



ST ANTHONY  
SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT  
2024-2025

# LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear St. Anthony Catholic School Community,

Thank you for choosing St. Anthony Catholic School and investing in Catholic education for your child. This investment will pay dividends for years to come. At St. Anthony, our students learn to contribute to and be a positive part of their family, community, and the Church. We are proud to partner with parents to provide a wonderful education and environment where students can grow academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

St. Anthony School educates three-year-olds through 8th grade students and parents continue to have the school choice of Spanish Immersion or a traditional English track. In the dual language track students learn in Spanish and English daily so they can achieve biliteracy and bilingualism by the end of 5th grade. It's exciting to have a growing enrollment from PreS through 8th grade. Some goals achieved this past school year were:

- to add some associates, therefore having an associate in all classrooms PreSchool through 2nd grade
- to add staff to our student support team - which is now comprised of 1.5 student support/IEP & 504 support and Title, 2 ELL teachers, 1 special education associate, 1 behavior interventionist part time
- grow our love of band by having more members
- Increased compensation for our teaching staff

At St. Anthony School we are thrilled to work with our families and parish community to help our students grow in God's love and acceptance of all. We appreciate the Catholic traditions on our campus throughout the year that we can participate in. We love our diverse school and the welcoming spirit of our community. We are blessed with a caring, dedicated and well-educated staff that is diligent in their effort to meet all learners' needs and help students find success. We are blessed with wonderful families who are involved and dedicated to Catholic education and their faith..

With much gratitude,

Ms. Jennifer Raes

# OUR MISSION

*St. Anthony School fosters a Catholic identity rooted in Christ. We will cultivate and model:*

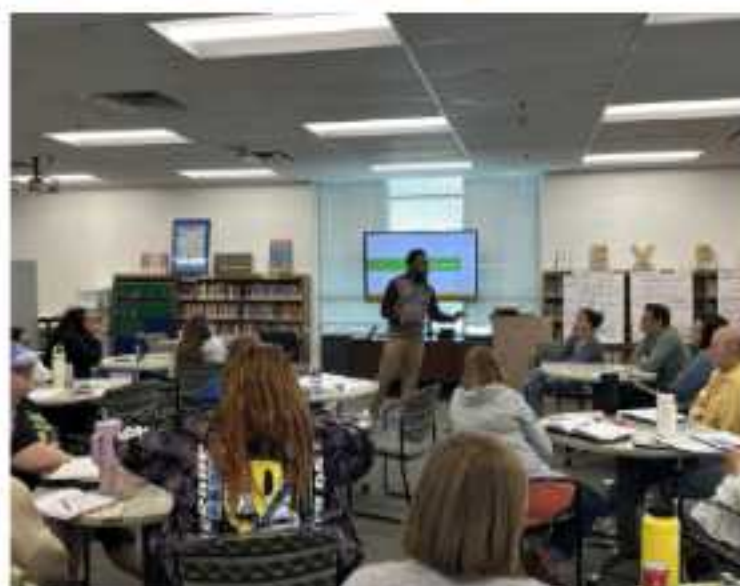
- *academic success for each student*
- *faithful service*
- *love for all Christ's children*

*"We love the small class sizes, the priceless gift of bilingual kids due to the Spanish Immersion program and feel that the teachers and staff genuinely care about our children."*

*- St. Anthony Parent*



# FACULTY AND STAFF



## **Administration**

Father Michael Amadeo, Pastor  
Father Rodrigo Mayorga, Parochial  
Vicar  
Father Jomi Joseph  
Jennifer Raes, Principal  
Darcy Swesey, Admin Asst.  
Mackinzie Clair, Admin Asst.  
Sunny Pamperin, Nutrition Dir.  
Nicole Sanders, School Nurse

## **SAS Junior and Plus**

Justina Glick, Director

## **Related Arts**

Peyton Butcher, PE and AD  
Sienna Layne, Music, Choir  
Ronda Hemann, Guidance  
Megan Sassatelli, Art  
Olivia Denning - Library  
John Malett - Band

## **Student Support**

Kenzi Grey - ESOL  
Dylan Garland - ESOL  
Tonya Eaton - Title  
Rita Lans - Title  
Daniel Spina - Special Ed Associate  
Behavior - Jodi Safris

## **Teachers**

Missy Himrich, PreS  
Kari Howard, PreK  
Diana Galvan, PreK & 3rd Spanish  
Madison Martin, Kindergarten English  
Marisol Guerra, Kindergarten Spanish  
Nicole Hibbard, 1st English Elena  
Nebot, 1st & 2nd Spanish  
Julia Bocken, 1st and 2nd English  
Ryley Sinnott, 2nd English  
Greta Gyldenvand, 3rd English  
Rita Lans, 3rd English  
Kaitlin Nelson, 4th English  
Lucia Ortega Amoros, 4th & 5th Spanish  
Madi Jones, 5th English  
Sammi Woods, 4th & 5th English  
Darren Hemann, MS Math  
Abigail House, MS ELA  
Katie Robey, MS ELA  
Cristian Hurtado, MS Science  
Cindy Herman, MS SS  
Stephanie Howard, MS Religion  
Ana Demestri, MS Spanish Language Arts

**Associates**

Alex Magallanes - PS & PK  
Denise Vasey - PK  
Iris Naranjo - K Spanish  
Heather Piper - K English  
Daniela Diaz Heredia - 1/2 Spanish  
Coleen Swisher - 1 English  
Jollette Arreola - 2 English  
Maria Dianas - 2 English  
Jose Martinez - Lunchroom Assistant  
Joy Barsetti - Lunchroom Assistant  
Edith Porras - Jr. & Plus  
Azusena Dianas - Jr. & Plus  
Fran Chiodo - Jr. & Plus  
Anna Dianas - Jr. & Plus  
Jackie Ceballos - Jr. & Plus  
Sarah Miller - Recess Associate



# LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The role of the Leadership Council (and subcommittees) is to give advice, provide consultation, make recommendations and suggestions, give support and encouragement to the pastor and administration. The subcommittees (Faith and Community Engagement, Home and School, Academics and School Improvement/SIAC, Alumni) meet separately to work on their committee focus, then report out to the large group at PTA (Parent Teacher Association) meetings.

# HOME AND SCHOOL

Home and School is our parent association tasked with fundraising to support special projects and activities not covered by tuition. In doing so, this group helps initiate community events and enrich the educational experience for all students at St. Anthony School. Home and School meets every other month and all parents are welcome to attend meetings and take an active role in this important committee.

*"We love sending our children to St. Anthony's School for many reasons, one of them being it is a Catholic school where our children can learn about Christ."*

*- St. Anthony Parents*



# SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025 BY THE NUMBERS

421

PS - 8th Students

32%

Faculty with Master's

72%

School Diversity

57

New Families

84%

Provided Tuition Assistance

1:13

Faculty: Student Ratio

126

Students PS - 5th in Two  
Way Immersion



ST. ANTHONY  
SCHOOL



Percentage of students achieving proficient or higher status in **reading** according to the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress:

- 4th Grade - 65%
- 8th Grade - 89%

Percentage of students achieving proficient or higher status in **math** according to the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress:

- 4th Grade - 61%
- 8th Grade - 75%

Percentage of **8th grade** students achieving proficient or higher status in **science** according to the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress - 70%.



# FAITH

At St. Anthony, faith formation promotes a relationship with Christ and teaches students how to live the Gospel through love and service to others. While the Catholic faith is the cornerstone of our school, we welcome students of all faith traditions.

Scripture, doctrine, prayer, and Liturgy are related to children at their developmental levels, beginning with their own experiences. Prayer is interwoven throughout the student's day. Prayer begins and ends each day at our school, is experienced daily in Religion and many other classes, and occurs before snacks/meals. Additionally, students have the opportunity to celebrate Liturgy together once a week and are involved in the planning of school masses. Family and friends are always welcome to these masses to celebrate the faith with our school community.

Through the lens of Catholic social teaching, we encourage our students to respect the diversity, dignity and beliefs of all in pursuit of knowledge and truth through critical thinking and constructive debate. This helps form strong principles, a moral center and a vibrant community that celebrates all achievements for the common good.

## FAITH HIGHLIGHTS

Fifty school students received their first Sacrament of Reconciliation and their first Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Students in grades K-8 participated in 35 school masses. In addition, parish priests visited classrooms to share faith teachings. Prayer services were held weekly through Advent and Lent. Our faculty provided daily faith instruction to all students.

100 percent of students participated in service-learning and raised money to support local charities and non-profit organizations.

Classroom and whole school rosaries were prayed.



# EXCELLENCE

St. Anthony Catholic School is fully accredited in the state of Iowa, and we challenge students to aim higher academically, spiritually, and personally through faith-centered learning and a rigorous academic program aligned with state standards. The faculty works together to meet students' needs in academics and instills a culture of continuous improvement.

Students in grades K-8 take the FastBridge screening assessments three times a year. These assessments provide data and insights into student performance, growth, and academic needs. In addition, FastBridge offers a snapshot of student performance and evidence-based measures for reading and math. This snapshot assists teachers in identifying student goals for learning and providing individualized student support to ensure these goals are met.

Students in grades 3-8 take the ISASP assessment annually, and students in grades 2, 5, and 8 and take the National Catholic Education Association's ACRE assessment.

Through a partnership with Boston College, St. Anthony Catholic School offers the only dual language/immersion education in the diocese. The goal is to provide students with an opportunity to become bilingual and biliterate by the time they reach middle school. Teachers in the dual language program are all native Spanish speakers.



# HIGHLIGHTS

This year, 126 students in PreKindergarten through fifth grade experienced core subjects like reading, science, math and social studies in both English and Spanish as part of our Two-Way Language Immersion education track.

Every St. Anthony student has access to technology as an educational tool. Our classrooms are equipped with iPads, Chromebooks and Clear Touch panels for 21st-century learning.

Our school serves students and families from many faith backgrounds, ethnicities, races, and cultures. Moreover, 100 percent of our faculty in our Two-Way Immersion program are from Spanish-speaking countries. The diversity of the faculty helps expose students in the language immersion education track to multiple dialects, cultures and traditions.

We were able to increase staff compensation to be more competitive with other diocesan schools which has helped us retain teaching staff.

*As a parent, I'm overjoyed and happy with my child's education track so far at St. Anthony's. The classroom sizes are remarkable making the teacher-to-student ratio manageable for the teacher to really provide that one-on-one experience to each student. Overall, the value is just there, you see it, experience it, and live it because your child is happy learning."*



# A CARING COMMUNITY

*"We have loved our experience at St. Anthony's. The school and church have a mixture of cultures and people that represent our city, and we feel a strong sense of community being a part of both. The Spanish Immersion program is very impressive. Learning a second language is a tremendous skill that flows into all areas of learning and we believe it will open up many opportunities for our children."*

*~St. Anthony Parents*

Our school has a rich tradition that binds our community, parish and school, and connects families, teachers and staff. Because of these relationships, all are personally invested in the success of our students and schools.

We believe that parents are the primary educators of their children. Therefore, parents are encouraged to be highly involved in their children's educational experience by participating in a variety of volunteer opportunities.

We teach love, care and concern for others as a part of our curriculum. Values of respect, discipline, diligence and compassion are instilled in all students. In addition, students in all grades have the opportunity to participate in community service and mission projects.

As a Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) school, we focus on prosocial behavior and teach our students about their role in fostering a positive and safe learning environment. Our student expectations are to REACH to be Christ-like. R = Respectful, E = Empathy, A = Accountability, C = Cooperative, and H = Honest. Students experience positive reinforcement for meeting school-wide expectations and logical consequences for problem behavior. In addition, our students understand that their actions have a wider impact on the school community.



# TRADITIONS

We have traditions throughout the school year such as weekly Mass, buddy pairs amongst different grades, Good Friday retreat for all students, Team Day - an academic competition of teams made of students from K-8, Field Day, weekly prayer services during Advent and Lent, rosaries as a class and a school, monthly Adoration for each grade, St. Nicholas Day, school community celebrations, monthly mission days, Grandparent's Day, 7th and 8th grade trip to Washington, DC., staff service day to a local organization, and many others important to the students and staff.

# VALUE

Students receiving high-quality instruction and an academic experience rooted in faith. Our faculty and staff foster positive, caring and faith-filled relationships with all students and families.

Outside of the classroom, we offer athletic programs that provide students with an opportunity to learn teamwork, responsibility, dedication and good sportsmanship. Additionally, enrichment activities and fine arts programs are available throughout the year to help develop student interests and potential talents.

All students have service opportunities available to serve like Christ with Mission Awareness Dress Down Days where each grade level chooses a non-profit to donate to. Students can dress down for the day if they bring \$2.00 or more to donate.



# THE COST TO EDUCATE

We greatly appreciate and understand the financial sacrifice our families make to provide their children with an education at our school. However, tuition only covers a portion of the cost to educate a student at one of our diocesan schools. The remaining amount is supported by parish subsidy, private donations, grants and tuition assistance resources.

Parents'/Guardians' tuition investment goes towards strong educators, enhanced learning experiences, the latest technology, as well as a moral and emotional supported education for each child. In addition, we offer tuition solutions and assistance programs.

In 2024-2025, 84% of our students received tuition assistance from the Catholic Tuition Organization and Education Savings Account.



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