

State Of Our School

ST. PIUS X / ST. LEO SCHOOL • FALL 2025



DON'T BE AFRAID, JUST BELIEVE

The theme for the 2025-26 school year is "Don't Be Afraid, Just Believe" (Mark 5:36). This is a powerful reminder to place our faith and trust in Jesus. It is also a call to action that challenges us to believe in His ability to intervene and bring about positive outcomes. This is the hope that we carry into everything we do at St. Pius X / St. Leo School.

Incredibly, this is the 70th year of educating students at our school! St. Pius X / St. Leo School continues to be recognized for excellence in Catholic education and for its warm and welcoming school community. We are proud to offer a well-rounded and faith-filled education that challenges students and prepares them for the future.

As we reflect on the rich history of SPSL, we are grateful for our school alumni, parents, teachers, staff, and friends who continue to support our school mission to form our diverse student body in the Catholic faith to excel in academics and service to others. The success and sustainability of our school is not possible without your belief in our mission. You provide stability and encouragement as we pursue key initiatives.

We are blessed to have St. Pius X Pastor, Fr. Mark Tomaszewicz and St. Leo the Great Pastor, Fr. Craig Loecker leading our parishes and school community. Our school leadership team remains the same this year with the two of us co-leading and Terri Preston serving as Assistant Principal. The faculty and staff of SPSL are second to none. Not only are they excellent at educating our students, they go above and beyond to create a safe and loving environment where students and families feel they belong.

We are honored to welcome 660 students this school year in Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grades. We are grateful that parents entrust their students to SPSL, and we appreciate the sacrifices they make to provide their students with a Catholic education at our school.

In this issue of the State of Our School, you will learn about how we are taking academic programming to the next level. You will have a window into efforts to better support our valued teaching staff. You will also meet generations of Panthers for whom 6905 Blondo Street was - and continues to be - a home away from home.

As we look ahead to the next 70 years, we are focused on excellence in academic learning while also fostering character and preparing students for service to God and others. And through it all, we will set aside fear and instead choose to believe in the plan God has for us. Thank you for your support of St. Pius X / St. Leo School.



Katy Chattin
Katy Chattin
Principal



Michaela Smith
Michaela Smith
Director of Operations

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Value of a SPSL Education

For many years, SPSL has identified teacher compensation as an area in need of improvement. Last year, the SPSL base salary for teachers was \$5,000 lower than that of Archdiocesan schools in the metro area and 66% of the salary offered to a first year teacher in Omaha Public Schools (OPS).

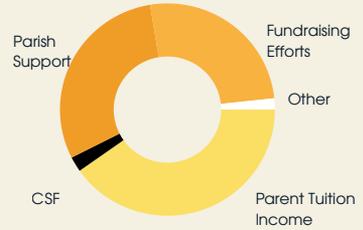
The generous support of our parishes and parent paid tuition alone cannot support the needed increase for teacher compensation. Therefore, fundraising efforts through the Lead the Way Campaign have been the focus. The goals are to:

- Attract and retain talented faculty with an updated pay scale and an adjusted starting salary.
- Having great teachers who feel appreciated and paid well for what they do fosters an environment where they deliver outstanding educational programs.
- With teachers who live out our Catholic school mission, SPSL attracts and retains wonderful school families, making SPSL the first choice for Catholic elementary education in Omaha.
- Increased enrollment helps sustain SPSL for years to come.

As a result of the incredible generosity of donors, for the 2025-26 school year, the starting salary for a first year teacher at SPSL increased from 66% to 80% of what OPS offers at that level. In addition, SPSL is expected to be a leader among the Archdiocesan metro schools for teacher pay. This is a marked improvement while leaving room for continued growth. SPSL is grateful for the support and generosity of SPSL benefactors, parents, alumni, and parishioners.

Revenue

Parent Tuition	40.1%
Parish Support	29.8%
Fundraising	25.8%
Children's Scholarship Fund	2.3%
Other	2%



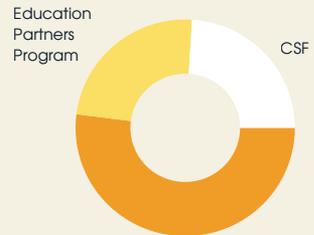
Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	84%
Building & Grounds	8%
Institution Support & Instructional Materials	8%



Tuition Assistance

SPSL Tuition Assistance	52%
Education Partners Program	24%
Children's Scholarship Fund	24%



SPSL Tuition Assistance

Financial information from
July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

At St. Pius X / St. Leo School, academic excellence is one of our core commitments. Each year, we strive to ensure that our students are fully prepared not only to advance to the next grade level but also to meet the rigorous academic expectations of college prep high schools. As a leadership team, we have focused on several initiatives to strengthen and sustain this priority.

Curriculum Mapping

Curriculum maps align classroom instruction with Archdiocesan standards. This alignment ensures that teachers focus on essential skills and knowledge while maintaining consistency in content and pacing across grade levels. With foundational skills built sequentially, students benefit from a cohesive learning experience that promotes equity and academic growth.

Professional Development

SPSL teachers are engaging in extensive professional learning this year. Highlights include participation in an Archdiocesan-wide day of learning and targeted sessions for grades K-4 in math and reading. These opportunities equip our teachers with tools to strengthen instruction and meet the diverse needs of our students.

Life-Long Learners

Our faculty is also engaged in monthly professional development focused on the Science of Learning. This work supports the development of an instructional model that teachers can apply directly in their classrooms. This reinforces our belief that great educators are always learning themselves.

Measuring Success

We recognize that standardized testing is just one way to measure academic growth. Teachers use a variety of formative and summative assessments throughout the year to guide instruction. Additionally, students in grades K-8 take the STAR assessment three times annually, along with all schools in the Archdiocese. These results help us track proficiency in reading and math. Third-grade students also complete a state proficiency test, which continues until mastery is achieved. In the fall of 2025, our STAR results show that 65.4% of students at SPSL met state standards for proficiency in reading, and 55.9% met state standards in math. We look forward to seeing these numbers continue to rise as students learn the content covered in their grade levels.

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

47%

**Student / Teacher
Ratio**

21:1

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

660

SPSL BY THE NUMBERS



Points of Pride

Students receiving CSF Scholarships

79

Inclusive Education Students

14

30%

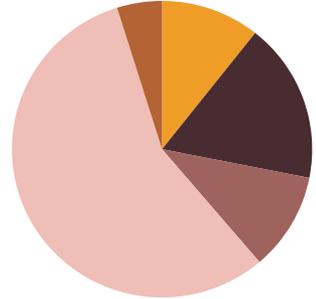
of students qualify for free or reduced lunches

English Learners

96

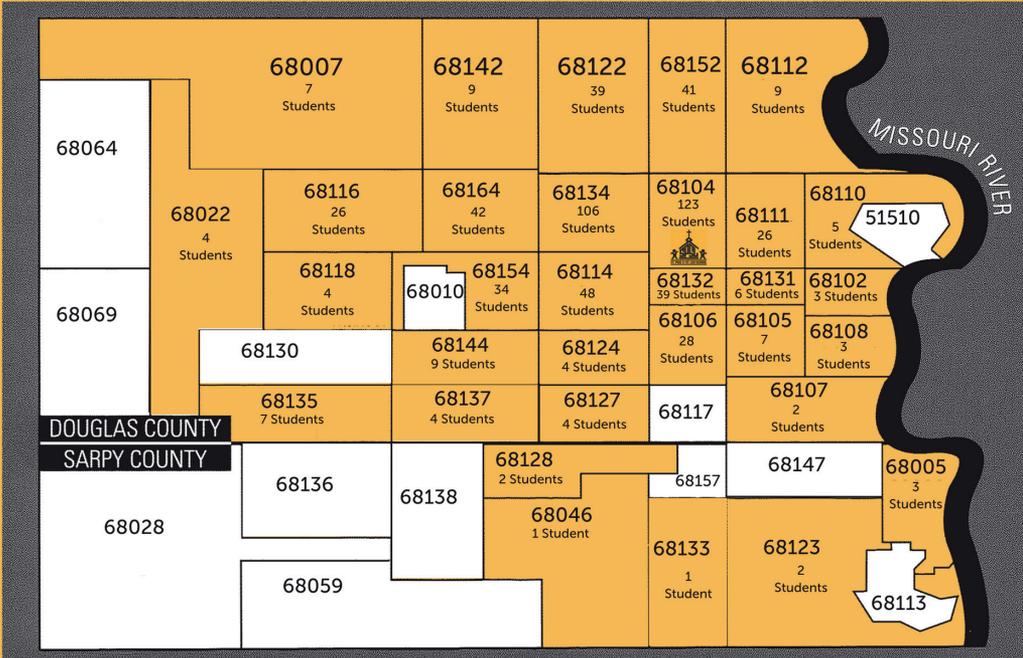
ALL ARE WELCOME AT SPSL

- Asian 11%
- Hispanic 11%
- White 55%
- Black 18%
- Multi-Racial 5%



At SPSL, we celebrate our diversity as we believe it strengthens our community!

Students at SPSL come from 38 different zip codes in the Omaha metro!



Not pictured: 51546 (1 Student), 51555 (2 students), 51577 (2 Students), 68008 (1 Student), and 68023 (2 Students)

GENERATIONS AT SPSL

SPSL is unique in that it maintains a close-knit connection with alumni families while also welcoming a vibrant student body. In fact, year over year, approximately 25% of SPSL 8th grade graduates have a parent who is an alumni of our school. For some, the tradition of attending SPSL even extends to third generations of Panthers.

"I had a great experience growing up at SPSL. The dedicated staff, my classmates, the welcoming facilities, and the rich traditions all left a lasting impression on me" said **Patrick Zach (2001)**. SPSL was the "natural choice" for Patrick and his wife Jen when it came to schooling for their three children. "Every parent we spoke to about the Pre-K program raved about their experience. Now, just a few weeks in, we already understand why. The staff has been wonderfully welcoming to Vivian, guiding her through this big transition. She comes home every day with a huge smile, excited to share what she's learned - and eager for the next day."

Margaret (Guziec) Hoarty (1962) has fond memories of her elementary school days of Mrs. Hovendick's lunches and ice skating on the upper south parking lot outside the gym when it was flooded in the winter. When it came time for Margaret and her husband Tom to send their 8 children to school, they chose SPSL because of its reputation for excellent academics. Margaret shared that they wanted a school that would help their children develop a sense of faith, conscience, and social justice. In addition to all of Margaret's alumni children, she has four grandchildren who are alumni, 3 granddaughters are current students, and at least one more future Panther in the family - **Tim Hoarty (2001)** and his wife Mel's son, Freddy.

As Margaret explained, "It's like the signs say: SPSL, not just a school, it's a community. There's a sense of solidarity and family." Patrick added that SPSL is "a warm and welcoming community that we're grateful for and proud to be part of."



(Above) Margaret (Guziec) Hoarty (1962), Tim Hoarty (2001), Everly (K), Bonnie (Pre-K) and Freddy (Future Panther)

(Left) Terry Zach (1971), Patrick Zach (2001) and Vivian (Pre-K)