



ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADES K-8

ANNUAL REPORT

2016 - 2017



ABOUT ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FAST FACTS

- Our school opened in 2000, following the plans outlined by Archbishop Stafford before he was called to Rome to serve as a Cardinal
- On average, our students performed in the grade level one above their current grade on the national Iowa Test of Basic Skills
- Over half of our teachers hold a masters degree and together our 16 faculty members have over 275 years of teaching experience
- We follow the curriculum of the Archdiocese of Denver and are accredited through the North Central Association



MISSION STATEMENT

At Saint Clare of Assisi Catholic School, we live, spread, and celebrate the gospel values of respect, responsibility, and reverence in a Catholic environment. We embrace a challenging, safe, and nurturing environment that enriches the heart, mind, and soul for life.

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Our Catholic faith is the cornerstone of St. Clare School. We believe that each person is created in the image and likeness of God for a special purpose. This realization is what builds true self-esteem and gives meaning to our lives.

Jesus is at the heart of our school and its curriculum. He teaches that we treat others as we wish to be treated, and that we are responsible for one another. His message is the reason for everything we do. At St. Clare, we focus on the development of the whole child: intellectual, spiritual, social, moral and physical. Following the curriculum of the Archdiocese of Denver, students learn Catholic values and basic skills necessary for life. . . .

(The complete Philosophy Statement can be found in the Family Handbook.)

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Family and Friends of St. Clare of Assisi Catholic School,

At St. Clare, we foster the development of the whole person: intellectually, spiritually, morally, socially, and physically.

Throughout the pages of this Annual Report, you will encounter some of the highlights of our 2016-2017 academic year in fostering the development of our students in each of these areas.

In addition, you will read about the involvement of our parents in our school community, an overview of a financial report, where our alumni have gone after St. Clare, and our alumni's reflections on their time at our school.

We are proud of the way our school lives its mission. We look forward to continuing to work together to fulfill our mission as part of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Denver.

Sincerely in Christ,
Sr. Mary Elisha Gladys, RSM



HIGHLIGHTS of EDUCATING THE WHOLE PERSON

FOSTERING INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

In addition to the core subjects of Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Religion, St. Clare also offers fine arts (K-8), music (K-4), band/choir (5-8), and Spanish (5-8). Our teachers creatively engage students with the curriculum. For example:

- Kindergarten students learn letter sounds through the use of zoo phonics
- 1st grade students practice story elements and comprehension skills in guided reading groups and create their first book report
- 2nd grade students each designed and built a model town when studying what makes a community
- 3rd grade students watched the caterpillars in their classroom become butterflies while studying metamorphosis
- 4th grade students researched a famous person in Colorado history and then made the person come alive through dressing and acting like the person at their Wax Museum presentation
- 5th-8th grade students solved critical thinking math problems related to the math curriculum during their weekly math "Treasure Hunt," facilitated by Dr. David Lohmann
- This year's Middle School elective choices included chess, leadership, line dancing, cooking, stage set building, and knitting
- Middle School students mentor lower elementary students in the Reading Buddy program
- Our students participated in the Scripps National Spelling Bee; this year one of our students participated in the state competition
- Four scientists from the John McConnel Western Slope Math and Science Center presented in-depth science experiments and students participated in a number of self-exploration stations at Science Night

MUSIC AND ART

- All students at St. Clare are involved in music and the arts
- Each grade recited a poem in front of the school for the two Poetry Recitation Days held this year
- The annual school-wide Christmas pageant was held at the Vilar Center in Beaver Creek
- The K-4 Art curriculum focused on the fine arts, drama, dance, and music as well as weaving in content from other subject areas
- 4th and 5th grade students participated in Jazz Goes to School
- Our middle school students preparing for confirmation painted stunning icons of the confirmation saint they chose



FOSTERING SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT

Rooted in the Catholic faith, St. Clare's offers religion classes for all grades and integrates the faith throughout the curriculum. Examples of opportunities for spiritual and moral development that our students participated in during the 2016-2017 academic year include:

- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd religious education, rooted in the Montessori tradition, for grades K-5
- Religion classes for grades 6-8
- Daily school prayer and once a week school-wide Mass
- Sacramental preparation
- Retreats, including:
 - . First confession retreat for 2nd grade
 - . Archdiocesan Mountain Madness retreat for Middle School students
 - . Girl Genius retreat for Middle School girls at the Cabrini Shrine
- May crowning
- Students participated in a number of service projects, including:
 - . Bringing in a canned good for the local food pantry on free dress days
 - . Fundraising for two families in our community in need
 - . Collecting donations during Catholic Schools Week for Eagle County Gabriel House, which provides material goods for mothers of young children
 - . Raising over \$1000 for the Heifer Project and the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute through the Middle-School sponsored 1950's Sock Hop-themed Family Fun Night



FOSTERING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Our academic programming fosters the development of age-appropriate social skills:

- School-wide Second Step program
 - . Helps students learn social-emotional skills
 - . Promotes citizenship and teamwork
- Girl Genius and Man Club for Middle School students
 - . Teaches students about their dignity
 - . Encourages growth in virtues

FOSTERING PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

St. Clare's offered opportunities for students to stay active as they grow physically through both physical education classes (K-8) and middle school sports. Joined by students from Vail Christian Academy, St. Clare offered the following sports for 6-8 grades:

- Volleyball
- Football
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Basketball
- Boys and Girls Track



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Throughout the year, students have the opportunity to participate in field trips that bring to life the curriculum they study in the classroom. Examples of this year's field trips include:

- K and 1st grade trip to the Vilar Center for performances of *Dinosaur Zoo* on November 8 and *Frog and Toad* on April 6
- 2nd grade trip to the Vail Daily Print Center in the fall
- 3rd grade overnight at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science followed by a day at the Denver Zoo, April 27-28
- 4th grade camp trip, Colorado National Monument, May 22-25
- 5th grade trip to the Cathedral in Denver for Mass with the Archbishop, February 17
- 6th grade trip to the Denver Performing Arts Center for a performance of Colorado Ballet's *Swan Lake*, October 6
- 7th and 8th Grade Hut Trip with Walking Mountains Science Center, March 22-23
- 8th Grade Class Pilgrimage to Santa Fe, NM, from May 2-5
- K-8 grade Learn to Ski days at Beaver Creek, March 2-3



PARENT INVOLVEMENT

St. Clare's is blessed to have many dedicated parent volunteers. Together, they contributed well over 3,000 hours of service to our school community during the 2016-2017 academic year. Their involvement ranges from driving for field trips to preparing costumes and props for the Spring Performance to participating in St. Clare Spring Cleaning Day to sharing their profession skills, and much more.

Our dedicated Partners in Education (PIE) organization provides support to our school by organizing and sponsoring school events, including providing a network of parent volunteers that assist teachers in the classroom. The PIE Committee consists of parent volunteers (1 parent per grade/special). PIE events and activities during the 2016-2017 academic year included:

- Kindergarten Open Houses
- Kindergarten/New Family Picnic
- Back to School Night
- Ice Cream Social
- Veteran's Day Lunch
- Parent/Teacher Conferences Lunch for Teachers
- Teacher Appreciation Week activities
- IOWA Testing Week Treats
- Raffle Ticket and Box Top Winner Parties
- Donuts with Dads
- Muffins with Moms
- New Moms Luncheon
- School Mock Election
- Classroom Holiday Parties
- 8th Grade breakfast
- 8th Grade clap-out and continuation
- Field Day
- Coordinating field trip chaperones and drivers
- School and class fundraisers
- Teacher Welcome Gifts
- New Student Welcome Gifts
- 8th Grade Continuation Flowers

FINANCIAL REPORT

TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND

The Tuition Assistance Fund provides financial assistance for families desiring to provide a quality Catholic school education and who would otherwise be unable to afford the full cost of tuition. Supported by many generous donors, scholarships are awarded on a sliding scale and help make up the difference between the annual cost of tuition and what an individual family can afford to pay. Over \$141,000 in scholarships was awarded for the 2016-2017 school year, providing assistance for 56 St. Clare students.



FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS

The support of many dedicated St. Clare families, St. Clare parishioners and community members brought success to the following 2016-2017 events:

- The "Swing & A Prayer" Golf Tournament raised over \$15,000 for St. Clare's Tuition Assistance Fund
- The "Starry Nights" Wine Tasting Event raised \$25,500
- The "St. Clare Year End Appeal" raised \$160,000
- The "No-Show Mardi Gras Ball" raised \$26,800 and included a \$5,000 matching gift
- The "Annual St. Clare Raffle" raised nearly \$37,000

THANK YOU!

Fundraising relies on tax-deductible gifts and fundraising efforts to meet its needs. We would like to express our gratitude to all who assisted by giving their time, talent or gifts this school year.



ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	9 Month Period Ending		12 Month Period Ending	
SCHOOL REVENUE	March 31, 2017	March 31, 2016	June 30, 2016	June 30, 2015
Tuition	378,124	405,108	568,995	635,706
Fundraising	229,968	267,021	300,064	507,740
Donations	120,673	65,916	169,932	190,726
Raffle	16,737	45,634	45,634	51,918
Student Activities	23,706	21,069	41,408	55,020
Hot Lunch	20,025	18,573	24,058	22,333
CSAF Grant	20,245	4,500	6,300	2,640
Other Income	4,677	3,423	6,273	14,655
After School Program	4,215	3,820	5,982	12,289
Uniform and T Shirt Income	2,854	1,318	1,435	5,000
Interest Income	0	165	165	713
TOTAL SCHOOL REVENUE	821,224	836,547	1,170,246	1,498,740
SCHOOL EXPENDITURES				
Personnel Related Expenditures	654,952	731,776	971,359	947,011
Operating Related Expenditures	199,391	212,408	328,234	308,946
Fundraising	5,158	86,415	169,438	211,162
Student Activities	21,745	12,216	38,189	40,225
Hot Lunch	8,693	11,698	19,273	18,751
After School Program	78	184	195	11,014
Uniforms and Athletic Supplies	11,256	8,919	8,919	14,782
TOTAL SCHOOL EXPENDITURES	901,273	1,063,616	1,535,607	1,551,891

ST. CLARE ALUMNI

PREPARED FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Our rigorous curriculum prepares students to succeed in college preparatory programs at the local high schools and other national boarding schools. Our alumni have attended:

- Battle Mountain High School
- Eagle Valley High School
- Vail Christian High School
- Vail Mountain School

... AND HIGHER EDUCATION

After high school our graduates have studied at top colleges and universities throughout the country, including:

- Atlanta Ballet College
- Chapman University
- Colorado School of Mines
- Colorado State University
- Creighton University
- Loyola Marymount, Chicago
- Loyola Marymount, Los Angeles
- Miami University
- Regis University
- Santa Clara University
- Stanford University
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Denver
- University of Notre Dame
- University of San Francisco

HEAR WHAT OUR ALUMNI HAVE TO SAY ABOUT ST. CLARE!

"St. Clare gave me a strong sense of community and support. Our teachers gave us a lot of individual attention, and they pushed me to do well. Their support made me feel like I was a smart person and that confidence in myself has carried me to where I am now." —2005 Graduate

"Having close and meaningful relationships with my teachers there really set the tone for everything I did educationally. ... The close atmosphere allowed me to never feel as though I was unable to approach a teacher or ask questions in classes which I have carried on through out my education." —2006 graduate

"St. Clare prepared me for where I am today in so many ways. I was able to learn the value of friendship and respect. I was able to gain my relationship with God and treasure that relationship still today. But above all else, it taught me the value of love. The love each teacher had for us, the love our priest bestowed upon us and the love we as students had for that school will never be forgotten." —2008 graduate

"Graduating from St. Clare has most importantly allowed me to understand and live out my life for Christ. Attending St. Clare from K-8 also made me aware of what a strong, flourishing community looks like. I am very grateful to the school and its teachers, education, and community for teaching me not only how to succeed academically, but to also succeed in my everyday walk with Christ." —2013 graduate



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