

State Of Our School

ST. PIUS X / ST. LEO SCHOOL • FALL 2023



ROOTED IN FAITH,
UNITED IN SPIRIT

ROOTED IN FAITH

In this issue of the State of Our School, we celebrate the accomplishments of St. Pius X / St. Leo School as a diverse community forming students in the Catholic faith to excel in academics and service to others.

St. Pius X / St. Leo School is excited to communicate a new organizational management and leadership structure at SPSL effective for the 2023-24 school year. This structure will serve to strengthen the foundation of SPSL and enhance the sustainability of our school for years to come.

In an effort to maximize our resources in an ever changing and demanding educational landscape, SPSL re-imagined our school organizational management structure and defined an education leader and a separate business leader for our school - the Director of Operations.

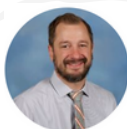
Our Pastors, Fr. Wray and Fr. Loecker, selected Michaela (Messenger) Smith (1990) for the Director of Operations position. Michaela's background is in business law and development. She now leads all business and advancement functions of the school, ensuring responsible fiscal planning, management, and sustainability. Michaela also maintains her role as the Alumni and Donor Relations Director.

Cory Sepich continues as Principal of SPSL, his 7th year in this role. He continues to lead all educational aspects of our school, ensuring the spiritual and academic efforts are successfully administered, resourced, and managed. Both the Director of Operations and Principal report to our Pastors and work collaboratively on strategic efforts for our school.

This progressive change in our school's organizational structure will allow us to better meet and achieve the important academic and financial goals we have for SPSL. These changes will also make our school more efficient and help us grow academically and financially.

With this, SPSL will continue to support our teachers and provide our students with an academically rigorous and faith-focused education. Our school community remains "rooted in faith, united in spirit."

We thank you for your support of St. Pius X / St. Leo School. God bless!



Cory Sepich
Dr. Cory Sepich
Principal



Michaela Smith
Michaela Smith
Director of Operations

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

In March of 2023, the SPSL School Board approved the annual budget of \$4.3 million for the 2023-24 fiscal year. The SPSL Fall Fundraiser and Race for Education support the operating budget. Last year, these fundraisers yielded a combined net revenue of over \$277,000. We look forward to another record-breaking year!



Safety First

One key area of importance at SPSL is ensuring that our school campus is as safe and secure as possible. As a result of a generous gift from a SPSL benefactor, SPSL implemented a variety of safety enhancements throughout our school campus over the summer.

These upgrades include:

- SEI key fobs on exterior doors
- Shatter-resistant film on doors and windows
- Exterior door numbering
- Campus-wide rekeying of exterior doors
- Commercial-grade walkie-talkies for campus-wide communications

These enhancements will make our school an even safer place to learn and work.

Looking Ahead

An exciting upcoming project for SPSL is the transformation of our school cafeteria and kitchen, which were part of the original construction of our school in the late 1950s. SPSL is able to move forward with this special project as a result of fundraising that is separate from the school operating budget.

Last spring, we began the first stage of this project by installing new lunch tables in the cafeteria. New HVAC in the cafeteria and kitchen has also been completed. Next summer, we plan to finish a complete makeover of the cafeteria and kitchen. This includes updating kitchen equipment, purchasing new lunch trays, and re-vamping the look and feel of the entire space by installing new flooring, ceilings, walls, and audio/visual equipment.



UNITED IN SPIRIT



FAITH

SPSL students live out their faith each and every day. Students attend daily religion class and participate in weekly student-led Masses. Families are invited to share in their children's faith formation by joining us for weekly Masses, Family Masses during Catholic Schools Week and - new this year - Grandparents Masses.

SPSL students are critical thinkers ready to be good stewards in an evolving world. SPSL places a special emphasis on high-school readiness. Junior high students choose from electives based on their interests, can take advanced math and literature courses, and follow a mod schedule similar to a typical high school.



FUTURE

All students in Pre-K through Eighth Grade get fresh air and time to connect during recess every day. Students can also participate in extracurriculars including:

Soccer	Chess Club
Volleyball	Band
Basketball	Robotics Club
Track/Cross Country	...& so much more!



FUN

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Value of a SPSL Education

For the 2023-24 school year, the cost to educate a student at SPSL is \$7,190 per student.

Generous support from St. Pius X and St. Leo the Great parishes along with the generosity of SPSL supporters and friends cover 60% of the school operating budget. This enables SPSL to keep tuition at an affordable rate of \$3,800 per student.

The cost of tuition still outpaces many of our families' actual ability to pay the full tuition at our school. Approximately 50% of students receive financial assistance to attend and an estimated 30% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch.

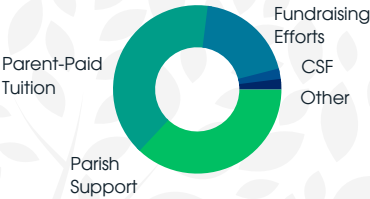
We count on the important gifts provided by our donors to offer a high quality education to as many children as possible.

The Tuition Assistance Fund and the Education Partners Program are integral parts of making a SPSL education available to our families.

This year, SPSL has awarded nearly \$560,000 in tuition assistance. The value of this investment is immeasurable. Each dollar awarded contributes to the diverse community of learners that is SPSL.

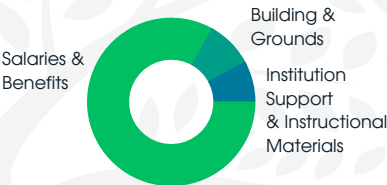
Revenue

Parent-Paid Tuition	40%
Parish Support	37%
Fundraising Efforts	19%
Children's Scholarship Fund	2%
Other	2%



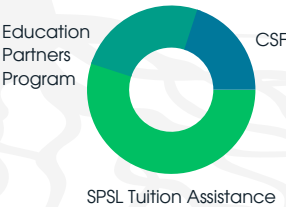
Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	83%
Building & Grounds	9%
Institution Support & Instructional Materials	8%



Tuition Assistance

SPSL Tuition Assistance	55%
Education Partners Program	25%
Children's Scholarship Fund	20%



ALL ARE WELCOME

10

SPSL At A Glance

694

**Students enrolled in
Pre-K - 8th Grade**

Represented by 39 different zip codes in the Omaha metro

92

English Learners

Our students speak Karen, Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, French, and more.

15

**Students receiving
Madonna services**

Through our partnership with Madonna School and Community-Based Services

**Faculty & Administration
with Master Degree or higher**

46%

Our new teachers bring 7 Master's Degrees and 1 Ph.D. to SPSL.

**Average years of
teaching experience**

14

With faculty ranging from 1 to 40 years of teaching experience

**Reading & Math Resource
Teachers**

6

4 Resources teachers in primary grades and 2 in junior high

Points of Pride

20%

**High school entrance exam
candidates awarded academic
scholarships in 2023**

95%

**Class of 2023 attending a
Catholic High School**

57%

**First Honors awarded to 7th
Graders for the 2022-23
academic year**

Stronger Together

At SPSL, we continually celebrate our diversity as we believe it represents the diversity of God's great kingdom.

Our families and students bless our school with many different learning styles, gifts and abilities; many racial and ethnic backgrounds; and varying religious affiliations. All our students are welcomed in our dual-parish Catholic elementary school and served under the guidance of our school mission.

