomed many new faces this past year and most of them returned for the 2019-2020 school year. These new faces took on the challenges presented to them with smiles and worked to greet our students each day with a smile and a hello! They worked hard to tackle new initiatives such as PBIS, Fast testing, and religion goals for the building.

I am thrilled beyond no other to be back for a second year. To be continuing the work to help our school thrive within the community of Perry. We have the greatest opportunity to be a mission of the church and help provide a values-based Christian education to all those in the community. Our work is just beginning and we have an amazing staff who truly are disciples of Christ.

Sincerely yours,

Kandice Roethler
Principal

Nora O'Malley Founding Story

My mother, Nora O'Malley, wanted her sons to have a Catholic school education and when I was three years old, she began a campaign for a Catholic school. Mother was a spirited, outgoing person and had a plan which stirred up furor within the congregation of our church. She was instrumental in bringing a unit of The Catholic Daughters to Perry. As its President, a member of the St. Catherine's Circle, and of the Altar Society, she pressured them to back her cause.

My first recollection of my mother's campaign was when one day she took me to the Chicago & Milwaukee Railroad depot. When the train came in, two women, dressed differently than my mother, got off and met her. We took them home with us as they were invited by mother to discuss the ground work of starting a new school. They were Sisters of the Order of St. Francis. Every week she invited nuns to come from different localities that had Catholic schools to obtain suggestions and advice. Our local priest, James Cleary, was not in favor of the project or mother's nuisances at the time. She invited priests from various towns in Iowa that had Catholic schools to come to talk to him and also to speak to the church leaders. She made several trips to Des Moines to seek the advice of Bishop Drum who gave her much encouragement. No matter where or what an organization meeting was about, she was there to get support for her school project.

My mother became ill and the diagnosis of her illness was due to overwork on her school project and taking care of her family. She was advised to restrict some of her activities. Even though ill, she could not give up her educational desire for her children. Also her plans were beginning to take shape. During this time another boy, Bernard, was born. She was disappointed, as she had so wanted a girl. Shortly thereafter she was diagnosed as having cancer but this still did not stop her school plans. Surgery was performed in Des Moines and again at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Happily she had another child, the baby girl she wanted, Julia Elizabeth.

When I was going on ten, her illness became grave. Meanwhile the school was approved and built. On her deathbed she requested of our father that he see that all four sons graduate from St. Patrick's High School. Nora died and was buried on a very cold day, February 21, 1921. Ironically, it was the same day St. Patrick's School was dedicated.

My mother's dream and wishes and father's promise came true. I, George Garland, graduated from St. Patrick's in 1929; Martin in 1931; Charles in 1933; and Bernard in 1935. If Nora and George W. were alive today they would be very proud knowing that our mother's persistent hard work together with their prayers and religious fervor brought about this beautiful educational project.



By Dr. George O'Malley

Financial Overview

Statement of Activities St. Patrick Parish

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Parish Administration Totals:	330,430.42	328,059.40	328,059.40
Building and Grounds Totals:	977.00	0.00	0.00
Fundraising - Auction Totals:	14,796.54	0.00	0.00
Capital Campaign Totals:	135,799.43	0.00	0.00
Votive Stands Totals:	4,130.25	3,120.00	3,120.00
Hispanic Ministry Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Income Totals:	486,133.64	331,179.40	331,179.40
	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<u>Expense</u>			
Parish Administration Totals:	148,695.97	131,878.31	131,878.31
Liturgy Totals:	6,176.55	7,865.00	7,865.00
Sacramental Programs Totals:	0.00	450.00	450.00
Music Totals:	1,632.40	1,753.60	1,753.60
Rectory Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Adult Faith Formation Totals:	0.00	620.00	620.00
RCIA Totals:	118.00	750.00	750.00
Pastoral Council Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Family Life Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Social Concerns Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Building and Grounds Totals:	9,445.93	11,441.00	11,441.00
Capital Campaign Totals:	63,163.65	0.00	0.00
Votive Stands Totals:	(9.89)	640.00	640.00
Parish Social Functions Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stewardship Totals:	1,925.99	2,740.00	2,740.00
Hispanic Ministry Totals:	778.50	3,500.00	3,500.00
Communications Totals:	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Auxiliary Organizations Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense Totals:	231,927.10	163,637.91	163,637.91
Income - Expense:	254206.54	167541.49	167541.49

Financial Overview (cont'd)

Statement of Activities St. Patrick School

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
<u>Income</u>			
School Administration Totals:	635,742.30	577,610.00	577,610.00
Lunch Room Totals:	49,660.02	44,345.00	44,345.00
Athletics Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Before/After School Care Totals:	5,083.00	3,690.00	3,690.00
Preschool Totals:	34,670.07	49,800.00	49,800.00
Board of Education Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
School Committees Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scrip Program - School Totals:	11,164.92	0.00	0.00
Auxiliary Organizations Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Income Totals:	736,320.21	675,445.00	675,445.00
<u>Expense</u>			
School Administration Totals:	801,694.49	913,149.76	913,149.76
Library/Media Center Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lunch Room Totals:	57,040.77	62,974.60	62,974.60
Counseling Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transportation Totals:	0.00	1,410.00	1,410.00
Technology Totals:	23,666.50	16,400.68	16,400.68
Before/After School Care Totals:	7,855.61	8,889.83	8,889.83
Preschool Totals:	23,544.46	24,999.99	24,999.99
Board of Education Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
School Committees Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Building and Grounds Totals:	48,980.08	8,881.00	8,881.00
Scrip Program - School Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
School Retreats Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Auxiliary Organizations Totals:	1,440.79	0.00	0.00
Expense Totals:	964,222.70	1,036,705.86	1,036,705.86
Income - Expense:	(227,902.39)	(361,260.86)	(361,260.86)

Capital Campaign Update

Forward in Faith Campaign for the Future

The Forward in Faith campaign is the product of prayer and vision for the future of the church. Just as the families before us planned for our parish as it is today, we must be thankful for their faith and the gifts they have provided us that we benefit from today.

In order to establish full ownership of our parish which we value so much today, we must pay down the remaining debt. We are eager to wrap up our investment and establish a future of financial freedom for our parish.

In order to address our needs, a capital campaign began in February, 2019 and will address the following items:

1. Forward into Financial Freedom (\$140,200)

St. Patrick's will pay off the remaining \$140,200 in debt owed to the Diocese of Des Moines, St. Patrick's Foundation and a line of credit to allow financial freedom and a focus on the ministries of the church.

2. Forward into Church (\$120,000)

The church will add a handicapped accessible ramp to the west side entrance to allow everyone to enter our place of worship with ease.

3. Forward in Steadfast Faith (\$150,000)

Investing in the future of the church by addressing operating costs now.

Forward in Faith Campaign – January 1 – June 30, 2019

Total Given	\$90,213.28
Average Contribution	\$276.73
Average Family Total	\$827.64
Contributions	326
Families	109

"Having free center time at the end of the day I get time to explore!"

"It is really good and fun. I like it because we get to learn about Jesus and we get snacks."

"I like lunch time and the school because I get to spend time with different people."

"We are unique because we learn about God, we are healthy, its fun and people are nice here."

"We can learn about God and we have friends here that are nice. We get to have Catholic Schools week with our friends."

"They teach us about God. A lot of our friends and cousins go here. We also get to be Catholic here"

"We get to learn about a lot of great things such as God, Jesus, the New Testament, and the Old Testament."

"People here can learn more about God, attend mass, we learn to read and do math. We get to have fun here."

"We get to learn about God - his word, and Jesus' teachings."

"We all get along and help each other."

"This school lets us talk about God and we have a lot of good teachers here! Even non-Catholics can come and are welcomed."

"We have an opportunity to learn about God. There are less students here so our teachers can focus and help us more. There are a lot of nice people and faithful people here."

We are Saint Patrick's

What Makes us Unique?

Student responses...

"Right when you walk into the building everyone is welcoming you. At Saint Pats you never feel left out."

"We learn about God here and the school helps us learn how to be good people. We all have become good friends."

"We learn about God, we have religion class, and mass each Friday."

"We all get along, we are one big team - we really work together."

"The word that comes to my mind is unity. Here at Saint Pats we are all one."

"What makes us stand out is we get to pray and talk about our religion. Everyone here is so nice. When I first started I remember how welcoming everyone was."

Strategic Planning Update (vision inclusion)

During the 2017-2018 school year, the Diocese of Des Moines undertook a strategic planning initiative lead by the former superintendent, Dr. Tracy Bonday, and former Bishop Pates. The strategic planning was conducted by Mietler who also analyzed specific locations within the Diocese. One of these locations was Saint Patrick's in Perry. The organization produced a report specifically for the school which has led to the formation of a Strategic Planning group working collectively to ensure that the school is a vital and active member in the Perry Community.

The report from Meitler highlighted 5 major areas of improvement which have been transitioned into a vision and traction plan; a copy of this is provided on the next pages. These areas are Catholic identity, access, academic excellence, marketing, and stewardship. Through focusing on these five areas, the strategic planning committee has helped gain clarity in their purpose and work to improve the school.

Our ultimate goals are to steadily increase enrollment, place Saint Patrick's at the forefront of academic achievement in the Perry community, maintain our connection to the Catholic Church and its greater mission, as well as, produce students who are capable of achieving their dreams and changing the world. This is all going to require work from many hands and belief in the path ahead of the school. The work will not be easy, but if we can all stay the course the results will be hard to deny.

On the next page, you will see the 10-year goal and 3-year goals of the school. Our hope is that these goals can keep the school focused on long-range and short-term planning. The work to meet the goals has been taken on by members from the O'Malley Foundation, Saint Patrick's Foundation, School Board, and Finance Council. The work of the committee is focused on yearly goals broken down into quarterly rocks which are reviewed monthly. The committee was intentionally comprised of organizations with dedication to seeing the parish and school thrive for many years to come.





St. Patrick School Vision

		3 year Picture: 6/30/2022	
		Measurables	
Core Values Who We Are		Excellence Distinguished by Excellence in Academics and Behavior Community Rooted in Community Faith Driven by Faith Imagination Fueled by Imagination Integrity Always doing the right thing	
Core Focus What We Are		Purpose: St. Pat's provides an excellent faith-filled educational foundation and diverse experiences that give students skills to achieve in high school and beyond. Our Niche: Faith-filled, values-based education in a small, rural, diverse community	
Core 10-Year Target		Operating at capacity in a year-round school with students scoring at the 95% in reading, math, and science supported by extensive enrichment opportunities for every student Target Market: St. Pat's parish parents and students who value a Christ-centered education Greater Perry area parents and students who value a Catholic Christian education Our Uniques: Catholic Faith-Integrated Environment High Academic Expectations for each student Strong Sense of belonging in a Diverse Community	
Marketing Strategy		Commitment: Prepare each "Knight" to have, believe, and achieve their dream St. Patrick's Experience: Welcoming - Forming - Preparing	
		Catholic Identity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *St. Pat's is recognized as a vital part of the parish and community *Core values, focus, and target shared by all *The school's 100th anniversary is celebrated across the community *The diversity of the school and parish community is recognized as a strength Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Academic support for a wide range of ability levels *Ethnic and socio-economic barriers are minimized *Staff is trained on diversity issues *Tuition assistance continues to match demonstrated financial need Academic Excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Data and assessment validate and drive the teaching/learning work *Essential basic skills are identified and incorporated across the curriculum *Resources are in place to support professional growth *Technology is used across all grade levels to support blended learning *Multi-age ability grouping enhances student learning Marketing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The strategic plan has strong community support and provides a vision and road map for the school *St. Pat's school has a strong brand and is well known in the community *Enrollment has increased at every grade level *The community is aware of and supports the vision of St. Pat's school Stewardship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *A financial aid program is in place and growing annually *Support of the parish is growing and the parish is financially sound *Increased engagement from parents, boards, alumni and community *A facilities master plan in place and enhancements to school have begun *Financial business plan funds educational initiatives, marketing, branding and communication 	

Regina Guild Update

The Regina Guild's mission is to support, educate and empower all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. We are affectionately known as the "church ladies."

SERVICE PROJECTS provided for our parish and community:

- Senior High School students and parents came for a breakfast for graduating seniors and Crucifixes given to each student.
- Three scholarships given to graduates; total of \$1250.
- Summer Garage Sale, June 10-16.
- Donation of \$1,000 to St. Patrick School for capital improvements.
- Donation of \$250 to Mariah McNamara supporting mission trip to Thailand.
- Confirmation students received religious bookmarks.
- Framed print of the Guardian Angel provided as baptismal gifts.
- Holiday bake sale held in November.
- Rosaries given to all First Communion students.
- Sympathy, birthday and anniversary cards sent to parishioners.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- Boch Foundation Grant application written and approved for Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) for the church.
- Meals provided following funerals.
- Donated items to St. Patrick School Auction.

O'Malley Foundation Update

The St Patrick School O'Malley Foundation is a non-profit corporation founded in 1992 for the sole purpose of providing financial support for the operation of St Patrick School. The foundation includes an endowment established such that funds donated to the foundation are invested and only the investment income may be spent. The vast majority of the funds in the foundation were generously donated by Charles O'Malley, a graduate of St Pats, whose mother was instrumental in founding St Patrick School. The Foundation now provides a substantial portion of the annual operating budget for the school. Also included in the foundation are the Ryan Miller Memorial and the Joseph and Arva Ruggle Memorial. Funds earned from both Memorials go towards tuition assistance for St Pats students. The Directors of the Foundation have recently kicked off the Adopt-a-Student Campaign to raise funds to provide additional tuition aid to students and their families.

Knights of Columbus Update

Throughout the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Knights of Columbus accomplished many things! These included, preparing pork loin and setting up tables and chairs for the Harvest Mass, hosting a Turkey Dinner for the community in November, and selling raffle tickets at the Brr Ride for a bike. The Knights were able to help with a highway clean up and had many families participate in the betterment of our community! The Knights were able to assist the Regina Guild with setting up tables for their annual rummage sale and assisted with Father Chris' farewell potluck by cooking the meat and setting up the tables. Finally, the Knights also hosted their annual campaign for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (Tootsie Roll Drive) where money was donated to the State and Local Special Olympics.

Courtesy of The Perry News



KC Tootsie Roll Sales



KC Fish Fry



KC Members Repairing Tabernacle

Home and School

Home and School is an organization that supports the teachers in the school. The projects they undertook for 2018-2019 include:

Provided a staff breakfast at the beginning of the school year

Paid all bussing charges for field trips

New tables for third grade classroom

New sit spots for kindergarten

Teacher appreciation week

Pete the Cat Play for K-2

Science Center trip for 6-8

Saint Patrick's in Bloom Church and School Auction

St. Pats in Bloom, the St. Patrick Church and School Auction was held on Saturday evening, April 27, at the La Poste in Perry. An estimated 120 people attended and were treated to a wide selection of silent and live auction items. Some of the more popular items included a 30-minute airplane ride around Perry, a boat ride for eight people on Lake Panorama, tickets to an ISU football game, wine tastings, a live edge wood table made by Father Chris and a waterfall table made by Danny Splendore. St. Patrick School parents had fun bidding against one another for their child to be the school principal for a day as well as the opportunity for a ride to school in a Perry police car, fire truck or snow plow. Each class at St. Patrick School also collected items for themed baskets that were used as table center pieces and then auctioned off at the end of the evening. The highest auction item, a dinner for 14 couples at the La Poste, sold for \$1,400. The live and silent auctions brought in a total of \$13,047. Combined with ticket sales (\$3,250), the very popular tuition raffle and 50/50 squares tuition raffle (\$2550) and a Wine & Beer Pull (\$280), the total profit from the auction was \$20,117. After the auction, attendees were invited to the cellar at La Poste to enjoy live music by local musician.



School News



We have so much to celebrate and acknowledge from the 2018-2019 school year! We started out the year with several new faces in the building whom all felt called to be a part of Catholic education. At the start, we welcomed 8 new teachers who helped to become champions for the students and this community. The staff were called into action to help define the phrase, "we are Saint Patrick's," letting the phrase eventually become our motto in the building. We embodied this phrase so much that it truly began to take meaning as our staff moved through the school year. It's even a phrase you will see throughout the building. One of the best ways we worked to define it was with our posters displayed outside the office during the school year!

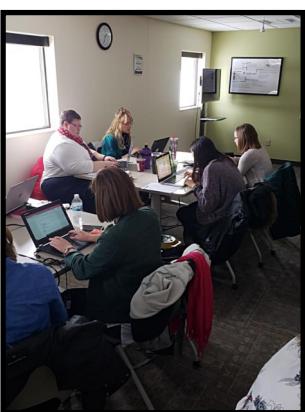
Technology and STEM update

One of the major renovations that happened during the 2018-2109 school year was in regards to the technology available within our building. The school and church began a partnership with Little Dog Technology, LLC out of Des Moines, Iowa and worked to update our staff classroom technology options, as well as, update our student technology options. We ended up replacing all teacher laptops with new Dell Laptops that have a four year warranty on the devices and replacing the iPad cart with new Lenovo Chromebooks that have the option to fold into tablets making them friendly for our younger students. We were able to provide the Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade classrooms with the remaining working iPads.

During the 2018-2019 school year, the school also received a STEM grant from the Governor's STEM council. We sent several teachers to a Making STEM connection training. The teachers came back with a variety of ideas and resources to implement in our classroom. Mrs. Hudnell even used these materials with the after school K-5 STEM club!

Professional Learning

During the 2018-2019 academic school year, the staff took on the task of learning about Professional Learning Communities, or PLCs. The Dioceses of Des Moines also used this for their Diocesan-wide professional learning for our educators. At Saint Patrick's School, we formed 3 PLCs and asked our teachers to meet on a weekly basis. The foundation of their meets were based on the four- PLC questions:



1. What do we want students to know (guaranteed and viable curriculum)?
2. How do we know the students know it (assessments)?
3. What are we going to do for students who don't know it (re-teaching)?
4. What are we going to do for students who already know it (enrichment/extension)?

Our teachers enjoyed the process to help them grow professionally and work collaboratively in ways to help our students benefit. Their work with PLCs is continuing into the 2019-2020 school year. From this great collaborative effort, we were able to see amazing growth in our student achievement scores that included 12.5% more of our students in grades 3-8 being on or above grade level in math! The tireless work of our teachers has truly sparked some enormous growth in our students, who are so lucky and blessed to get to work with their teacher every day!



Religion

Starting in the 2018-2019 school year, our individual classrooms in grades Kindergarten through 8th selected Patron Saints to guide their year and watch over them. Additionally, we as a building, utilized these opportunities to learn more about such great exemplars of our Catholic faith and models of how we can all grow closer to Christ. Students were responsible with help from the teachers of learning about their Saint, sharing what they learned with other classes, and finding a charity that represented their Saint for the monthly jeans day. Our students loved being able to share with other classes and did so in a variety of ways. Some shared with a presentation while our littlest students with help from their teachers put together videos for classes to watch. Through this opportunity, our students and staff helped various charities which included the Perry Public Library, Perry Fire Department, Dallas County Hospital, and the Spirit of Saint Nicholas collection. Here is all the information that we learned about during the 2018-2019 school year:

Saint	Grade	Month
	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's mission was to educate people through Catholic education. She believed highly in children learning how to read.	8th Grade August/ September
	Saint Theresa of Avila Saint Teresa of Avila is the patron saint of sick people and those in religious orders. She was a Carmelite nun in Spain and had a great relationship with God in prayer. We are proud to have her as our classroom patron saint because she inspired many around her and gave life to all through her trust and personal relationship	7th Grade October
	Saint Catherine of Siena They have researched her life and dedication to God. They have chosen the Perry Fire Department to donate their Out of Uniform Day money to since Saint Catherine of Siena is the Patroness of Fire Fighters. Quote by Saint Catherine of Siena: "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."	6th Grade November
	Saint Nicholas He is the Patron Saint of sailors and children. Saint Nicholas knew he would follow God from a young age. Saint Nicholas is known for his acts of charity. He cared deeply about the material needs of his people but also cared for their spiritual needs. We celebrate the tradition of putting coins in shoes because Saint Nicholas would give money to the poor by throwing money in the windows of their houses. The money would land in shoes and stockings drying by the fire.	5th Grade December

(Continued)

Saint	Grade	Month	
	Saint Augustine St. Augustin is the son of St. Monica. He was born into wealth and was known as the Patron Saint of Brewers because of his former life before his conversion. St. Augustin was known as the Doctor of the Church and he practiced poverty and supported the poor.	4th Grade	January
	Saint Dominic Savio He is the Patron Saint of altar boys, the falsely accused and juvenile delinquents. As a small child, Dominic loved the Lord and His Church. He was very devout in practicing his Catholic faith.	3rd Grade	February
	Saint Francis of Assisi St. Francis saw visions from God. He gave up a life of luxury to devote his life to God. He was very popular before giving up his fortune. St. Francis of Assisi is the Patron Saint of animals and nature.	2nd Grade	March
	Saint Therese of Lisieux Generations of Catholics have admired this young saint, called her the "Little Flower", and found in her short life more inspiration for their own lives.	1st Grade	April
	Mother Teresa Mother Teresa was born in Macedonia on Aug. 10, 1910. She taught in India for 20 years. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She was known for her kindness and love for the poorest of the poor. Saint Teresa of Calcutta died on Sept. 5, 1997.	Kindergarten	May
	Additionally, we started what we hope to be a new tradition for years to come with our students. Saint Patrick, the patron saint of our parish and school, has his feast day during our Spring Break on March 17th. To honor our patron saint as a school, we held a prayer service on Thursday, March 14th led by Father Chris which taught us about Saint Patrick's message. Our students then had a learning opportunity to get to know more about Saint Patrick and a service opportunity following the prayer service. We wanted to utilize this time to give back to the community of Perry and honor Saint Patrick. All students in the building participated by helping to clean the church and school, especially the gym and the stage. We also had students volunteering at the Van Kirk DMACC center, Ben's Five and Dime, and the Perry Youth Center. We are all already looking forward to our service day in March of 2020.		

"My why for what I do is to be a role model for younger kids and to shape them to be grateful for what they will always have."

"To help students be the best citizens, followers of Christ, and life long learners they can possibly be."

"To share our family ideals with our students. To give them hope no matter the situation we face."

"To be caring and responsible humans that will one day share their faith, and knowledge."

"I can bring the love of God into the world by showing love and being an encouragement to future leaders both big and small."

"To inspire students to do and be their best even when it is tough."

"To share God's love with others through friendship and being better people."

WE ARE SAINT PATS

"What is your WHY?"

Staff responses...

"To be a role model for the kids I have the opportunity to teach. To help kids grow beyond the classroom!"

"I want to make a positive impact in my students' lives. I want to inspire them to be life long learners and want to continue to grow as individuals."

"To give students who have difficulties learning the same positive opportunity I had when I was in school. To be that teacher who is compassionate and encouraging enough to understand their needs like what was shown to me."

"Though we are broken and live in a world that is distracted and broken itself- God shares his love and mercy with us and we are called by Him to share that love and mercy with others."

"I am here because Jesus calls us to make disciples- what an amazing opportunity. We get to do that each day here!"

Middle School Retreat:

For the first time, our middle school students were able to participate in a retreat during February. We worked with two separate groups, boys and girls, and various adults from Perry to talk with the students. Each group had time to talk about how they can improve their middle school experience. The two groups also incorporated faith aspects into team building for each group. Thank you to the adults who helped plan and facilitate the opportunity for our middle schoolers! We look forward to doing something similar in the 2019-2020 school year.



Christmas Pageant/Living Stations

During the school year two unique opportunities were presented for our students to live out their faith and engage in an opportunity to share their faith with the school and community. These included the Christmas Pageant lead by students in grades 4-6 and the Living Stations performed by students in middle school. Both events required students to learn about important figures in our faith and the roles they played in two important events. Our students in grades K-8 were able to incorporate their musical talents as well within the Christmas Pageant. We are so lucky to be able to learn about both of these events during the school day and for our students to be able to study and portray the figures.



Field Trips:

During the 2018-2019 school year, we also had several groups participate in some fun field trips that expanded their learning! Students in grades Kindergarten through 2nd grade were able to see Pete the Cat perform many of his favorite books! The students even spent time after their field trip learning about Pete the Cat in the classroom in various subjects! Our students in middle school were able to take in the Mental Health Exhibit at the Science Center! This great opportunity opened up their worlds to how each individual they encounter may need. The students truly enjoyed the hands on exhibits. Our 5th grade students were able to participate in JA Biztown again and helped with the newspaper in their different roles. We love this opportunity for our students to expose them to various career opportunities.

Extra-curricular activities

K-5 STEM	This group met weekly after school and work through many activities. These activities taught students about the Engineering Design Process and challenged their critical thinking! Students completed various activities which included egg cars, coding
Spanish Club (K-5)	This group met weekly after school and had 5 different, 5-week sessions that taught them about different Spanish speaking countries, animals, weather, greetings, and so much more! Ms. Blanca spent almost every Thursday afternoon with these students, helping them to learn the ins and outs of the Spanish Language. Students were able to show Ms. Blanca what they learned with a field trip to El Tren in Perry and order what they wanted in Spanish.
Yearbook (6-8)	Our students in grades 6, 7, & 8 worked together with Mrs. Phan and Ms. Lamsam to create our Saint Patrick's yearbook. The students gathered pictures from various events over the school year putting them together into picture collages to capture many memories!
Mock Trial (6-8)	These students spent most of the first Trimester preparing for their competition on Veteran's Day in Des Moines, Iowa. The students on the team competed against two other schools to show their knowledge of the trial process and how it works. We had two students bring home awards last year: Kaylee Wuebker—Outstanding Attorney Luis Sandoval Outstanding Witness
Battle of the Books (6-8)	These students started after Christmas break reading books from a set list. The students were divided into two teams and competed in a quiz-bowl like competition in Winterset, Iowa. Students had an opportunity to compete against other teams from the area and truly enjoyed getting to read some great books!

The school year saw many opportunities for our students beyond the regular hours of the school day for students in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade! These opportunities include activities around STEM, Reading, and Journalism. See the highlights below from our various clubs offered!

Enrollment

During the 2018-2019 school year we also saw our enrollment numbers grow slightly in class sizes. We are always looking for room to grow and keeping our eyes set on the first enrollment goal of 150 students in grades K-8; this number still keeps our average class size small at 16 students per grade.

Here were our final enrollment numbers by grade level:

Grade	# Enrolled	Grade	# Enrolled
Gingerbread AM	16	4th Grade	6
Gingerbread PM	9	5th Grade	8
Kindergarten	17	6th Grade	11
1st Grade	10	7th Grade	14
2nd Grade	22	8th Grade	5
3rd Grade	18		
		Total Enrolled	136

REP News

The Religious Education Program for St. Patrick's is broken down into three different categories - elementary/middle school, high school, and adult faith formation.

The elementary/middle school program is offered to all children of the parish who attend public school.

2018-2019

92 Students registered K-10

10 Catechists

K-8 Curriculum

Alive in Christ

High School Curriculum

Altarations

Chosen

Sacraments

The Religious Ed program celebrates sacraments with the school students.

In 2019 32 students in grades 2 through 8 received their First Communion.



Confirmation is celebrated at the end of a student's sophomore year in high school.

11 high school students were confirmed

2 emergency confirmations





