



Executive Summary

Our Lady of Sorrows School

Diocese of Trenton

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Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

Our Lady of Sorrows is a Catholic School located in Hamilton Township, (Mercer County), New Jersey. It serves students in Grades Kindergarten through Grade 8. The current enrollment, of 276 students represents the Township of Hamilton as well as the greater Mercer and Burlington Counties as well as Bucks County, PA. The school has steady enrollment growths over the last three years. The school community has strong connections among its members allowing for a wide-number of family involvement events over the course of the school year. Families express deep concern for their community and are quick to offer support and friendship.

The school offers additional financial assistance to approximately 20% of the families. Our tuition rates have remained constant with every family receiving approximately 32% scholarship of the full cost of educating a child. About 10% of our students are offered additional educational services outside of the school day based upon federal guidelines.

A number of our families are networked through neighborhood friendships and generational connections. These components have proven to have had a stronger impact upon new registrants than general marketing.

School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

The mission of our school is to provide an atmosphere rooted in the Catholic faith, dedicated to individual academic excellence while preparing life-long learners and responsible Christian adults. At Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School we value working with the whole child. Our professional staff has been constant with long-held connections to the families that are served. We offer a school environment that reflects our Catholic faith and is based upon love, understanding and forgiveness.

Our school embodies its purpose and vision in our every action. Service projects and deep personal connections are a regular part of our day. Mutual respect is evident among the entire community.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

Notable achievements within the school community include technology improvements including new laptops, Ipads and computers for the faculty as well as in the computer and wireless labs. A new science series for grades 3-5 was implemented, as well as a new math series for grades K-2. New vocabulary and grammar books were purchased for grades 6-8. After school tutoring has been made available with the addition of Title I funds. The after school program was expanded to include a Strategic Gaming Club for middle school students, a photography club, and a weekly Service Club for all students. In addition to our existing clubs and activities we have added a student choir, a middle school Debate Club and a National Honor Society.

There have been several areas of improvement within the physical building. Air conditioning has been added to each classroom, fire doors were added to the main hallways, and several building beautification projects have been completed.

Areas of improvement include increased standardized test scores, professional development opportunities and increased PLC participation. Future plans include window replacement and window treatments, and possibly new flooring.

Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

Grades 6 - 8 would benefit from the addition of Mathematics and ILA Resource Rooms, and Grades 2-4 require a Mathematics Resource Room.