



# Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Academy

**State of the Academy  
May 9th 2023**

# Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come to you today asking for your guidance, wisdom, and support as we begin the State of the Academy meeting.

Help us to engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community.

Fill us with your grace, Lord God, as we discuss matters affecting the students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends of the Academy.

Let our words and actions reflect our commitment to a true spirit of community, and celebrate and embrace its rich diversity.

Continue to remind us that all that we do here today, all that we accomplish, is for the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of You, and for the service of humanity.

We ask these things in your name, Amen.

# Mission Statement

The St. Francis de Sales Catholic Academy family is committed to academic excellence, Christian service to others, and providing a Christ-centered, safe, and engaging environment where students can grow spiritually and academically towards a faith-filled future.

# Academy Organization

## Board of Members

Fr. Bill Sweeney-Pastor of St Francis de Sales  
Fr. Michael Gelfant- Pastor of Blessed Trinity  
Rev. Msgr. David Cassato, Vicar for Education Vicar  
Deacon Kevin McCormack, Superintendent

## Board of Trustees

## Administration

Christopher Scharbach Ed.D- Principal  
Maureen Hayes- Assistant Principal

## Faculty and Staff

# Member Roles and Responsibilities

- Appointed by the Bishop
- Sponsors of the Academy
- Annually review of the Academy results
- Ensure we maintain our Catholic Identity
- Approve Board Trustees after Board nominates
- Ratify the Board appointment of the Principal

# Board of Trustees

- Board of Trustees (Responsible for all aspects of Academy/oversees Leadership Team)
- *Trustees serve three-year terms and may serve consecutive terms*
- **Chair:** Mrs. Lorraine Agoglia P'15, P'16, P'18- Lead representative of the Board of Directors responsible for the management of the Academy
- **Vice Chair:** Mr. Terence Quinlan- Assists the Chairperson in carrying out the management of the Academy
- **Treasurer:** Mr. Desmond McGowan '03- Responsible for the financial matters of the Academy and a true and accurate accounting of all financial transactions
- **Secretary:** Mrs. Christina Lynch '07- Official custodian of all records, reports, and minutes of the corporation, directors and committees

## Board Members

- Mr. Salvatore Amodeo P'07 P'10
- Mrs. Rebecca Carey P'24, P'27, P'30
- Mrs. Theresa Johnson '94, P'21, P'22, P'25, P'27
- Mr. Keith Sullivan '87
- Mrs. Dina Tammaro P'97, P'99, P'02, P'11, P'16
- Rev. William Sweeney– Pastor, St. Francis de Sales
- Rev. Michael L. Gelfant– Pastor, Blessed Trinity Parish

# Board of Trustees

## Roles and Responsibilities

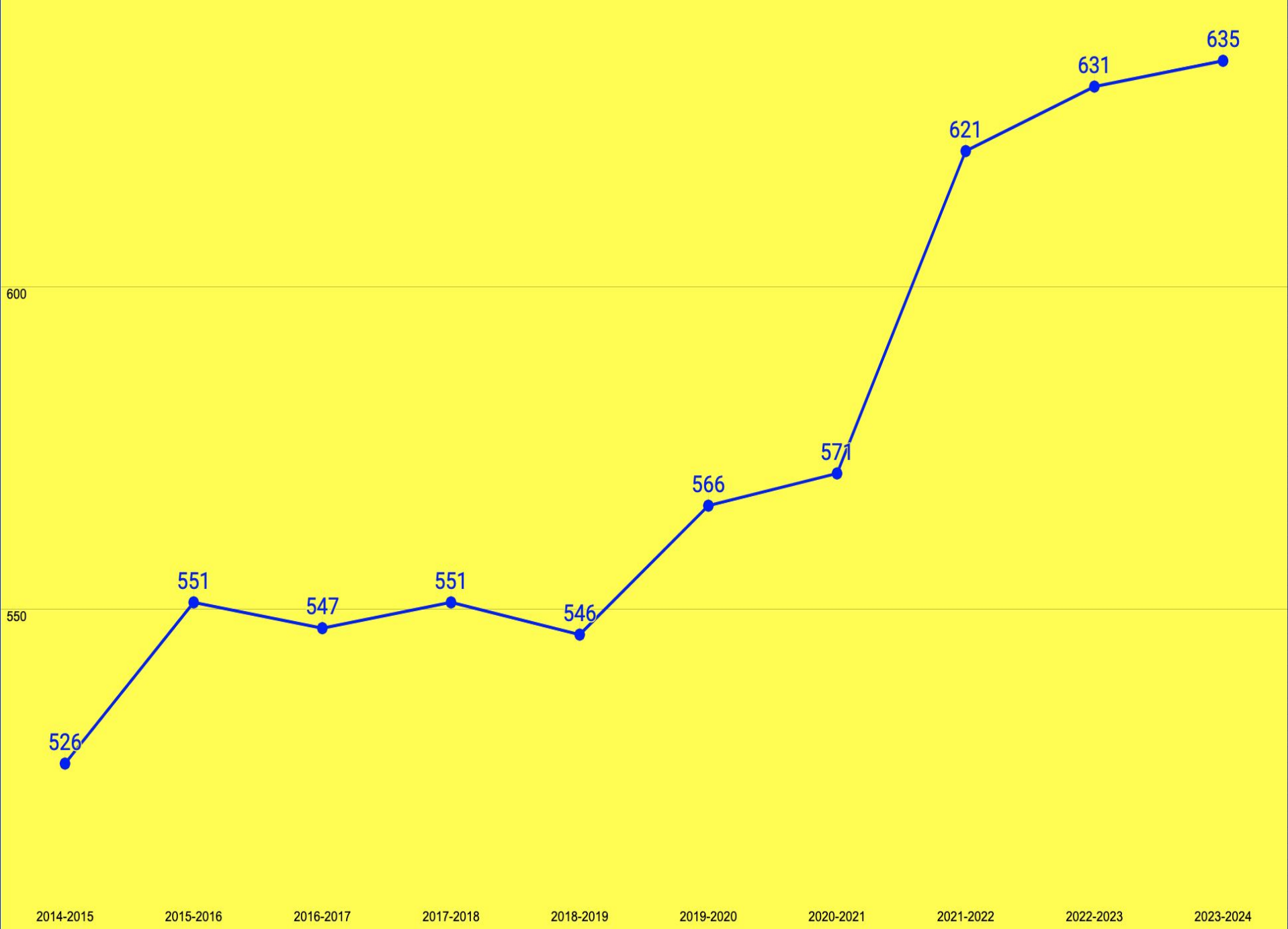
- Appointed by the Board of Members
- Governing Body (Officers & Directors)
- Volunteers
- Attend Training
- *Chairperson* –Lead representative of the Board
- *Vice Chairperson* –Assists the Chairperson
- *Treasurer* –Responsible for all financial matters of the Academy
- *Secretary* – Maintains reports, records and minutes of the corporation
- *Directors* -Equal oversight & responsibility, vote, Committee Chairs

# Administration Roles and Responsibilities

- **Principal – Christopher Scharbach**
  - The instructional, educational, and daily spiritual leader of the Academy, direct operational accountability to the Directors, and Chief Educational Operating Officer of the Academy
- **Assistant Principal– Maureen Hayes**
  - Specific focus in Literacy and Humanities and supports the Principal in teacher observations, curriculum development and the daily operation of the Academy



# Enrollment 2014-2024



# 2023-2024 Enrollment Highlights

- 635 Students
- At capacity
- Three classes in Grades 3, 5, and 8
- Two classes in Pre-K, Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7
- 25 Classroom Teachers and 4 Specials (Physical Ed, STEM, Spanish, and Art)
- Classroom Teacher to Student Ratio- 25:1
- 0.6% enrollment increase (21% Increase over last ten years)
- 99% returning student rate

# Capital Investments

- SFDFSCA is a tenant
- \$3 million invested in the Academy facilities since 2014 to provide an environment that is conducive to learning:
  - All Classrooms now have Air Conditioning
  - School Building Roof and Painting
  - New Boiler System
  - New Camera System
  - Painting, windows, new doors
  - Energy efficient heating upgrades and LED Lights
  - Bathroom & water fountain upgrades
  - Bullet Proof Front doors
  - Warm decorative building
  - Next Generation SmartBoards

# Security

- Entranceway Security Presence
- Moderately Stationary
- Upgraded Camera System
- Lock Down Drills
- Armed Security
- Evening Maintenance presence
- Occupied building from 7 AM to 5:30 PM (earlier if After-school is not in session)
- Parent Alert System
- Teacher “Evacuation” and Active Shooter Training
- Lockdown Bolts for all doors
- Investigating bringing in additional security via NYC Grant

# 2023-2024 Tuition

## \$6,700

Actual Cost of educating a child

## \$5,800 Single Child (No Hidden Fees)

12% discount from actual cost

\$200,000	Fundraising
\$175,000	NYS Mandated Services
\$100,000	Brooklyn Diocese
\$10,000	Donations

# 2023-2024 Tuition Comparisons

School	Location	2023-2024 Tuition and Fees
St. Rose of Lima	Rockaway Beach	\$5200
<b>St. Francis de Sales Catholic Academy</b>	<b>Belle Harbor</b>	<b>\$5800</b>
Bayridge Catholic Academy	Bayridge	\$5900
St. Bernard Catholic Academy	Brooklyn	5985
St. Anne	Garden City/Floral Park	\$6200 plus at minimal \$960 to St. Anne Parish
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament	Bayside	\$6440
Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy	Douglaston	\$6470 plus \$750 or 15 hours of fundraising service
St Joseph by the Hill	Staten Island	\$6950
St. Savior Catholic Academy	Park Slope	\$8795
School of the Blessed Sacrament	Upper West Side/Hell's Kitchen	\$10,675
St. Stephen of Hungary	Upper East Side	\$13,050

# Tuition

- Insurances have risen significantly over the past few years
- Funding of pension costs for employees have risen significantly
- Rising inflation has also caused cost increases across the expense base
  
- The remainder of the revenues needed to cover operating expenses come from
  - Fundraising and contributions
  - Reimbursement of NYS Mandated Services
  - Diocesan support through Elizabeth Ann Seton Fund

# 2023-2024 Tuition

## ½ Day Nursery

### 5 ½ Days

Catholic - Affiliated 4,600

## Nursery-Grade 8

### **Catholic—Affiliated**

1 child 5,800 (12% Discount)  
2 children 10,150 (24% Discount)  
3 children 13,700 (32% Discount)  
4 children 16,900 (38% Discount)

### **Non-Catholic**

1 child 6,600  
2 children 10,850  
3 children 14,500  
4 children 17,700

Tuition payments are due on the 15th of the month beginning August 15th and ending May 15th. A \$25 penalty will be charged for late payments.

Just a reminder that there are no longer any Books and Materials, Technology, and Security Fees. They have all been rolled into the monthly tuition payment



# Futures in Education

2023-2024 Tuition Assistance is available for eligible students in grade K-8, who attend a Brooklyn or Queens Catholic School or Academy.

- Partial scholarships from \$500 up to \$3,200 per student, not to exceed 75% of tuition
- Scholarship awards are assessed on a needs basis considering household size and total annual income using the guidelines of the National School Lunch Program
- Go to [www.futuresineducation.org](http://www.futuresineducation.org)
- From the main menu, click SCHOLARSHIPS and then APPLY
- (\$35 non-refundable fee)
- For help or any questions, call or email Futures at 718.965.7340 or [scholarships@futuresineducation.org](mailto:scholarships@futuresineducation.org)

# Academy Tuition Assistance Committee

- Assistance may be requested from SFDSCA for families experiencing financial hardship
- TAC assesses submissions and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors
- Absent extraordinary circumstances, application for tuition assistance *MUST* be made to Futures, and results known, prior to considering any such requests
- Families seeking consideration by the TAC must make such requests in writing, and must include specific regarding financial hardship
- Any approved assistance is for one year only and **NOT** carried forward

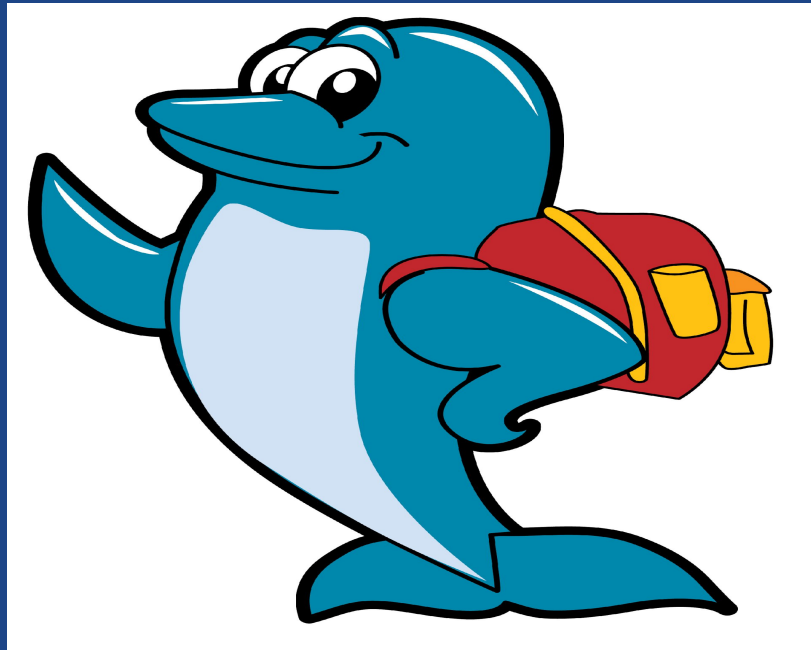
# Parish Collaborations

We are grateful to the staffs of Blessed Trinity and St. Francis de Sales Parishes for their generous and unwavering support of the our Mission through their ministry. We also thank them for their collaboration and openness to projects that benefit both the Academy and Parish communities!

# Parish Collaborations

- We are grateful for the ongoing Parish staff and community support from & collaboration, through:
  - Preparation for and celebration of Sacraments
  - The offering of Masses throughout the school year
  - Community Outreach through Parish Bulletin, Website, & Social Media
  - Support of Academy activities and fundraising events
  - Snow removal etc.

# 2023-2024 School Year



# Family Survey Results

In an effort to improve system practices, Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Academy conducted a Catholic Identity Defining Characteristics Parent and Community Survey and a Family Survey in the Spring of 2023.

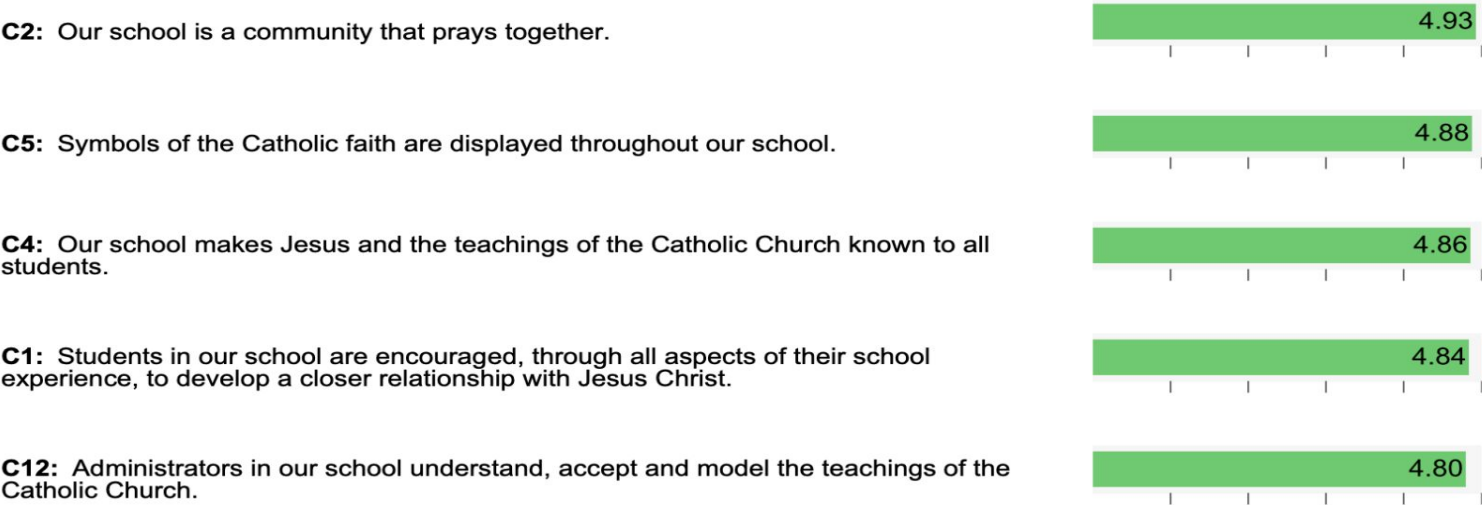
**17% of the families of our school participated in the 2023 Catholic Identity Defining Characteristics Parent and Community Survey**

**23% of the families of our school participated in the 2023 St. Francis de Sales Catholic Academy Family Survey**

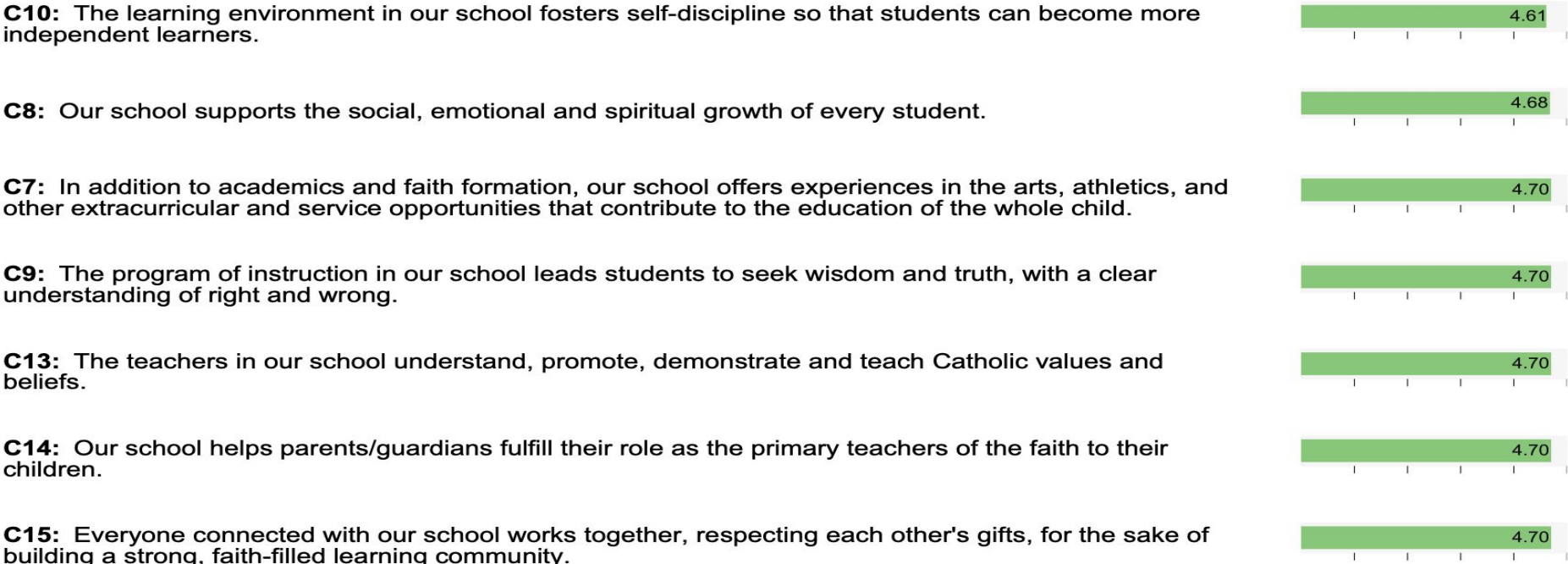
Both surveys used a Likert scale with the following ratings:

- 5.0: Strongly Agree
- 4.0: Agree
- 3.0 Neutral
- 2.0: Disagree
- 1.0: Strongly Disagree

# Highest Scoring Items



# Lowest Scoring Items



# 2023-2024 School Year Religion Curriculum

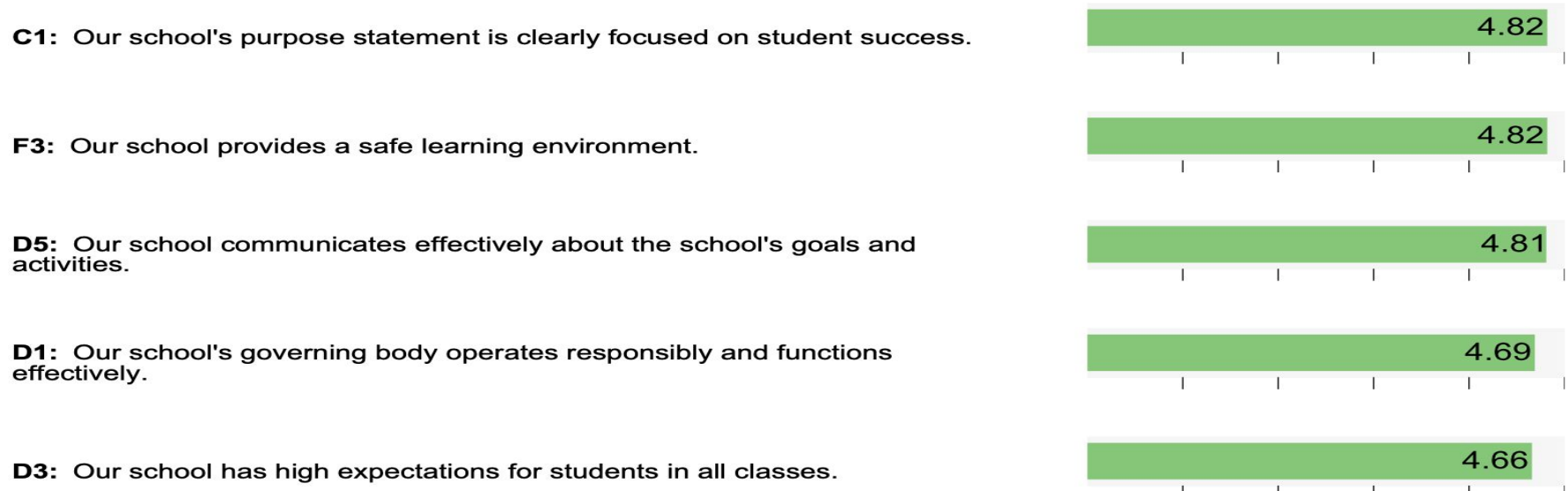
## SPIRIT of TRUTH

*An Engaging K-8 Religion Textbook Series*

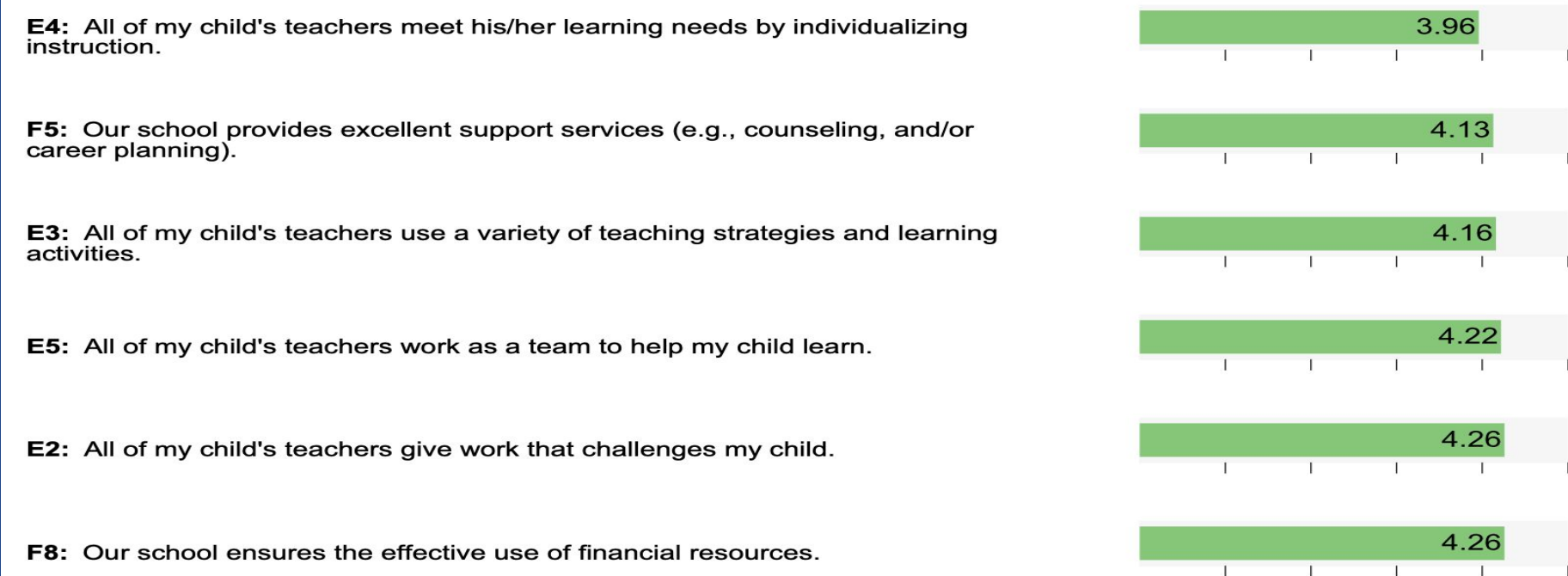




# Highest Scoring Items



# Lowest Scoring Items



# 2023-2024 School Year

## School Calendar

- 2023-2024 Tentative Calendar is posted on our school website

It is important that children attend school regularly and arrive on time daily. Time on learning matters and makes a significant difference in student learning and social-emotional development. As you can imagine, multiple absences and tardiness create significant learning gaps, making it increasingly difficult for a child to keep up with the class routines and curriculum.

Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your child(ren) keep a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Layout clothes and pack backpacks the night before school.
- Ensure your children attend school every day, unless they are truly sick.
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers, counselors, or school administration for advice if your child(ren) feels anxious about going to school.

# 2023-2024 School Year

## School Calendar

Missing 1 or 2 days a week may not seem like much but...

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	Over 13 years of schooling...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days/year	4 weeks/year	Nearly 1 1/2 years
1 day/week	40 days/year	8 weeks/year	Over 2 1/2 years
2 days/week	80 days/year	16 weeks/year	Over 5 years
3 days/week	120 days/year	24 weeks/year	Nearly 8 years

# 2023-2024 School Year

## Continuation of I-Ready

Continuing in the 2023-24 school year; SFDS will be implementing, through the Diocese, the i-Ready Assessment in grades K-8 as our school wide assessment in reading and math.

i-Ready is an interactive online program that is designed to not only provide an assessment of student progress, but also an individualized instructional plan for each student. i-Ready starts the process with an adaptive diagnostic test that identifies the students' current academic level.

As a result of the i-Ready process, teachers gain real-time access to reports that identify the needs of your child and are given additional curricular resources to continue and accelerate student growth on select assessed standards. Parents also receive detailed reports of where their children are performing. Including a target score for the next assessment, as well as their child's Lexile range used for selecting the correct reading level for their child. i-Ready also provides students a digital instruction supplement where students are able to work independently on targeted activities based on your students' needs.

<http://i-readycentral.com/familycenter/what-is-i-ready/>

# 2023-2024 School Year

## DeSales115 Strategic Plan (2022-2027)

The strategic plan was the result of nine months' worth of contemplation, discussion, and prayer. Because of the dedication of many of the St. Francis de Sales Catholic Academy School Board members, school administrators, faculty, staff, parents, and members of the community, this plan was formed.

The final Plan was approved and promulgated September of 2022

Goals and Objectives in the following domains

- **Catholic Identity**
- **Academic Excellence**
- **Finance and Development**
- **Enrollment and Marketing**
- **Government and Leadership**
- **Resource Planning**

# 2023-2024 School Year

## DeSales115 Strategic Plan (2022-2027) Updates

Accomplishments for 2022-2023 Year

### Catholic Identity Domain

Objective #1 -Expand and enhance community service

School-wide Lenten Service Project for Life Center

Grade Wide Service Projects

Continue individual service requirements for students in grades 6-8

Objective #2 - Encourage respect, reverence, and active participation at school liturgies.

Focus on teaching the parts of the mass and responses in all grades

Coordinate with Parish Music Director to teach students hymns for mass

# 2023-2024 School Year

## DeSales115 Strategic Plan (2022-2027) Updates

### Academic Excellence Domain

#### Objective #1 - Provide Quality Professional Development

- Established Professional Learning Community (PLC) Monthly PD

- Math and ELA coaches

- New Teacher Mentor Program

- Peer Visitations

# 2023-2024 School Year

## DeSales115 Strategic Plan (2022-2027)

Objective #2 - Develop and maintain a rigorous instructional curriculum

Focus on Writing and ELA Curriculum (2023-2024)

Updates to K -3 English Language Arts Program

- Increase in writing instruction

- Increase in on task reading activities

School Wide Writing Program

- Grade Wide Writing Benchmarks from K-8

- Focus on Four Genres of Writing

- Establish a School Wide Portfolio System

- School Wide Writing Benchmarks administered 3 times per year

- School Wide Uniform Grading Rubrics for Writing



## St. Francis de Sales 2nd Writing Benchmarks 2023-2024

*\*The Benchmarks are expected to be achieved by the end of 2nd Grade*

### 2nd Grade Writing Benchmarks Across All Genres

By the end of 2nd Grade students should be able to :

- Compose a complete indented paragraph with three details and elaboration for each detail (Master)
- Add transition words to writing (Master)
- Write a topic statement (Master)
- Add closure to their writing (Master)
- Produce and expand complete and compound sentences by using conjunctions (Approaching)
- Use strong Words (verbs and adjectives) to add description and vivid details (Approaching)
- Correctly use frequently confused words (to,too,two, there, their, they're, your, you're (Approaching)
- Use irregular plural nouns in writing - foot/feet, child, children (Approaching)
- Use commas in dates and words in a series (Master)
- Use apostrophes to form contractions (Master)
- Become aware of the conventions of spelling by proofreading and editing work (Approaching)

<b>Response to Literature</b>	<b>Opinion</b>	<b>Informational</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
Students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Create a response to a text or an author</li><li>● Respond to a question or prompt about a text</li></ul>	Students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Give one opinion</li><li>● Give three reasons to support that opinion</li><li>● Add elaboration to each detail</li><li>● Know the difference between an opinion (I like cupcakes) and a claim (Cupcakes are the best snack.)</li></ul>	Students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Write two sentences of information</li><li>● Use a text to get two details to support the topic</li><li>● Complete a topic statement</li></ul>	Students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Develop real or imagined experiences or events</li><li>● Students will choose an event</li><li>● Retell the event in correct sequence using transition words</li><li>● Begin with a topic statement</li><li>● Add three details</li><li>● Add elaboration to each detail</li><li>● Finish with a closing</li><li>● Include details to show thoughts, actions, and feelings</li><li>● Use strong verbs and adjectives to add more description</li></ul>

# St. Francis de Sales 5th Grade Writing Benchmarks 2023-2024

*\*The Benchmarks are expected to be achieved by the end of 5th Grade*

## 5th Grade Writing Benchmarks Across All Genres

By the end of 5th Grade students should be able to :

- Produce simple, compound, and complex sentences. (Master)
- Master a three-four paragraph writing piece with an introduction, body, and conclusion. (Master)
- Using at least three details and elaboration for each detail in each paragraph (Master)
- Add transition words in writing (Master)
- Use strong words ( verbs and adjectives) to add description and vivid details (Master)
- Write an introduction that provides a “hook” and topic statement (Approaching)
- Add a closing paragraph to their writing (Approaching)
- Maintain a style and tone appropriate to the writing task (Approaching)
- Use conventional spelling for high-frequency and other studied words, and to add suffixes to base words (e.g., sitting, smiled, cries, happiness). (Master)
- Use spelling patterns, rules, and generalizations (e.g., word families, position-based spellings, syllable patterns, ending rules, meaningful word parts) in writing words. (Master)
- Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.(Master)

Response to Literature	Argumentative/Persuasive	Informational/Research	Narrative
<p>Students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Create a poem, story, play, artwork, or other response to a text, author, theme, or personal experience.</li> <li>● Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to respond and support analysis, reflection, and research by applying the Reading Standards</li> </ul>	<p>Students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Write an argument to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.</li> <li>● Introduce a precise claim and organize the reasons and evidence logically.</li> <li>● Provide logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details from various sources.</li> <li>● Use precise language and content-specific vocabulary while writing an argument.</li> <li>● Use appropriate transitional words, phrases, and clauses to clarify and connect ideas and concepts.</li> <li>● Provide a concluding statement or section related to the argument presented.</li> <li>● Maintain a style and tone appropriate to the writing task</li> </ul>	<p>Students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Write informative/explanatory texts to explore a topic and convey ideas and information relevant to the subject.</li> <li>● Introduce a topic clearly, provide a general focus, and organize related information logically.</li> <li>● Develop a topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other relevant information; include text features, illustrations, and multimedia to aid comprehension.</li> <li>● Use precise language and content-specific vocabulary to explain a topic.</li> <li>● Use appropriate transitional/linking words, phrases, and clauses to clarify and connect ideas and concepts.</li> <li>● Provide a concluding statement</li> </ul>	<p>Students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.</li> <li>● Establish a situation and introduce a narrator and/or characters.</li> <li>● Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue and description, to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.</li> <li>● Use a variety of transitional words, phrases, and clauses to manage the sequence of events.</li> <li>● Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.</li> <li>● Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.</li> </ul>

# Congratulations

We are proud to let everyone know our 8<sup>th</sup> graders have once again been accepted into outstanding Catholic Schools across the city and Long Island.

- *As of May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023*
- *\$1,100,300 of scholarships awarded!*



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC ACADEMY  
**CLASS OF 2023**

# Parental Communication

- Weekly Email Blast for families
- Active Facebook and Instagram page
- Mobile App
- Robust Website
- FACTS Parent Portal and Alerts System
- See Saw in early childhood
- Daily/Weekly individualized teacher communication to parents via email or phone

# Academy Family Association

- The mission of Academy Family Association (AFA) is to support and enrich the academic, spiritual, and community programs of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Academy. Mirroring the traditions and teachings of the Catholic faith, parents work in partnership with the school to ensure students have the very best in education.
- The goals of the AFA are to:
  - Support spiritual events and create opportunities to develop a strong and meaningful Christian community for students, families, faculty, and administration
  - Provide a vehicle of communication between parents and the school
  - Plan and coordinate fundraising activities that support school programs
  - Offer interesting and informative programs that are relevant to students and the school community

# Academy Family Association

## 2022-2023 AFA Board Members

- Executive Board
  - President- Tim Henning
  - Vice President- Megan Anderson
  - Secretary- Jennifer Burke
  - Treasurer- Peter Mullen

Please attend the next meeting on 5/24 via Zoom at 7 pm

# Fundraising Update

- Over \$200,000 has been raised through various fundraisers this year
  - Special Lunches
  - Spirit Wear
  - Fall Flower Sale
  - Book Fair
  - Franny Fun Run
  - \$15,000 Raffle
  - Christmas Boutique
  - Chocolate Sale
  - Card Party
  - Sweetheart Dance and Lads and Lucky Ladies
- Upcoming Events
  - Golf and Tennis Outing- May 19th 2023
  - Summer Concert- July 6th 2023
- We anticipate announcing our tentative fundraising calendar for the 2023-2024 school year at the 5/24/23 AFA Meeting

# Stay Informed

- Follow and like us on Facebook and Instagram
  - <https://www.facebook.com/SFDSCA>
  - <https://www.instagram/sfdsca>
- Visit our website
  - <https://stfrancisacademybh.org/>
- Attend Academy Family Association Meeting
- Read email communications posted via FACTS



# Thank you to our Community



# Questions...







LITTLE CHILDREN, LET US  
LOVE NOT IN WORD AND  
SPEECH, BUT IN ACTION  
AND TRUTH.

*- 1 JOHN 3:18*