



Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Grade School

306 Butler Street – Random Lake, Wisconsin 53075

School: (920) 994-9962

Website: www.ourladylakes.org

Celebrating over 125 years of Quality Catholic Education

TO: Our Lady of the Lakes Congregation
FROM: Rick Erickson, PhD
Principal/Administrator
RE: "State of the School"
DATE: November 13, 2011

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISH

The following information is presented to you as an update to the "State of the School" offered last year. Some of this information follows a format you may be familiar with from previous years' and some of this information is presented to you in an effort to maintain the 'transparency' promised to you when I first spoke to the Congregation on August 2, 2009.

Personnel: We have four full time teachers in grades K through 6 and five part-time teachers in Art Education (10%), Music (20%), Physical Education (20%), PreSchool (80%), and Technology (20%). We are blessed to have a full time secretary, a part-time Janitor, volunteer maintenance, and a full-time Administrator.

Enrollment: Last year (10-11) 53; this year (11-12) 44; projected for next year (12-13) 44. The projected enrollment is based on several factors that can not be solidified at this time. Among those factors is whether we receive the children known to be Congregation members who will be of school age in our Kindergarten. We continue to reach out to those families who at one time saw fit to have their children attend Our Lady's School but have since chosen to attend elsewhere. We are of the belief if they at one time believed in a Catholic education for their child(ren) we must find the reason for their departure and ways to encourage their return. Additionally, we have made contacts with certain 'new' areas to the school community with some success coming during the 2011-2012 school year. We continue to 'reach out' to those elements of our community who are 'under represented' in our school.

Salary: At the present time our Teachers work out of a love of Catholic education more than a love of salary. It would be good if a means to offer our teachers a salary that reflects an amount closer to 90% of what their peers in public education earn (currently they earn approximately 77% compared to their peers). They understand this is not probable without a hardship to the Congregation. Thus, their love of Catholic education continues to bring them here each year.

Supervision: I am able to be in, or immediately outside, each classroom several times each day I am on campus. I am able to observe our dedicated teachers busy at their duties of educating our children. I can assure you there is minimal 'down time' during the class day. Our teachers are obviously a dedicated group of professionals who believe strongly in their tasks of providing the best possible education for our children.

Tuition: While we are lower (\$1805, including fees) than many other Archdiocesan schools, I believe we need to constantly review the budgetary costs of operating a quality Catholic school and reconsider our position on tuition and other income sources. I am in regular contact with Mrs. Birenbaum and continuously reviewing the operating budget to insure all expenditures are absolutely necessary and reasonable. A quick look at the most recent census figures for Random Lake show we are a community that should be able to adequately support a private school while still supporting the public system mil rate of \$9.07 per \$1000 of assessed property value. According to the Wisconsin Department of Public instruction the estimated cost of education for one child in the RLSD is approximately \$9000 (2009-2010). As reported in the annual report for Our Lady of the Lakes the estimated annual cost per child is \$6966.

When we take into account the successes of our graduates, our teachers do a wonderful job with minimal resources. When you consider each child who is in attendance at Our Lady's School is actually saving the community money, the Congregational support is really a financial savings.

Improvements: The biggest improvement in our school this year has been the addition of an Art Education teacher. With the closing of the child care center more space has been dedicated to the school and school related activities. The music program and the art program share a room where materials can be stored and left available for extra usage. A new teacher has been brought on board to teach the intermediate classes. As is known to the parish, a new roof was installed on the school during the summer. It has been pleasurable to not have to worry about slippery floors due to roof leakage.

Improvements Needed: (a sort of 'Super Wish' list.) All items in this paragraph are intended for the improvement of the education we provide our children. We could use the services of our Art, Technology, Physical Education and Music teachers an additional day of each week. The addition of a 7th (and eventually 8th) grade would be a major step in the continued livelihood of Our Lady's School. Additional sources of revenue need to be found and secured so that the Congregation and school parents can receive some respite from being expected continuously add to our income source. We continue to be in great need for an improved bell system. The current one is outdated and erratic. I would like to find a place, on the campus, where the staff could park their vehicles so they do not need to be on the village streets, especially during the winter snow emergency time periods (possibly on the black top area behind the classrooms along the berm across from the east wall of the building?).

'Dream List': The initiation of a 'Teacher Salary Memorial' fund would be a helpful plan in three important ways. First and foremost it would be a way to increase the income of our dedicated teaching staff in an effort to help close the gap between the salaries they receive and those they could receive in the public system; secondly, it would help to control, and even stabilize, the overall budget; the third positive from such a 'Memorial' would give the ability to maintain our current teacher base which is the foundation for our very successful academic performances. Additionally, it would be nice if we could find a *friendly* source of income that would allow us to place a 'SmartBoard' in the remaining classrooms. These technology devices are an excellent teaching tool, albeit, expensive, that would be a great addition to our classrooms. And, while I'm dreaming, being in a financial position to 'rent' to every child their own 'Tablet' type computer which would allow the teachers to continue to improve the delivery of the excellent education we offer. Of course, in order to make use of portable computer devices for educational purposes we would need to continue to improve the status of the building as a wireless 'hot zone'. Additional items for training the students in 'lifestyle' activities would be helpful. Such items as bikes, tennis, bowling, and racquetball/squash equipment are examples.

Budgetary: It needs to be pointed out Our Lady's School came in "under budget" for 2009-10 and 2010-2011 even though we are operating on a reduced budget. The teachers and I have provided many small items out of our own financial means as we understand the financial status of the Congregation and we remain appreciative of the continued support the of the Congregation.

In Conclusion

Notable Achievements: A review of the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 "State of the School" reports show several achievements of goals set. Enrollment seems to have been weakly stabilized; Mathematics scores have been improved through the combined efforts of our dedicated teachers who reviewed the Scope & Sequence of our Math curriculum; the school has embraced Differentiated Learning successfully; the school sign has been moved. Work still needs to be completed on the electrical and security of the school sign; the new grotto, dedicated to our patroness, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, has been completed. The grotto was completed without cost to the Congregation as all materials were purchased with earmarked donated funds and the installation was donated as well; the playground has received a new load of wood chips; funding was found to hire an Art Education Teacher for 2011-2012; Budget matters have been significantly improved and the results show the school came through 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 with budgetary reductions.

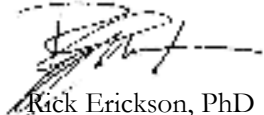
I see a bright future for Our Lady's Catholic School. I recognize this brightness is dependent on the continued hard work of the members of the Our Lady of the Lakes Congregation, the teachers in the school, and the many volunteers

who help make things happen around here. I expect we will continue to have a few bumps along the way. We will probably need to look at new and creative ways to continue our mission. I believe, if it remains the will of this Congregation, we will look back at this time in our history and find satisfaction that we all worked together for the success in the development of our children who are the foundation of the future of this Congregation and Our Lady's Catholic School.

May Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, our mother and our patroness, watch over each of you and intercede to her son in your behalf.

Respectfully submitted by:

Your Servant,



Rick Erickson, PhD
Principal

School Staff

Dr. Rick Erickson, Principal
Mrs. Deb Chipman, grades K/1
Mrs. Suzanne Starch, grades 4/5
Mr. David Fink, Physical Ed.
Ms Jennifer Rivera, Music Ed.
Mrs. Rita Schmid, Secretary

Mrs. Ronda Goetsch, grades 2/3
Mrs. Heather Keller, grade 6
Mrs. Kristy Weinert, PreSchool
Ms Gail Graczyk, Computer Ed.
Mr. Timothy Stark, Art Ed.
Mr. Mark Schmid, Custodian