

Saint Lawrence School

School Improvement Plan 2018-2019

Inside the Profile:	Page
Mission, Belief, & Vision Statement	1
School District Profile	2
CATHOLIC SPIRIT	3-5
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION	6-13
Reading Performance-Smarter Balanced	6
Math Performance-Smarter Balanced	7
Science Performance-Smarter Balanced	7
Claims Comparisons	8-9
Reading and Math Summary	10-11
Academic Opportunities, Certified Staff, Criteria for Excellence, Parent Involvement, Externally Funded Programs	12-13
TEMPORAL VITALITY	14-16
GOALS FOR 2018-2019	17-19

Saint Lawrence School Mission Statement

Saint Lawrence Parish School, in partnership with families, fosters the Spiritual and Academic growth of our students. Our mission is to educate in the Catholic tradition, providing students the tools necessary to achieve their personal best and to be productive, responsible and authentic witnesses of Jesus Christ in the world.

Saint Lawrence School Belief Statement

At Saint Lawrence School, we believe that:

The responsibility of our school is to educate the whole child, through nurturing a love of God, a love of others, a love of self, a love of learning, and a love of life.

This belief is attainable through the support of our families, parish, staff, and students.

Saint Lawrence School Vision Statement

Through Catholic education, the school, family, and parish community will work together to empower our students to grow in their faith and acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitudes to become life-long learners and productive Christian citizens with a constant focus on Christ.



Saint Lawrence School District Profile

Saint Lawrence School is located at 113 South 6th Street in Milbank, South Dakota. Saint Lawrence was established in 1901 as part of a parish school. The building originally housed grades 1 through 8 and presently houses preschool through 6th grade. It is a private school open to children of any ethnicity, race, and religious preference. The current enrollment is 103; there are 27 preschoolers and 76 students in kindergarten through sixth grade. There are 4 students being served on IEPs. There are 8 students eligible for the free/reduced lunch program, which is just over 10%. The average class size is 10 students. Building personnel include 7 full-time and 3 part-time certified teachers, 1 acting administrator that is completing the Masters in Educational Leadership program, and 5 classified staff.

Saint Lawrence School is part of the Roman Catholic Church of Saint Lawrence Parish of the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls. The parish has 509 registered families in its congregation. The parish is located in the rural northeastern section of South Dakota. The parish church financially supports the school providing 50% of the annual budget. In 2007, to ensure the continued operation of the school, Saint Lawrence School began working with the Catholic Foundation for Eastern South Dakota to initiate a school foundation that would provide funds for endowments to assure continued funding of Catholic education.

The curriculum at Saint Lawrence School is driven by South Dakota State Standards and the adoption of Common Core State Standards. The students' texts are provided by the Milbank Public Schools. However, faith development is integrated into this curriculum throughout the school day. Title I, speech, and other special education services, physical education, band, busing, and food services are provided through the Milbank Public Schools. Saint Lawrence strives to keep class sizes small so all students' unique educational needs and learning styles can be accommodated. Students participate in 90 minutes of physical education per week, 80 minutes of music instruction, 90 minutes of computer instruction, and up to 30 minutes of library. Students also participate in Reading Plus for grades 3 through 6, Reflex Math for grades 2 through 5, and Accelerated Reader for all grade levels.

Saint Lawrence School's comprehensive profile is based upon a portrait of the school within the community and demographic information. Utilizing the School Improvement Plan Process from the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls, the profile includes three components: Catholic Spirit, Excellence in Education, and Temporal Vitality.

Catholic Spirit

The first of the criteria used to assess the success of Saint Lawrence School is its overall Catholicity. This criterion assesses the internal elements of a school that are clearly established—its spiritual life, evangelization efforts, sense of social interaction, and more. This Catholic identity is one of the very important reasons parents/guardians bring their children to Catholic schools. That's why it is important to understand very specific elements of a student's day.

Faith Community

As a Catholic school, Saint Lawrence School demonstrates a Catholic identity through various activities. Religious education is taught through regular classroom instruction, but every moment can be a “teachable moment” of Catholic values. To complement the spiritual development, a well-rounded program of religious activities is offered for the students. The following are activities that are provided to build our faith community.

- Teaching of the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion
- Providing daily prayer and scripture time
- Teaching Religion Standards from the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls are followed by each teacher
- Participating in Mass once a week and on Holy Days
- Preparing a weekly liturgy of the Mass for parents and parishioners by each class
- Participating in staff prayer once a week
- Praying the Rosary as a school in May
- Participating in Adoration each week for students and staff
- Presenting All Saints Day presentations
- Participating in Advent and Lent activities
- Presenting Religious music programs
- Stations of the Cross during Lent
- Crowning of Mary in May
- Providing Bibles for students in grades 4-6
- Providing opportunities for Reconciliation throughout the year

School/Family Relationship

Family participation and a family connection are an important part of Saint Lawrence School. Through many activities, parents are invited into the education of their children and other children. Parents, along with members of the church and staff, make up both the school board, and our parent/teacher organization, LIFE (Living in Faith and Education).

- Parents are encouraged and invited to join the students for their weekly Mass.
- Parents may volunteer in the classroom or volunteer to drive for field trips.
- There are many fundraising events that parents may be involved in: The Mystery Dinner Theater, Parish Fall Fun Day, Mardi Gras, Catholic Schools Week Activities, Greenery, Catholic Schools Raffle, Annual Fish House Raffle, and the Annual Saint Lawrence School Gala.
- The Color Run and Family Movie Night

- Family support is strong in religion, supporting teachers at Masses as well as for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
- Families help their students in completing religious activities at home, such as a workbook completed during the 2nd grade year in preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion.
- Weekly newsletters are sent home with each family or emailed from the office and a calendar of scheduled events for the month is also provided. To strengthen communication, emails are sent to provide any information that is also needed.
- Catholic Schools Week is celebrated nationally the final week of January. Families come into the classrooms to volunteer, participate in activities, and provide food and snacks for the students and staff of the school. Each year a new theme is chosen to celebrate our Catholic faith with the students.

School/Parish Relationship

This is a viable relationship between the parish and the school. There is a positive perception of the school. The school is very appreciative of the strong support from the parish and its members.

- Students and parishioners celebrate weekly Mass and Holy Days of Obligation together.
- Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth graders serve as altar servers for Mass and funerals.
- The school and the church collaborate in fundraising efforts.
- The church subsidizes the school monthly to help maintain the viability of the school.
- There are also ministries of the church that support and use the school for functions. The Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of the Americas both utilize and share not only the building, but resources, talents, and fundraising efforts with the school.
- All grades complete community service projects, in conjunction with Student Council, for the religious component of their education.
- School news, the online newsletter, and announcements are advertised in the bulletin given to parishioners each weekend.
- Religious Education classes are held in the Saint Lawrence School classrooms.
- Parish activities are a priority when scheduling nightly events in the school.
- Monthly meetings are held between the school and parish to plan the monthly calendar.
- A relationship also exists between the school, parish, and the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls. Teachers meet for Diocesan grade level meetings and gather for Diocesan in-services when offered.
- The principal attends Diocesan principal meetings and retreats.
- Staff and students attend Mass with the Bishop when he is available to join us.

Pastor/Parishioner Support

Through the guidance of our current pastor, the school has a shepherd who shows the students and staff how to follow the example of Jesus Christ. He guides our children toward a path of being a faithful, productive member of society. The current pastor supports the school by attending many of the school events put on by the children and staff.

- The Pastor visits the 1-6 grade classrooms twice a month.

- He attends the monthly School Advisory Board meetings.
- The school is part of the Parish Finance Council's agenda.
- The Pastor and parishioners attend the students' music programs, Catholic Schools Week activities, and different school events throughout the year.
- Many parishioners attend school Masses and special prayer times such as Stations of the Cross or the Rosary.
- The parishioners aid the school in fundraising events.
- Parishioners volunteer in the classroom and library.
- Many donations to tuition assistance and miscellaneous school expenses are given throughout the school year by parishioners.

Community /Professional Presence

As a school, it is important for the name of Saint Lawrence School to be known in the community which is done in a variety of ways. Saint Lawrence School has a good working relationship with the City of Milbank and the public. Providing service to others is a vital understanding of the students. Students participate in service projects through the Saint Lawrence Student Council and classroom activities to help our community as much as possible.

- Students help pack meals at the Orphan Grain Train.
- In conjunction with Student Council, students purchase two Thanksgiving meals for local families in need.
- Faculty and staff make a donation from the "Jean's Day" fund to a local family in need or community funded program.
- Students sing to residents at the local nursing home.
- Students make donations of food, toys, and clothing to the local food shelf.
- Classrooms are involved in community service projects monthly, and at least one time per quarter in conjunction with Student Council. Students have made prayer rocks, blankets, and cards for residents at the local nursing home, veterans, and community members.
- The students also participate in various organizations in the Milbank Community, such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Missoula Theater, park and recreation activities, local youth sporting activities, and 4-H. Their presence is seen at various events throughout the community.
- Many organizations come to the school, including Junior Achievement, D.A.R.E. and 4-H.
- The students and parents participate in a community Color Run and Family Movie Night put on by the school's parent-teacher organization, LIFE.

Excellence in Education

Student performance verifies an excellent academic program:

Academic Achievement: Saint Lawrence School students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 are given the Smarter Balanced Assessment each year. (See Appendix A for a grade level breakdown in test scores.)

Reading Performance

Saint Lawrence School's South Dakota Smarter Balanced Assessment Results in
English Language Arts
Grades 3-6
(Appendix A)

SDSBA ELA % Proficient and Advanced					
	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	Gr. 6	Gr. 3-6
2017-2018	14	10	12	15	63%
2016-2017	10	13	17	11	58%
2015-2016	13	17	11	7	64%
2014-2015	17	12	14	12	46%

Math Performance

Saint Lawrence School's South Dakota Smarter Balanced Assessment
Results in Math
Grades 3-6
(Appendix A cont.)

SDSBA MATH % Proficient and Advanced					
	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	Gr. 6	Gr. 3-6
2017-2018	14	10	12	15	35%
2016-2017	10	13	17	11	33%
2015-2016	13	16	11	7	47%
2014-2015	17	12	14	13	42%

Science Performance

Saint Lawrence School's South Dakota Science Assessment Results
Grade 3-5

Dakota STEP Science % Proficient and Advanced					
	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	Gr. 6	Gr. 3-6
2017-2018	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	83%
2016-2017	No Results, Field Test Year				
2015-2016	N/A	N/A	8	N/A	73%
2014-2015	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	83%

Claims Comparisons—% Below, At/Near, or Above Standard

2017-2018												
	3rd Grade			4th Grade			5th Grade			6th Grade		
	14 Students			10 Students			12 Students			15 Students		
Claim Achievement Category	% Below	% At/Near	% Above	% Below	% At/Near	% Above	% Below	% At/Near	% Above	% Below	% At/Near	% Above
English Language Arts												
Reading Performance Level	14	71	14	0	80	20	8	50	42	13	47	40
Writing Performance	21	64	14	10	80	10	25	58	17	27	47	27
Level Listening & Speaking Performance Level	0	93	7	0	80	20	0	67	33	7	53	40
Research/Inquiry Performance Level	14	86	0	0	90	10	17	67	17	7	73	20
Math												
Concepts & Procedures Performance Level	14	71	14	20	50	30	50	42	8	7	67	27
Problem Solving & Modeling & Data Analysis Performance Level	21	50	29	10	60	30	17	67	17	27	67	7
Communicating Reasoning Performance Level	21	57	21	40	40	20	33	67	0	7	87	7

2016-2017												
	3rd Grade			4th Grade			5th Grade			6th Grade		
	10 Students			13 Students			17 Students			11 Students		
Claim Achievement Category	% Below	% At/Near	% Above	% Below	% At/Near	% Above	% Below	% At/Near	% Above	% Below	% At/Near	% Above
English Language Arts												
Reading Performance Level	10	80	10	15	54	31	12	41	47	27	36	36
Writing Performance	20	50	30	8	31	62	18	76	6	18	82	0
Level Listening & Speaking Performance Level	0	90	10	0	69	31	6	59	35	0	100	0
Research/Inquiry Performance Level	30	70	0	23	31	46	12	47	41	18	73	9
Math												
Concepts & Procedures Performance Level	20	50	30	31	38	31	53	41	6	36	55	9
Problem Solving & Modeling & Data Analysis Performance Level	10	70	20	15	69	15	18	82	0	9	82	9
Communicating Reasoning Performance Level	20	60	20	8	54	38	47	47	6	36	64	0

2015-2016												
	3rd Grade			4th Grade			5th Grade			6th Grade		
	13 Students			17 Students			11 Students			7 Students		
Claim Achievement Category	% Below	% At/Near	% Above	% Below	% At/Near	% Above	% Below	% At/Near	% Above	% Below	% At/Near	% Above
English Language Arts												
Reading Performance Level	0	62	38	18	35	47	9	73	18	14	29	57
Writing Performance	31	46	23	12	47	41	27	73	0	14	57	29
Level Listening & Speaking Performance Level	0	46	54	0	88	12	18	73	9	0	57	43
Research/Inquiry Performance Level	8	54	38	12	59	29	9	73	18	0	29	71
Math												
Concepts & Procedures Performance Level	23	54	23	44	31	25	73	18	9	14	29	57
Problem Solving & Modeling & Data Analysis Performance Level	15	62	23	6	88	6	36	55	9	14	57	29
Communicating Reasoning Performance Level	8	69	23	25	50	25	45	55	0	14	57	29

2014-2015												
	3rd Grade			4th Grade			5th Grade			6th Grade		
	17 Students			12 Students			14 Students			13 Students		
Claim Achievement Category	% Below	% At/Near	% Above	% Below	% At/Near	% Above	% Below	% At/Near	% Above	% Below	% At/Near	% Above
English Language Arts												
Reading Performance Level	12	41	47	17	83	0	36	36	29	17	58	25
Writing Performance	12	59	29	50	50	0	14	71	14	0	75	25
Level Listening & Speaking Performance Level	6	59	35	25	67	8	14	57	29	8	92	0
Research/Inquiry Performance Level	12	65	24	17	75	8	14	64	21	8	50	42
Math												
Concepts & Procedures Performance Level	18	35	47	58	25	17	36	57	7	15	38	46
Problem Solving & Modeling & Data Analysis Performance Level	18	65	18	50	42	8	21	57	21	15	85	0
Communicating Reasoning Performance Level	12	53	35	25	67	8	29	64	7	0	92	8

Summary of the English Language Arts (ELA) Data

SUMMARY

In reviewing our South Dakota Smarter Balanced Assessment results and classroom performance, our students have consistently been performing better in ELA than in Math. Looking at the claims does not show a consistent pattern for the school for different claims; they change depending on the grade level and year.

STRENGTHS:

Reading in both informational text and literary text is overall a strength. Listening and speaking are also areas of strength.

WEAKNESSES:

While students do well in reading both types of texts: informational and literary, they do not seem as proficient in the writing areas of composing, editing, or revising.

CONCLUSIONS:

Our recently implemented reading text includes resources to emphasize writing instruction. Teachers at all levels must utilize these resources and place focus on the complete writing process. The students are doing well at comprehending text and pulling out detail when they read, but they struggle with transferring that into writing. We will work on the complete writing process as a school.

Focus is put on reading through:

- Scholastic News is used with 3rd grade students for informational text.
- Teacher in-service: We will work on reading and comprehension standards through teacher in-service days.
- 5th and 6th grade students will collaboratively create and publish two newspapers a year; one each semester.
- Integrating science and social studies into our reading and writing.
- ESGI Assessments are used with students in Kindergarten to assess reading readiness in conjunction with Title I services.
- The Accelerated Reader program is used as a reading incentive program and to monitor comprehension.
- Students who qualify for Title I services receive services five times per week.
- Students in grades 3-6 participate in the Reading Plus program daily.

Summary of the Math Data

SUMMARY

In reviewing our South Dakota Smarter Balanced Assessment results, the claims and the targets we were not able to see a definite trend in strengths and weaknesses.

STRENGTHS:

Overall, our students are strong in number sense and measurement and seem to be split in the algebra standards.

WEAKNESSES:

Overall, our main areas of weakness are place value and fractions. Place value has been low over the last four years consistently in 5th grade. Fractions have been consistently low over the last three years in 4th and 5th grade.

CONCLUSIONS:

We will continue to work on math through teacher in-service days. We are continuing to focus on the CCSS. We just implemented a new math program in 2018; Reflex Math that focuses on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in grades 2-5. Teachers will also supplement the curriculum to meet the CCSS in math.

Focus is put on math through:

- Students will participate in Math Reflex in grades 2-5.
- Teachers will focus on student understanding of basic math facts for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- Teacher in-service will include opportunities to discuss place value and fractions.
- Teachers will be given opportunities to gain professional development in math.

Academic Opportunities

Students have the opportunity to participate in academic competition through participation in our Accelerated Reader program by earning points for each book read. In 2016 we again competed in the National Geographic Geography Bee and we have held them every year since then. Students also participate and have been honored in the Catholic Daughter's sponsored essay, poetry, and artists contest yearly. Students in 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 6th grade are participating in Junior Achievement again this year. The 5th grade students receive D.A.R.E. lessons every year from the local police chief, which includes a D.A.R.E. essay contest. Students in grades 5 and 6 also compete in the local band contest.

Certified, Qualified and Competent Staff Committed to Lifelong Learning

Saint Lawrence School has been able to hire certified staff each year for open teaching positions. There is currently one teacher with a Master's Degree and seven teachers with their Bachelor's Degree. The Acting Principal is currently completing her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. There are specialty teachers on staff to teach music and computer. The Milbank Public School provides certified staff to teach physical education for all grades and band for 5th and 6th grades. They also provide Title I and Speech services.

Teachers are encouraged to attend workshops, conferences, and training with financial compensation available for those sessions. Teachers have attended and presented at regional and state conferences and participated in workshops for literacy, mathematics, early childhood education, music, classroom management, science, assessment, and religious instruction. Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade teachers have attended Kindergarten and Primary Academy each year. Staff at all levels have attended professional development opportunities to help with the use of iPads or Chromebooks in the classrooms. All licensed teaching staff will attend the National Catholic Education Association convention in April of 2019 and have attended this conference when it has been presented in our area.

Saint Lawrence School participated in the South Dakota Counts program beginning in 2007. A staff member was assigned as the teacher leader and she attended training in Spearfish, Madison and Haiti each year. This was a three year commitment in which staff was trained in Cognitively Guided Instruction for Mathematics as well as research based strategies for teaching math to children.

The office is staffed with a secretary who assists the Acting Principal with record keeping, state reports, and other school matters. The Acting Principal has regularly scheduled recess duties as well as daily lunchroom duty as an opportunity to develop a relationship with all students. She regularly serves as a sub in all classrooms to gain a better understanding of what instruction is taking place at each grade level. The Acting Principal is highly visible throughout the school on a daily basis.

Criteria for Excellence in Catholic Education

In 2005, Saint Lawrence School began using Accelerated Reader which gives the students the opportunity to read at their individual reading level and check their comprehension. We have continued to utilize this program and have expanded upon the grade levels using it. In 2016, Saint Lawrence School began using Reading Plus which provides personalized and adaptive reading instruction. In 2018, students started utilizing Reflex Math to help students gain fluency and confidence within an individualized program. These programs are an investment in our students that we hope will show improvements on standardized tests, as well as a deeper understanding of the standards.

Parent/Guardian Involvement

There is very strong support in the school from the Living in Faith and Education Group (LIFE). Over the years, this organization has done extensive fundraising to cover costs of tuition, technology upgrades, classroom materials, playground equipment, professional development, and various classroom needs. Parents work during Catholic Schools Week to sponsor various activities in which the students participate. Parents have also sold magazines, greenery, various raffle tickets, and baked goods. Parents show support for teachers by providing lunches, classroom supplies, and fundraising which allowed all teachers to attend the National Catholic Education Association Conference in Saint Louis, MO and Minneapolis, MN at no cost to them. They have also helped plan the Saint Lawrence School Gala and Mystery Dinner Theater events for parents and people in the community. Each classroom has a Room Parent that volunteers to help with organizing and obtaining volunteers for events. Parents also volunteer to be librarians for each class. The School Advisory Council is supportive of the school by volunteering their time to be on the board and tend to the business needs of the school.

Maximum Utilization of Externally Funded Programs and Other Initiatives as Appropriate

Saint Lawrence School applied for and received two technology grants from Catholic United Financial. The 3rd and 4th grade classrooms received Chromebooks and the computer lab received computer monitors. Saint Lawrence School receives funding from the Saint Lawrence School Endowment which was established in 2007. Tuition grants from the George and Mary Kremer Foundation and Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary help to offset the cost of tuition for several students each year.

Temporal Vitality

Enrollment Trends

Saint Lawrence School provides education for preschool through 6th grade. Over the ten year period of 2009-2018, there has been a slow decline in the Saint Lawrence School enrollment from 138 in 2008 to 103 in 2018. In 2018 there are 27 preschoolers and 76 students enrolled in grades K-6. The number of students in the preschool program has fluctuated in recent years. The K-6 enrollment has just recently shown a larger decline than in previous years. The pupil-teacher ratio at Saint Lawrence School is approximately 10 to 1. Using current trends, including baptismal records, the enrollment should remain steady. The goal is to encourage families to enroll in preschool and to continue onto the kindergarten class at Saint Lawrence School.

Tuition fees paid by families constitute a portion of the actual per pupil expenses. The average per pupil tuition in K-6 grade (76 students) is \$1,505 which is approximately 23% of actual costs per pupil of \$6,690.

The difference between the per pupil cost and the tuition charged is obtained in many ways, primarily through direct subsidy from parish, diocesan, and religious resources, and from fund-raising activities.

Elementary

Mean parish school tuition (tuition/number of students): \$1,505

Per pupil cost (budget/number students): \$6,690

What is the trend in annual tuition increases over time?

Year	3 Year Old Preschool	4 Year Old Preschool	Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd - 6th Grades	Enrollment Pre - 6th
	2 days/week	3 days/week				
2009-2010						137
2010-2011						122
2011-2012	\$65	\$80	\$850	\$975	\$1,050	129
2012-2013	\$65	\$80	\$1,050	\$1,150	\$1,250	133
2013-2014	\$70	\$85	\$1,100	\$1,200	\$1,300	133
2014-2015	\$70	\$85	\$1,150	\$1,250	\$1,350	132
2015-2016	\$70	\$85	\$1,200	\$1,300	\$1,400	118
2016-2017	\$70	\$85	\$1,250	\$1,350	\$1,450	117
2017-2018	\$70	\$85	\$1,300	\$1,400	\$1,500	124
2018-2019	\$80	\$95	\$1,350	\$1,450	\$1,550	103

Student Demographics

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Total Enrollment (Pre-6)	118	117	124	103
Elementary School Enrollment (K-6)	86	93	86	76
Native American Enrollment	0	0	1	1
Black, Asian, & other Minority Enroll-	2	3	3	3
% Special Needs Students	2	4	6	4
% Gifted and Talented	0	0	0	0
% Limited English Proficient	0	0	0	0
% Migrant	0	0	0	0
Economically Disadvantaged Enrollment (% Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch)	13%	15%	11%	11%
Open Enrolled Students	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Average Daily Membership				
Average Daily Attendance				
Catholic Students	100	108	106	89
Non-Catholic Students	17	19	18	14

Viable Development Program

Currently newsletters, the school website, the church bulletin, local newspaper articles, social media, and the staff and students themselves help to promote the school. A new logo was developed in 2016. The Saint Lawrence School Foundation created endowments that will help sustain the school.

Well Maintained Facility that Supports a Full Service Education Program

Saint Lawrence School was built in 1901. The newest building was completed in 1999 connecting the Roman Catholic Church of Saint Lawrence and Saint Lawrence School. The completion of this project added ten classrooms, administration areas, a gymnasium, lunch facilities, and a much larger parking area. The building and physical plant are kept up to code with regular inspections including health and safety inspections, and Life and Safety inspections completed annually by Catholic Mutual.

Goal & Plans for the 2018-2019 School Year

School Improvement Goal 1: Math: For 50% of the students in grades 3-6 to perform at the proficient or advanced level on Smarter Balanced Assessment

Need: For students to have a higher level of mastery of the standards so they are prepared for the next grade level and for future success in school, their career and home life.

Rationale: Test scores show a need for improvement in Math performance.

Strategies:

- Focusing on rigor and the depth of knowledge.
- Using outside resources to reinforce lower performing claims and targets: such as Reflex Math.
- Continue to implement and utilize outside resources to improve place value and fractions.
- Implement more S.T.R.E.A.M. activities into the classrooms and school to give students real-life Math practice

Staff Development:

- Using and accessing the resources provided by the State of South Dakota, and other outside resources.
- Primary/Intermediate grade level teachers will meet to discuss the CCSS and assessments annually.
- Allow and encourage teachers to observe in other school's Math instruction.
- Attend diocesan grade level meetings to gain instructional ideas from other teachers.

Documentation:

- Have a Data Retreat to analyze the SDSBA results so teachers can find areas of standards that are weak and can then target them in their classrooms.

School Improvement Goal 2: ELA/Writing: Grades 3-6 with 90% at/near or above standard on Smarter Balanced Writing performance claim, and for students to perform at 75% proficient or advanced on Smarter Balanced ELA Assessment.

Need: School wide weakness of testing results in composing as well as editing and revision of writing. 2017-2018 at 62% Proficient/Advanced on Smarter Balanced Testing

Rationale: By increasing exposure to composition, editing and revision opportunities, it will increase the student's confidence and aptitude in these areas, and test scores will increase.

Strategies:

- Writing and composition opportunities
- Peer editing and revision technology
- Daily Oral Language
- Utilize writing portfolios

Staff Development:

- Provide school-wide professional development opportunities through in-service on writing.
- Encourage teachers to attend professional development workshops in the area of ELA or Writing.
- Provide book study opportunities for teachers to have open discussion about writing.
- Attend diocesan grade level meetings to gain ideas from other educators.

Documentation:

Record student growth through writing portfolios

School Improvement Goal 3: Implement a S.T.R.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) Day and Night Event

Need: Integrate math, science, writing, reading, religion through a family-friendly event.

Rationale: A hands-on science activity day for the students and night for themselves and their families that supports reading and writing.

Strategies:

- Classrooms arrange a S.T.R.E.A.M. Day for students and a fun night for students and families, using the Elementary Science Olympiad curriculum.
- Implement standards based S.T.R.E.A.M. activities in the classroom on a regular basis.

Staff Development:

- Provide time for staff to research and observe other classrooms and reflect on practices to implement.
- Provide time for teachers to plan the activities and events.
- Teachers create and utilize new Science and Math standards checklists to ensure standards have been met for curriculum.
- Attend professional development opportunities in the area related to S.T.R.E.A.M. activities .
- Attend diocesan grade level meetings to gain ideas from other educators.

Documentation:

- Create a binder of activities to keep track of ideas and pull from each year/semester.

School Improvement Goal 4: Religion: As a staff we will continue to enrich our lives through spiritual retreats/growth, community service, and staff prayer.

Need: Staff spirituality and cohesiveness are vital in modeling and living a life of Christ

Rationale: By offering staff opportunities to grow in their spiritual life, we will increase the cohesiveness of the staff and we will become better models of Christ for our students and our parents.

Strategies:

- Continue weekly staff prayer
- Participate in the sacraments whenever possible
- Continue our religious book studies to help us grow in our spiritual life

Staff Development:

- Use an in-service day to plan a spiritual retreat
- Attend the NCEA Conference when it is available in our area
- Attend diocesan in-service days when available

Committee Members:

- Brenda Anderson—Acting Principal
- Fr. Gary DeRouchey—Parish Priest
- Paula Rausch—Sixth Grade Teacher/Testing Coordinator
- Saint Lawrence School Advisory Council Members: Jason Street, Rondi Scoular, Scott Wiese, Dena Van Lith, Ted Hendricks, and Chris Kelly