
ANNUAL REPORT

2019/2020

ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

GROWING LEADERS
WHO TURN FAITH INTO
ACTION!



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

St. Ignatius is a Christ-centered Catholic school committed to the Ignatian traditions of academic excellence and teaching students to live their Catholic faith through service and the promotion of justice. Our community - school, families, parish - seeks to inspire students to reach their potential, to act with initiative and integrity, and to engage the world as a place where God can be found in all things.

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear St. Ignatius Catholic School Family,

"Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other's eyes for an instant?"

These words of Henry David Thoreau resonate during this fall full of eyes. After half a year apart, our staff and students reunited in our building this August for a phased-in approach to in person learning. Seeing the eyes of our students gleaming with joy at the real physical presence of their friends and teachers is a blessing no one can take for granted.

At times during those first days back at school it was hard to recognize one another. After all, six months of childhood and the sunshine of summer bring about many physical changes in a child, and combined with the newness of masks hiding the missing teeth and broad grins of students bounding back into the building, recognition could be challenging. One day early on, thinking I was talking to a new student, I asked a first grader what her name was and had an emphatic response, "Mrs. Kane! I've been here since preK!" (I hadn't recognized her face behind that mask).

Adapting didn't take long, and now we all see eyes- beautiful browns and blues and greens all shouting out their emotions- eyes that were there all along, but perhaps missing our full attention. Where we once used full faces to interpret speech, we now see only eyes- watching the way they shift and expand to fill in the gaps of understanding one another. Somehow it even feels like we know each other better now...like we can find the soul faster...as if we can more quickly recognize the Divine in one another.

And like waking up to a new morning, our eyes are opened to see blessings we might have missed before. As you read through our annual report, I hope you will notice the blessings that we have found during these new and unique times. Blessings like the community that holds us up and keep us strong, the many donors and benefactors that have kept our school healthy and operational, or the staff that faces the challenges of this year with incredible fortitude and determination.

I pray that this annual appeal finds you and your families well, and that you might have eyes to see the blessings that surround us and the Divine working in all that we are doing.

ANDI KANE
PRINCIPAL



FACTS & FIGURES

493

493 PreK-8th grade students are currently being served by St. Ignatius Catholic School and our 58 staff members. We continue to exceed our enrollment expectations despite the challenges of the 2020/2021 school year.

100%

100% of our students are offered tuition at a rate that is below our actual cost to educate and 98% receive an additional tuition discount of some kind. Our tuition remains consistent with other Catholic schools in our area and is well below the tuition rates of most private schools in the area.

100%

100% of our Pre-K-8th grade students participate in service and social justice projects in connection with our Faith in Action Fair, providing assistance to 100s of organizations in the Treasure Valley, across our state and around the world.

100%

The average RIT percentile score of St. Ignatius students on NWEA nationally referenced testing exceeded the national average for both public and Catholic schools at EVERY grade level in both math and reading.

RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE



While this has been an unprecedented and unsettling time for our community, our nation, and our world, we have much to celebrate as we begin Year 4 of St. Ignatius Catholic School. As we all grapple to cope with the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Ignatius has been working hard to provide a new normal for our students-- finding ways to continue providing high quality education, while doing our best to protect the health and safety of our community.

As you likely know, we began our school closure on March 16, 2020 along with other area schools. While we had no idea how long this closure would last, our school made a commitment to creating a remote learning program that would honor the integrity and mission of our school to carry us through any required social distancing period. It was agreed that St. Ignatius would strive to be an area of support, structure, consistency, and connection for our students and families during this stressful time, while maintaining continued academic growth.

Within days of closing, our remote learning platform was up and running and our teachers were providing all of our students (even our Pre-K (3-4 year old) students) with much needed structure, community, and continued education. We are grateful to have staff with the skill set and open mindedness to be able to so quickly have shifted to a remote learning format, and to have the resources to have allowed our students to begin learning immediately. While not ideal, we found ways to support spiritual growth, keep students engaged in our community, and maintain our academic growth expectations throughout the remainder of the 2019/2020 school year.

Our staff then spent the summer months preparing for what would be an unprecedented year in education. We prepared operating plans, planned for different possible scenarios, reviewed and improved on our remote learning plans from last spring, and learned everything we could about the ever-evolving health and safety recommendations and practices.

Just 2 weeks before our first day of school, CDH announced that Ada County was experiencing the highest level of COVID spread (Category 3) and advised that students and staff not return to on-site instruction. Despite our original plans to offer only remote learning during such a period, we made the determination that we could safely begin school by bringing our PreK fully back on-site and by meeting with K-8 students in small groups. That period was followed by a two week period of remote instruction, further followed by bringing all students back on campus in a hybrid model of learning on September 1. This hybrid model invited all K-8 students to return to our campus for daily in-person instruction half of the day and remote instruction for the other half of the day (with half of our students on campus in the morning and half in the afternoon). This structure limited the number of students on campus at one time but allowed us to deliver quality instruction and time with teachers and classmates every day. While this model did not come without sacrifice, it was successful in balancing the safety of our staff and students with the desire to return to on-site instruction. This hybrid period allowed us time to teach students and staff new safety protocols and evaluate the effectiveness of our on-site mitigation strategies.

Finally, on October 5, we were able to achieve our goal of offering fully in-person, all day instruction to all of our students. In addition, throughout this period and for the remainder of the school year, we continue to provide remote instruction to a significant number of families who have chosen to remain in remote learning during this uncertain time.

We ask that you continue to pray for our staff, students, and families as we continue to navigate this challenging, confusing, and constantly evolving school year. Pray that we continue to show one another grace, patience, and understanding as we all try to make decisions that support the "greatest good" for our families, our school, and our community.



90.3%

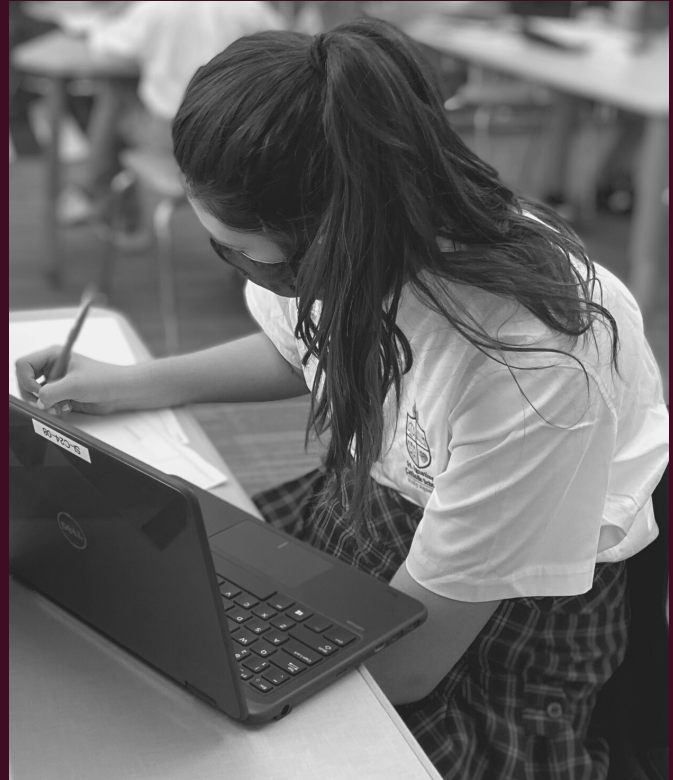
*of parents report that they are
satisfied with the education
their students are receiving at
St. Ignatius despite the
challenges of the 2020-21
school year*

93.8%

*of parents report that they are
satisfied that St. Ignatius is
protecting the health and safety
of their students despite the
continuing COVID spread in
our community*

WCEA ACCREDITATION

This fall, St. Ignatius completed the last stage of the Western Catholic Education Association accreditation process. During this process, we diligently tracked student and school-wide data, utilized a wide range of stakeholder feedback, and assessed our programs and Catholicity. We used this data to self-evaluate, issue a detailed self assessment report, and create data driven goals for the future. In September, a WCEA team of outside educators visited our school, observed our staff and students, and visited with students, staff, and stakeholders in order to evaluate our program and our self-study on behalf of WCEA.



We are so excited to report that our WCEA accreditation self study report and our visit were amazingly successful. WCEA evaluated St. Ignatius and our self report based on 11 WCEA Accreditation Factors. Our accreditation panel measured our school's effectiveness in each factor as determined by utilizing a rubric that includes objective criteria for measurement. While we will not receive our official accreditation until this summer, the report that was issued by our accreditation panel determined that St. Ignatius is "effective" or "highly effective" in all categories that are evaluated- a huge accomplishment for any school but particularly exciting for a new school.

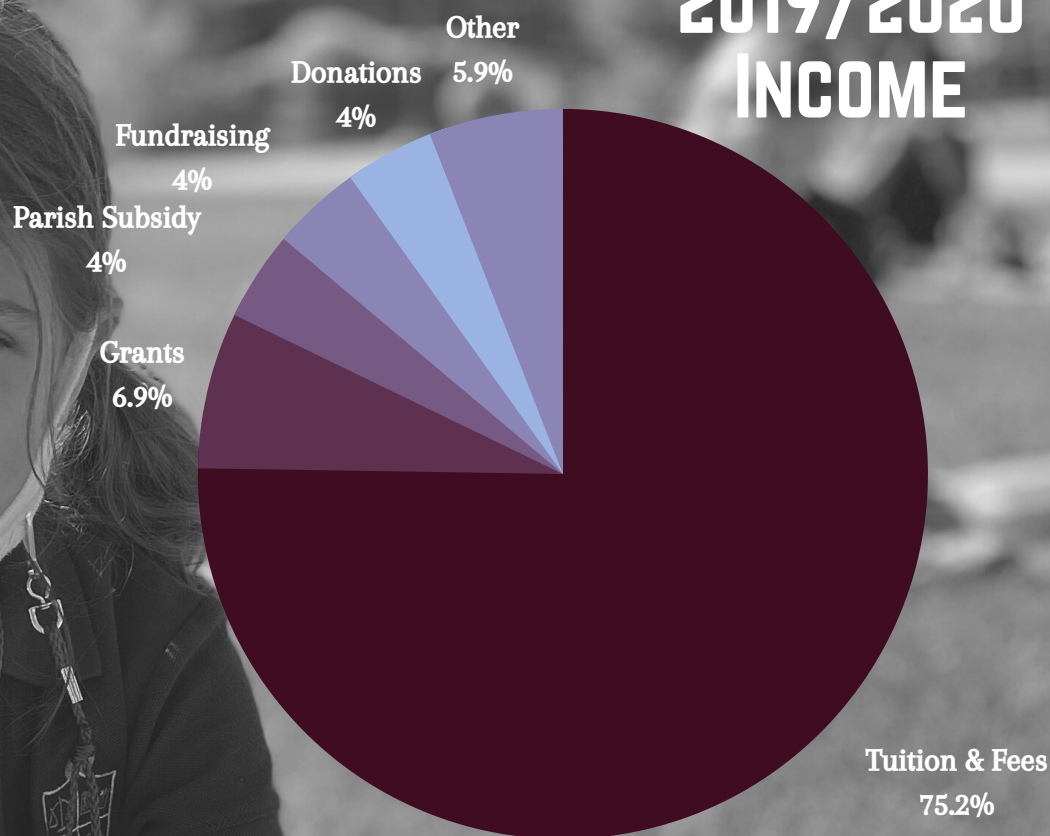
The Visiting Committee concluded their report with the following statement:

"The Visiting Committee observed tremendous Gogorra during our visit to St. Ignatius Catholic School. There is an exceptional spirit of community and support for Cura Personalis. It is evident that the school is proud of its ability to provide personalized education for each student in heart, body, mind, and soul. The students and parents display genuine affection and admiration for the entire faculty and staff. The faculty and staff are providing a high-quality Catholic education to students in the Treasure Valley during a time of great transition - when we need to rely on our faith more than ever. The Visiting Committee commends the school for its commitment to continuous improvement through the WCEA accreditation process. God bless St. Ignatius Catholic School in their journey; we wish them the best as they continue their work in providing a high-quality Catholic education in the Diocese of Boise for many years to come. "Go forth and set the world on fire." - St. Ignatius"

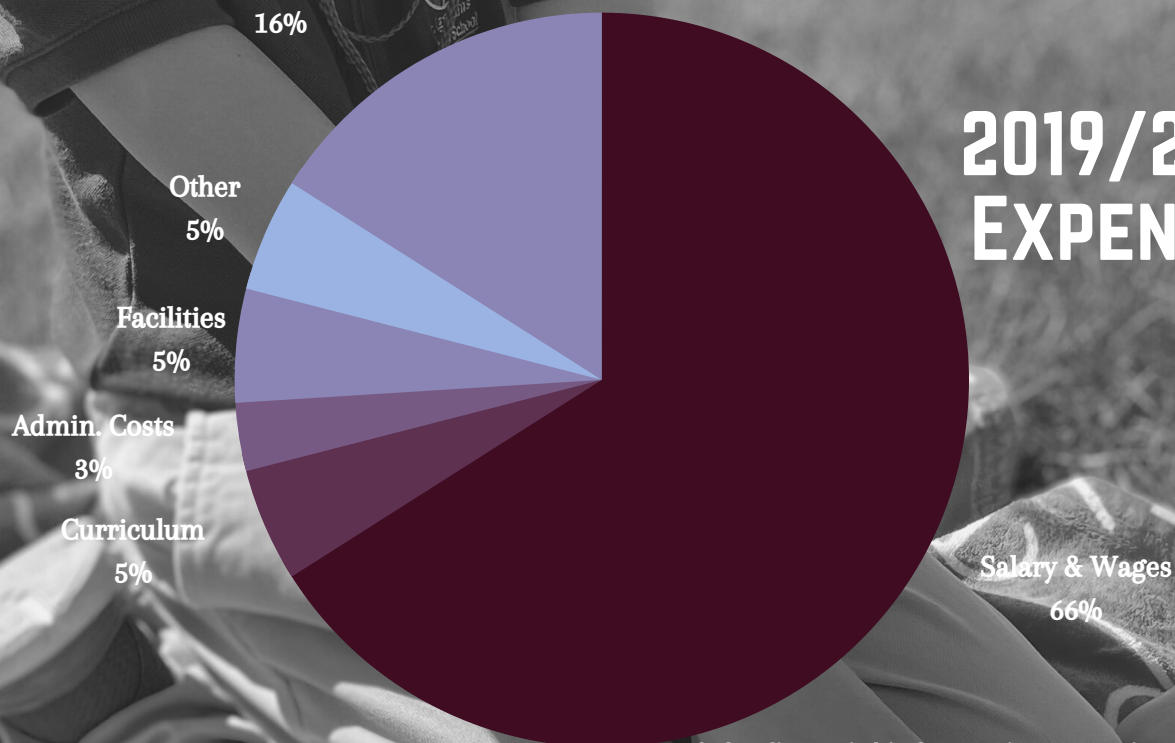
St. Ignatius Catholic School values the accreditation process and its role in ensuring that our school fulfills its mission. We will continue to provide more information about the status of our accreditation as we receive it. In the meantime, thank you to the teachers and staff for your commitment to this process, to the parents and board members for participating in the study and visiting team meetings, and to all our parish and school families for your support during this process. We are incredibly proud of our community!

BY THE NUMBERS....

2019/2020 INCOME



2019/2020 EXPENSES



*The financial information contained herein reflects financial income and expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020 and is prepared in accordance with the basis of accounting prescribed by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise, which is a basis of accounting other than Generally Accepted Accounting Principles of the United States.

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WERE MADE IN MEMORY OF...**

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**IN ADDITION TO OUR DONORS, THANK
 YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE GIVEN OF TIME
 AND TALENT TO ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC
 SCHOOL AND ST. IGNATIUS SCHOOL
 FOUNDATION DURING THE 2019-2020
 SCHOOL YEAR.**

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 Calley & Tony Haws
 Frank & Cathy Smalley
 Joe & Chrissy Kane

In addition to the donors listed
 herein.....

THANK YOU to Holy Apostles
 Parish for continuing to provide
 spiritual support and over
 \$127,500 in financial support to
 our school community this year.

THANK YOU to our HSA who
 donated over \$165,000 to our
 school from fundraising efforts.

THANK YOU to all of the
 businesses and individuals who
 donated items for our Fire Gala,
 Fall Festival, and Jogathon, and
 THANK YOU to all of the
 volunteers, attendees, donors and
 auction purchasers.



Dear St. Ignatius Family,

I want to take a moment to thank each of you for the generosity you have shown to St. Ignatius Catholic School during the 2019-2020 school year. I am constantly inspired by the amazing acts of generosity that I see within our school family-- not just from our financial donors, but from those who volunteer their time and talent in furtherance of our common mission to provide Catholic education to the children of our community. I am always amazed by the things that can be accomplished when a community comes together with a common purpose.

At its core, Catholic education is about a belief that our children grow best within a community that celebrates faith, and where the spirit can be nurtured alongside the mind and body. Our mission at Holy Apostles and St. Ignatius is that such an education be accessible to all those who wish to pursue it. Providing an affordable Catholic education is possible because of the generosity of our donors.

2020 has presented even greater financial need within our school community. In addition to our expected year-to-year financial needs, our school has incurred over \$130,000 in unexpected costs this year as a result of the pandemic and our commitment to provide a healthy and safe in-person learning experience to our families during this time. These additional costs have included hiring of additional staff, purchase and installation of air ionization equipment, and investment in additional health and safety equipment (such as thermometers, PPE, and mitigation equipment for our classrooms). In addition, we have experienced a greater need for financial assistance from our school families since last spring.

Given these unexpected financial burdens and the fact that our typical fundraising events will be limited this year, our Gray Wolves Giving Annual Appeal will be more important than ever in the coming months. I am asking our entire community of parents, parishioners, neighbors, alumni and partners to prayerfully consider financially supporting St. Ignatius Catholic School this year through this annual appeal. My hope is that every person who believes in the mission of St. Ignatius Catholic School will participate in this annual appeal in whatever amount their budget will allow. Whether it is a \$50 gift or a \$2000 gift, I ask that every person in our community invest in our mission.

I ask you to pray with me for our school, our families, our parish, and our entire community as we continue to weather this storm together. God bless each and every one of you during this challenging time.

Gogorra in Christ,
Fr. Len MacMillan

GRAY WOLVES GIVING ANNUAL APPEAL & IDAHO EDUCATION TAX CREDIT

St. Ignatius Catholic School relies on the philanthropic generosity of our community to maintain our current tuition/income model. Your gifts “bridge the gap” between the actual cost to educate a student at St. Ignatius and the amount of tuition paid for each student. Without substantial financial support from our community, we will not be able to maintain these substantial tuition discounts. That means that every student who attends St. Ignatius benefits from the generosity of our donors.

Gray Wolves Giving provides donors with a vehicle to make an incredibly tax effective contribution directly to the school by taking advantage of the Idaho Education Tax Credit. Using the Idaho Education Tax Credit, it doesn't have to cost a lot to make a big difference at St. Ignatius Catholic School.

The Idaho Education Tax Credit lets you support Idaho Catholic Schools with dollars you would otherwise pay on your Idaho Income Tax Return. The State will CREDIT 50% of the first \$500 for an individual or \$1000 for a married couple filing jointly. In addition, the normal charitable deduction permits you to deduct the amount of your contribution on your Federal Income Tax Return as well as on your State Income Tax Return. (If you itemize your deductions). Depending on your tax bracket and liability, your contribution to St. Ignatius could cost you very little.

The chart below shows examples of how the Idaho Education Tax Credit works based on the 35% marginal tax bracket and itemized taxpayer return. You must have a large enough tax obligation to qualify. Figures are estimates. As always, we recommend discussing your specific tax situation with your tax advisor.

Joint Return Gift Amount	\$250.00	\$400.00	\$1,000.00
Tax Benefit from itemizing deductions*	(\$87.50)	(\$140.00)	(\$350.00)
50% Idaho Education Credit	(\$125.00)	(\$200.00)	(\$500.00)
NET out of pocket cost of contribution	\$37.50	\$60.00	\$150.00





2020 GRADUATES

"But without the darkness we wouldn't know the warmth of the light."

Despite a world in turmoil last spring, there was also great joy!

In May, St. Ignatius Catholic School graduated 49 wonderful young men and women--our largest graduating class yet! We are confident these wonderful students will go on to be leaders who turn FAITH into ACTION.

38 of these graduates have gone on to attend Bishop Kelly High School, and several of our students received merit

based scholarship awards to Bishop Kelly High School--including the Carley Scholarship (a full, four-year scholarship to BK).

We thank these students and their families for joining us on this journey.

We enjoyed watching you grow in your faith, friendships, academics, and dedication to service and social justice. May you continue to be growing, learning, loving, reverent, seekers of justice in high school and throughout your life.

Go forth and set the world on fire!