



# Mid-Year Update

January 30, 2017

Dear Parents, Cluster Members, and Friends,

First semester has ended and we are at the mid-point in our school year! However, where is the snow?! I'm sure more is coming...it is winter... I wanted to take a brief moment and share some of the exciting happenings that have taken place at Divine Providence Academy since the last update in July...

*Kendra DeYoung*

Director

## **W**orld Knowledge:

Our focus for this time of the year is student selected. You will hear us discuss our initiative to raise money for a fence to go around a Catholic school in Kampala, Uganda. The school is run by a group of Sisters and is called St. Maria Goretti Ngetta Elementary School. Divine Providence Academy students were saddened to learn that the children in Uganda that attend this school are at risk for being attacked by wild animals when on the playground and that every day the school is threatened by vandals and thieves. Our students are asking for pledges for the ReadAThon we are participating in on February 2, 2017. However, we will likely continue to fundraise and collect for this much needier school than ours throughout the rest of the school year or at least until the project monies have been raised. The Uganda school is asking for \$10,000 to complete the project and they have only raised 3% of that thus far. For more information, please download the Missio app on your phone or visit [www.missio.org](http://www.missio.org).

## **I**ndividualized, Innovative Education:

We experienced a nice growth in enrollment this year and our early childhood classrooms are booming for the first time since I arrived exactly 5 years ago (where has the time gone?)! We needed to add full time assistants to both preschool programs since we had so many students. In fact, we are already taking names for next school year!

Our academic model is being implemented and replicated in 6 other schools across the nation due the fact that we are in our 6th year of implementation, are such a relatively small school AND still get the highest scores in the diocese! We may be small but we are SMART. We are visited almost monthly by other superintendents, principals, school boards, and teachers from other schools to want to witness the amazing program Divine Providence Academy has to offer.

As a school we continue to focus on literacy this school year and are excited about the new vocabulary program we are able to implement due to a grant from the Muskegon Community Foundation (Thank you to Mrs. Hall for writing the grant, the Saint Catherine Home and School Committee, and an anonymous donor for making it happen!).

## **N**urturing Family Environment:

We work so hard to provide a warm, nurturing family environment where all student needs are met while they are at school. Volunteers doing all sorts of jobs to help our small school operate on BIG level each and every day...Volunteers are contributing to our school comes in all shapes and all sizes. We know everyone does what they can to make our school a success-some help during the day and many more help in the evenings and outside of school hours. Here are some of the ways AMAZING people are making things happen during school hours at Divine Providence Academy. We could not afford to pay these people but need their assistance nonetheless. Their donation of time and talent is priceless. If you are interested in helping provide that "nurturing family environment" at either campus contact any staff member or any of the people listed below and we will make good use of your time!

Brenda Goodno and Linda Best  
Daniella Hernandez, Abigail Umlor, and Sharon Davis  
Connie Armock, Sharon Davis, April Scheidel, Trevor Young  
April Scheidel, Sharon Davis, Bonnie Alt, Lizzie Earle,

Connie Looks

: Sharon Davis, Pamela Kosten, Janice Burch and Seeing Eye

Dog, Paisley

Helen Dietrich

## **G**od-Centered:

Per our mission at Divine Providence Academy, "we cultivate courageous servants of God." Sister Ann continues to assist with this mission daily in all her religion classes. This year the election has given us plenty of real-life applications to discuss and apply our Faith. We are called to live daily. We want our students to stand up for things things they see that are counter intuitive to our faith. We ALWAYS respect one another and embrace differences just as Jesus calls us. We always stand up for victims of poverty, prejudice, and illness. We are called to see the beauty of

God's creation and all its many colors. Please join us in saying a prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel after every Mass in hopes that we can make a difference in such troubling times as these:

## Supportive Technology:

There is some exciting news in our technology world! Between Saint Catherine Home and School Association, Saint Joseph Auctions 2015 and 2016, and an Anonymous Donor that blessed us in December, we have been able to finish equipping all of our students in grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade with new Chromebooks. These new devices are easier to maintain, are more durable, more reliable, and MUCH faster than our previous refurbished devices we purchased in 2011. Feel free to stop in and see the students at work! They will be happy to show you around the Chromebook.

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## Miscellaneous:

\* Staff gets either paid and/or earns credit towards their annual tuition. The culture of the staff is "whatever it takes" to get the job done. Many of our staff volunteer their time well beyond the duties they have and what they are paid to do, hence why I thought I should make everyone aware of the dedication of the team. Never assume that the adult you see in the building is actually getting paid for their time. We cannot afford that!

<b>Kendra DeYoung</b>	10 hours/week Director (finances, personnel, overall oversight and leadership), 6 hours/week as Middle School Reading Teacher and 4 hours/week as Special Education Support Staff
<b>Tim Hall</b>	20 hours/week Assistant Director (plants and grounds, technology, and social media communication and marketing, and development), 20 hours/week as Middle School Math, Science, and Homeroom Teacher
<b>Andrea Hall</b>	10 hours/week Assistant Director (mission effectiveness, policy and planning, curriculum and assessment) 30 hours/week as English Language Arts Teacher for Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary
<b>Theresa Kary</b>	20 hours/week Administrative Assistant
<b>Gina Bouwhuis</b>	40 hours/week Lower Elementary Teacher (all subjects) and Middle School Social Studies Teacher
<b>Jen Wiltenburg</b>	40 hours/week Lower Elementary Teacher and Upper Elementary Teacher for Math, Science, and Social Studies Teacher
<b>Sister Ann</b>	40 hours/week Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, and Middle School Religion, and Band
<b>Nicole Patterson</b>	40 hours/week Upper Elementary (all subjects) and Middle School Writing
<b>Kate Beuschel</b>	5 hours/week Early Childhood Director and 35 hours/week as Early Childhood Teacher
<b>Kasey Abercrombie</b>	40 hours/week Early Childhood Teacher
<b>Kim May</b>	40 hours/week Early Childhood Assistant

<b>Karen Timmer</b>	25 hours/week Early Childhood Assistant, 5 Hours/week Playground and Lunch Supervisor, 10 hours/week After School Care Supervisor
<b>Greg Grover</b>	15 hours/week Custodian
<b>April Scheidel</b>	10 hours/week Playground Supervisor and Early Childhood Assistant
<b>Sharon Davis</b>	5 hours/week to drive to and from West Catholic for our students taking courses at the high school in the mornings

The Board did vote on a tuition increase for the upcoming school year. Although we strive remain one of the lowest tuitions in the Diocese of Grand Rapids, we recognize the need to increase tuition with inflation, retaining amazing staff, and rising costs of running a school. However, we NEVER want tuition to be a deciding factor in a decision to not send a child to a Catholic School and WILL work with any family to find a way to make it affordable.

On the other hand, should you find God placing a desire in your heart to help sponsor a child to attend a Catholic School, PLEASE continue to support the Helping Hands Collection every month at all three cluster parishes. You have helped 9 families this school year already and there are still families in need.

Pope Francis states, "The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this occurs through a rich path made up of many ingredients." Some of the ingredients may include generous donations from families like yours to help families that cannot afford a Catholic Education for their own children.

2017/2018

One Child Family	\$3125	\$4125
Two Children Family	\$4420	\$5420
Three Children Family	\$5775	\$6775
Four Children Family	\$7000	\$8000
Five Children Family	\$8750	\$9750

\*Individual Parish Support Available per Bishop Decree

Technology Fee/Child	\$100
Recess Fee/Child	\$25

Half Day (2)	\$1000
Half Day (3)	\$1500
Half Day (4)	\$2000
Half Day (5)	\$2500
Full Day (2)	\$2000
Full Day (3)	\$3000
Full Day (4)	\$4000
Full Day (5)	\$5000