



IMPACT REPORT

2023





As Christ has His work, we too have ours – as He rejoiced to do His work, we must rejoice in ours also.

“God sees everyone of us. He creates every soul for a purpose.... As Christ has His work, we too have ours - as He rejoiced to His work, we must rejoice in ours also.” - St John Neumann

In March 2023, I was invited to join a pilgrimage of school leaders from our local Archdiocese to Philadelphia. During this journey, we encountered many different graces in the form of community, prayer, and learning. Moreover, we were invited to be present to two of our powerful American saints, St. Katharine Drexel and St. John Neumann, who serve as powerful teachers and advocates for the essential mission of Catholic education, particularly in our local churches. In learning their stories and hearing their words, I was renewed in hearing the foundations of our mission rooted deeply in our Catholic faith and the very foundations of our country. It is in our Catholic school community that we are able to rejoice in the work designed for us, specifically the invitation to help our young people discover God, their purpose, and how to rejoice in this knowledge.

We have so many things in which to rejoice in 2023: We welcomed 32 new students from 27 new families to our community, opening the door to increased encounter with God’s plan for each of them and for our larger community. Our K-3 students and teachers completed a second full year with the Believe and Read program, focusing on the foundational reading skills that allow us access to the full library of knowledge available in the world. In only two short years, we can see the incredible impact as 95% of our students met or exceeded their foundational reading growth targets and the number of at-risk readers was reduced by half. These foundational skills allow us to access increasingly complex text and develop a more robust understanding of the world around us.

Our faculty continued to collaborate with Achievement Network, or ANet by shifting our attention to mathematics instruction and curriculum resources. Just as critical as unlocking the English language, we expanded our understanding of the science behind teaching mathematics, a language unto itself, and supporting that work with the highest quality materials available. We look forward to the new year and integrate new curricular pieces to support the continued growth in our students.

Thanks to the work of our exceptional parish partners, our students have exceptional learning spaces and a dedicated team of support from our parish staff and parishioners. Over the last two school years, we have been blessed with new bathrooms at our St. Peter’s (Nicollet) Campus and resurfaced parking lot at both campus locations. During our Fall Serv-a-thons, we worked alongside each other as we planted and cared for trees across both the St. Richard’s and St. Peter’s campus. Above all, we are grateful for the commitment for parish investment in our

**Blessed Trinity Catholic
School is the parish
school of Assumption,
St. Peter's and St.
Richard's. We are clearly
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We are devoted to wholly
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their greatest potential
as images of God.**



school, allowing us to continue to make Blessed Trinity accessible for all of our students and their families and retain our exceptional teachers.

There is always so much work to be done. In journeying together, in learning and growth, we can rejoice in fulfilling our mission to be clearly Catholic, intentionally inclusive, and academically excellent. Even better, we can live out the missionary call of Christ and our church to discover our God-given purpose. This is only possible through the incredible gifts delivered to us from Christ and through the remarkable community of support gathered around us at Blessed Trinity. My sincere gratitude for all your work that inspires and makes our work possible.

God Bless and Go Tigers,

Patrick O'Keefe
Principal



MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

"If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to him and them." - St. Katherine Drexel

As one of the nine Drexel Mission Schools, Blessed Trinity Catholic School seeks to fulfill this beautiful quote from St. Katherine Drexel in our own educational mission. Building on the incredible history of Catholic education in our local parishes, we joyfully witness the presence of God in our daily learning. By recognizing neighbors in the learners and families gathered here, our Blessed Trinity family reflects the increasingly diverse community of Richfield. Our community - students, parents, teachers, staff, parishioners, alumni, supporters and more- come together in service to one another forming a family committed to learning in and through Christ.

As a school, our critical service to others is providing excellent formation. Our students continue to demonstrate exceptional growth in their academic formation from the gains made by our early readers to the academic honors earned by our middle school students and high school alumni. Beyond the intellectual, our BT students have the opportunity to form their commitment to their faith and to serving others.

Our generous parishes and our pastoral leader, Fr. Liekhus, lay the foundation through their generous support of our learning spaces and direct investments into our students. Dedicated alumni and committed benefactors continue to bless us with their generous support to provide critical aid for the 75% of families that require financial support to attend our school. Finally, incredible foundational support from our many partners in the Drexel School Initiative and beyond ensure we can continue to operate a balanced budget. On behalf of our School Board, it is a pleasure to extend our gratitude for the community of support that makes our efforts possible. We are so grateful for this community of investment so that we may joyfully serve our students and families.

Annette Margarit, '69
Blessed Trinity School Board Chair

GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

We are devoted to wholly educating our children to their greatest potential as images of God.

This concluding line of our Blessed Trinity mission statement articulates the driving principle of our work in our parishes and Catholic school. It is a commitment to fulfilling the great gospel call to go forth and make disciples of all nations, starting with our very own children and families.

At Blessed Trinity, we seek to share Christ with each person we encounter, guiding our young people to understand the vocational call God has for each of us. Formation then extends into all parts of who we are and who God calls us to be, in our academic formation, physical growth, emotional development, and, above all, the confidence of knowing the love of Jesus Christ.

This incredible gift, the formation of the full person in God's own image, is only possible through the generous investment of our community. The support of families, educators, alumni, benefactors, and parishioners provide the critical witness and invaluable resources that continue to make Blessed Trinity accessible to our children and their families. Thank you for your investments in our community, through your volunteer hours, sharing your expertise and wisdom, lifting our community in prayer, and generous giving that makes our Catholic community and school possible. We are so grateful for all of your gifts and invite your continued support for the good work we do together.

May we continue to form our young people into the next generation of witnesses to the enduring love of Christ. God bless you and God bless Blessed Trinity!



Rev. Jim Liekhus
Canonical Administrator



PROCLAIMING CHRIST TO ALL PEOPLES

Catholic schools were created to preserve and pass on our faith to future generations. And now, more than ever, Catholic Schools are needed to assist the Church in her mission to evangelize. Blessed Trinity doesn't take this undertaking lightly. We strive to be a genuine community of faith. The education within our walls, hallways, soccer fields, playgrounds and pews is done on behalf of and in the name of parents. We seek to reproduce the warm and intimate atmosphere of family life. Our students receive a way of seeing the world that is full of beauty, wonder, truth and goodness. Blessed Trinity is not just a public school with religion classes and morality added. We have the joy and responsibility of presenting our students a purposeful world willed into being by the creative love of our Heavenly Father.



Evangelization

Catholic schools are places of evangelization by assuring that all students have the basic Gospel message proclaimed to them, are confronted with a choice, and then given the freedom and help to make a response in faith. This year, two of our students did just that. Rhiannon, 4th grade and Andrew, 6th grade, chose to receive full initiation into the Catholic Church and participated in RCIC classes taught by long time supporter and official "Friend of Blessed Trinity" Ann Anton. On April 8th, the Easter vigil, they both received their sacraments of initiation, baptism, first communion and confirmation. When asked about this choice Rhiannon said *"I've attended religious education classes weekly since the fall at our parish in addition to my 4th grade school work at BT. I have always considered myself a Catholic but did not have the sacraments...Blessed Trinity has helped me feel closer to God through prayer and religion class."*

Every single day our students are given the opportunity to live out their faith, encounter Christ and observe His transforming love and truth. Rhiannon's Big Buddy and seat partner at Mass, Ellie, 8th grade said *"Rhiannon didn't become Catholic because of our opinions, not mine, or her families, or her classmates. She chose to become Catholic by our example. The example of her teachers, her classmates, her previous buddies and her family. The example of Blessed Trinity students, teachers, and families encouraged the growth of another disciple. That is something to be very proud of."*

Bearing Witness

The Church is missionary in nature and we are only with our students for a short amount of time. With each spring comes graduation and we send our students off into the world as ambassadors of the truth and love of Christ. Blessed Trinity cultivates and honors students who bear witness to Christ and proclaim it in word and action with the annual Courage awards. While past generations celebrated perfect attendance and spelling prowess we now celebrate the effort and experiences of individuals that produce great character. The acts are large and small, highly visible and extremely private. Through the years students have been recognized for their response to a significant medical diagnosis, standing up for a classmate in a difficult situation, being a warm and welcoming friend to a

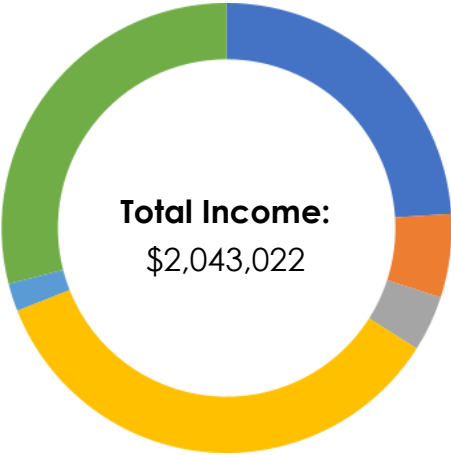


new classmate, showing exceptional dedication to an area of growth, advocating for the needs of classmates and taking action to make sure they are known and loved - these and so many acts of courage have been recognized. We celebrate the love, perseverance, compassion, and bravery these courageous individuals demonstrate. And we hold these up as models of the person they are to become, Disciples that will transform the culture and make great change.

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." (St. Catherine of Siena) When Blessed Trinity is what it is called to be, we have the power to not only pass on our faith but to set the world on fire with the love of Christ Jesus.

Courage: An action or mannerism that demonstrates an ability to rise beyond peer pressure, out of a comfort zone, to do what is right though it may be unpopular; involves sacrifice but is the right and good thing to do, often for others.

FINANCES & DEMOGRAPHICS



2022-23 Income

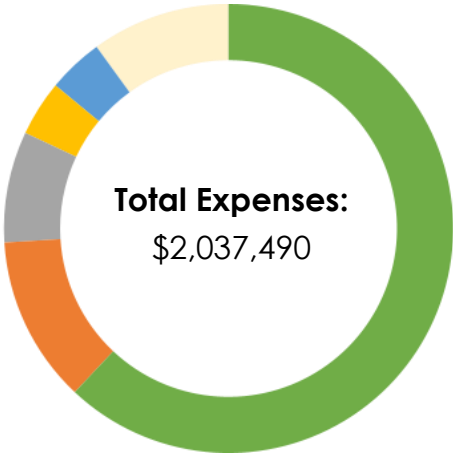
24%	Parish Investment
6%	Extended Day & Summer Care
4%	Food Service
35%	Tuition and Fees

2%	Fundraising
29%	Development

* Includes in-kind use of facility

2022-23 Expenses

62%	K-8 Staffing
12%	School Program & Activities
8%	Preschool Program
4%	Food Service
4%	Extended Day & Summer Care
10%	Facility Costs



Total Expenses:
\$2,037,490



28%

Students qualify as
English Language
Leaners

50%

Students qualify for
Free/Reduced Lunch Status.
Meaning the household income
for a family of **4** is less than
\$39,000

80%

Of families identify as Catholic
worshiping in **17** different
parishes including Assumption,
St. Peter's and St. Richard's

76%

Receive need based
Financial Aid

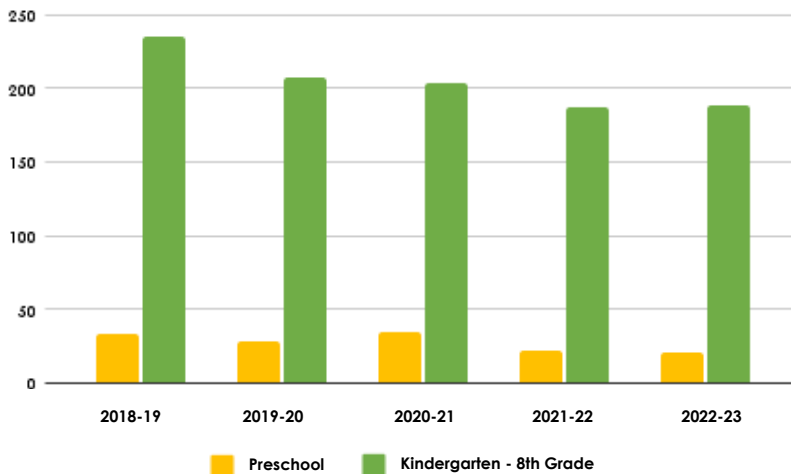
13

School districts
represented

51%

Of families report a
language other than
English is spoken at
home

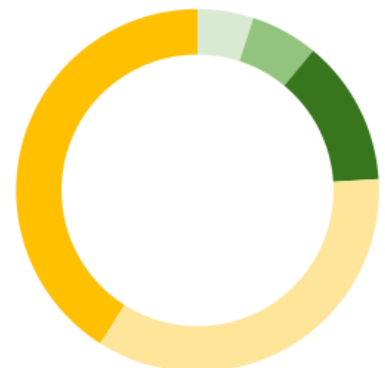
Enrollment



Student Ethnicities



4%	Asian
3%	African or African American
15%	Multiple Ethnicities
33%	Caucasian
45%	Hispanic





LEARNING & GROWTH

Our Blessed Trinity students continued to demonstrate strong growth as measured by NWEA MAP assessments. This standardized test is normed against students across the country to measure achievement against learning standards as well as growth over time. While the primary results measure an individual student growing towards their own learning needs, we can also see how our students compare to same-aged peers across the country.

The impact of a BT education is evident in the progress our students make over time, but most especially in our graduates. The last four graduating classes (2019, 2021*, 2022, 2023) began their time at Blessed Trinity at or below the national average of their peers at the primary grades (K-2). By the time they graduated, the class average reached the 74th percentile in Mathematics, 68th percentile in reading, 86th percentile in Language, and 82nd percentile in Science. Collectively, those BT graduates grew by 12 points in Math (62nd percentile to 74th percentile) and 10 points in Reading (58th to 68th).

As we welcome our diverse student population to school, we observe that many students begin their journey well below their peers. This is true for our youngest Tigers beginning in kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade, as well as transfer students in our upper grades. Over time, those students begin to close the gap on their BT peers by exceeding the average expected growth. In looking to the future, our youngest learners are demonstrating great success in their foundations of learning. This was particularly strong in reading this year, with the combination of curriculum and programming updates. Our kindergarten students scored in the 71st percentile in reading while our 1st graders maintained their class average in the 96th percentile on the MAP scores. Furthermore, we added a new assessment for our kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade student, the aimsweb reading fluency assessment. This test measures progress on foundational reading skills that are the core of the Believe and Read program. In our first year in the program and assessment, 95% of Blessed Trinity students met or exceeded their growth targets for the year with 85% of our students at or above grade level in the oral reading fluency after just the first year. This is a promising beginning that we look forward to tracking and enhancing as we welcome new classmates and continue their formation here at Blessed Trinity.

12 MATH

percentile points

10 READING

percentile points

25 LANGUAGE

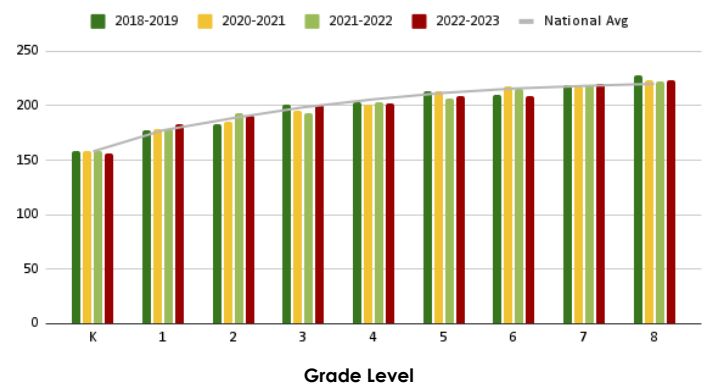
percentile points

25 SCIENCE

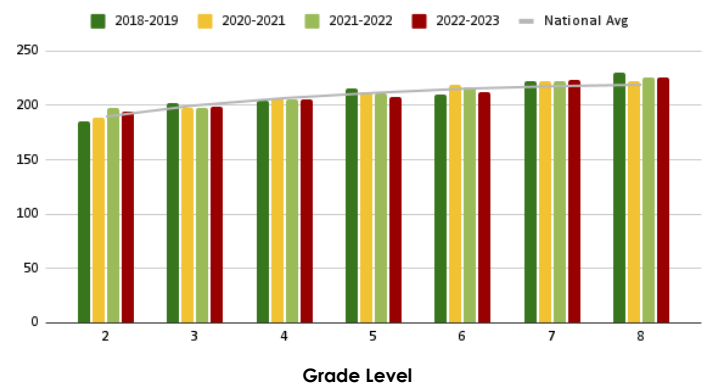
percentile points

**Average Growth
over time for last
four graduating
classes**

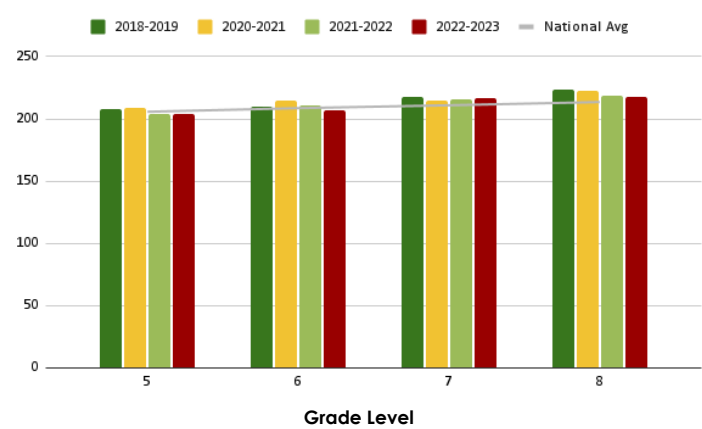
Reading



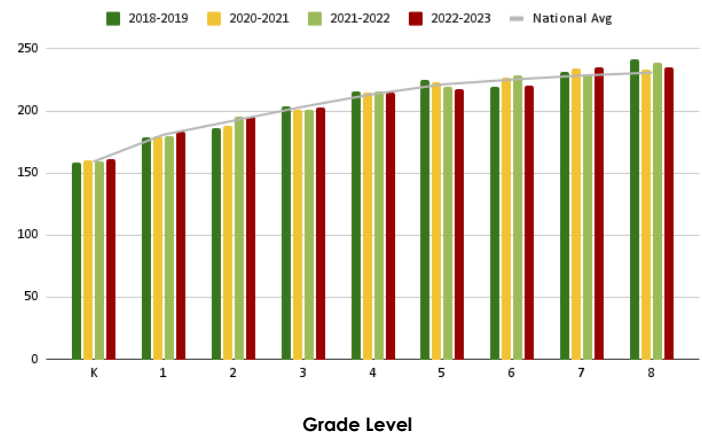
Language



Science



Math



K-2 Reading Fluency Results

95% students meeting growth targets

85% of students reading at or above grade level



A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

Blessed Trinity provides an incredible community that includes alumni, alumni parents and parishioners all contributing to the future of Catholic education in Richfield. Our students are thriving because of our communities' continued investments and support of them. This community paired with exceptional academic preparation in the midst of some trying years has caught the attention of even more families. Families that previously would not have considered non-public education have found exactly what they are missing at Blessed Trinity. We welcomed 44 new students at the start of the 2023-24 school year.

Currently 76% of our families need help to fill the gap between what their families can pay, what foundation scholarships provide and the cost to educate a student. This gap is filled by Annual fund donations, by Sustainers and Change Makers, by memorials and estate gifts. You can help sustain these families and champion the mission of Blessed Trinity. Your commitment will welcome students and their families into the loving care of Blessed Trinity. Let's partner in lifting up our families and putting Catholic education within their reach.

Join the Team of Support:

By making a first-time gift

By increasing your annual gift

By making a monthly sustaining gift

By including Blessed Trinity in your estate plans

**Become a Sustaining giver and create a recurring monthly gift today!
Now is an excellent time to make a difference.**

- A gift of \$200/month supports one student for a full school year
- A gift of \$100/month supports one student for half a school year
- A gift of \$50/month supports a student for a Trimester
- A gift of \$25/month supports a student to participate in Band and Athletics
- A gift of \$15/month supports a student to participate in Field Trips

- ☐ **Sign me up to become a Sustainer! \$_____ / Month**
- ☐ One-time gift

Name _____

Email _____

Create your monthly payment here:



Payment Frequency = Monthly

FOUNDATION PARTNERS

Aim Higher Foundation
Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota
Catholic Schools Center of Excellence
Catholic Services Appeal Foundation
Knights of Columbus
GHR Foundation
Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation



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John Hafertepe
Maureen Scaglia

SUSTAINERS

make an incredible, consistent impact on the lives of our students, the work of our teachers and the impact of our mission through monthly gifts. Their generosity and support is sustaining!

Thank you to our Sustainers!

Hunter & Christina Bailey
Bernie & Diana Bauman
William & Wendy Blackburn
Jeff & Amy Boyle
Mary Burgess
Dan & Theresa De Grace
Chris & Amy DeCrans
Patti DeMay
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Kori & Ed Marshall
Lynn Norby
Patrick & Lindsay O'Keefe
Lemuel & Maria Parcon
Daniel & Brandy Pellegrini
Paul & Mary Peichel
Sheila Przesmicki
Richfield Council of Catholic Women
Brian & Meri Santos
Maureen Scaglia
Jeremiah & Christine Selander
Abe Woldelassie

CHANGE MAKERS

make a commitment to significant donations for five or more years. Their long term commitment to the success of our mission is integral to planning our future and their friendship is integral to our success.

Thank you to our Change Makers!

Annette Adelmann
John & Kate Boyle
Justin & Terry Braun
Ann Garland
The Habegger Family
John & Elaine Hafertepe
Mark & Nancy Johanns

Don & Joanie Keis
Jerry & Kathy Meyer
Marcia Shaw
Mike Tix
Matt Wozniczka
Paul & Kay Wozniczka



ANNUAL FUND DONORS

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Please join us for a free one-hour breakfast event!

TUESDAY, APRIL 23TH

Learn how change makers are transforming our school and our world.

Mass	8:00-8:30 am
Registration & Seating	8:30-8:40 am
Program & Breakfast	8:40-9:40 am

Blessed Trinity Penn Campus - 7540 Penn Ave.

For more information contact Terry Braun - 612-864-5200 - braunt@btcsmn.org

Let it be known
to all who enter that

JESUS

is the reason for this school.

He is the unseen yet ever present
teacher in our classes, the
model of our faculty and the
inspiration of our students.

Que se sepan todos
los que entren que,

JESUS

es la razón de ser de esta escuela.

Él es el maestro invisible
pero siempre presente en nuestras clases,
el modelo de nuestra facultad y
la inspiración de nuestros estudiantes.



NOW ENROLLING

Contact: Caroline Langfeldt
Director of Enrollment & Community Engagement

langfeldtc@btcsmn.org
612-440-7573





Penn Campus

Preschool - 3rd Grade
7540 Penn Ave S, Richfield
612-866-6906

Nicollet Campus

4th - 8th Grade
6720 Nicollet Ave S, Richfield
612-869-5200

Clearly Catholic | Intentionally Inclusive | Academically Excellent

Claramente Católica | Intencionalmente Completos | Académicamente Excelentes