



**2023-2024
State of
the School**

St. Brigid Catholic School



Our Mission: At Saint Brigid Catholic School, nourished by the Word and Sacraments, we find life in Christ by gathering disciples for worship, service, and education.

Academic Instruction

- We provided reading tutoring services for 29 students through our reading tutors and reading specialist. We also provided push-in services for grades K-4th.
- All staff received updated ALICE training to ensure they are aware of how to respond to a violent critical incident with confidence.
- We strengthened our partnership with ICLE and implemented ICLE teachings in math and language arts. Teachers received 24 hours of training, the school had 10 hours of consultation, and we were able to order Illustrative Math for all grades K-8. We have ordered The Well Ordered Language grammar teacher's guides for next year and The History of Civilization for grades K-8.
- We implemented Illustrative Math in grades K-6 which is more driven by student thinking and is problem-based with real-world connections.
- We implemented a new science curriculum, Elemental Science, for Middle School. Next year our 5th graders will begin with this curriculum.
- We included structured literacy for grades Kindergarten-5th. Structured literacy is a teaching method for oral and written language that's based on how children learn to read. It's a systematic and explicit approach that emphasizes teaching all important literacy components, including foundational skills and higher-level skills.
- Teachers and staff began working on our own educational plan to serve as a guide for instruction. This will be made public by the end of next school year. We would like a year to test resources. It will be a living document, that is, it will change as we find better practices or resources for instruction.
- Susie Hollingshead won the Midland Daily News Reader's Choice Teacher of the Year Award for K-12th grade.
- Michelle Twigg was nominated for the Michigan Teacher of the Year Award and won the STEM Star Teacher Award.
- LeAnne Osborn won the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Diocese of Saginaw.
- Our staff put together all necessary paperwork for our on-site accreditation for next year.
- Our NWEA scores continue to outperform the Diocese and State averages in almost all subject areas. See the comparison charts at the end of this report.

Marketing/Enrollment

- We welcomed 12 new families into our school community.
- Hosted a Kindergarten Open House Night and had 18 families in attendance.
- We hosted an ICLE Open House to all parents and community members to give them an opportunity to see first hand the multiple components being implemented into classrooms. We had around 25 attendees, all who shared all positive reviews and comments about the integration and partnership with ICLE.
- We currently have 134 enrolled for next year and only 2 spots left in kindergarten and 4th grade.

Spiritual Life

- LeAnne Osborn & Bailey Delaney taught Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for grades K-4 and will be expanding to include 5th grade next year. Bailey Delaney ran a weekly preschool Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program as well.
- 6th grade students received their own Bible at the beginning of the year to use in their theology class.
- 5th grade students hosted a Living Saints Wax Museum for students & parents.
- Mass was held each week throughout the year, with students completing the ministries.
- We held a school-wide Living Rosary and middle school students hosted Stations of the Cross for the entire school.
- Middle School students participated in a Hunger Banquet.
- Student grades 3rd-8th participated in two all-school reconciliation opportunities, one during Advent and one during Lent.

- Our 5th-8th grade students participated in a retreat to St. Dominic's in Saginaw to tour the Blessed Carlo Acutis exhibit and participate in an encounter hour of prayer & adoration.
- Classrooms participated in a Diocesan wide prayer during Catholic Schools Week.
- Kindergarten-5th grade students participated in monthly Community of Saints where we discussed the virtues of faith, hope, love, prudence, fortitude, justice and temperance and studied a Saint that exemplified each virtue.
- Middle School students participated in three symposiums throughout the year that encompassed a virtue and a saint who lived that virtue exceptionally; filled with music, art, culture and food.
- We said goodbye to Fr. Andy & Fr. Matthew as they were assigned to Sacred Heart Parish in Mt. Pleasant.

Funding & Grants

- Emerald Evening raised a record high \$252,000, which was \$30,000 over our goal. We are in the process of determining a special school project with some of the excess funds earned.
- Due to generous donors, all staff members received a bonus from the Emerald Evening Paddles Up totaling \$37,800!
- Three teachers applied for and received mini-grants for classroom projects for a total of \$1,500.
- We received a 31aa state grant for security upgrades and counseling services for students. With these funds, we installed eight new security cameras and loudspeakers in the stairwell and outside the school building.
- Our James Cardinal Hickey Endowment received additional gifts this past year, including a \$700,000 gift from the Frank Gerace estate, and now has a principal balance of over \$2 million dollars! We took a 3% required disbursement which will be used for staff raises for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- Grant funding from the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan provided \$6,000 in supplemental pay for all teaching staff.
- We held four fish fries and generated \$14,000 in profit.
- We awarded Guardian Angel Scholarships to 25% of our school families.

Community Building & Extra-Curriculars

- We held our annual Back to School picnic the end of August which was extremely well attended.
- We held our Catholic Schools week events such as the talent show, STEM fair, grand "friend" lunch and sock hop.
- We held a Veteran's Day ceremony to honor those in our community who have served.
- We hosted The Amazing Handshake, which invited 25 business professionals to the school to interview and evaluate the Middle School students on proper handshake mechanics and public speaking/interview skills.
- We partnered with Partners in Change to provide monthly parent sessions on a wide range of topics such as dealing with student anxiety, effective parenting strategies, how to navigate technology & screen time, and more.
- A counselor from Partners in Change provided student counseling services to 11 students during the academic year and throughout the summer for no charge to families.
- Our middle school students went on a capstone trip to the University of Notre Dame which included a stop at the University of Toledo to watch the solar eclipse, a tour of campus, the Basilica and the Harper Cancer Research Institute, mass at the Basilica and lunch with former St. Brigid students attending Saint Mary's/Notre Dame in the dining hall.
- Students collected toys & books for Habitat for Humanity, made cards for residents at Riverside, raised money for Open Door, collected canned food & toiletries for Open Door, raised money for the Piarist Fathers Mission, played Bingo with the seniors at Riverside, filled Rice Bowls during Lent, and raised money to help purchase a second water bottle refilling station.
- Our FIRST LEGO League worked hard for their competition and came up just short of advancing but won second place for core values.
- The girls' basketball team placed 2nd in the senior division and the girls' volleyball team placed 3rd in the Senior Division.
- The pom team competed in their first competition and placed 2nd, also winning the Smiles for Miles award for having the best smiles at the competition.
- We celebrated our girls' and boys' basketball teams, coed basketball teams, pom pon team, cheerleading team and our volleyball team with an end of the year sports banquet.
- We held a school musical, *Making Hard-Knock History*, for 5th-8th graders. Cast members rehearsed over 50 hours to pull off this amazing performance. They performed for the fourth-eighth graders as well as a community performance one evening.
- We had 15 fourth & fifth grade students participate in Battle of the Books. The three teams competed in an intra-school battle along with the virtual battles through the Grace A. Dow Library. One of the teams advanced to the second-round battle through the library.

NWEA RESULTS

| Math | Mean Score 2024 | Mean Score 2023 | Mean Score 2022 | Mean Score 2021 | Mean Score 2020 | Mean Score 2019 | Mean Score 2018 | Mean Score 2017 | Average overall | Diocese Score | State Score |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| K | 172.5 | 176 | 172.3 | 170 | * | 176.8 | 176.8 | 178 | 174.4 | 168 | 157 |
| 1 | 195.9 | 186 | 185.7 | 180 | * | 194 | 191 | 193.5 | 189.5 | 185 | 176 |
| 2 | 199.4 | 199 | 191.3 | 195 | * | 200.1 | 202.5 | 209.2 | 199.8 | 199 | 189 |
| 3 | 209.3 | 200 | 202.1 | 212.5 | * | 185.6 | 198.1 | | 202.9 | 207 | 201 |
| 4 | 216.4 | 216 | 227.4 | 212.8 | * | 208 | | 217.8 | 216 | 220 | 211 |
| 5 | 225.6 | 227 | 226.7 | 229 | * | 228 | 222.4 | 221.9 | 226 | 224 | 219 |
| 6 | 241 | 225 | 230.5 | 229 | * | 226 | 230.3 | 229.4 | 230.6 | 229 | 223 |
| 7 | 231.4 | 226.7 | * | 234 | * | 235 | 238.2 | 235.5 | 236 | 234 | 227 |
| 8 | 239.2 | 230.3 | 255 | 237 | * | 241.6 | 246.5 | | 243.4 | 238 | 230 |

| Reading | Mean Score 2024 | Mean Score 2023 | Mean Score 2022 | Mean Score 2021 | Mean Score 2020 | Mean Score 2019 | Mean Score 2018 | Mean Score 2017 | Average overall | Diocese Score | State Score |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| K | 169.5 | 172 | 167.7 | 168 | * | 174 | 171.3 | 172.2 | 169.8 | 164 | 153 |
| 1 | 188.5 | 178 | 181.3 | 179 | * | 187.8 | 188.8 | 181.6 | 183 | 179 | 171 |
| 2 | 186.7 | 194 | 191.6 | 193 | * | 195.1 | 195.2 | 196.7 | 193.2 | 191 | 186 |
| 3 | 206.3 | 196 | 198 | 201.9 | * | 193.1 | 196.6 | | 200.1 | 201 | 197 |
| 4 | 204.8 | 210 | 213.6 | 201 | * | 206 | | 213.1 | 209.6 | 211 | 205 |
| 5 | 217.1 | 219 | 218.2 | 218.2 | * | 218.7 | 216 | 219 | 219.1 | 217 | 211 |
| 6 | 220.5 | 218 | 231.1 | 218 | * | 223 | 224.7 | 223 | 223.7 | 220 | 215 |
| 7 | 219.4 | 218.4 | * | 222 | * | 225 | 227.3 | 226.8 | 225.6 | 224 | 218 |
| 8 | 230 | 221.7 | 234.7 | 230 | * | 217.3 | 232.3 | | 230.2 | 227 | 222 |

| Language Arts | Mean Score 2024 | Mean Score 2023 | Mean Score 2022 | Mean Score 2021 | Mean Score 2020 | Mean Score 2019 | Mean Score 2018 | Mean Score 2017 | Average overall | Diocese Score | State Score |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 2 | 187.2 | 192 | 186.5 | 201 | * | | | | 191.7 | 190 | 188 |
| 3 | 207.8 | 196 | 197.3 | 203.7 | * | 194.2 | 199.5 | | 201.2 | 204 | 195 |
| 4 | 206 | 211 | 211.5 | 205 | * | 207 | | 212.2 | 210.1 | 210 | 205 |
| 5 | 217.9 | 210.2 | 218.2 | 229 | * | 216 | 217.4 | 216.3 | 217.0 | 217 | 210 |
| 6 | 219.5 | 215 | 227.6 | 225 | * | 219 | 222 | 224 | 222.7 | 220 | 214 |
| 7 | 231.4 | 218.4 | * | 226 | * | 224.5 | 228.6 | 227.7 | 227.1 | 220 | 216 |
| 8 | 233.3 | 258 | 231.3 | 231 | * | 230.2 | 230.3 | | 232.1 | 224 | 219 |

| Science | Mean Score 2024 | Mean Score 2023 | Mean Score 2022 | Mean Score 2021 | Mean Score 2020 | Mean Score 2019 | Mean Score 2018 | Mean Score 2017 | Average overall | Diocese Score | State Score |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 3 | 205.5 | 197 | 200.3 | 202 | * | 202 | 202 | * | 201.3 | 201 | 196 |
| 4 | 206.9 | 210 | 211.8 | 204.6 | * | 206 | 208.9 | * | 208.8 | 208 | 205 |
| 5 | 212.5 | 217 | 214.7 | 213 | * | 214.3 | 214.8 | * | 214.2 | 213 | 206 |
| 6 | 218.8 | 216 | 222.2 | 218 | * | 215 | 217.4 | * | 213.0 | 217 | 208 |
| 7 | 215.6 | 210.6 | * | 225 | * | 221.4 | 224.9 | * | 214.5 | 219 | 211 |
| 8 | 227.2 | 242 | 226.7 | 213 | * | 225.6 | | * | 229.1 | 222 | 213 |