

ANNUAL REPORT 2011 / 2012

THEMES:

Annual:

Hope Unites Us Anew / La esperanza nos renueva unidos

Catholic Schools Week:

Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- "Labor of Love" Open House, September 4
- Theme Day, October 4
Included evening thank you to all who helped with construction, painting, and "reassembling"
Skip Jones was the featured presenter
- Safeguarding, October 6
- Youth Forum, October 11, with other Catholic Schools in Dodge and Washington Counties
- Christmas Program, December 15, vocal and instrumental, "Camel Lot"
- Catholic Schools Week Celebrations: Opening Mass and Festivities, (kick off for our Sesquicentennial year)
January 28; All School Mass and Festival of the Educational Arts, February 2; Closing Mass on February 5
- Parade of Bands, February 6
- Spelling Bee, February 23
- Festival of Music, March 1
- SKDS Forensic Meet, March 8
- Palm Sunday Prayer Procession, March 30 & April 1
- Living Stations, April 3
- Shadow Way of the Cross, April 4
- SKDS First ever "Frazz" Fest, April 21 (combined Forensics Program and Jazz Band)
- Spring Band Concert, April 19
- Expanding Horizons, April 27
- May Crowning, May 3
- Spring Vocal Concert, May 3
- Marching Band Mass Performance, May 27
- Marching Band Memorial Day Performance, May 28
- Graduation, June 1
- Field Day, June 5
- A major undertaking was the closing of the Primary Campus, construction of an addition including, the painting of all classrooms at the Elementary Campus, and the ultimate move to one campus. The school year began after Labor Day to facilitate construction which continued after the start of the year. Two new conference rooms, four new lavatories (2 each for boys and girls), one new office and an elevator were added. We now house grades preschool through 8 at Spring Street. New traffic patterns and schedules, disaster routines, parking, playground, lunchroom scheduling needed to be determined. Numerous volunteers were involved in every facet of the project allowing it to proceed smoothly, efficiently, and effectively.

ENROLLMENT:

- Ended the year with 279 students pre school through grade 8
- Graduated 37 eighth graders
- Pre School = 24; 4K = 53; 5K = 21; 1 = 19; 2 = 19;
3 = 27; 4 = 15; 5 = 23; 6 = 22; 7 = 19; 8 = 37

ACADEMIC PROGRAM:

Curriculum:

- Reading Resource Teacher continued using all reading resource materials to further facilitate teachers in assisting students in need. Volunteer retired teachers were essential to the process.
- 4 Smart Boards are in use in 6-8 science, math, social studies and reading/Spanish. Teachers presented to Home and School at the annual curriculum sharing meeting. 4 more Smart Boards were purchased at the

end of the 2011-2012 school year. The computer lab was updated including the purchase of new flat screen monitors. These were installed during the year. Towers were purchased for installation during the summer. One Wireless Access Point was also purchased and installed along with a flat screen TV for the cafeteria.

- The school librarian/information specialist, taught units on internet safety and the use of the social networking possibilities in a responsible and safe manner. She also presented information to parents at an evening session.

Student Learning Accommodations:

- Learning Zone at Elementary Campus provides academic assistance through volunteers or on staff teachers assigned at various hours of the school day. Meeting individual student needs is a priority. Accommodations provided for students are documented, filed and shared with faculty who work with them.
- Primary Students are served by the Reading Resource Teacher, volunteer tutors (primarily retired teachers), classroom aides (hired and volunteer) and classroom teachers. Several of our teachers were scheduled daily to help homeroom teachers at the primary give much needed one on one assistance to students who find learning and attention challenging.
- SKDS has a quality working relationship with Beaver Dam Public School District which helps meet the needs of SKDS students (observation, testing, consultation, Speech/Language, etc.)
- Discovery Project, an Archdiocesan program of advanced learning for 7th and 8th graders who have scored 95% on ITBS in reading/language, have received an "A" on their report card in reading/language and have received a teacher recommendation. Instruction takes place online with three face to face meetings at a Catholic High School for one quarter.
- Ms. Haase and a teacher took classes in Restorative Practices and using circles. The entire faculty attended an in-service on the same.

ITBS/COGAT:

Annually, SKDS gives its students the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills/Cognitive Abilities Test; this is an Archdiocesan requirement for students in our Catholic Schools. ITBS contains a series of achievement tests including Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension, Spelling, Capitalization, Punctuation, Usage and Expression, Math Concepts and Estimation, Math Problem Solving and Data Interpretation, Math Computation, Social Studies, Science, Maps and Diagrams, and Reference Materials. CogAT assesses "the level and pattern of cognitive development of students in grades K-12." It "measures both general and specific cognitive abilities". "The Cognitive Abilities Test measures developed abilities, not innate abilities. The development of these abilities starts at birth and continues through early adulthood." (Administrator Manual)

In short:

- SKDS tests students in grades 1 through 8.
- We use the results
 - ~to help students individually and
 - ~to help us review and evaluate the curriculum as a whole.
- The information helps us
 - ~identify areas of strength,
 - ~areas to watch, and
 - ~trends over all.
- Note:
 - Science and social studies are generally strong areas,
 - Math: Our series is older and now with work in the Common Core State Standards and the selection of new materials during 2012-2013, we anticipate increased performance.
 - Longitudinal reports show steady and consistent growth for all grades in all subject areas.
 - We look for a balance in Language Arts between writing and conventions (ITBS doesn't assess writing—our students do a lot of writing as well as speaking).

GRADE	READING	LANGUAGE	MATH	SOCIAL STUDIES	SCIENCE
1	16% ³ BP ⁴ / 85%AB ⁴	37%BP / 63%AB	48%BP / 53%	NA	NA ¹
2	11%BP / 90%AB	21%BP / 79%AB	31%BP / 69%AB	NA	NA ²
3	28%BP / 72%AB	20%BP / 80%AB	28%BP / 72%AB	24%BP / 76%AB	4%BP / 96%AB ³
4	50%BP / 50%AB	57%BP / 43%AB	43%BP / 57%AB	43%BP / 57%AB	35%BP / 64%AB
5	43%BP / 57%AB	23%BP / 78%AB	32%BP / 68%AB	28%BP / 73%AB	18%BP / 82%AB
6	41%BP / 59%AB	32%BP / 69%AB	50%BP / 50%AB	28%BP / 73%AB	37%BP / 64%AB
7	33%BP / 67%AB	39%BP / 62%AB	67%BP / 34%AB	22%BP / 78%AB	34%BP / 67%AB
8	47%BP / 52%AB	42%BP / 58%AB	66%BP / 33%AB	36%BP / 64%AB	45%BP / 56%AB
1 & 2	These grades test the core subjects of reading, language and math.				
3	Numbers may not sum to 100% due to rounding.				
4	<u>BP refers to Below Proficient and AB refers to At or Above Proficient.</u>				
	Advanced: Students at the advanced level generalize about ideas and information; have superior conceptual and procedural knowledge.				
	Proficient: Students at the proficient level identify ideas and information suggested but not explicitly stated, can generalize and extend knowledge, can apply understanding and knowledge.				
	Basic: Students at the basic level understand the overall literal meaning, show evidence of surface level knowledge and some understanding of procedures				
	Below Basic: Students do not meet the grade-level expectations for basic achievement.				

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

Goal:

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| 1. 80% of 6-8 th grade scores will be at or above proficient in all curricular areas. | 2014 |
| 2. 75% of Math scores will be at or above proficient for all grade levels. | 2013 |

Goal:

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| 1. Furnish 100% of classrooms with Smart Boards. | 2014-2015 |
| 2. Install wireless access points | 2013-2014 |
| 3. Update computer lab. | 2013-2014 |

Goal: Graduating 8th graders will be prepared to take Spanish 2 as freshmen. Fall 2012

Goal: Restorative Practices & Circles will be used by faculty & staff in working with student management & discipline. 2012-2014

STAFF:

Retirees:

- Barbara Kalscheur at the end of the year with 12 years of teaching at SKDS
- Dale Dinkel after 27 years in maintenance

Resignations:

- Deb Battenberg, Band
- Beth Schmidt, PE/Health

New hires:

- Dona Turner, Grade 3
- Mike Pipp, PE/Health
- Kim Lopas, Band
- Maintenance for after school cleaning: Claudia Ramirez

Faculty:

- Teachers are certified and have fulfilled Safe Guarding Requirements (All staff and volunteers are Safe Guarding compliant)
- All teachers are working in a new Archdiocesan Program for Religious Ed Certification entitled Sustaining the Mission
- Have a Professional Development Plan (PDP) on file
- Undergo required education to maintain certification
- 5 teaching positions are part-time as of 2011-2012: Art, PE/Health, and Vocal Music are 80%; Band is 75%; Library/Information Specialist is 50%

SCHOOL YEAR:

- 180 days: First day = September 6, 2011 late start to facilitate construction; Final day = June 5, 2012
- School hours: Pre School = Tuesday and Thursday Mornings 8:45-11AM; 4K = 8:15-11AM & 12:15-3PM; 5K – 8 = 8:10AM – 3:15PM
- 10 additional days for faculty for in-service

STUDENTS:

Social Responsibility and Awareness:

- SKDS students participate in various collections for victims of natural disasters, Heifer International, Holy Childhood, Soles for Souls, Clothes for Kids, Books of Hope, Tanzanian Hydrology Project, Food Pantry, New Beginnings, Nursing Home visits (Hillside, Golden Living Center, Charleston House), to name a few
- Builders Club initiated the playground project

Uniforms:

- Third year of school uniforms policy, continues to go smoothly
- Cougars Closet continues to help families with clothing needs; of great assistance to school personnel when a student comes to school out of code or have some sort of accident during the day
- Info placed in handbooks and on website

Code of Christian Conduct:

- This is part of our approach to discipline.
- Posters are displayed in classrooms, halls, cafeteria, etc.
- Parent and student sign agreement annually

Extra Curriculars:

- Continue well developed and well participated activities in Jazz Band (grades 5-8), Athletics (Volleyball, Basketball, Track for grades 5 – 8 per Arch policy), Forensics (6-8), Builders Club (6-8), Yearbook (6-8)

Student Assistance:

- 23 families received some sort of tuition assistance.
- 28 students received free lunches; 18 received reduced lunches

MEETINGS:

School Board:

- Third Thursday, monthly

Home and School:

- Monthly, as announced on the calendar

Band Guild and Athletic Association:

- As announced

Advancement (Development):

- First Monday of the Month (PR/Marketing as scheduled)

Faculty:

- Full Faculty, Second Tuesday, monthly
- Curriculum, Level, Student Accommodations, etc. all other Tuesdays
- Annually all faculty/staff participate in a review of Blood Borne Pathogen training
- Faculty/Staff participated in online training covering allergies
- We also participated in the Regional Education Convention
- 10 Days of In-Service scheduled annually

Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences:

- Scheduled for all families during First quarter
- All other times as requested by family and/or teacher(s)
- 4K holds scheduled P/S/T conferences fall and spring

COMMUNICATION:

- Weekly newsletter (electronic or paper per family request)
- Website
- Family Folder, weekly or last day of school week
- Individual class or grade level letters
- Individual emails, conferences, phone calls, notes
- Report Cards end of quarter and Progress Reports mid quarter (2nd-4th quarters)
- Crossing Paths for Alumni and Friends of SKDS newsletter

FINANCE:

Financial end of year report is a separate full parish report.