



Executive Summary

Saint Peter 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?

Saint Peter School is a parochial school educating students from grades kindergarten through eighth grade, serving children from five years of age to fourteen years of age. We currently offer one class for each grade level with a total of 205 students enrolled in the 2014-2015 school year. The physical school consists of one building located on a common campus with the parish, parish hall, friary and convent. It is located at 415 Atlantic Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey 08742. Within the local community there are six public school districts, four Catholic schools, and one Christian grammar school as alternate options for education. There has been negligible change in these categories over the last three years.

The diversity of the student population of Saint Peter School is shaped by the race and ethnicity of the students, as well as their gender, religious affiliation and learning needs. The ethnic and racial breakdown of the school has remained consistent between 2012 and 2015. The population is predominantly White (98.06%), followed by Asian (0.97%) and multiracial (0.97%). The school is composed of 50.98% female students and 49.03% male students. The students are mostly Catholic, with only a small percentage of non-Catholic students in attendance (3%). The number of non-Catholic students has been decreasing over the past three years, not because of lack of non-Catholic enrollment, but because many students have been choosing to convert to Catholicism after spending time at the school.

The diverse learners of Saint Peter School are provided with differentiated education through both in classroom and out of classroom support. Nine percent of students receive in class support from an aide and fifteen percent of students receive support outside of the classroom at scheduled times with qualified support teachers. Eleven percent of students qualify for our advanced program in grades 5-8 mathematics to further support their abilities and advanced learning needs.

More than half (58%) of Saint Peter School students live in Brick Township. Students from Saint Peter School also live in the Borough of Point Pleasant (28%), Point Pleasant Beach (4%), and other surrounding areas (10%). While Brick Township is home to most of the students, two-thirds of Saint Peter School students are parishioners of Saint Peter's Church (66%). The other one-third of Saint Peter School students are parishioners at The Church of Saint Martha (7%), Sacred Heart Church (5%), Visitation Church (4%), Saint Denis Church (4%), Saint Dominic's Church (2%), other parishes or no parish (12%).

The diversity of the faculty population of Saint Peter School is shaped by the race and ethnicity of the faculty, as well as their gender, religious affiliation and years of service. The ethnic and racial breakdown of the school has remained consistent between 2012 and 2015. The faculty population is 100% White.. The school is composed of 82% female teachers and 18% male teachers. The faculty is composed entirely of Christian educators (100%), with only a small percentage of non-Catholic faculty (6%). The average years' service at Saint Peter School of the faculty is 11 years, while each has been a faculty member from between 1 year and 36 years.

The diversity of the community at large in and around Point Pleasant Beach is shaped by the race and ethnicity of the people who reside in it as well as their income. The ethnic and racial breakdown of the area has remained consistent between 2010 and 2014. The population is predominantly White (78.8%), followed by Hispanic (10.6%), Black (7.9%), Asian (1.5%) and Pacific Islander, American Indian and other (1.2%).

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In the community of Point Pleasant Beach, the estimated current year average household income is \$87,697. The average household income is projected to grow by 10.1% to \$96,590. The estimated per capita income for the current year is \$32,039. The Per Capita Income is projected to grow by 9.4% to \$35,054. The number of families with annual incomes above \$100,000 is projected to decline slightly over the next five years. For the current year, it is estimated that 38.6% of all family incomes exceed \$100,000 per year. In five years that number is projected to be 38.5%. While the median family income for the community is about the same as the state average.

The Saint Peter School community faces unique features and challenges due to the demographics of the surrounding area. One such unique feature or challenge is that the local community is made up of a large number of older adults. Only 37% of the community at large in the area surrounding the school is made up of young families, including children ages 0-17 and single people and couples between the ages of 24 and 35. There is also a well-established local public education system in Point Pleasant Beach which draws a majority of the school aged children and several Catholic and private schools in the surrounding community that compete for the opportunity to educate the same children.

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.

In accordance with our Catholic Identity and rooted in Gospel values, it is the mission of Saint Peter School to provide a community of faith in which students will develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally.

The ultimate objectives of education are the ultimate objectives of life. For this reason, Saint Peter School attempts to educate the whole child. The objectives of Saint Peter School are:

The development of conscientious Christians: by instilling a reverence for God, by instructing the children in Christian principles, by helping them develop habits of acting in accordance with these principles, by presenting practical means of incorporating truth into the students' personal lives, by offering frequent opportunities for reception of the Sacraments, and by teaching the essential elements of the Catholic Faith and the reasons upon which it is based.

The development of intelligent individuals: by acquainting the student with knowledge which coincides with his/her age and abilities, by encouraging a desire to learn and an appreciation for rigorous academic expectations, and by developing habits of logical thinking, diligence, and persistence.

The development of responsible citizens: by demonstrating that legitimate authority is essential for the welfare of everyone, by teaching consideration for the rights of others and respect for their opinions, by instilling a sense of responsibility in the student, and by encouraging a spirit of cooperation and a sense pride in community and country.

The development of sensitive individuals: by developing in the child an appreciation for the beauty of and the need to preserve God's creation and by nurturing a taste for music, fine arts and other forms of creative, artistic expression.

The development of emotionally intelligent individuals: by encouraging patterns of behavior appropriate to the student's age and background, by offering opportunities for self-expression and leadership, by classroom teacher mentoring, by developing in the student a sense of self-respect, by helping the child cope with everyday problems, and by treating each individual with respect and dignity.

Saint Peter School embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectation for students. Various programs minister to the development of the whole child. These programs include spiritual, academic, enrichment, cultural, and leadership opportunities. These experiences include liturgical celebrations, sacramental programs, prayer partners, and retreats. Additional opportunities include extracurricular clubs and programs, community service projects, distance learning, Student Council and other enrichment opportunities. Together with a quality academic curriculum, these program opportunities afford the students a well-rounded education. It is the expectation that students develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally.

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.

In the last three years, Saint Peter School was awarded two sizable grants from the OceanFirst Foundation for our model classroom proposals. One of these grants has established and updated a STEM based science lab for our students. We have also expanded our liturgical music program by collaborating with the parish Director of Music for school liturgies, as well as forming a student choir, The Singing Saints, to represent our school. We are able to offer a wider variety of student support services by partnering with local psychologist, Doctor Thomas Frio and his recommended Social Decision Making / Social Problem Solving program.

We have also been able to expand the number and variety of extracurricular activities offered. One notably popular addition has been the extracurricular drama program that has benefited greatly from a newly updated fine arts space in the school auditorium. To further develop school spirit and build teamwork skills, the Student Council began running monthly school spirit rallies following the traditional monthly prayer service.

In the realm of technology, many advancements have been made in the past three years. Two traveling iPad carts have been acquired with 30 iPads each, one cart for each floor of the building. Upgraded printers, copiers and scanners have been added to the building. In order to keep up with the new demand on the wireless system, this system has also been upgraded to better handle the increased volume of use.

In the past three years the students of Saint Peter School have earned many notable achievements. In particular, our students have won high honors in several academic competitions including the Saint Rose Invitational Scholastic Bowl and the Donovan Catholic Scholastic Olympics. Our students have also placed first in several creative competitions, such as the Saint Barnabas Burn Center poster contest, the Diocese of Trenton Respect Life poster, essay, and video contest, and The Department of Environmental Protection recycling poetry contest.

In the athletic field, Saint Peter School has been very successful over the years. The Girls Junior Varsity Basketball team was undefeated in their league for the 2011 - 2012 season. The Girls Varsity Basketball team for the 2013 - 2014 season was also undefeated in the regular season and additionally earned the title of League Playoff Champions. The 2014 - 2015 school year heralded many successes including the Sportsmanship Award for the Girls Soccer team, first and second place wins for the Boys Varsity Cross Country team, third place for the Boys Varsity and Junior Varsity Basketball teams, and second place for the Girls Junior Varsity Basketball team. We are proud that our students not only succeed in athletics, but learn sportsmanship as well.

In the upcoming three years Saint Peter School will be utilizing the second OceanFirst Foundation grant to reconstruct an existing classroom and implement a model STREAM classroom to serve our students. In addition to this new classroom, Saint Peter School will be making major improvements in our facilities including a new roof and renovation of the gymnasium. In the gymnasium there are plans to replace the floor, add new blinds, and install an automated multimedia projection screen.

There are also plans underway to offer more explicit career development experiences for the students to participate in by bringing in local professionals to share their passion for their line of work and life experiences that led them down that path. This new initiative was developed in response to stakeholder suggestions through surveys as well as self-analysis of our strengths as a school. At Saint Peter School we strive to be always improving.

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Additional Information

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

A matter of high concern and attention at Saint Peter School is the idea of social justice. Social justice is an area in which we strive to educate our students. Society ensures social justice when it provides the conditions that allow associations or individuals to obtain what is their due, according to their nature and their vocation. Social justice is linked to the common good. We at Saint Peter School work towards social justice through active participation in several, varied service opportunities throughout our school, Church, community, state, nation and even throughout the world.

Locally in our school, Church, community and throughout the state, Saint Peter School has a long history of serving those in need. In our school we have a Prayer Partner program that pairs middle school students with kindergartners through second graders to model Catholic values, and teach teamwork, compassion and patience. The local community and state are assisted by the donation of food many times throughout the year to Saint Gregory's Pantry and holding an annual baby shower for Jesus to benefit the Madonna House. We also honor our local heroes by inviting Veterans to our annual Veterans' Day program and organizing a rally to support the New Jersey Run for the Fallen. The idea that all life is sacred and a gift from God is also addressed throughout the year, especially through school-wide participation in the annual diocesan Respect Life contest, as well as the state of New Jersey's Child Assault Prevention (CAP) program.

Saint Peter School also participates in social justice initiatives that benefit our nation and the rest of the world. Most recently Saint Peter School has collectively raised money to benefit the Heifer International organization which not only provides livestock to those in need, they also provide agricultural education as well as incentives for community building. Biannually Saint Peter School also collects spare change for the Missionary Childhood Association and educates the students on the importance of this association through scheduled visits from missionary nuns or priests who explain their calling and responsibilities as well as the need for their service.

The opportunities for service that our students have to further their understanding of social justice neither begin nor end here. There are many more ways we work for social justice and serve others in our communities and around the world. Saint Peter School strives to provide consistent support to those who need and rely on us while also providing a wide scope of experiences and educational opportunities to our students. Social justice is a lifelong goal and responsibility that we foster in our students in the hopes of creating a better world for the future.