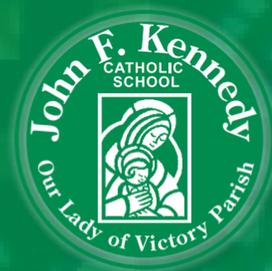


# MISSION STATEMENT

## MISSION STATEMENT

John F. Kennedy Catholic School, as the Roman Catholic School of Our Lady of Victory Parish, partners with families in accepting and loving children as unique gifts of God. Through our caring and nurturing parish community, we will help all children identify and share their gifts and talents and develop a Christ-centered character, live their Catholic faith, and achieve academic excellence as they become disciples of Christ.

FAITH | MORALS | VALUES



THERE IS A DIFFERENCE  
IN EDUCATION



ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
TO THE COMMUNITY FOR  
2010-2011

John F. Kennedy Catholic School  
Our Lady of Victory Parish

# INSIGHTS

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Chad Steimle

The 2010-11 school year seemed to be focused on the building project. Many evenings were spent talking about form, function, and finances. After countless hours of work, a project was approved by the parish council and submitted for bids.

As we moved to construction, there really was a leap of faith. When the project was approved, there was a gap of about \$170,000 between the projected cost and the amount of funding available. However, with an SCRA grant of \$50,000, generous benefactors of our capital campaign, and a sound end to the fiscal year, the gap has been eliminated, and the funding, including the loan amount, for "bricks and mortar" fell into place.

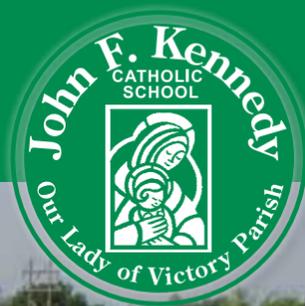
Neither this project, nor the growth of enrollment at JFK, could be possible without faith. I would like to thank Msgr. Parizek, Fr. Meyer, the parish and school staff, and you for having faith in the parish and school and for making Our Lady of Victory and John F. Kennedy Catholic School so successful.

May God bless you and your families.

## COMMON STRENGTHS

IDENTIFIED BY PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND STAFF THROUGH THE SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY:

- FAITH, MORALS, VALUES
- DEDICATED, CARING STAFF
- STRONG RELATIONSHIPS AND FRIENDSHIPS
- FAMILY ATMOSPHERE



## JFK'S FINANCES AND VALUE

JFK's budget has grown as enrollment and programming has expanded. In 2004-05, the school budget was approximately \$885,000. By 2010-11, the JFK budget was about \$1,758,500, an increase of almost 100%. This growth has taken place without straining the parish or families. The parish subsidy to JFK has only increased by 18%, for example. While tuition has increased over the years, the rate of increase has been carefully monitored, especially for larger families, and tuition increases have been countered by both regular and emergency financial assistance that has grown by over 500% and now provides support for nearly one out of every four students.

With Talented and Gifted activities like civic oration and science fair **required** of all students, JFK is academically a great value for its cost. Through additional optional TAG activities like Mock Trial or in athletics and outstanding music and drama programs, JFK students have opportunities to pursue their God-given talents.



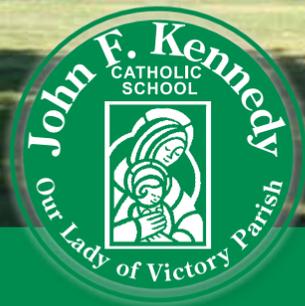
### Budgeted Expenses, 2010-11

The vast majority of JFK's budget (81%) is in salaries and benefits. About \$62,000 was budgeted for plant operations such as utilities, custodial supplies, maintenance, and contracted services. The remaining amount, \$264,000, goes to instructional and administrative expenses, including new textbooks, consumables and supplies, copying and paper expenses, technology, insurance (property, liability, and workers' compensation), and other areas.

### Sources of Revenue

JFK has several sources of revenue. The largest source, which accounts for about 70% of the school's revenue, comes from tuition and fees, including K-8, ECLC, pre-school (both state funded and tuition based programming), aftercare services, and registration fees. Approximately 25% comes from parish envelopes. The remaining 5% of the 2010-11 school budget came from grants, the Gala, and other miscellaneous income.





# ENROLLMENT GROWTH AND BUILDING PROJECT

Since the 2004-05 school year, enrollment in kindergarten through 8th grade at JFK has increased by almost 40%, from 260 students to 361. Pre-school enrollment has increased by over 70% in five years and averages about 96 students. JFK is fast approaching its all-time enrollment records.

Similar growth has been seen in our after school program. Between 25-30 percent of K-8 students are now registered in aftercare. Our Early Childhood Learning Center averages about eighteen students during the school year and also offers care on non-school days and during the summer.

### Building Project Begun

With collections for our capital campaign, "Growing Our Faith...Shaping Generations," closing in on the \$2.4 million goal, the parish approved our building project, and construction began in late spring. The north and south additions to the school and remodeled interior areas should be completed by the time this publication goes to print, and the east classroom addition should be completed in the early fall. The target date for the gathering space addition is mid-November. Our Lady of Victory's building project seeks to enhance and renew the parish campus, providing for the needs of all generations of the community:



- Enhance the community and sacramental areas in church with a gathering space. The anticipated scope of this project includes a gathering space, multipurpose rooms, ADA compliant restroom, an elevator, a permanent baptismal font, and a small kitchenette. With a focus on our Patroness' window and view of the altar, people will experience a new welcoming to the Sacraments.

- Expand the education and faith formation spaces to meet the needs of today's families and current educational standards. New and renovated classroom space will attempt to accommodate two sections of each grade level in pre-school through 8th grade at class sizes that meet today's standards of 20-25 pupils per room. The dependency on mobiles and shared classroom spaces will be reduced. New entryways and office areas will improve safety, security, efficiency, and privacy.

- Complete several large-scale maintenance items that continue the process of renewing the infrastructure of the entire campus. Funds will be used to replace the church roof and redo the parking lot.

# IOWA TESTS OF BASIC SKILLS

### Results for Grades 3-8

JFK students score one to three grade levels above the national grade level equivalents on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. While the average score in reading comprehension for a 5th grader nationwide would be 5.2, for example, a JFK 5th grader scored at a 7.5 grade level equivalent in reading comprehension in 2010-11.

### Results for Grades 4 and 8

Reporting three years worth of data for 4th and 8th graders' reading comprehension, math, and science ITBS scores to the community is one requirement of the Iowa

Department of Education. Due to the small class sizes and low numbers of males and females in each grade, fairly large year-to-year fluctuations can be seen. The following tables illustrate the percentages of students who are proficient.

### Local, State, National Comparisons

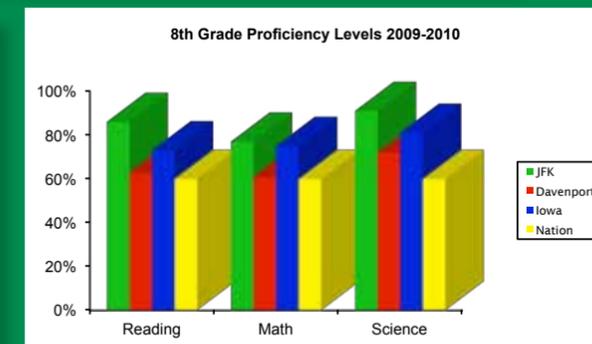
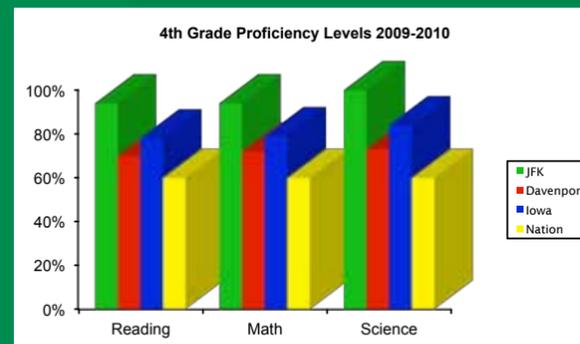
Local proficiency data according to ITBS scores must also be compared to state and national averages in reading, math, and science for 4th and 8th graders. The most recent data on the state website is for 2009-10. The graphs below indicate the percentage of students proficient in each subject area.

**4th Grade: Percentage of Students Proficient According to ITBS Scores**

Year	Reading Comprehension			Math			Science		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
08-09	97%	100%	95%	97%	100%	95%	100%	100%	100%
09-10	94%	94%	93%	94%	100%	87%	100%	100%	100%
10-11	90%	100%	80%	88%	100%	75%	90%	95%	85%
<b>3 year average</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>95%</b>

**8th Grade: Percentage of Students Proficient According to ITBS Scores**

Year	Reading Comprehension			Math			Science		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
08-09	89%	100%	77%	93%	100%	85%	96%	100%	92%
09-10	86%	80%	90%	77%	80%	86%	91%	73%	100%
10-11	89%	85%	95%	82%	89%	72%	91%	96%	83%
<b>3 year average</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>92%</b>



### Annual Progress Report Goals

JFK sets and reports upon annual progress goals in relation to ITBS reading comprehension, math total, and science scores. The following are the goals for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

#### Reading

2010-11: To increase the percent of students who are proficient in reading comprehension in 7th grade in 2009 when they take the ITBS as 8th graders in 2010. This goal examines cohort growth. 09-10: 73% 10-11: 89% Increase: 16%

2011-12: To increase the percent of students who are proficient in reading comprehension in 6th grade in 2010-11

when they take the ITBS as 7th graders in 2011-12. This goal examines cohort growth.

#### Math

2010-11: To increase the percent of male students who are proficient in math total in 7th grade in 2009 when they take the ITBS as 8th graders in 2010 without decreasing the percent of female students who are proficient. This goal is for a cohort. 09-10 Males: 74% 10-11 Males: 89% Increase: 15% 09-10 Females: 83% 10-11 Females: 72% Decrease: 11%

2011-12: To increase the percent of students who are proficient in math total in 3rd grade

in 2010-11 when they take the ITBS as 4th graders in 2011-12. This goal examines cohort growth.

#### Science

2010-11: To increase the percent of students who are proficient in science in 7th grade in 2009 when they take the ITBS as 8th graders in 2010. This goal examines cohort growth. 09-10: 80% 10-11: 91% Increase: 11%

2011-12: To increase the percent of students who are proficient in science in 6th grade in 2010-11 when they take the ITBS as 7th graders in 2011-12. This goal examines cohort growth.

# OBVIOUS ADVANTAGES OF A JFK EDUCATION

The following is based upon the writings and interviews of three eighth grade students: Eli Jones, Becca Smith, and Morgan Teel.

The advantages of Catholic Schools that many take for granted became obvious to us when we arrived at John F. Kennedy Catholic School. The academic challenges, the help we receive from the staff, and JFK's unique environment soon made us very happy that our parents decided to enroll us at JFK.



Eli Jones, Becca Smith, and Morgan Teel

The first thing we noticed were the academic differences and challenges we have at JFK. The content is challenging, and the expectations are high. When we first arrived, for example, students were reviewing last year's math, and

we had no idea how to do these calculations. The daily math drills are challenging and warm up our brains to get ready for the rest of our math class. At JFK, there is a lot more homework than we had before. It is given every day to make sure we understand the skills and lessons we learned and reinforces the material we learn in class. Through learning to take notes in social studies, we are prepared for the future and high school and college.

JFK students are also challenged with many academic projects. Students in grades 5-8 write and deliver a 3-5 minute speech each year. This speaking opportunity prepares us for high school and the real world. We also participate in a science fair for which we conduct research, conduct an experiment, and write a paper about the whole process. These types of projects were not expected of us at our former schools, but we have learned so much from them. Even an optional activity, such as Mock Trial, gives students an opportunity to perfect their writing, speaking, and organizational skills. This year JFK had three teams in Mock Trial, and all three advanced to the state level in Des Moines!

It is very obvious that the staff cares about each and every student at JFK. The classes are much smaller so you get individual attention. If you don't understand something, the teachers will help you until you get it. One on one help is not unusual. Teachers are always willing to help you even before school, after school, and during recess. They are amazing!



Another thing we noticed was how students treat each other. Students are very friendly and welcoming. One of us came to school when she was in second grade. She was really shy at first, but the girls came up and told her their names. Now they are good friends, and she realizes just how hard it is going to be to leave JFK next year. Kennedy also provides a very safe environment. There are never any fights and nothing bad happens. JFK has an anti-bullying program and weekly class meetings. The teachers will take care of any problems that might arise because they truly care about us.

In our opinion, JFK is the best school ever. JFK strives to make you a better person – the best you can be. We are glad that we are part of the JFK family.

# RELIGIOUS FORMATION AND SACRAMENTS AT JFK

## Class Masses:

Grades 1, 2, 7, and 8 sit together at class Masses on Tuesdays. Students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 have class Masses on Thursdays.

## First Friday Mass and Adoration:

Students stay after Mass to participate in Adoration on the first Friday of each month.

## All School Masses:

These Masses are held at least twice per month. At all school Masses, kindergartners and 6th graders sit together.

## Holy Days and Feast Days:

Students attend Mass on Holy Days of Obligation and several other feast days throughout the year.

## Vocations Day:

Sixth and eighth graders attended diocesan retreats to promote religious vocations.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Over 230 JFK students received the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent.

## Lenten Goals:

Students set weekly goals for prayer, fasting, and/or almsgiving.

## Celebrating With The Lord

"Class Masses" are celebrated each week, and all school Masses are celebrated at least twice per month. During these Masses, Msgr. Parizek and Fr. Meyer direct their homilies to the appropriate age level for understanding. They involve the students by asking questions and using props to help students understand the true meaning of God's Word.

Students of every grade level are involved with "Mass parts." At the end of each Mass, Msgr. Parizek always comes over to thank the children for their participation in the "Mass parts," such as participating as lectors, song leaders and gift bearers.



# FAITH | MORALS | VALUES

