

ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2026-2027

VISION REPORT





WELCOME!

Dear St. Augustine Catholic School Community,

It is with great gratitude that we present to you the **2026 St. Augustine Catholic School Vision Report**. This document reflects our collective achievements, highlights our growth opportunities, and provides a vision for the future as we continue to nurture young minds in faith, academics, and service.

The past few years have been years of progress and growth. We have seen increased student enrollment, engagement among families, and ongoing academic excellence. However, our mission is ongoing. We are called to continuously seek excellence in all areas — whether that is through improving our instruction, fostering deeper spiritual formation, or ensuring financial sustainability for generations to come.

As you read through this report, we invite you to reflect on how you can contribute to the growth and promotion of this very special school community. Whether through volunteering, supporting our fundraising efforts, or spreading the word about our incredible school, every member of our community plays a vital role in our success. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to St. Augustine Catholic School. Our entire faculty and staff look forward to working together as we continue to spread the good N.E.W.S. by Navigating a Christian course, Educating body, mind, and spirit, Worshipping the Lord, and Serving others.

In Christ,

Mrs. Emily Lenn

Principal

Fr. Mark Livingston

Pastor

Our House System builds community. All students and staff are sorted into 1 of 4 houses:
 Augustine House
 Apostle House
 Holy Family House
 Archangel House

Each student also has a Housemate, who they get to know during the course of the year!



Kids Against Hunger challenged our students to pack 15,000 meals for the hungry in the Blue Water area in less than 3 hours! We are raising funds to pack 20,000 meals in 2027!



Students have a diverse array of opportunities to refine their God-given gifts, which includes athletics, Science Olympiad, youth choir, rosary club, altar serving, and more.



"The school community at Saint Augustine is very welcoming and caring. We feel our son was able to feel comfortable at school starting on his first day. Multiple staff know his name and he recognizes many students that are outside of his own class."

M. Fey,
Parent of two current students



"I came to St. Augustine in 7th grade, looking for a school that would accept me and help me grow as a person. Everyone was really friendly and told me stories about what happened in earlier grades. It made me feel like family. The academics are strong, I've made social connections, and I've experienced wonderful traditions.."

V. Alfaro, Class of 2024
Austin Catholic High School 11th grader



"The biggest impact St. A's has had on me to get me where I am now would definitely be my school work ethic. I was able to take the advice to "put your best self forward in everything you do" and bring it to high school to help me grow into the person I am today."

A. Dobrasko, Class of 2020
Richmond High Valedictorian '24



Fast Facts:

1930

St. Augustine Catholic School was built from fieldstone and established 96 years ago.

205

Students in Preschool through 8th grade are currently enrolled.

16

Professional Faculty include teachers, academic interventionist, literacy coach, & school counselor.



Accredited through the Michigan Non-public School Accrediting Association (MNSAA).

Students have regular opportunities to participate in weekly Mass and frequent Eucharistic Adoration, learning personal prayer.



MISSION AND CATHOLIC IDENTITY: FORMING FUTURE SAINTS

Together, we are forming disciples, strengthening our school's Catholic identity, and ensuring that St. Augustine Catholic School continues its mission to form students in the faith for generations to come.

93%

of students report that they have experienced **God's grace** in their lives

87%

of 7th & 8th graders report having a **strong relationship** with God

AREA OF FOCUS

- * We are deeply committed to nurturing our families and the domestic church. One of the most profound opportunities before us is **to strengthen the practice of the faith in the home**, ensuring that our students take their faith experiences and understanding home with them and practice it by **increasing family prayer at home and making weekly Mass attendance a priority**.



WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

To deepen our families' relationships with Christ, we are enhancing our initiatives that encourage greater engagement and foster a culture of joyful discipleship.



Expanded parent opportunities- Parents will be invited to engage in the practice of the faith as experiences are incorporated into events such as **Meet the Teacher Night, All School Mass (Parent Adoration & Rosary), Catholic Schools Week, Parent Teacher Conferences**, and more.



Media Subscriptions- Families will be encouraged to utilize the **Hallow** app and **Formed** that are aligned with school initiatives via the Saints Weekly.



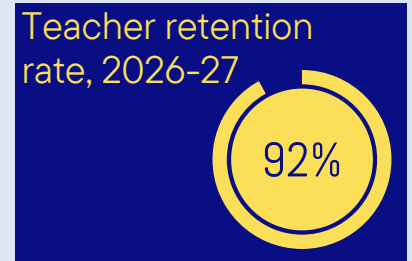
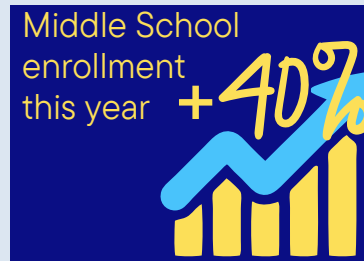
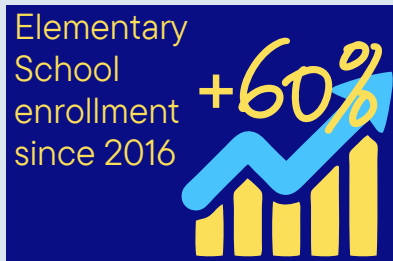
Engaging older students- By providing opportunities for middle school students to **plan faith experiences** for the school community, they will take ownership and leadership in forming disciples. Middle school students will also attend an **off campus discipleship-focused retreat** this fall.



Providing a variety of faith experiences is an essential way to bring our families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, immersing them in His presence, forming them in faith, and uniting them with the Church for the greater glory of God. As a Catholic school, we actively cultivate these experiences in our classrooms, and endeavor to do so in the homes of our school families.

GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP: BUILDING A FAMILY CULTURE OF BELONGING

Governance goes beyond policies and procedures—it's fostering a culture rooted in trust, collaboration, and a clear mission. When faculty, families, and leadership work together, our school thrives. With continued support, we can further enhance our governance systems and leadership, ensuring that St. Augustine Catholic School remains a community of excellence, mission, and continuous growth.



AREA OF FOCUS

- * Our commitment to **our school mission** has allowed us to attract new students, growing our student body, maintaining a faculty dedicated to the school's mission, and developing leadership that supports school-wide goals. Yet, as we continue to grow, we continue our focus on increasing our retention level in both the middle school and our lower elementary faculty.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

A strong school community is built on a **shared understanding of mission and vision**. This year, we are continue our efforts to clarify, communicate, and engage stakeholders in the direction of St. Augustine Catholic School.



Middle school retention- Retaining students after 5th grade is a key objective. Our faculty and staff is focused on sustaining a **positive middle school climate** and increasing collaboration for all students. Our middle school will be set apart from the elementary with increased opportunities to **serve as leaders** in the school community.



Investing in faculty stability- Faculty stability is a top priority. A formalized **teacher mentor program** has been developed and implemented with monthly topics for discussion. Mentorship will provide newer colleagues with continued support. Teachers serving as mentors are eligible for **continuing education credit** toward their teaching certificate renewal.



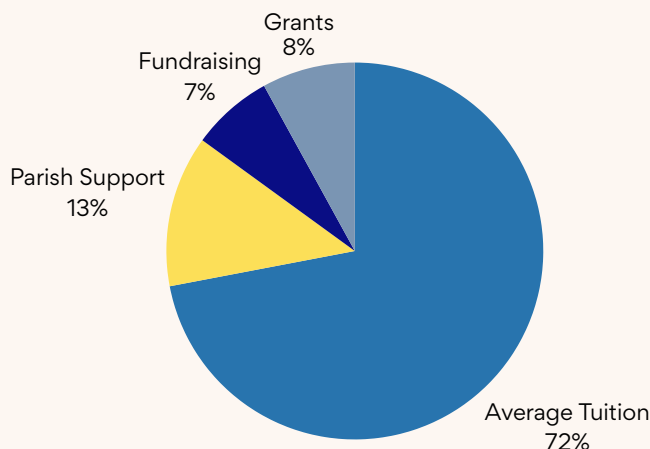
Enhanced teacher compensation- **Competitive wages** are essential to our continued success. Salary rates continue to be adjusted to promote teacher retention and maintain competitive pay in line with other area schools.

School success is not just about administrative efficiency— its about longevity and retention of community members. Together, we are laying the foundation for a thriving, mission-driven school, where communication is clear, leadership is strong, and our shared mission moves us forward.

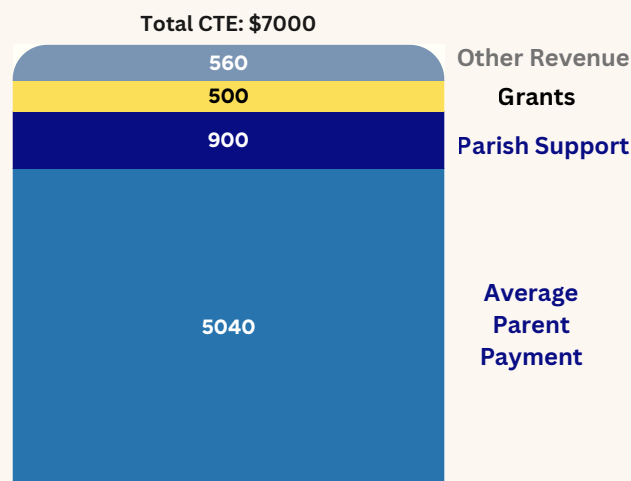
OPERATIONAL VITALITY: STRENGTHENING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

St. Augustine Catholic School is dedicated to responsible financial stewardship that ensures both affordability for families and long-term sustainability for the school and parish.

**SOURCES OF REVENUE:
ST. A'S COMMUNITY**



**ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL
COST TO EDUCATE BREAKDOWN**



AREA OF FOCUS



We are taking strategic steps to fortify the financial foundation of St. Augustine Catholic School. Tuition assistance/scholarship efforts have become more purposeful to help support families as they navigate their financial commitments. Additionally, we will continue outreach efforts to alumni, re-establishing their connection to the school and providing an opportunity for support both financially and as ambassadors. We are continue to expand our fundraising efforts to ensure additional funding to support our school's sustainability for the future.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Financial strength is about more than just balancing numbers—it's about increasing affordability to current families, while ensuring that every student has access to an exceptional Catholic education for years to come.



Scholarships & Trust Establishment- The **parish envelope** schedule has been adjusted, encouraging parish support for school scholarship funds. Donors have the opportunity to “**sponsor a student**” via our school website. Additionally, a **trust will be established** in order to provide an annual percent return of funds to be used to lower tuition and support development projects.



Alumni Engagement- An updated **alumni database** has been started, and alumni events promoting the school's mission are currently being planned. An alumni newsletter will be distributed periodically, along with an ongoing **alumni giving campaign** launch, with funds collected and deposited in the Trust.

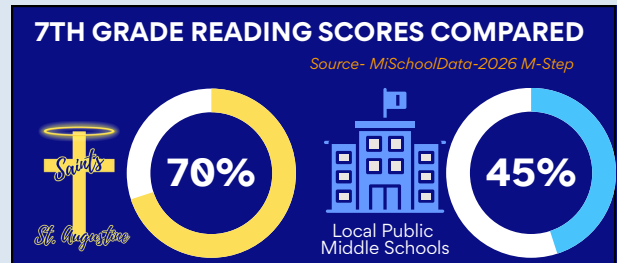
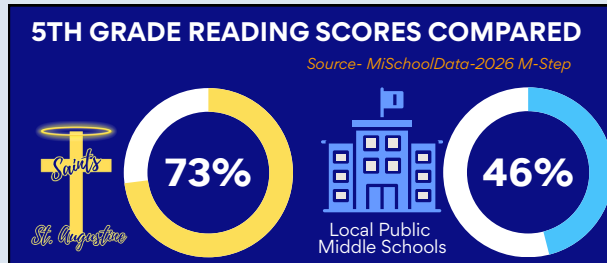


Fundraising- The school fundraising committee will continue to **evaluate each fundraising event**, determine its effectiveness, and make adjustments to focus on those that generate the most revenue. Obtaining **business sponsorships** will be prioritized, thus reducing event costs and increasing profit.

Our financial health is a reflection of our shared dedication. By uniting school alumni, families, donors, and the parish, we can foster both growth in and accessibility to Catholic education in our community.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: RAISING THE BAR FOR STUDENT GROWTH

Academic excellence is the result of a collective effort among educators, students, and families. Together, we are building a legacy of academic excellence, ensuring that every student at St. Augustine Catholic School is empowered to learn, grow, and succeed, thus preparing them for continued achievement in high school and beyond. Our students continue to outperform their local public school peers as shown by the data below.



AREA OF FOCUS

- * We continue focusing on **early intervention** because it is the most effective prevention measure to reduce reading difficulty in the upper elementary grades. We know that reading is the foundation for long-term academic success and personal development. By the time students reach 3rd grade, focus shifts from learning to read to reading to learn. Early intervention is key in building a solid foundation of literacy skills to support education in the higher grade levels.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

As we build upon our successes, we continue to improve our instructional methods that have yielded the **greatest impact on student growth**; therefore, leading to **increased achievement** over time. We are committed to **strengthening our Tier 1 instruction** (whole group instruction) — ensuring that every classroom is a place where students are deeply engaged and learning is both rigorous and exciting.



Literacy Coaching- Title I funds will continue to support a **skilled literacy coach** to provide reading intervention instruction individually and in small groups to K-3 students who need extra help. The literacy coach will also collaborate with elementary teachers in implementing **phonics instruction**.



Professional Development- Title II funds will be prioritized to allow **all teachers** to attend the **Great Lakes Unity Conference** to improve Tier I instruction practices, along with other training opportunities.



Tutoring- Title I **tutoring services** will continue to be offered, increasing collaborative efforts among literacy coach, classroom teacher, academic interventionist, and tutor, thus increasing student growth. Parents will receive a **progress report** at the end of each semester detailing the skills our intervention team is working on with their child.

By prioritizing growth through student-centered, targeted instructional practices, progress-monitoring, and collaborative instructional efforts, we will ensure that every student has the opportunity to grow and flourish academically.

ADVANCING OUR MISSION

From the classroom to the field, in the church, and within the community, St Augustine students shine as scholars, athletes, leaders, and disciples of Jesus Christ. We foster an environment where every student can discover their God-given gifts, build lasting friendships, know their dignity in Christ, and grow in faith, virtue, and their relationship with the Lord.



\$21,000

in tuition assistance awarded this year to support families in need.



100%

of your donation directly impacts students through academics, faith experiences, extracurriculars, special programs, and school improvements that enrich their learning environment.



\$350,000

is our target goal to establish a trust fund for scholarships and future financial sustainability.



OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE CATHOLIC EDUCATION AN AFFORDABLE OPTION FOR ALL FAMILIES

St. Augustine Catholic School is committed to expanding access, enhancing academic excellence, and strengthening the future of the Church for generations to come. Donor support helps to fund scholarships, improve facilities, and invest in additional educational resources, ensuring that every student receives a transformative Catholic education. Together, we can expand the opportunity for more families to provide a Catholic education for their children.

To learn more about how you can help, contact the school at (586) 727-9365.

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

At St Augustine Catholic School, families, friends, alumni, and parish members are essential partners in our mission. Your support strengthens our community, enriches student experiences, and ensures a thriving school environment. Here's how you can make a meaningful impact:



JOIN OUR LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

Help your child deepen their faith by attending weekend Mass as a family and engaging in parish life.



REMAIN CONNECTED & INFORMED

Read school communications (Saints Weekly newsletter, Facebook posts, & our Parish bulletin page), attend school meetings, and participate in other family parish events.



SUPPORT FAITH & LEARNING

Encourage reading and writing, celebrate academic growth, and reinforce faith at home through discussion and prayer.



GET INVOLVED IN SCHOOL LIFE

Volunteer for events, cheer on student-athletes, and support clubs and extracurricular activities.

By working together, we ensure that St. Augustine Catholic School remains a place where students flourish in faith, learning, and service. Thank you for being an essential part of our school family!



THANK YOU!

STAY CONNECTED

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Go Saints!