



ST. ANNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL – CASE STATEMENT

I. MISSION: SAINT ANNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Saint Anne Catholic School is a fully accredited educational and faith formation ministry of Saint Anne Catholic Parish in Somerset, Wisconsin, and is part of the Diocese of Superior and the Catholic schools of the diocese. Our school serves Saint Anne parish and the neighboring parishes of Assumption in East Farmington and Saint Joseph in Osceola.

While primarily serving students from Catholic families, our school admits students from any families from the surrounding communities who accept and are committed to the mission, philosophy and vision of our school.

Our school has both religious and secular missions that are truly integrated as one: To teach and form our students grades 4K through eight in the Roman Catholic/Christian faith while preparing each of them for their next level of formal academic learning.

Students who join us commit to our mission, philosophy, and vision, and complete their education and faith formation at Saint Anne Catholic School are: (1) grounded in their Catholic faith and Christian values; (2) more than prepared for their next level of formal education (high school); and (3) have been exposed to opportunities for service to others that should instill in them a sense of responsibility--if not a desire--to want to do more for others utilizing the education and the gifts God has given each of them and we as a parish school community have helped develop.

HISTORY – SAINT ANNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Father Riviers opened Saint Anne Catholic School in 1890! The next pastor, Father Berube, came to St. Anne Parish in 1905 and under his direction a new school and mother-house was built. The new school was opened on January 6, 1908. It was an impressive three story structure complete with its own chapel, six classrooms, and living quarters for the sisters. The cost was \$18,000.00. The school was staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph from Cincinnati, Ohio. These nuns stayed until 1909 and left because they found teaching in a totally French school rather difficult because they were mostly Irish and German. The new pastor persuaded the Sisters of St. Joseph at Crookston, Minnesota to become a part of St. Anne's and on August 2, 1909 the first Sisters from Crookston got off the train at Landing Hill Station where mail carrier Mr. Levesque greeted them. The time remaining before the opening of school that year was used to initiate these young Sisters in teaching. Four of them had just returned from their novitiate in France and had no experience in teaching. Thanks to the formation they received in Europe, they won over the Somerset settlers who also spoke French.

185 students were registered when school opened in 1909 and they were organized into four classrooms. On October 11, four postulants from Somerset, who had been prepared by Father Caron, entered the convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph and this began a commitment between this order and the people of Somerset.

The Sisters lived on the third floor of the school and ate in the basement. They needed better accommodations and a house of their own to facilitate their community living. In 1920, Fr. Beaudette had a large brick home constructed for the Sisters at a cost of \$30,000. The high cost was due to inflated prices of post war commodities. It was a struggle as a recession set in and was quickly followed by the Great Depression. But, little by little, the debt that was incurred for the convent was paid in full by 1944.

In 1947, Father Rivard became pastor. Father Rivard's first priority was a church parking lot and a bigger school. Land was purchased across the highway and in January 1956, Fr. Rivard announced his plans to build a new school for St. Anne's parish! Enrollment had continued to rise. Two hundred thirty-six pupils were now attending St. Anne's. Ground breaking would take place during the grand celebration for the triple centennial of St. Anne Church, the Village of Somerset, and the township, in June of 1956.

As Fr. John opened the campaign for the new school, he said, "*Our hour of deeds has arrived. In this year of one hundred years, we will raise to God, for our posterity to behold, edifices that will stand for another hundred years. We will not rest until our love and our faith will be written in stone laid one upon another by sacrifice and determination grown out of effort and zeal.*" On August 20, 1957, the school was ready to open with two

hundred sixty-three students! The old three story brick school was demolished in 1959. By 1960, the school enrollment had reached 319!

Catholic school enrollments plunged nationally after the peak periods of the 1960's and 1970's. The last of the Sisters of St. Joseph left in 1998. In an effort to provide continuing quality Catholic education, however, a middle school wing was added in 2000.

Today, St. Anne Catholic School is one of 15 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Superior serving approximately 120 students, Grade 4K-8.

**Adapted from St. Anne Jubilee 2000.*

II. SERVICE – How St. Anne Catholic School fulfills its Mission . . .

- A. To Students – We teach and form our students grades 4K through eight in the Roman Catholic/Christian faith while preparing each of them for their next level of formal academic learning. Students who join us commit to our mission, philosophy, and vision, and complete their education and faith formation at Saint Anne Catholic School are: (1) grounded in their Catholic faith and Christian values; (2) more than prepared for their next level of formal education (high school); and (3) have been exposed to opportunities for service to others that should instill in them a sense of responsibility--if not a desire--to want to do more for others utilizing the education and the gifts God has given each of them and we as a parish school community have helped develop.
- B. To St. Anne Parish – St. Anne Catholic School is clearly an extension and a part of St. Anne Catholic parish. Our school gathers for weekly and Holy Day Masses, participates in Sacraments (First Reconciliation, First Eucharist), Advent and Lent Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration, and praying of the Rosary. Parishioners are invited to join us for these Masses, Sacramental celebrations, and Rosary prayers. Parishioners are invited to attend Christmas programs, Band concerts, Art & Science Fairs, and Open Houses in our school. Our students are paired with adult “Prayer Partners” from the parish and join in with Prayer Partner Activities throughout the school year. Many of our students are Altar Servers for school Masses, weekend Masses, and serve for funerals throughout the year. Our older students participate in Young Group activities and service project opportunities offered by the parish.
- C. To the Somerset community – Our school participates in community events like Pea Soup Days and supports the local food shelf on a regular basis. Our 4th grade class makes monthly visits to the Senior Center, and we offer an aluminum and metal recycling center on our campus. We are involved with local merchants through the SCRIP program, and partner with local businesses like Subway and Pizza Planet in our school lunch program.
- D. To Society - We strive to not only prepare our students for their next level of formal learning and their role as future members of our Catholic church, but also for their responsibilities as productive and active members of our government, economy, and society in general.

III. ACHIEVEMENT

A. Test Scores/Academics

- Above average standardized test scores (NWEA/MAPS Testing Data)
- Accelerated math programs (Algebra I and Geometry) offered at Middle School level
- High school placement - 90+% of graduating 8th graders annually test out of high school Algebra I (traditional 9th grade math) or are placed in Algebra II or Geometry as 9th graders based on testing
- High school success - Majority of St. Anne School graduates complete high school with “honors” designations and high percentage of St. Anne graduates are Valedictorians or Salutatorians of class (e.g. SHS Class of 2017 – Valedictorian, Salutatorian and 3rd in Class - all St. Anne graduates)

B. Enrollment

Enrollment in our Catholic schools has been a concern nationally and this diocese for well over the last ten years. In fact, at a diocesan meeting with Pastors, Parish Coordinators and Principals in March 2017, the Superintendent reported that enrollment in our Catholic schools in our diocese alone has dropped by almost 500 students in the last ten years (478 to be exact). In terms of our enrollment, St. Anne Catholic School had 149 students in 2008, then 136 for two years, a big drop in 2011 (117), then back up to 127, 128, and 121. The last couple of years St. Anne Catholic School has been at 118 and 115 students, respectively.

The good news is that for the population of Somerset, St. Anne Catholic School has the highest percentage of students vis-à-vis almost all other Catholic schools in the diocese, has had a full 4K the last two years (with a waiting list in 2016-17), has been found to be a "very viable" school in the Viability Study conducted by the diocese, recently received full accreditation status after a self-study and on-site visit by an outside accreditation team, and due to sound financial practices and management, has been financially stable and has not had financial issues like a number of our other Catholic schools. In the last ten years St. Anne Catholic School has added music to the curriculum offerings at all grade levels, expanded foreign language options, has an on-site band program that has been growing, added to technology, and is offering more extra-curricular sports for middle school (four basketball teams in 2016-17, volleyball teams the last two years, and introduced baseball and cross country in fall of 2016). Our school has maintained well above average national test scores, and the high schools (and parents) report that students are very well prepared for 9th grade.

C. Faculty Achievements

Teachers at St. Anne Catholic School hold a minimum of a Bachelor's degree and a state teaching license. Our principal holds a J.D. (Juris Doctorate), an Ed.S (post-Master's degree) in Education Administration and is a licensed teacher and school administrator in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Our assistant principal is currently in a Master's program and is working on administrative (principal) licensure.

All teachers are required to hold or be working on the "Foundational" level of catechesis certification and teachers of Religion are required to have obtained "Elevated" level of certification.

D. Volunteers

This is a key area for parental involvement in the education of children. At St. Anne Catholic School there are numerous opportunities for parents as volunteers.

Volunteers are asked to sign in the office and obtain and wear a visitor ID. *In accord with Diocesan policies, volunteers working with students need to have a satisfactory background check and then complete Basic Adult Safe Environment (BASE) training. Volunteer drivers must also complete the Drivers Form available in the office, be licensed and adequately insured, and provide proper seat belts and any required child seats for all student passengers.* Parents have the opportunity to volunteer in several key areas:

- Classroom/Office Volunteers
- Field trip chaperones
- Home and School Association
- Team Sports – Coaches for cross country, volleyball, basketball, and baseball

E. Physical Growth

St. Anne Catholic School has a Physical Resource Plan that was developed in 2012 and runs through 2020. Some of the accomplishments over the last several years included carpeting all classrooms in the elementary section of the school, installing Smart Boards in all grade level classrooms, lowering the ceilings and installing new lighting in the 4K and K hall and classrooms, replacing major roof sections, remodeling the front entryway, repainting the gym ceiling and installing new lights, sound system, and a power screen in the gym, repairing/replacing fencing on perimeter of campus, and the parking lot has been expanded and resurfaced. The

2017 School Gala also generated funds to have a new gym floor and bleachers installed.

F. Other Achievements

Over the last 10 years our school has attempted to offer additional co-curricular and extra-curricular activities for our students. Music and Art teachers have been added to our faculty, and students have the opportunity to learn about other cultures and languages as part of our Spanish program K-4 and online program grades 5-8. A partnership with Hill-Murray Catholic High School has allowed our students to stay on campus for band lessons from HM teachers. Our band program has seen growth each year. We have also expanded our sports offerings to our middle school students by joining the Catholic Athletic Association out of the Twin Cities. We have had volleyball and cross country teams in the fall, basketball teams in the winter, and offer baseball in the spring. School teams instill school pride and provide students the opportunity to learn teamwork and develop physically!

IV. NEW DIRECTIONS – THE FUTURE!

A. School Improvement Plan

Our school developed a School Improvement Plan during our accreditation process in 2015-16 as well as an Action Plan during the 2016-17 school year as part of the School Management & Development Program (SMDP). Copies of these plans are attached.

B. New Programs

As mentioned above, our school has been able to offer music, art, and foreign language to our curriculum. We strive to keep our student computer lab current and recently added a mobile lap-top cart. Keeping current with technology and curriculum resources is a continual goal and challenge.

C. New Resources Needed

Our school has been able to recruit and otherwise retain extremely qualified and dedicated faculty and staff, so our “human resources” has been a blessing! Thanks to our “Fund-A-Need program” we have been able to address needs in the area of physical resources. Additional financial resources would help us continue our school mission, especially in the area of teacher and staff compensation and professional development, curriculum resources, and technology.

D. Maintaining Quality Catholic education

We can't expect our students to learn and grow in the Catholic faith unless their teachers do as well. All teachers have either earned or are working on the catechetical certification level required by the Diocese of Superior. Teachers who teach Religion hold either the “Advanced” or “Elevated” level of certification. In addition, in-service time each month is dedicated to professional development in catechesis. During the 2016-17 school year, for example, our faculty has been reading, discussing, and viewing a lecture series entitled *Teach, Lead, Serve*.

V. DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

A. Need

Tuition for a full day student at St. Anne Catholic School is currently \$3,000. The actual cost of educating a full-day student is more than twice that—approximately \$6,750. As faculty and staff compensation and benefits costs continue to increase, so will tuition. A number of our families receive tuition assistance each year. St. Anne parish and the parishes of Assumption and St. Joseph help subsidize the cost of education, but those parishes have their church and programs to support as well. Tuition and tuition assistance and parish subsidies account for a large percentage of our school’s annual operating income, but the areas identified in the “New Directions” section above need to be funded from sources outside of the operating budget.

1. Ongoing communication

While a new website was developed two years ago, plans are underway to change hosts and a volunteer has offered to build and maintain an even newer site. Our Facebook presence and postings have increased as have the number of visitors. We send out a *Principal Page* (newsletter) every two weeks and are currently surveying our parents as to what format is preferred for communication. We email announcements/updates to our parents regularly and publish in the parish bulletin at least twice a month if not more often.

2. Fundraisers/events

Our school focuses on four primary fundraising events: SCRIP (year-round), Marathon (student driven in the fall); Annual Appeal (November) and the Spring Gala (May). All four generate operating funds for our annual budget, and the Gala also raises funds for an identified “Fund-A-Need.” The school is also a beneficiary of gifts throughout the year made as memorials or endowment fund contributions.

3. Tuition Assistance

Our school and parish awards nearly \$50,000 in tuition assistance each year. For a number of years, Two Eagles Foundation has generously provided \$25,000 each year in tuition assistance. Our school is also allowed to draw the earnings from a substantial, restricted gift for tuition assistance that was given to our school by a generous alumnus.

Our school also receives a number of gifts each year from individual donors that are designated for tuition assistance.

4. Endowment Fund

The school has an endowment fund managed by Catholic Extension Services and it is anticipated that the fund will grow in terms of both additional gifts and earnings.

5. Grants/Awards

Our school has received funding from a few specific grant applications in recent years that have helped fund our library, physical education program, and a community fund that supports programs or projects that benefit the larger community.

C. Opportunities to Invest

Our school welcomes support in terms of volunteering time and talent and of course—treasure. Donors desiring to support our school financially may certainly:

- participate in the SCRIP program
- pledge our students in the fall Marathon
- donate to our Annual Appeal in November
- participate in our Spring Gala
- contribute directly to our Endowment or Tuition Assistance Funds
- or gift our school's operating expenses anytime!



VI. PLEASE JOIN WITH US IN OUR MISSION!

St. Anne Catholic School is a “highly viable”* and fully accredited** Catholic school located in Somerset, Wisconsin.

We have a rich history of providing a solid academic education grounded in the Catholic faith and tradition.

We also have a proven track record of success.

We are the only 4K-Grade 8 school in the Somerset community that offers religious education every school day throughout the school year.

A 4K – Grade 8 private, religious school education comes at a price. We are not a public, tax supported school. We rely on St. Anne parish, the parishes of St. Joseph and Assumption, tuition income, a few select fundraisers, and the generosity of people who are committed to our mission and philosophy and join with us to continue providing the best possible Catholic school education we can to the students we serve.

After all, we have the privilege--and the responsibility--of working with the future – the future of our Church, and our future government, economy, and society.

Please join us as we work to continue St. Anne Catholic School today and into tomorrow!

Contact our School Principal, Parish Life Coordinator, or any member of our Education Committee.

Thank you, and God bless!

* As determined by the Diocese of Superior – Viability Study

** Accredited by the Wisconsin Religious & Independent Schools Accrediting Association