

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



ST. THERESA SCHOOL

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www.mysts.org



ST. THERESA SCHOOL



Our Principal... Sr. Marisa DeRose, FMA

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2023, I am pleased to present to you our annual report. As you read it, you will be able to touch the life and spirit that makes St. Theresa School a vibrant, faith-filled community of learners.

St. Theresa School has always remained a place of safety and security, faith and love for our children and families, teachers and staff. I am happy to report a 6% increase in enrollment, serving 297 students from Infancy through Grade 8. We are enriched by the diversity of our student population who come from the following ethnic and racial backgrounds: 68% Caucasian; 13% Multi-Racial; 11% Black/ African American; 8% Asian. Our population is 20% Hispanic/Latino, and 80% Catholic.

St. Theresa School is committed to providing a loving Catholic environment that inspires each student to fully develop his or her spiritual, moral, intellectual, social, personal and physical potential. To achieve this goal, the faculty seeks to infuse knowledge in all subject areas with faith and compassion, thereby enabling students to deepen their faith as they mature into committed Catholics and conscientious citizens.

As the only Salesian Elementary School in the Archdiocese of Newark, we know that "Education is a matter of the heart" (St. John Bosco). Appealing to the goodness present in each young person, the Salesian Educator provides a youth-friendly, family environment where children grow in knowledge, compassion, responsibility, and a love for Jesus and Mary.

Each year, the irreplaceable gift of Catholic Education becomes more and more unreachable for many families. I am thankful for Fr. Giovanni, our Pastor, the school parents and the parishioners who take pride in our School which educates not only the mind, but the heart, and the spirit, as well. I am grateful to those individual benefactors, parish and civic groups who provide scholarship funds to our children. And I am most grateful to those families who have chosen to educate their children in our Catholic School, making whatever sacrifice is necessary, knowing that this is the way to prepare their children to be productive members of society and faith-filled, committed members of our Church.

St. Theresa School is proud of its many accomplishments and thanks God for the many blessings He has bestowed on our school and families. 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 transform our School, our community and our world.

God bless you,

Sr. Marisa DeRose, FMA



Our Pastor... Rev. Giovanni Rizzo

Dear parents and friends of St. Theresa's School,

I am glad to add few words to the Annual Report as an opportunity for me to greet you and to comment on the status of our institute. The numbers in this report show that St. Theresa's school is a vital and vibrant reality, both in terms of attendance and of financial stability. However, of course, we all know that there are things that numbers cannot tell us. The numbers cannot speak to you about the dedication and the attention to the details that our teachers put in imparting an education to our students. The numbers cannot attest to the professionalism of the entire staff at St. Theresa's School. Most of all, the numbers cannot tell about the stellar example set for our children by the sisters and the lay teachers as they all know that we teach more by our actions rather than by our words. That is why we are firm believers in the model of Catholic Education: St. Theresa's School works very hard to give to our students not just notions, but to transmit to them a lifestyle centered on the fundamental values of a Catholic life. There is no greater gift that you can give to your children to equip them well to face the challenges of the present society. With profound gratitude toward the staff of St. Theresa's that works so hard toward this objective and equal gratitude toward the parents who trust us with the education of their children, I wish all of us a fruitful year in the vineyard of the Lord.

Fr. Giovanni Rizzo.

COMPASSION

RESPONSIBILITY

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 seventeen consecutive years. Six Union County Catholic schools participated in this competition.

In February, Gabrielle Aguinaldo was awarded Honorable Mention, Magdalene Battista and Jacob Falconer awarded 2nd place in the “Declamation Competition”.

In April, Magdalene Battista, Abigail Han, Sophia Cadestin and Uzoma Ononiwu was awarded Honorable Mention,

David DaSilva and Gabrielle Aguinaldo received 2nd place, Jacob Falconer and Arielle Lopina received 1st place in the “Duo Competition”.

In November, Gabrielle Aguinaldo and David DaSilva was awarded Honorable Mention in the “Reading Competition”.

Union Catholic also hosted Forensic Competition which encompasses all categories and St. Theresa School placed 4th .

National Junior Honor Society –Eligible 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 in grades 4-8 are recognized for their academic achievements each trimester.

LEAD Program – 5th grade students from STS participated in the Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) program. The program is sponsored by the Kenilworth Police Department and taught by one of its senior officers.

Scholarships – The 8th grade seniors have so far (Jan 2022) been offered over \$860,000 in scholarships to Catholic High Schools. In previous years, that number has been close to nearly \$1 Million in scholarships to our incoming freshman graduates. We anticipate this year’s number to rise as acceptance letters are received by our students.

Athletics

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark’s Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, the St. Theresa Stallions 3rd through 8th graders compete in the Union County CYO league. Students in Kindergarten through 4th grade can participate in sports clinics hosted by STS, which prepare them with the tools needed to excel in the CYO program in the middle school years. The STS sports program emphasizes not only player development in the fundamentals of each sport, but also good sportsmanship, teamwork, compassion, and service, all while keeping Christian values at the core.

Traditionally, STS hosts Volleyball and Basketball throughout the Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons, respectively. Over the last several years, many of our teams competed at the highest level and have advanced and won championships. However, winning is not how STS defines success. Perseverance, determination, and most importantly, teamwork, are at the heart of all of our teams.

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, our teams also participate in the annual CYO Service Project. Over the past few years, these projects have included collecting items for Thanksgiving baskets and purchasing Christmas presents for those on our church’s “giving tree”.



ST. THERESA SCHOOL

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 fourteen 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 fifth year teaching PK-3 at St. Theresa's. She is enjoying the warm, family-centered atmosphere.

Joanne Furlong holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Seton Hall University and NJ Certification. She has taught PK-4 at St. Theresa's for sixteen years. She says, "Our school is a very special place, because of its warm, Salesian, family 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 six years, with more than 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."

Kimberly Kelly 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 and Kindergarten at STS for five 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 Sierant holds a Bachelor's Degree from Seton Hall University and is a NJ Certified Elementary Teacher. She has taught kindergarten at STS for nineteen years and is now teaching 1st grade. She says, "STS faculty and students are very welcoming and dedicated to giving the students a nurturing and loving classroom environment."

Michele Keating holds a Bachelor's Degree from Kean University and is a NJ Certified Elementary Teacher. She has taught PK-3, 1st and 2nd grade at STS for six years. She says, "STS provides such a wonderful wholesome family atmosphere for the students and staff."

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

Sr. Rachel Lauritsen is the 3rd grade teacher and holds a Bachelor's Degree from Kean University. She also is certified in Theological Studies from Assumption College for Sisters..Co-Coordinator of the Salesian Junior Apostles/Salesian Kids Club and the Children's Choir.

Maria Fernandes holds a Bachelor's Degree and NJ Elementary Certification from Kean University. She has been teaching 4th grade for twenty one 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 28th year teaching at STS. She is the 7th grade homeroom teacher. She says, "I love being part of the STS Family. I have high expectations for my students which result in higher achievement for them."

Maria Alvarado has taught in Catholic Schools for 26 years and this is her 2nd year as an STS member. She teaches 6th grade. She holds a degree in Spanish in which she teaches students from grades Kindergarten to 8th.

Crystal Kacerak holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Stockton University. Additionally, she has a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies from Green Mountain College and a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Kean University. She is a NJ certified and teaches Science to grade K-8th. She says, "The STS community is an engaging environment that allows individuals to grow to their fullest potential in a safe environment."

Nancy Pakulski is the 8th grade teacher. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Rutgers's University and is a NJ Certified Elementary Teacher. She teaches 8th grade Religion, Language Arts, Advanced Math and 7th grade 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 is the librarian and holds a Bachelor's Degree in English from Caldwell University. She is certified to teach students with Learning Disabilities. She is teaching 7th grade Literature along with library classes from Pre school to 8th grade. Recipient of the Who's Who among teachers awarded twice along with Teacher of the Year Award from Union County Educational Services. This is her 22nd year at St. Theresa School of her 31 years of teaching.

Lisa Dilts holds a BA from New Jersey City University and RN from Muhlenberg School of Nursing.

She is a certified school nurse for 25 years. Lisa worked at St. Theresa's School from 1997 to 2008 and then in 2008 till 2022 she worked in Hillside High School. Welcome back home Nurse Lisa we missed you.

COMPASSION

RESPONSIBILITY

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About Our Faculty

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. Marisa DeRose is not a new member to the STS family. She was principal here from 1999 to 2006. Sister Marisa has served the ministry of Catholic education for over 34 years. She holds several degrees and certifications including a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Supervision from Seton Hall University and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Religious Studies from the Pontifical University "Auxilium" in Rome. Sr. Marisa believes it is her responsibility as principal to be a model of servant leadership and to empower teachers to bring about the leadership potential in each student. Sr. Marisa received the 2014 Distinguished Principal Award from the National Catholic Educational Association and the 2014 National Distinguished Principals Award from the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

OUR FACULTY AND STAFF ARE ALSO ENRICHED BY THE PRESENCE OF:

Mr. Alberto Rodriguez -Maintenance
Mrs. Lynda McCall- USESC
Mr. Frank Malta – School Counselor
Mrs. Maureen Scheuermann - School Secretary
Sr. Molly Heine– Support Staff
Mr. Anthony Colletti –Physical Education

Mr. Kevin McCarthy– Religious Education
Sr. MaryAnn Caspary – Music
Mrs. Donna Mauro – School Business Administrator
Mrs. Doreen Sacco—Technology
Mrs. Veronica Varveri– Art

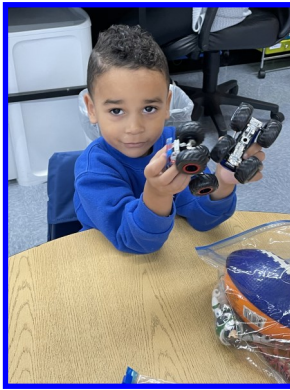


St. Theresa School Mission

Saint Theresa School is dedicated to the cultivation of academic excellence and the spiritual, social and emotional growth of each student in an environment of cultural diversity and family spirit. We seek to develop each student's full potential as he or she experiences respect, challenge, responsibility, and love from a caring faculty inspired by the love of Jesus and Mary, and the Salesian educational system of St. John Bosco.

EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING

ST. THERESA 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 Parish masses and for school masses during the year.

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

Laudato Si Club— Following Pope Francis's letter students work on gardening and respecting the environment in their community.

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 and Salesian Kids Club Grade 3-8 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.

History Detectives—Students, both Primary and Middle School, uncover the mysteries of history

Kindness Club—Students from Kindergarten through 2nd grade learn about acts of kindness towards family and nature.

Parish Family

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

Our parish priests provide our students with monthly Masses, 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



COMPASSION

RESPONSIBILITY

Future Plans and Goals

St. Theresa School is committed to continuous growth and improvement, identifying the following as priority objectives in this ongoing process.

- To strengthen our use of data to inform classroom instruction, especially in ELA and Math, so as to improve student performance in these areas;
- To recruit and retain enrollment at St. Theresa School; to realize a 5% increase in enrollment over a three year period (2022-2025);
- To continue to improve our facilities so as to provide innovative and cutting-edge programs that prepare our students for the challenges awaiting them.
- To expand STEM education from Kindergarten to 8th grade.

STS Home-School Association

Founded in 1976 the purpose of the Home-School Association (H.S.A) is to encourage parent interest in the welfare of the school .The STS Home School Association is pleased to share the many successes we've had over the past few months.

- September, we celebrated "Back to School Night" and also a Danni's Ice Cream Social.
- October we launched our first ever "Let's GLOW with STS Dance Party" and had a night of Halloween fun. Trunk or Treat was Spooktacular with 20 trunks of candy to treat the children.
- November we had a Turkey Trot Fundraiser in which the lucky teacher had to wear a turkey costume. Thank you Mrs. Morgese.
- December we had 30 families helping to decorate the school halls while wearing their ugly sweaters. Santa and Mrs. Claus and their many elves made a special appearance. We ended the year with a Holiday Shop with children buying gifts for their loved ones.

In addition to all the fun we donated over 471 items (food and toiletries) & \$250.00 in ShopRite gift cards to St. Theresa Food Pantry . HSA is looking forward to Family Fun night skating ,our annual Tricky Tray and Easter Bunny pictures.



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! THANK YOU!



St. Theresa Outreach

- Mission Fair each Halloween (sponsored by the 8th Grade Class)
- Mission TUESDAYS (collecting for the Missions)
- Participating in the Salesian Sisters' world-wide efforts for a specific mission area each year (Spring Tag Day)
- Thanksgiving FOOD DRIVE – donating to the Parish Food Pantry which provides over 300 Food Baskets for the Community
- Veterans Day cards for the VFW
- Participating in "Toys for Tots" at Christmas
- Sports' Program Food Drive
- "Color-A-Smile" Program for people in nursing homes and the home-bound
- Monthly service at local Soup Kitchen
- Christmas Caroling at the Senior Center



STS Graduates 2022...Where Are They Now?

St . Benedict Prep

Oratory Prep

Magnet High School

David Brearley High School

Academy of Performing Arts

Mother Seton Regional High

St. Peter's Preparatory

Oak Knoll

Seton Hall Prep

UC Technical HS



In Their Own Words...

8th Graders, Eve, Gabby ,Uzoma and Dakota all agreed that STS has prepared them for high school, mentally, spiritually and they love the fact the teachers are so approachable and challenge them daily.



"I have a lot of fun in my new school especially computer class." Leonardo

"My Mom, Aunt and two Uncles graduated from St. Theresa School." Ava 1st grade.

"I like all my teachers and my little cousin is going to start in the Lil Stallions Program, I can't wait!" Mila 3rd grade.



"My Dad brother and sister and some of my cousins graduated from here. My Grandmother is working in the Infant Room." Lucas 3rd grade.

"Everyone is friendly and I am learning lots of Math. The teachers really want us to do our best." Mateo 6th grade.



If you are considering St. Theresa School for your children, please visit our school website at www.mysts.org. Afterwards, please contact us to make an appointment to visit our campus.

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