



ST. THEODORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**323 East Clark Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007-2955
Phone: (507)-373-9657**

**School Principal
Susan Amundson
samundson@sttheoschool.org**

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Theodore Catholic School promotes excellence through a well-rounded academic curriculum in a Christ-centered environment for children of all faiths.

State of the School St. Theodore Elementary School 2017-2018 School Year

Shaping, thriving and inspiring the youth of our parish and community.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them," Matthew 19:14. We are grateful for the opportunity to educate children, incorporating the message of Christ throughout our whole curriculum. We are grateful for the trust parents place in us to provide that education. We are grateful to our parish for their continued prayers, the facility, and for the monthly financial support they provide.

We are grateful for our school administrator, Sue Amundson. She is both teacher for the Pre-K program and principal of the school. Her dedication and compassion shown for each individual student is impressive. She provides leadership for the school including teaching and support staff members. She provides accurate and important information for the school board attending all of our meetings. She participates in diocesan meetings, keeps the accreditation current, and is an ever positive spirit. We are also grateful to our teaching staff. We are blessed to have professional qualified teachers that reach out to the individual student to help them learn. The teacher to student ratio allows time for the individual needs of each student to be met.

The 2017-2018 academic school year was very busy and flew by quickly. We are an accredited school which requires ongoing evaluation and documentation of our programs. While all programs are current and the required documentation complete, this year we have focused on providing a safe environment for our students. The incidence of school violence has raised concern for every school including our own. Policies and procedures have been updated along with facility changes and ongoing training for our staff and those having direct student contact. We are committed to ensuring the safety of all who enter our facility.

Marketing our school has also been a major focus. Our marketing committee has been working on enhancing our electronic presence. We have a marketing video posted and have been updating our website. Interaction with social media allows us to continually keep the school families, parishioners and public aware of the events and opportunities at our school. We have started working on an alumni group so former students can stay in touch with their alma mater. We are coming up on the 25th anniversary of St. Theodore School and want to include all who have been touched by and contributed to our success.

Academically our students are being successful! We have invested heavily in technology this year. Each student now has an age appropriate electronic device that they can use. Our staff has been

working to integrate these devices into all areas of the learning process and all standardized testing is completed using these devices. Our children gain experience daily using Chromebooks, iPads, Smart boards, and spend time in the computer lab for both personal assignments and collaborative projects with fellow classmates. This investment in technology was and is essential to the academic success of each student and for career opportunities well into their futures.

The pre-k program was very successful this year. Transportation issues were resolved with the availability of the SMART bus. Enrichment programs continue with music, art, and Spanish. The school participated in food drives, cooperative learning with peers, various fundraising efforts for our community programs, and with individual classroom service projects. School outings such as visits to the Historical society, experiencing nature with the farm tours, and enjoying field trips also provided opportunity to learn while developing socially with their peers. Personal development through parish involvement during the liturgical year adds to each student's personal growth and educational opportunity. Christmas programs, Lenten journey with Stations of the Cross, and Crowning of Mary in May are a few examples. Catholic schools week is an exciting time to celebrate being a part of the church's rich tradition of providing Catholic education. Public speaking is enhanced with opportunities to be lecturers. Gifts and talents are shared as cantors or being members of the children's choir. As an alter server, children can experience deeper meaning in the Mass. Education meets faith during Mass and faith is brought to the classroom with weekly visits from Fr. Kurt.

The financial health of our school is sound. The school board works diligently with the principal reviewing the monthly income and expenses to make certain everything is kept up-to-date. We also have been able to plan for expenses such as the ongoing curriculum updates and computer needs to meet the continual changes in education and remain state of the art. Finances are provided to the school through student tuition, Seeds of Faith tuition assistance from the diocese, Adopt a student program, The St. Theodore Endowment Fund, the fundraising efforts of our Parent Student Association, Parish contribution, and through the many generous individual donors in our Parish and community.

The mission statement of our school - 'To promote excellence through a well-rounded academic curriculum in a Christ-centered environment for children of all faiths' - is embraced and being carried out. We expect and encourage family support through active participation in the education of our children. PAKET Day (Parents and Kids Eat Together) allows families to share lunch with their students once a month. Family participation in school events, fundraisers, weekly Mass, room parents, chaperones, school board members, and PSA (parent student association) membership is strongly encouraged. School members become a family and active participation strengthens the family.

There is room to join our school family. Please pray for our school, the students and their families. If you have a school age child, prayerfully consider joining our family!

Respectfully submitted,

2017-2018 School Board: Mike Johnson, Bart Berven, Camilla Kolker-Sparks, Alma Guerra, Deanne Zogg, Mandy Grzybowski, Erin Haag, Melissa Wittmer