

SAINT LAWRENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016-17

(REVISED DECEMBER 2016)

Our Saint Lawrence Catholic School mission is to provide a Catholic Christ-centered education through an atmosphere of love and compassion for all students.

School and Community Description

Saint Lawrence Catholic School (SLCS) has served Muncie and Delaware County since 1881. Long before it was an incorporated city, the Muncie was home to the Munsee or Wolf Clan of the Delaware Indians. The Delaware Indians established Munseetown along the White River. Munseetown was located within the present boundaries of the city.

Muncie is a community of approximately 70,316 citizens and is located 60 miles northeast of Indianapolis. The community is made up of both professional and blue-collar workers. Many professional people work for the two largest employers in the county, Indiana University Health Systems and Ball State University. This is a big shift from decades past when Muncie's biggest employers were factories. Our school population reflects the south side neighborhood where we are located. Many of our parents have returned to college in order to get the skills they need for more professional jobs.

When the present Saint Lawrence Church (located at the corner of Charles and Hackley Streets) was completed in 1895, the old church was converted into two schoolrooms and added to the original school building. Those buildings were replaced by a new building in 1901. In 1988, the parish purchased the current school building, the former Benjamin Franklin Middle School, which had been a public school. Prior to the 2016-2017 school year, the building was sold to a charter school and SLCS leases space within said building to operate our school.

SLCS is one of seventeen schools within the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana School Corporation. As of December 2016, SLCS has an enrollment of 45 students in Kindergarten through grade 5.

Our school fulfills the educational requirements set forth by the State of Indiana. In addition to providing an excellent core education, SLCS requires classes in Technology, Religion, Visual Art, Physical Education and Music. SLCS is fully accredited by the North Central Association and Advanced ED. SLCS is a member of the National Catholic Education Association.

Curriculum

The North Central Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana Curriculum Guide is located in the school principal's office. In addition, each teacher has a copy in his/her room. The Curriculum Guide is fully aligned with the State of Indiana College and Career Readiness Standards.

Assessment Instruments

In addition to the ISTEP+, SLCS administers the NWEA three times per year. Like all accredited schools in Indiana, SLCS administers IREAD to each third grader.

As a staff we believe that it is our job to take every student who is enrolled in our school, regardless of their background, and help them to achieve their greatest potential both educationally and spiritually. Enrollment is open to all families who value faith, service and quality academics. While we encourage Catholic families to attend, students do not need to be Catholic to attend our A-rated school.

Summary of Data

Attendance Rate

Academic Year	State Average Rate (public and non-public)	Saint Lawrence Catholic School Rate (A790)	School % above or (below) state average
2004-2005	95.9%	95.6%	(-0.3%)
2005-2006	96.0%	97.3%	+1.3%
2006-2007	95.8%	96.2%	+0.4%
2007-2008	95.9%	94.6%	(-1.3%)
2008-2009	96.1%	95.8%	(-0.3%)
2009-2010	95.8%	95.6%	(-0.2%)
2010-2011	95.9%	96.2%	+0.3%
2011-2012	96.1%	96.6%	+0.5%
2012-2013	95.8%	96.8%	+1.0%
2013-2014	96.1%	97.4%	+1.3%
2014-2015	95.8%	95.7%	(-0.1%)
2015-2016	95.8%	97.4%	+2.6%

Summary of Data

IREAD Performance

Academic Year	State Average Rate (public and non-public)	Saint Lawrence Catholic School Rate (A790)	School % above or (below) state average
2011-2012	85.7%	100%	+14.3%
2012-2013	91.4%	100%	+8.6%
2013-2014	90.8%	100%	+9.2%
2014-2015	92.4%	100%	+7.6%
2015-2016	%	100%	+%

Summary of Data

ISTEP+ Performance

Academic Year	Grade level tested	Number of students tested	% passing both ELA and Mathematics
2004-2005	3	18	94%
2004-2005	4	15	93%
2004-2005	5	12	42%
2005-2006	3	16	63%
2005-2006	4	15	87%
2005-2006	5	14	71%
2006-2007	3	19	68%
2006-2007	4	11	73%
2006-2007	5	13	92%
2007-2008	3	15	80%
2007-2008	4	17	71%
2007-2008	5	9	Data not available
2008-2009 (fall)	3	10	80%
2008-2009 (fall)	4	14	64%
2008-2009 (fall)	5	13	92%
2008-2009 (spring)	3	11	82%
2008-2009 (spring)	4	14	100%
2008-2009 (spring)	5	13	85%
2009-2010	3	11	78%
2009-2010	4	9	100%
2009-2010	5	11	100%
2010-2011	3	13	100%
2010-2011	4	9	100%
2010-2011	5	10	100%
2011-2012	3	12	75%
2011-2012	4	12	100%
2011-2012	5	10	100%
2012-2013	3	13	93%
2012-2013	4	9	90%
2012-2013	5	11	100%
2013-2014	3	16	81%
2013-2014	4	13	70%
2013-2014	5	9	100%
2014-2015	3	12	73%
2014-2015	4	13	62%
2014-2015	5	11	55%
2015-2016	3	11	91%
2015-2016	4	11	82%
2015-2016	5	14	58%

Conclusions

Student Achievement

Based on our school's standardized test scores, we have decided that our greatest need for improvement was in the area of Math Computation with special emphasis on word problems. We will employ the Pearson Math curriculum on a six-year basis beginning in 2016-17. Our hope is that the new curriculum, which is more closely-aligned with the ISTEP question format, will improve our scores going forward.

Technology as a Learning Tool

Technology is used at every grade level at SLCS. All computers in the building are internet-capable, and there is wireless access for teachers. We have SmartBoards in every classroom and our teachers all use them regularly, including during Visual Art and Music class. All Fourth and Fifth Graders are issued iPads to use in school. All other classrooms have at least two iPads.

Each class visits the lab at least once a week for instruction by our Technology teacher. Additional time for each class is available if needed. We have a new and innovative Technology teacher this year who is developing a rich and interactive curriculum. We recently launched a keyboarding curriculum to boost performance on standardized testing that required typing.

Safe and Disciplined Learning Environment

Our school has a Safe School Crisis Management Plan in effect and all staff members are aware of their roles and responsibilities if a crisis should occur. Monthly drills take place so students know what behavior and actions are expected of them.

Students at SLCS are provided with a safe structured learning environment where respect and responsibility for self and others is demanded. Bullying and other forms of harassment are not tolerated. Surveys done in the past indicate that students at SLCS feel safe during school. Students whose behavior falls short of our Code of Conduct are dealt with promptly and appropriately, with parent input and feedback.

Professional Development

The entire staff has attended the state Math conference and the INPEA conferences. Individuals have attended other conferences and have come back and shared what they have learned with the rest of us at a staff meeting. Ball State University professors have come in several times to conduct math workshops. We will continue to work on our math computation goal.

During the 2017-2018 school year, we will have monthly 90-minute professional development sessions. Students will be released early on the last Friday of each month to accommodate this.

Student Achievement Objectives/Goals

We strive to attain an attendance rate at or above the state average of 95.8%. See the chart on a previous page for an attendance rate comparison. We implemented a new tardy policy in January 2017 to increase the number of students who arrive on time.

Specific Area Where Improvement is Needed Immediately

We are continuing to work on our Math Computation goal while maintaining our Writing Goal. The new Pearson curriculum, while challenging, is projected to increase our school-wide Mathematic skill level.

Benchmarks for Progress

Over the next three years we will strive to achieve an overall school performance rate of 95% of our students passing ISTEP+. We would like to maintain our status as an "A-rated" school, an honor that we have achieved EVERY year since Indiana began using this system in the 2010-2011 academic year. We hope to see our students Math Computation scores improve as measured by the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress.