



# **Executive Summary**

**Saint Ann School**

**Diocese of Trenton**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Description of the School.....	2
School's Purpose.....	3
Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement.....	4
Additional Information .....	6

## **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 Ann School, in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, reflects the spirit of service, spirituality, and community that has been a hallmark of its host parish, Saint Ann Church, which was founded in 1937. The original church was built with the hands of parishioners who borrowed a team of horses, dug the cellar, and laid the foundation. Similarly, the school was established in 1964 through the hard work, philanthropy, and fundraising of parish families. The school opened its doors with just a first and second grade with the idea of adding one grade per year. That extraordinary vision led to the thriving school we have today which consists of more than 300 Pre--K to 8. The participation of families, support of the parish, and the dedication to service that began more than 50 years ago have remained integral to the success of Saint Ann School and its mission of providing a high-quality, faith--filled education.

Genesis access limits information to previous years' demographics. During the 2012-2013 school year, 84% of the students were Catholic, 5% Christian/Non-Catholic, and 11% were registered as "other" or an unspecified religion. In the 2014-2015 school year, 52% of the students were female and 48% were male. 69% were white, 9% black, 9% Asian, 6% multicultural, 6% Hispanic, and 1% were Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. 38% of the school lived in Lawrenceville, 30% in Ewing, 11% in Trenton, 4% in Hamilton, and 17% in the surrounding areas. 81% were Catholic, 14% Christian/Non-Catholic, 4% "other", and 1% "unknown".

For the 2015-2016 school year St Ann's welcomed an influx of incoming students due to a local Catholic school closing. 52% are female and 48% are male. 64% are white, 14% black, 9% Asian, 6% are multicultural, 6% Hispanic, and %1 are Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. 35% of the school live in Lawrenceville, 33% in Ewing, 11% in Trenton, 4% in Hamilton, and 17% in the surrounding areas. 75% are Catholic, 4% Christian/Non-Catholic, 21% "other" or "unknown".

A unique feature of our school is that many of the students are first generation immigrants, creating a multicultural community.

## **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.**

Saint Ann School has proudly served the community of Lawrence Township and the surrounding areas since 1964. Our mission has always been to nurture the minds, hearts, and spirits of our children which is reflected in our Mission Statement: Saint Ann Catholic Elementary School empowers all students in a Christ centered environment to serve God and others, to develop their unique talents and gifts, to strive for academic excellence, and to become life--long learners.

Saint Ann's was selected as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 2010 by the United States Department of Education. This program recognizes schools based on their overall academic excellence and affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating exemplary schools. Saint Ann's was the first school in the Diocese of Trenton to receive this distinguished honor.

Parents are welcome and are deeply involved in carrying out the school's commitment to spirituality and service. By active participation in works of mercy throughout the school year, we affirm Christ's message to love and serve our neighbor. Like all strong schools, Saint Ann School is bolstered by a vibrant PTA which contributes to enhancing many of the school's academic, spiritual, and extracurricular programs.

The faculty of Saint Ann School is a dedicated group of teachers and role models who envision their daily work, not as a job, but as a mission of the Catholic Church. They teach enthusiastically and nurture their students to strive for academic excellence, to proclaim and live the Good News, and to become exemplary Christian leaders and citizens. All of our teachers are certified, and many have advanced degrees.

The curriculum at Saint Ann School is based on both Diocesan Standards and on the Common Core Curriculum. In addition to comprehensive programs in language arts, science, math, social studies, and religion, it includes an advanced math program, technology, Spanish, physical education, music, and art. Saint Ann's maintains a rigorous academic curriculum and holds high expectations for its students as individuals and as learners in a global society.

Saint Ann's is proud to be a leader in using technology to enhance the curriculum, enabling its students to develop essential 21 interactive whiteboards in every classroom demonstrate the school's commitment to providing the necessary for future success in a technological world.

The school also provides a wide variety of extracurricular activities and athletic programs to further develop the whole child. Saint Ann School maintains a caring, supportive, and safe atmosphere in which Christian values permeate all that we do on a daily basis. We are committed to not only teaching, but living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The administration, faculty, and staff of Saint Ann School continue to promote the highest quality standards and encourage all students to strive for their greatest potential. Saint Ann's is a Christ centered environment where all students are encouraged to explore and discover their own gifts, strengths, talents, and interests and where they are challenged to serve the larger community in meaningful ways.

## **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.**

Over the last three years, St. Ann's has made improvements in organization and technology. Professional Learning Communities have been implemented to enhance teacher collaboration and learning in an effort to improve student achievement. Students in grades 5-8 are now participating in a 1:1 Tablet Program with the goal to make them 21st century learners. Tablets are used both in and out of the classroom to enhance students' understanding of subject matter.

St. Ann School plans to provide character education to all students through a variety of methods and hopes to become a National School of Character. A School of Character is a school where young people are educated, inspired, and empowered to be ethical and engaged citizens. As a potential School of Character we plan to work together to positively shape the social, emotional, and character development of the young people entrusted to us each day. Students will feel safe, respected, and connected to those around them, allowing them to thrive academically and socially and be motivated to give back to their communities.

Saint Ann School was awarded the National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education in 2010. To qualify, public schools must rank in the top 10 percent of their state, while private schools, like Saint Ann's, must rank in the top 10 percent of the nation. This outstanding achievement is representative of the school's dedication and commitment to providing its students with the highest quality education.

While we have improved enrollment, we will continue marketing efforts to maintain and increase our current student population. Saint Ann School will be using a variety of marketing tools and outlets to inform the surrounding areas of the quality of education at St. Ann's. The area target will include but not limited to: Lawrenceville, Ewing, Princeton, Trenton add Bucks County.

We invite the public to attend three open houses a year. This year to be held on November 11, February 3 and April 17.

Our media plan for the 2015-2016 school year is to include print media, digital media and billboard advertisement within a mall (Marketfair).

### Media Plan

Trenton Times - 10 print ads, 100,000 digital ads for 30 days , Mercer County home page digital ad

Advanced Papers - ¼ page print ad - 3x a year

The Monitor - Catholic Schools Week advertisement, graduation ½ page ad

Community News - 1/3 page ad - 3x a year

Sun Newspaper - ¼ page color ad - 3x a year

McGavern Guild Malls - 3 color panels installed in Marketfair Mall in Princeton for a month

In addition, press releases will be sent to local area papers regarding school events and news. Also, we will do monthly outreaches to the Church bulletin. Our website is another source of outreach. We will keep the latest school news and events current on our homepage. Saint Ann School Flyers are placed at local businesses before each open house.

### Marketing Material

A variety of marketing material is used throughout the year. They include:

Brochures (Grammar school and pre-school)

## **Executive Summary**

Saint Ann School

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Flyers - advertising open houses and school information

Profile Sheet - school facts

SAS Bumper Stickers

SAS Magnets

Colored Posters to be place at church before each open house

Copies of SAS in the news

The listed items are used at our open houses or to advertise for open houses. They are also used on school tours.

### **SAS Marketing Committee**

The Marketing Committee meets every other month through the school year. The committee is kept up to date on the marketing efforts and the enrollment of the school. New and improved ways to reach out to the public and to grow St. Ann's current enrollment are continually discussed. The committee reports back to the PTA and the School Board.

### **Diocesan Marketing Committee**

The Marketing Director meets monthly with the Diocesan Marketing Committee. There is usually one campaign per year.

### **Goals**

The goal of the Marketing Committee is to have Saint Ann School continue to be a strong viable option for a faith filled education. We want to continue to grow our enrollment and to be an integral part of the community.

## **Additional Information**

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

We are pleased to announce that we have a new pastor, Father Gerard Lynch. He comes to us with many years of experience in Catholic education and is very enthusiastic about being a part of our school community. The parish and school have collaborated a Parish Catholic Education Endowment Fund to assist St. Ann parishioners and St. Ann School parents with tuition assistance beyond that provided through the Diocese.