What our students say about St Theresa School...

"STS is a great school... I love it!"
Benjamin

"My Dad graduated from here when he was younger and all the teachers are nice."

"I like that it is a bully-free school and the teachers are nice. This is my first year here and I have made a lot of friends. Also, I like recess and the food is good."
Emily

"I am in 2nd grade and this is my first year here. I love St. Theresa School because it's a Catholic School where we get to pray every day. We also have fun events like a Christmas play. You come to school to learn and I learn something new every day."
Leilah

"The social environment at school is amazing. The teachers care and prepare you for high school. I enjoy working with my peers in Homework and History Club. I also like being a part of the Athletic League where we are taught the values of teamwork."
Alexander

"When I first came to St. Theresa School I was shy, but I was welcomed by everyone and I felt like I was part of the school. I've made a lot of friends and I like that we have sports such as Volleyball and Basketball."
Gabby

"I've been here since Pre-K 3 and I made lots of friends. I like that we have after school clubs and sports to play."
Uzoma

Our heartfelt love and gratitude goes out to all our parents, teachers and staff, alumni and supporters who help to make St. Theresa's the wonderful school that it is!
The children of St. Theresa School THANK YOU!

ST. THERESA SCHOOL
540 Washington Ave. Kenilworth, NJ 07033  (908)276-7220

ANNUAL REPORT 2020
Dear Parents,

One of my favorite songs is “What A Wonderful World,” and it truly is a “wonderful world” here at St. Theresa School! So with that thought, I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report of St. Theresa School for Catholic Schools Week 2020.

We are a small, Catholic, Salesian School Family that serves over 250 students from infancy through Grade 8.

- Our “small” size allows us to offer personal, individualized attention to our multi-cultural student population;
- Our “Catholic” identity allows us, through Word, worship, community and service, to provide an environment that helps each student to develop spiritually, morally, socially, and in the “wonderful” world that our God has given us;
- As a “Salesian” school, we are a youth-friendly environment for our children helping them to develop into “good Christians and honest citizens” always respecting their developmental needs, in a family-atmosphere;
- As a “school”, we impart academic excellence and challenge our young people to grow intellectually to their full possibilities and aptitudes;
- We value the interest and involvement of our parents who continue to support the many activities of our school, helping to make St. Theresa’s a caring, life-giving community.

St. Theresa School is proud of its many accomplishments and thanks God for the “wonderful world” He has created here, and for the wonderful things that He has done and will continue to do through us. We also entrust to Him the work that lies ahead, as we seek to educate our students to live lives of character, compassion and values that will continue to make our School and our world truly “wonderful!”

God bless!
Sr. Lou Ann Fantauzza, FMA

Our Pastor...

Rev. Giovanni Rizzo

Dear Parents,

I wholeheartedly support the effort that our school’s staff is doing to inform everyone about the status of our school and to promote the knowledge of the school outside of the circle of those who are already friends of STS. The growth of our formidable institution depends on the good promotion of our image and the diffusion of all the great qualities that our school already possesses. I want to applaud Sr. Lou Ann for the initiative of this Annual Report that certainly serves very well all the above purposes.

I couldn’t be more proud of our school, the teachers, the staff and, most of all, our students. I see them excelling in studies as well as in sports, not only at the local level but also beyond. This is a confirmation of the commitment of the entire School to help our students to become the best individual they could be, intellectually and spiritually. In conclusion, I want to wish you all a great Catholic Schools Week: let everyone know how seriously we work on the human and on the faith formation of our beloved students.

God Bless!
Fr. Giovanni Rizzo.

Future Plans and Goals

As St. Theresa School continues into the 21st century, our goals are to build on its past accomplishments and:

- Help our students integrate faith and life to become good followers of Christ and outstanding citizens of our world;
- Implement all aspects of the Archdiocesan curriculums, especially in Science and Social Studies, emphasizing a “hands-on” methodology and using a STEM approach where applicable;
- To increase and maintain enrollment at St. Theresa School as a choice for parents who wish to provide an education and formation for their children which merges values between home and school;
- To continue to improve our facilities to better provide for the needs of our students (eg. providing air conditioning to the classrooms on the second floor, etc.).

ST. THERESA SCHOOL

COMPASSION

Our Principal... Sr. Lou Ann Fantauzza, FMA

ST. THERESA SCHOOL

RESPONSIBILITY

Future Plans and Goals

ST. THERESA SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING

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STS Alumni...Where Are They Now?

Mother Seton Regional High School  |  Benedictine Academy
Roselle Catholic High School  |  Oratory Preparatory High School
St. Peter’s Preparatory High School  |  Seton Hall Preparatory High School
Union County Vocational-Technical High School  |  Union Catholic High School
St. Theresa School  |  St. Thomas Aquinas High School

Student Activities

**Homework Club** - Students volunteer their time to help other students with their homework and any subject areas they may be having challenges.

**Forensics** - Students compete with other Catholic Schools on public speaking using different topics and methodologies of speech.

**Choir** - Students practice and participate in St Theresa Church every Saturday evening for masses during the school year.

**Yearbook** - 8th Grade students work all year on preparing their yearbook.

**Garden Club** - All students are invited to meet and gather after school weekly to learn about gardens while beautifying the school.

**Student Council** - Middle School students are given the opportunity to participate in student government.

**Girl/Boy Scouts** - Primary School Students are welcome to join and provide community service.

**Salesian Junior Apostles** - Middle School Students are taught leadership skills among their peers in the Salesian-style of peer ministry.

**Chess Club** - An opportunity for Middle School students to learn the logic and techniques of the game of chess.

Parish Family

Students at St. Theresa School hail from a number of local Churches and Parishes, but, as the resident parish, there is tremendous involvement of our children in Parish life.

As recipients and beneficiaries of St. Theresa’s Church, our parish priests provide our students with two (2) Masses per month and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation three (3) times per year. Our priests are also available, at any time, to speak with our children individually or in classes.

The presence of St. Theresa School and its children in the parish enhances the educational mission of the Church. Our children are actively involved as:

- Altar servers
- Readers
- Choir Members and Music Ministry
- Our students assist with parish religious education classes
- Participants in Parish Food Drives and other areas of Parish outreach

Student Achievements

STS students historically have performed exceptionally well in various standardized tests, academic competitions and community sponsored contests. The following shows some of their achievements:

**Union County Catholic League of Forensics Competition** – STS has placed first in the overall series competition for sixteen consecutive years. Six Union County Catholic schools participated in this competition. Last February, Melody Cadet and Gavin Gatchalian received honorable mention ribbons in the Declamation category. This past November, Stephanie Aquinaldo placed third, and Jayson Ferrari received honorable mention ribbons in the Reading category.

**Scholastic Olympics** – Held at Roselle Catholic High School, STS students placed first in Religion and Language Arts, and second in Science and Math.

**National Junior Honor Society** – There are 23 STS students that are members of the local National Junior Honor Society Chapter. These students are inducted in 7th grade as recognition for the continued academic excellence and are invited to perform community service.

**Honor Roll** – Honor Roll students are recognized for their academic achievements. In Dec 2019, 30 students in grades 4-8 made either 1st or 2nd Honors

**LEAD Program** – 5th Grade Students from STS participated in the Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD). The program is sponsored by the Kenilworth Police Department and taught by one of its Officers.

**Scholarships** – The 8th grade graduates were offered over $742,000.00 in scholarships to Catholic High Schools.

Athletics

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark’s Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, the St. Theresa Stallions participate competitively in the Union County CYO league. Our sports program emphasizes not only player development in the fundamentals of each sport, but also good sportsmanship, teamwork, compassion, and service, while keeping Christian values at the core.

The beginning of 2019 brought us right in the heart of the basketball and winter volleyball seasons. Both the JV and Varsity COED volleyball teams brought home the banner, proudly winning the championships in their respective divisions. The JV Girls and Varsity Boys basketball teams both made it to the semi-finals in the playoffs, but it was the JV Boys who brought home the championship banner. Perseverance, determination, and most importantly, teamwork, was at the heart of the success of each of these teams.

As the 2019-2020 school year began, so did the kick-off of the fall volleyball season, where St. Theresa’s two Varsity Girls volleyball teams made it to the semi-finals of the playoffs. The STS basketball season is off to an amazing start as well, this year hosting 4 teams: JV Girls, Varsity Girls, JV Boys, and Varsity Boys.

St. Theresa School prides itself on Christ’s influence, and the connection between faith and athletics is paramount. Part of our faith here at STS embodies the concept of service. As is tradition, the school teams all participated in their annual CYO Service Project. Last year the teams collected items for Thanksgiving baskets and purchased Christmas presents for those on our church’s “giving tree”. This year the teams collected over 100 non-perishable food items to replenish the St. Theresa food pantry.

As the school year continues, we are hoping to broaden our sports program to include baseball, softball, and boys volleyball. Stay tuned for more developments in the STS sports corner!
About Our Faculty

Margarita Moribaldi holds a Bachelor’s Degree from William Paterson University with NJ certification in Early Childhood Education. She has taught PK-3 at St. Theresa’s for eleven years. She says, “STS is a loving and nurturing environment for all the students.”

Mary DiQuinzio holds a Master of Fine Arts Degree from New York University with an Early Childhood Education Certification. She has been teaching our youngest minds for the last 20 years. This is her second year teaching PK-3 at St. Theresa’s. She is enjoying the warm, family-centered atmosphere.

Nicole Alfano holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Music from Kean University and is a NJ Certified Elementary Teacher. She has taught PK-4 at STS for three years, with ten years experience teaching for the Archdiocese of Newark. She says, “My job is not just teaching the ABC’s and 1 2 3s; it is introducing “school” to my students and setting the foundation for them to be lifelong learners.”

Karyn DeMaio holds a Bachelor’s Degree from LaSalle University and is a NJ Certified Elementary and Special Education Teacher. She holds a Master’s Degree in Reading from Kean University and is a NJ Certified Reading Specialist. She has taught PK-3 & PK-4 at STS for two years. She says, “I feel so privileged to be part of the STS Family. It is a true pleasure to spend my days working in such an enriching and supportive environment.”

Amber Sieracki holds a Bachelor’s degree from Seton Hall University and is a NJ Certified Elementary Teacher. She has taught kindergarten at STS for sixteen years. She says, “STS faculty and students are very welcoming and dedicated to giving the students a nurturing and loving classroom environment.”

Karen DeMaio holds a Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Delaware and NJ Elementary Certification. She has taught 2nd grade at STS for nine years. She says, “St. Theresa’s is a family. My mom taught here and I’m teaching in her classroom.”

Carolyn Pancrac holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Rutgers University and is a NJ Certified Elementary Teacher. She has taught 6th grade and 3rd grade at STS for twelve years and coordinates the school liturgy. She says, “It’s a joy to watch my third graders grow in faith and knowledge throughout the school year.”

Maria Fernandes holds a Bachelor’s Degree and NJ Elementary Certification from Kean University. She has been teaching 4th grade for nineteen years. She says, “I am very happy that I’m teaching at STS. I love that I’ve taught brothers and sisters throughout the years.”

Donna Morgese holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Kean University and NJ Certification. She is in her 25th year teaching at STS. She is the 5th grade homeroom teacher. Donna says, “I love being part of the STS Family. I have high expectations for my students which result in higher achievement for them.”

Ellen Kenny holds a Master’s Degree in Elementary Education and teaching certification in NY and NJ. She has been a Catholic School teacher for 23 years. Currently she is the 6th grade homeroom teacher at STS. In addition, she teaches 5th grade Language Arts as well as 7th and 8th grade Literature. She says, “I have never taught in a Saislean school before, and STS has been a wonderful experience for me.”

Francis Patrick Galliot holds a Bachelor’s Degree of Science from Catholic University and is a NJ Certified Elementary Teacher. After retiring early from a career in chemical engineering research, he taught high school chemistry before joining the STS faculty. He teaches science to 5th through 8th grades and math to 6th grade with a seventh grade homeroom. Nancy Pakulski is the 8th grade homeroom teacher. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Rutgers University and is a NJ Certified Elementary Teacher. She teaches 7th and 8th grade Religion, Language Arts, and Advanced Math. She says, “It is a privilege to be a teacher at STS. I love working with middle school students. I learn as much from them as they do from me.”

Lynda Leo holds a BA in English and NJ Certification from PK-3 to 8th grade from Caldwell University. She received her certification as a Teacher of Students with Learning Disabilities from Kean University. She is certified to teach Dyslexic students through the Orton Gillingham Method and has received Certification as a Reading and Writing Teacher from Columbia University’s Teachers College. She has taught at ST Theresa’s for eighteen years. She says, “St. Theresa’s is my community. It is the place I come to each day to be nourished in mind and spirit. The children I teach give my life great purpose, and the faculty I teach with inspire my greatest respect.”

About Our Faculty

Ashley Skrec holds a Bachelor’s degree from Marist College and is continuing her education at Kean University. She also has NJ certification. Ashley has returned to STS, her alma mater, for her first teaching assignment. She teaches physical education for grades PK-3 to grade 8. “It is such an honor to be back at STS. The students and faculty truly felt like family when I attended this school and helped shaped me into the person I am today. I am excited to help my students have a similar experience.”

Maria Bui holds a Masters Degree in Law from UNED Madrid and a French Certification from Alliance Française, Paris. She joined the teaching staff in 2018 and teaches Spanish to students in 2nd to 8th grade. “STS is truly home to me and my family. My children graduated from STS and the school gave them an amazing academic and community foundation that they will never forget. I feel privileged to be able to come back and teach at such a wonderful school.”

Cynthia Galliot holds a BSN from Catholic University of America and is licensed in NJ and RI. She has been the nurse at St. Theresa School since 2017 and she has worked in pediatrics for over thirty-five years. “I am privileged to care for the children of St. Theresa School where they are safe, feel loved, and are treated with respect.”

Sr. Isabel Garza holds a Master’s Degree in Administration and Supervision and a Master’s Degree in Education with a specialization in Early Childhood from William Paterson University. She holds NJ Certifications as both an Administrator and as a Teacher. She says, “Working with little children gives me the greatest joy.”

Sr. Lou Ann Fantauzza holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education, and a Master’s Degree in Administration and Supervision from William Paterson University. She holds Teaching Certification from PK-3 to 8th grade, and Administration Certifications in NJ, NY, and FL. Sr. Lou Ann is a Salesian Sister who is in her third year at St. Theresa School; the first two as Assistant Principal and Director of the Little Stallions Day Care Program. Since July 2019 she has been Principal of STS. Theresa’s. As a Salesian Sister she holds fast to the adage of St. John Bosco: “It is not enough to love the young...they must know that they are loved.” Sr. Lou Ann hopes to continue the excellence in education offered to the young and their families at St. Theresa’s in all areas of their education, formation, and development.

Ours Faculty and Staff are also Enriched by the Presence Of:

- Mr. Joel Fuentes – Maintenance
- Mrs. Tina Lawson – Cafeteria Manager
- Mrs. Kelly LaFamina – USEC
- Mr. Frank Mata – School Counselor
- Mrs. Donna Mauro – School Business Administrator
- Mrs. Maureen Scheuermann – School Secretary
- Mrs. Christine McCarthy – Librarian, Music (PK-Gr. 4), Safe Environment Coordinator
- Sr. Monique Huet – Religious Education and Music (S-8)
- Mrs. Janet Girasoli – Cafeteria Assistant
- Mrs. Carol Prymuszewski – Art (K-4)
- Mrs. Doreen Sacco – Computers (K-8) & Graphic Art (5-8)
- Ms. Deonna Washington – Nurse, USEC

St. Theresa School Mission

We are dedicated to the cultivation of academic excellence and the spiritual, social and emotional growth of each student. Our school nurtures an environment of cultural diversity in which a caring faculty, through the implementation of the educational system of St. John Bosco, based upon reason, religion, and loving kindness, seek to develop each student to his/her full potential. With Christ and Mary as our examples, The Saint Theresa community grows in a family atmosphere in which each individual experience respect, challenge, responsibility and exceptional love.