

PREK- 8TH GRADE

State of the School Report

John Ireland Catholic School 2024-2025



Pastor: Monsignor Douglas Grams

Principal: Ms. Amanda Roche





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Message from the Principal

Dear John Ireland School Community,

As we close the 2024–2025 school year, I find myself filled with gratitude, pride, and joy for all that we have accomplished together as a school family. This has been a remarkable year—one of growth, achievement, faith, and community.

Our students have truly shined in their academic pursuits. We've seen their creativity soar in the theater, where performances brought stories to life with heart and talent. In many subjects, students dove into hands-on learning that not only expanded their knowledge but sparked lasting curiosity. Across all grade levels, we've celebrated a notable rise in math and reading scores, a testament to the dedication of our students and the hard work of our incredible educators. Additionally, students have made great strides in their use of technology, learning how to present their ideas in dynamic and thoughtful ways—skills that will serve them well in the years to come.

At the heart of everything we do is our shared faith, and what a blessing it is to grow in this faith together. This year's all-school retreats were powerful experiences that brought us closer to God and one another. I've witnessed students turning to prayer in times of uncertainty and finding strength in leading prayer with confidence and compassion. From learning and living the virtues in our daily lives to staff walking together on the path of holiness, our spiritual growth as a school community has been profound and uplifting.

This year was also full of joy and togetherness in the many events that have become cherished traditions. The energy and spirit of the **Marathon**, the festive excitement of **Luck of the Irish**, and the laughter and memories made during **Family Fun Night** reminded us how strong we are when we come together in celebration. These moments not only bring us joy—they strengthen the fabric of our community.

At John Ireland School, we remain firmly rooted in the traditions and values that define us, while also embracing innovation and creativity. We honor our legacy, even as we dream beyond the walls of the classroom—developing new approaches to reach and inspire today's learners. It is a beautiful balance, and one that allows us to meet students where they are, while guiding them toward who they are called to be.

Thank you for your unwavering support, your partnership, and your commitment to this mission. Whether you are a student, parent, teacher, staff member, or friend of the school, you are a vital part of what makes John Ireland School so special.

In Christ,

Amanda Roche





HIGHLIGHTS

THE LITTLE WAY

Administration

John Ireland School is led by our pastor, Monsignor Douglas Grams. The Principal, Amanda Roche, works directly under Monsignor to lead the school. The Parish Administrative Council is advisory to aid Monsignor in making decisions for the parish and school. The John Ireland Parent Advisory Committee is advisory to the principal.



Monsignor
Douglas Grams
Pastor



Amanda Roche
School Principal



Jennifer Torres
Business Manager/HR

Amanda Roche
School Principal

JI Parent Advisory Committee (JIPAC)

Jennifer Schmidt (Chair), Samantha Anderley, Angela Bruns, Ryan Clancy, Tarah Petersen, Danielle Pierce

Church of St. Peter Administrative Council

Ken Britz (Chair), Jeff Borgemeier (Trustee), Judy Bruns (Trustee), Steve Boehm, Marcy Lorenz, Deborah Schilling, Brad Schloesser

School Strategic Plan

This was our 6th year in the 7-year MNSAA Accreditation Cycle. This means that our school's strategic plan is reaching the end of its timeline for our goals. John Ireland School has found accreditation through MNSAA to be valuable and is seeking to renew our accreditation next academic school year. Our self-study is currently being conducted, and a new strategic plan will be formed next school year, concluding with an onsite visit in the Spring of 2026.

Goals	Progress Update 2024-2025
Provide experiences and opportunities for students and staff to develop and grow in Catholic faith and service	• Service Initiatives: Organized events like Stuff-a-Truck and cemetery grave cleaning, along with class-specific projects such as Adopt a Grandparent, assisting custodians, Earth Day clean-up, and writing thank-you notes for service members. • Staff Retreat: Held a fall retreat with parish staff for team cohesion and spiritual growth. • Spiritual Development: Continued quarterly prayer services and bi-weekly meetings using the book, <i>Searching for and Maintaining Peace</i> to strengthen teachers' spiritual development.
Provide a safe and healthy environment	• Feasibility Evaluation: A comprehensive assessment of our building was conducted. The findings have been presented to the Administrative Council and will inform planning for the upcoming year. • Capital Campaign Focus: A key component of our future parish capital campaign is to secure funding for the installation of key fob entry systems and security cameras.
Provide academic excellence for the diverse needs and abilities of students	• Trust-Based Observations: With new school leadership, teacher observations were conducted using Trust-Based Observations, focusing on alignment with standards and fostering a supportive environment for professional growth. • Student Support Initiatives: Teachers began strategizing procedures to accommodate students with academic and/or behavioral challenges. Collaborative efforts included meetings with a special education advocate to engage all teachers, families, and administration in supporting exceptional learners. • Student Support Snapshots: Teachers developed "student support snapshot" forms to provide holistic, growth-oriented insights for future educators, ensuring continuity and tailored support for each student.
Promote and grow the school community	• Community Engagement: Principal with JIPAC compiled a comprehensive list of community outreach and events. JIPAC has a focus goal to increase our number of parent volunteers that make participation in community events possible. The principal was invited to speak at several weekend Masses about John Ireland and provide updates to help bridge the gap between the parish and school. • Staff Compensation: Administration approved a 3% raise for all staff for the upcoming fiscal year. A fair and just pay scale is desired, and research has continued. • Branding & Marketing: A part-time graphic designer was hired for rebranding, new logo, and creation of our new school website. This was used to create new materials for fundraising and marketing. • Fundraising Initiatives: The school continued with their fundraising traditions and implemented the Fish Boil as a new fundraiser, raising over \$1,000. The administration is looking at creating a fundraising committee to oversee all parish and school fundraisers to provide counsel on improving our fundraising efforts. • Middle School Expansion: After careful review, it was determined that the middle school expansion is no longer sustainable. A letter was sent to the community explaining the deficit in funds that led to this decision. Starting next academic school year, John Ireland will return to PreK-6th grade.

JI Student Data

Total Enrollment	Male/Female	Catholic	Non-Catholic
77	34/43	80%	20%

Total Enrollment by Grade									
PreK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	9	8	6	9	7	9	4	6	5

Scholarships 2024-2025



Academic Data

Grade	JI Math	National Average	JI Reading	National Average
K	172	158	166	154
1	188	177	182	172
2	192	190	191	186
3	201	202	191	197
4	213	211	204	205
5	221	219	218	211
6	237	223	220	216
7	228	227	209	219
8	257	231	238	222

Spring 2025 NWEA Data

Financials

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Church of St Peter		
849 Households		
Fiscal Year 7/1/23 to 6/30/24 / Budget 7/1/24 to 6/30/25		
Revenue	2023-2024 ACTUAL	2024-2025 BUDGET
Adult Envelopes	521,005.60	521,000.00
Loose Plate	23,420.36	23,500.00
Christmas, Easter and Holy Days	33,896.14	34,800.00
Religious Formation	66,021.58	89,871.73
All Other Operating Reveune	187,172.98	164,672.00
Fall Festival	23,848.35	23,550.00
School (Tuition, Fundraising, Scholarship & Thrift Store Profits)	476,359.44	560,800.00
Total Revenue	1,331,724.45	1,418,193.73
Expenses		
School	784,459.54	845,471.52
Staff Wages & Benefits	247,764.34	262,842.00
Religious Formation	210,772.68	246,976.26
Church Facilities	53,004.56	80,354.51
Administrative Expenses	61,910.61	63,370.52
Fall Festival	2,474.35	1,250.00
Diocesan United Fund	65,035.68	65,100.00
Total Expenses	1,425,421.76	1,565,364.81
Net Operating Income (Loss)	(93,697.31)	(147,171.08)
Interest Income		* 60,000.00
Employee Retention Credit (ERC)	93,697.31	** 92,921.08
Net Income (Loss)	(0.00)	5,750.00
Children registered per grade at John Ireland School	PK-20 K-14 1-6 2-16 3-8 4-14 5-7 6-8 7-6 8-0	PK-19 K-11 1-11 2-6 3-10 4-7 5-9 6-4 7-6 8-6
Children registered per grade for Faith Formation (23-24 Total 223 24-25 Total 186)	PK-9 K-8 1-6 2-27 3-12 4-10 5-14 6-13 7-21 8-21 9-33 10-25 11-19 12-5	PK-5 K-9 1-8 2-9 3-18 4-16 5-12 6-13 7-10 8-17 9-22 10-34 11-24 12-8
The budget expense increase 2024-25 reflects a 5% salary increase for parish/ school staff and 15% increase in JI tuition.		
* The Robert Depuydt Estate and the Rita Schmahl Estate were put into the endowment fund for the Church. First time the interest will be used is 2024-2025.		
** Employee Retention Credit (ERC) This is the second and last year this is available		
THE CHURCH INVESTMENT TO THE SCHOOL	308,100.10	284,671.52
Student Enrollment (PK-8th grade)	99	89

Financial Stability Plan

Jl's past budget shows an historical practice of deficit spending. In previous years the government's COVID-relief funds covered this deficit. Moving forward, it is vital to ensure sustainability with an approved balanced budget by focusing on increasing revenue sources and maximizing our resources.

Tuition

Increase tuition by 5%

Fundraising

Develop a fundraising committee to oversee major fundraisers and maximize profits

Flexible Tuition Structure

Utilize *RaiseRight* fundraising program allowing families to fundraise part of their tuition

Enrollment

Increase average student - teacher ratio to around 1:17 by implementing multi-level classes

Resource Maximization

Evaluate current spending in order to best support our mission of faith, service, and academic excellence

This document was given to all parishioners in the Area Faith Community.

The financials include parish and school.

SPECIAL EVENTS

We raised over
\$120,740 this
school year!
*Thank you to all of our
generous supporters.*

MARATHON + BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICK + CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS WEEK + FISH BOIL + LUCK OF THE IRISH + SCRIP



Future Goals



Renew MNSAA Accreditation

Develop new strategic plan for the next 7 years. The onsite visit is scheduled for Spring 2026.



Implement Multi-level Classrooms

Focus professional development on differentiation, cooperative learning, and aligning learning targets based on standards to instruction and assessment.



Increase Enrollment

Work with marketing intern to develop a marketing strategic plan and set goals to increase digital engagement.



Contact us

Share any questions or insights you may have.

www.johnirelandschool.org/contact



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for your
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