



# ST. PIUS X / ST. LEO SCHOOL

**WE ARE A PROUD CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

**JANUARY 29 – FEBRUARY 4, 2017**

"Teachers want you to become the best version of yourself."



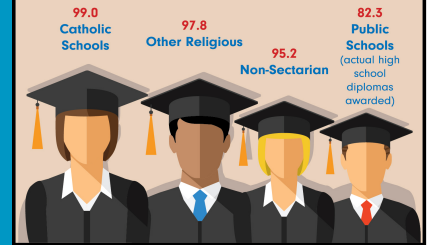
"I believe the warm, welcoming and genuinely accepting environment makes SPSL stand out from other area Catholic Schools."

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SNAPS

A quick take on issues and statistics

#### U.S. Graduation Rates

A look at national high school graduation rates

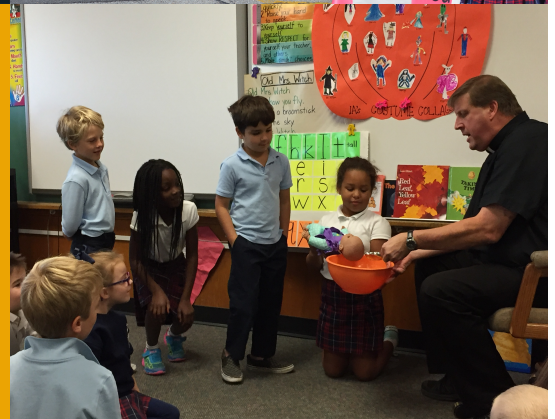


Source: Broughman, S.P., Swain, N.L. (2013); Stillwell, R., and Sabie, J. (2015).

"What I like about my school is the community around me. Everyone is kind and motivating and the teachers seem to care about what they are teaching."



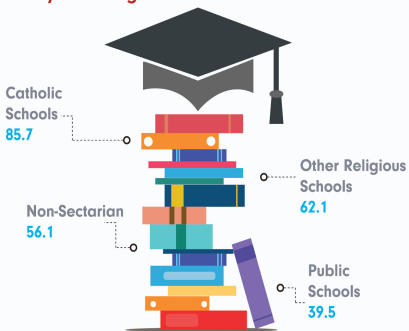
"I love walking in the school and seeing the presence of Jesus everywhere."



### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SNAPS

A quick take on issues and statistics

Percentage of 12th graders who attend a four-year college



Source: Broughman, S.P. and Swain, N.L. (2013); Synder, T.D., and Dillow, S.A. (2015).



"When I walk in the building, there is a hum of energy which wakes me up."



## BE OUR GUEST

At St. Pius X / St. Leo School, we are lucky to learn, pray and grow in such a special environment. This would not be possible without the generous support of people like you, the members of St. Pius X and St. Leo Parishes, as well as friends and family members who invest in our school. Your support of our school is an investment in the future of all of our students and the Catholic Church.

Our celebration of Catholic schools begins on the weekend of January 28/29 at both parishes. Students and teachers will speak about SPSL school at all weekend Masses. As supporters of our school, please join us at any of our weekday Masses scheduled during Catholic Schools Week as we celebrate our wonderful school. The Masses will be held at 8:30 a.m. at St. Pius X Church on the following days:

Tuesday, January 31 – Grades 6, 7 & 8  
Wednesday, February 1 – Grades PreK, K, 1 & 2  
Thursday, February 2 – Grades 3, 4 & 5



The 7th and 8th grade students in drama will participate in two performances of *Wallace's Will* during Catholic Schools Week. The performances will be held in the school's gym on Friday, February 2 and Saturday, February 3, both at 7:00 p.m. You are welcome to attend either of the performances.

## SPSL SCHOOL RECOGNITION DINNER

St. Pius X / St. Leo School will host the second annual SPSL School Recognition Dinner on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. The following awards/honors will be presented:

- The Reverend George Kempker 'Volunteer of the Year' Award – TBA
- The NCEA and SPSL School 'Distinguished Graduates' Award – Jeff Kobza and Dr. Joseph Townley
- The Sister Brigetta (Burns) 'Teacher of the Year' Award – Terri Preston
- The Sister Viola (Miksch) 'Servant of Mary' Service Award – Gay McTate
- SPSL School 'Hall of Fame' inductees – Mike & Nancy McCarthy

Save  
the  
Date

If you would like to receive an invitation to the dinner, please email Bob Nowaczyk at [bob.nowaczyk@spsl.net](mailto:bob.nowaczyk@spsl.net).

## MCS BENEFIT DANCE

Music in Catholic Schools will hold a Benefit Dance and Silent Auction on Friday, February 3, 2017, 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Center, 5419 N 114th St, with music by the Nebraska Wind Symphony **Swingtones**. Free dance instruction will be given from 6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. Tickets at the door are \$15 each for adults; \$10 for seniors and students. Funds raised enable students with need to participate in band at their school.

## WAX MUSEUM

Fifth grade students at St. Pius X / St. Leo School have been participating in the annual Famous Scientists Wax Museum for ten years. During their science class, the students spend about two months preparing for the event by researching a scientist and developing a one-minute presentation. This past December parents of the students as well as school peers attended the "living wax museum" in the parish center. The fifth grade students were spread throughout the room, donned in costumes to appear like their famous scientist. Each student had a collection can by their area and for a quarter donation they came alive and recited their presentation about their life.



Ms. Anita Petersen, fifth grade science teacher at St. Pius X / St. Leo School, wanted the concept to be about more than just science. She also wanted to give her students a chance to give back to the community which aligns with the school's mission statement regarding service to others. All of the money raised by the students was donated to the SPSL Adopt a Family Program. The program helps needy families of the school, especially at the holiday time. This year the students broke the previous record for the most donations received at over \$1380. Over the course of the ten years of holding the wax museum, the students have raised over \$8100 for the school's Adopt a Family Program.



## FLEXIBLE SEATING

At St. Pius X / St. Leo School the teachers embrace innovative concepts to maximize student learning. In particular, the kindergarten teachers have incorporated 'flexible seating' into their classrooms. Meg Peitzmeier, kindergarten teacher, said, "Based off what I have read and personal observation, I have decided to move to flexible seating. I feel that students learn in different ways and it is important for me to support them in that. These different seating options will help them be "flexible" while still learning." Students are given choices in where they want to work, and with the choice they have become more motivated in the classroom. Different spots consist of short tables with cushions to sit on, wobble chairs, regular chairs with wobble cushions on them, stability balls and scoop rockers. Research has indicated that some of the benefits of flexible seating are students use up excess energy, students increase motivation and engagement, and students improve core and overall posture. All three of the kindergarten classrooms have embraced the seating style in their classrooms and are seeing positive changes in their students' behavior and learning. This is just one of many ways the teachers at St. Pius X / St. Leo School put the needs of their students first by staying current with new and creative teaching tools and strategies.



## ST. PIUS X / ST. LEO EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND

Our hearts are so grateful for the many people who have made known their wishes to have memorials, at the time of their deaths, given to our Endowment Trust Fund, or the loved ones decide that the memorials should come to our Endowment Fund. Over the past years, in this Catholic Schools Week newsletter that is sent to all parishioners in both parishes, we have shared with you many of the people who have had memorials given to the school. Since we have told you about all of the memorials through 2015, this year we would like to tell you about all of the memorials that we have received during 2016. As we said, we'd like to tell you about the memorials no matter if they have just a few dollars or many dollars, but space does not allow for us to give you this information. We've chosen those whose memorials in their honor have reached from hundreds up to several thousand dollars for our school. But, please know that all memorials, no matter what size, are always greatly appreciated.

Dorothy Dietz: preceded in death by her husband, Howard; daughter, Mary Elise Zezulak and son-in-law, Joseph F. Zezulak III '61. Dorothy is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Judith '68 and Dennis Tierney; grandchildren Joseph, Colleen '91, Kelly '92, Daniel and Maureen. Dorothy was a teacher in our school in the 60's and then her granddaughter, Kelly Witt, taught in our school from 2004 to 2011. This is rather unique when you think about a grandmother and a granddaughter teaching in the same school many decades apart.

Judy Healey: survived by her husband, Mike; also a son, Terrence '79, and a daughter, Mary Ann '80 along with two grandchildren. Judy was a teacher at our school for 27 years retiring in 2001. During her tenure at our school, Judy received the Outstanding Teacher Award given by the National Catholic Education Association.

Mac McAuliffe: survived by his wife, Jenny Massey. He is also survived by his former wife, Chris and his step-children, Matthew, Patrick, Alex and Charlotte. His sister, Judy Treinen, graduated from our school in 1971. His brother, Andy McAuliffe, also graduated from our school in 1982 along with his son, Joseph in 2015. Joseph's sister, Megan, did not graduate from our school but is now our Drama and Speech Coach.

Dr. Coley O'Doherty: was a graduate of our school in 1984. Coley and his wife, Laura, are the proud parents of two children, Gabe who is a 5th grader in our school and Rio is presently a 3rd grader. Coley's parents, Michael and Nancy O'Doherty had three children besides Coley who graduated from our school. They are Shannon '82, Jerry '85 and Colleen in 2000.

Dr. Robert Townley: preceded in death by his son, Dr. Peter Townley '72. Dr. Robert Townley is survived by his wife, Ann; his sons, Joseph '76, Martin and Robert; and daughters Ellen '74, Theresa '78, Rosie, Rachel, Sarah and Cate. Dr. and Ann Townley had many grandchildren graduate and/or attend our school. Peter and Annette's children are Nicholas '98, Meghan '99, Mairead '01, Brigid '04, Conor '09 and Liam '10. Joseph and Karla had the following children graduate from our school: Claire '06, Annie '08, Ellen '10, Mary Cate '12 and James '15. Theresa Townley and Luke Thomas had Rebecca graduate in 2015 and Joshua who is presently in our 7th Grade. Robert and Jackie Townley have Robert, a 2nd grader, Abigail, a 1st grader and Zach, a kindergartener presently in our school.

These people and their families had such faith in our school and our students that they, or their families, chose to give the memorials offered at the times of their deaths to St. Pius X / St. Leo School. We are so grateful for this belief and trust in our school.



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**ROUNDUP FOR PRE-KINDERGARTEN**



We are hosting a Pre-Kindergarten Roundup on Saturday, January 28th from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. This Roundup is for families interested in our Pre-Kindergarten programs. The programs will be detailed and you will have a chance to visit with the Pre-Kindergarten teachers and look at the modern classrooms these students use. We are very proud of these classrooms and teachers and would love to give you this opportunity to visit us!



**KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR**

If you have a potential kindergarten student for the 2017-2018 school year, please join us for Kindergarten Roundup on Saturday, February 4th from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. We welcome you to become more acquainted with our exceptional learning environment here at SPSL. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



If you, or someone you know, have children who will be in 1st through 8th grades for the 2017-2018 school year and have an interest in learning more about SPSL school, please call the school office at (402) 551-6667 to arrange a tour. Also, be sure to check out our school's website, [www.spsl.net](http://www.spsl.net), to see classroom information, upcoming events and more.