



Saint Matthew's Catholic School
A school you can have faith in!

Annual Report

November 2011



St. Matthew's Catholic School Mission:

We believe that each child is a gift from God and deserves to be loved and educated to become faith-filled, compassionate, courageous leaders.

Dear St. Matthew School families,

St. Matthews Catholic School is in the midst of its 94 year tradition here in the Flathead Valley. It is exciting and a privilege to be a part of this tradition – would you not agree! From what I have seen and heard the Flathead Valley is a better place because of St. Matthews School, and I am sure this will continue to be the case into the foreseeable future. An example that comes to mind is what our students did in memory of the heroes of 9/11 and for the unsung heroes - our other first responders here in Kalispell and beyond.

Today's American society, because of secularism and relativism, attacks on the sacred institution we call "the family", confusion as to the true worth and dignity of each and every human being, a wide array of detrimental influences on our youth, and harmful peer pressure, fails to provide stability, healthy structure, shared Christian and wholesome values, which are needed to foster healthy, well balanced, confident, and astute children and adolescents. St. Matthew's school helps to counter the unhealthy societal influences of our day, by providing the children of St. Matthew's, and their families as well, with an overall environment that promotes confident, well rounded, academically astute, virtuous, faith filled young boys and girls, who hold out much hope for the future of America.

One of my goals is to be active in the school. To this end I try to get to know the children and their families in the classrooms, hallways, cafeteria, parking lot, church, the sports fields, and beyond. I help teach religious education classes by visiting our classes and by teaching the sixth graders once a month and the seventh and eighth graders twice a month. I believe this interaction is beneficial for all of us.

Our motto for this year is to go from good to great. The teachers and the entire staff are working together along with the students and their families to help us all go from being good to being great, to go from being sinners, to being apostles of Jesus Christ, to being saints. Certainly this will not happen in one year, but we will strive to move in this direction.

As the priest here at St Matthews it is extremely hard for me to express what it means to me personally to be a part of this family, of this noble institution. I simply want to thank you, to let you know you and your loved ones are in my prayers, and to encourage you to never forget that Jesus Christ is the light of the world; He is our light. Let's walk with him every day of our lives, for He is the way, the truth and life. In so doing, we will go from good to great!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Roderick Ermatinger

Fr. Roderick Ermatinger

Dear St. Matthew School Community,

As we give thanks for our many blessings this year, I offer my sincerest thanks to St. Matthew's students, families, and staff for their hard work, contributions, and support for our school. We have much to celebrate. And as we look ahead to the Christmas season and begin making preparations for the New Year, we see on the horizon much work yet to be done. In that light, it is my pleasure to offer you a progress report on St. Matthew's Catholic School.

Throughout the education of a St. Matthew's student, our students will grow to understand the roots of their faith and their responsibilities as Christians. We emphasize those values which encourage students to accept others rather than exclude them, to understand the difference between right and wrong, and to commit themselves to serve God by serving others. Our faculty stresses the values of faith, courage, respect, and compassion, while sharing their faith, talent and time with each student. St. Matthew's encourages each student to accept the challenges of being an active and participatory Christian in tomorrow's world. We encourage excellence in faith, academics, extra-curricular activities, and community service.

At Saint Matthew's, we believe that success comes through the relationships we have with each other. With the tremendous amount of parental involvement, the strength of our faculty and staff, and the spiritual backbone of our parish and Catholic community, I know that we have all of the ingredients necessary to successfully and effectively fulfill our mission according to our mission. *We believe that each child is a gift from God and deserves to be loved and educated to become faith-filled, compassionate, courageous leaders.*

On behalf of the Saint Matthew's Parish faculty and staff, as well as Fr. Rod and the parish staff, know that we love the opportunity to serve your family. Together, with home and school working as one, we can't help but form well-rounded, dedicated, educated citizens of God's Kingdom. It is an honor and a privilege to enter into my 10th year as a Catholic school educator among St. Matthew's faith family. May this school year and the days to come be filled with the grace of our loving God.

Blessings,

Joanna Eichner

Joanna Eichner
St. Matthew's Principal

Rigorous Academics Forged in the Strength of Catholic Identity

Academic Report 2010-2011

Catholic elementary schools were founded essentially as parish schools after the Council of Baltimore in 1884. For over 100 years these schools have been conducted by various Religious Orders of men and women. The Sisters of Mercy from Sacred Heart Convent in Cedar Rapids, Iowa came to Kalispell to open St. Matthew School in 1917.

The purpose of the Catholic parish school is primarily to teach the Roman Catholic faith. The second purpose is to develop an academic curriculum permeated with the values taught in the Roman Catholic Church. The faculty and staff at St. Matthew strive to live up to the needs of parents and parish for an academically sound and spiritually formative school for our children. At this time, let me recognize some of the examples of St. Matthew's excellence and share them with you.

- St. Matthew 5th and 8th graders have participated in the National Assessment of Catholic Religious Education (ACRE) exam since 2003. Our students rank exceptionally well when compared to other Catholic schools in the nation
- We celebrate the pursuit of academic excellence among our students. St. Matthew's 5th-8th grade students participate in the annual County Spelling Bee, and since 2007 have competed in the state Geography Bee. Every other year our students compete in the Invention Convention, and last year we began a new tradition of celebrating the intertwined story between the Catholic faith and art history through The Creative Hand.
- A significant number of our students qualify for the honor roll once moving on to high school. Our teachers and students work very hard to prepare for high school and according to the public school administration, Saint Matthew students in both Kalispell high schools are among the most academically prepared 9th graders each year.
- Last year, our students participated in the state criterion-referenced test (MontCAS) so we may compare our students' knowledge with their public school peers. We are pleased with how our results compare with other schools.

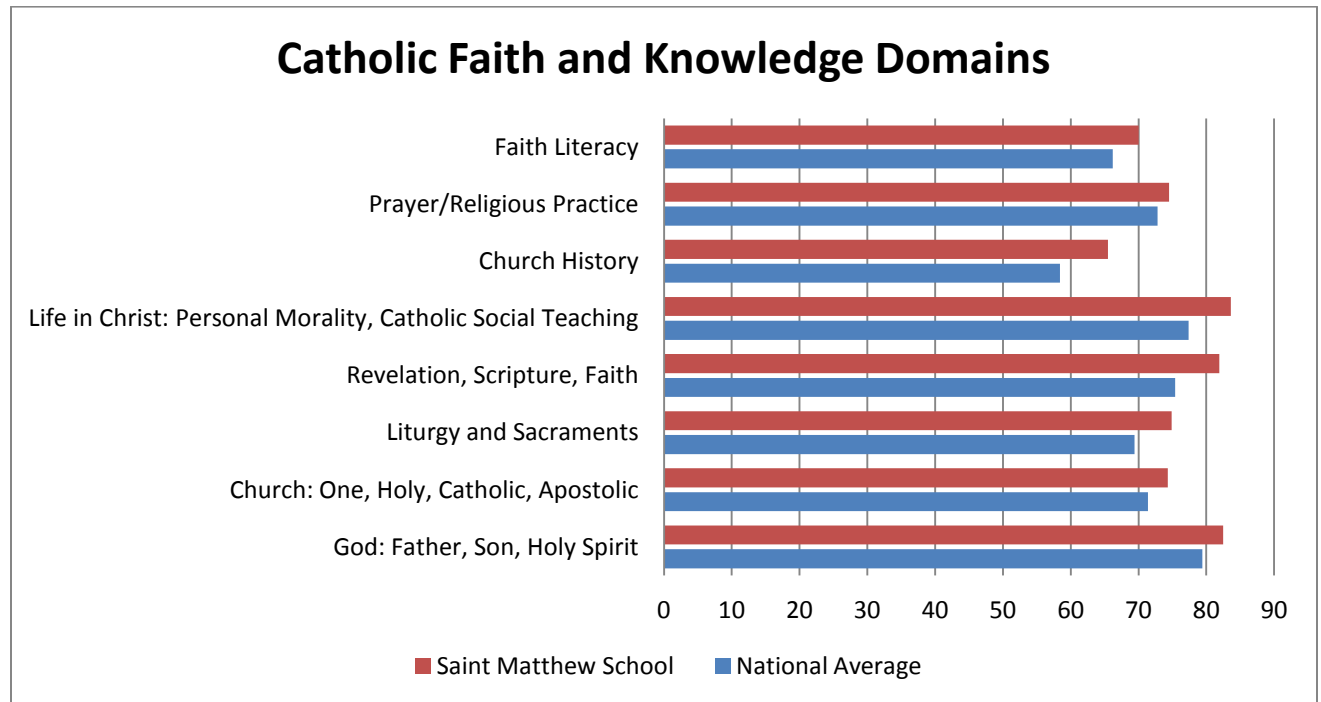


Below is the data utilized by St. Matthew Catholic School in 2010-2011.

State of Montana Criterion referenced Testing (CRT) 3rd-8th Grade Students

Reading	Novice	Nearing Proficient	Proficient	Advanced
St. Matthew School	0.5%	5.8%	21.5%	72.1%
Kalispell Public Schools	2.6%	5.1%	30%	62.3%
Flathead County Schools	3.3%	6.8%	32.6%	57%
Math	Novice	Nearing Proficient	Proficient	Advanced
St. Matthew School	7.1%	17%	44%	32%
Kalispell Public Schools	6.3%	14%	36%	43%
Flathead County Schools	10%	16.1%	37%	36.6%
Science	Novice	Nearing Proficient	Proficient	Advanced
St. Matthew School	0%	16.5%	41.5%	42%
Kalispell Public Schools	4.5%	21.5%	50%	23.5%
Flathead County Schools	6.5%	25.5%	51%	16%

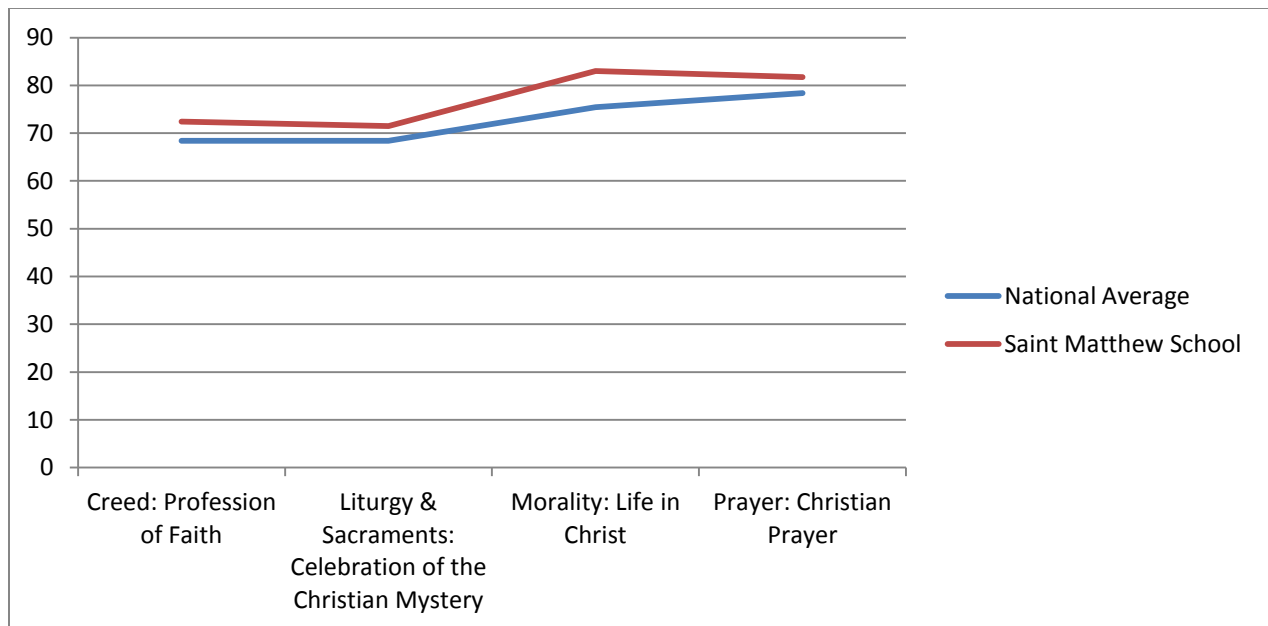
**ACRE (Assessment of Catholic Religious Education) 8th Grade Students
2003-2011 average**



The Quality of a Catholic Education Shows...



ACRE (Assessment of Catholic Religious Education) 8th Grade Students 2003-2011 average The Four Pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church





Young people are a valued treasure and the future leaders of our Church. It is the responsibility of the entire Catholic community... All Catholics must join together in efforts to ensure that Catholic schools have administrators and teachers who are prepared to provide an exceptional educational experience for young people—one that is both truly Catholic and of the highest academic quality.

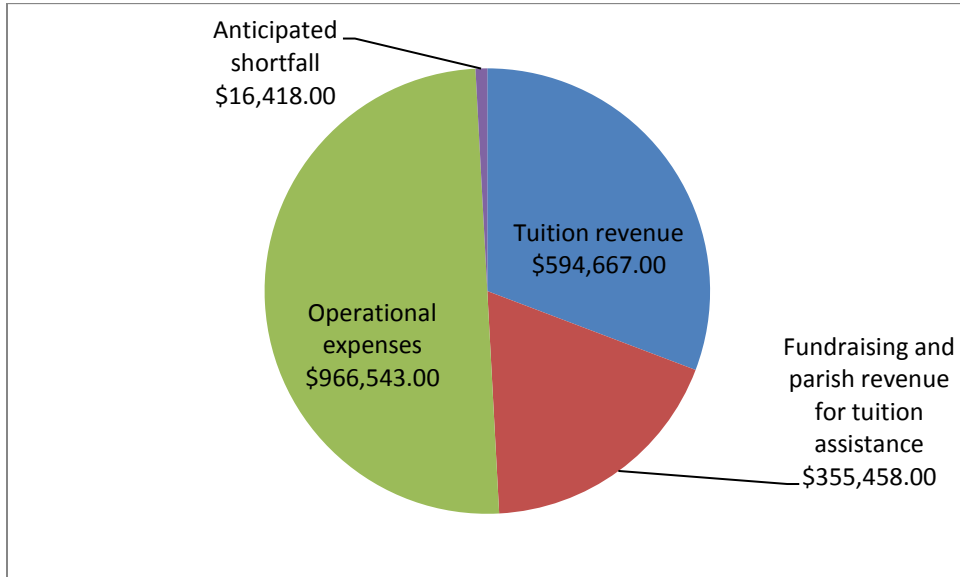
Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium
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We are blessed with faculty members who give so much of their time, for modest pay, to our students. All of our teachers have a Montana teaching license or are in the process of earning one. And every school teacher puts in countless hours of educationally directed instruction beyond the normal work day. Our staff averages 10 years teaching experience. It is without a doubt that these dedicated individuals are the backbone of the outstanding education that we provide.



Our sports programs, through the sweat and commitment of parent volunteer coaches, have established a competitive legacy in this valley. Since 2001, Saint Matthew's has fielded teams in football, volleyball, and basketball and has successfully competed in each activity. Our competition covers the wide variety of the Flathead Valley. Over the course of the last 7 years, we have 65% of wins in football. Our 8th grade boys' basketball team went undefeated in 2007 and 2008. Our 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams were undefeated in 2008, our 8th grade team was undefeated last year, and our 7th grade team was undefeated this year. These records are more remarkable when we take into consideration that St. Matthew is literally half of the size of most of our competition.

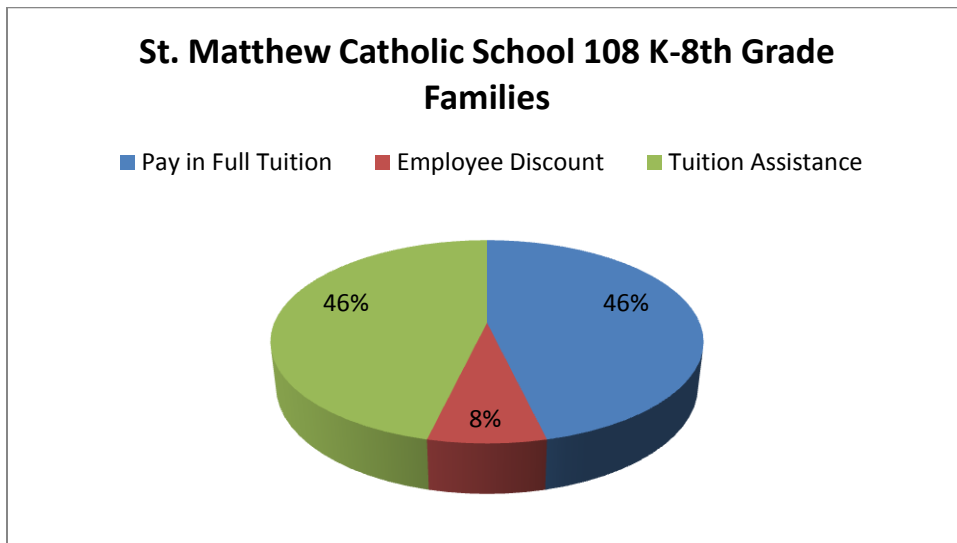
FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS 2011-2012



*At this time we are anticipating a slight budget shortfall and are working extremely hard to keep our expenses down.

TUITION DEMOGRAPHICS 2011-2012

Cost of Education Families	50 families
Tuition Assisted Families	58 families





This report has been created with feeling of deepest gratitude for all those who have made our students, schools, families, and community a better place. It is an honor to be part of the St. Matthew faith community. The support and generosity of this community are the backbone of who we are and what we do. Please know that we appreciate all of the time, energy, and gifts our supporters bless us with each year. God bless you!

