LAS CRUCES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Established 1927

STATE OF THE SCHOOL

2025-2026

www.lccsonline.org

Dear supporters of Las Cruces Catholic School,

As we reflect on another year at Las Cruces Catholic School, we are proud to share our annual State of the School Report. This document serves several important purposes. First, it is an opportunity for transparency — a way to communicate openly with our families, parish, donors, and community about the life and growth of our school. It is also a celebration of the many accomplishments, blessings, and milestones that make our school community so special. Finally, this report serves as a historical record, capturing this moment in the ongoing story of Las Cruces Catholic School for future generations.

Rooted in Roman Catholic Tradition, Las Cruces Catholic School promotes excellence in education and fosters Christian spiritual, intellectual, and moral virtues in our students. Every achievement highlighted in this report reflects that mission in action. Whether in the classroom, on the playground, through service opportunities, faith formation, academic growth, or extracurricular activities, our students continue to grow as followers of Jesus, active learners, and servants of Christ.

This work would not be possible without the incredible support of our community. We are deeply grateful to our parents, teachers, staff, donors, School Board of Trustees, parish partners, volunteers, and all those who faithfully pray for our school. Your generosity, dedication, and belief in Catholic education strengthen our mission each day and allow our students to thrive.

While we celebrate the many blessings of this year, we also recognize that growth is an ongoing process. We remain committed to continuous improvement as we seek new ways to strengthen academic excellence, deepen faith formation, support our teachers, and better serve our students and families. Guided by faith and united in purpose, we look forward with hope and determination to all that God has planned for our school community.

Yours in Christ,
Windy Drake, Principal
Amy McCarty, Assistant Principal

School Learning Expectations (SLEs)

LCCS Students are Followers of Jesus who:

- Live our Catholic Faith
- Model Christ-like Behavior
- Practice the Golden Rule

LCCS Students are Active Learners who:

- Strive for High Achievement
- Actively Listen and Collaborate with Others
- Think Critically to Solve Problems

LCCS Students are Servants of Christ who:

- Respect and Appreciate God's Creation
- Practice Stewardship
- Demonstrate Tolerance and Acceptance of Others

INTERESTING FACTS

Enrollment

- 319 students were enrolled in PreK - 8th grade

35 PreK	177 K-5th	107 6th- 8th

- The average class size is 16
- 67 new students and 46 new families were welcomed into the LCCS community
- 94% of the students enrolled the year prior returned for the 25-26 school year

Faculty & Staff

- The school staff consists of 38 employees
- We are blessed to have 2 Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows on staff
- Mr. Vigil, Band Director, nominated for New & Emerging Educator of the Year by the Southwest Music Educators Association
- Mrs. Abeyta recognized with a Teacher Impact Award from LCHS Football Team
- Collectively the school staff has:

498 years work experience in a school → 267 years working in a Catholic school → 236 years working at LCCS

- An additional 8 employees manage the lunch program and After Care.

Curriculum Enhancements

- Adopted a new MS Spanish curriculum
- DARE offered to 5th and 8th grade students
- Provided the Hallow App to all students and families which was also used in middle school religion - 38% of our school families created an active account
- *Mystery Science* integrated into elementary school

Facility Enhancements

- Elementary restrooms were refreshed
- MPR was painted and new blinds were installed
- The middle school courtyard was leveled and re-landscaped
- PreK entry mural was created

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION & TUITION

- $200 Registration Fee per family
- $6,400 tuition for one child, $12,300 for 2 children, $17,900 for 3 or more children

COST TO EDUCATE

Tuition collected is the largest source of revenue, however that does not cover the cost to educate our students. The actual cost to educate one student during the 2025-2026 school year was **$7,675.** The difference, while sometimes short, is covered through fundraising efforts, grants, and private donations. See the following page for ideas on how to assist with this deficit. This year we were blessed with an unexpected private donation of $314,000 which resulted in a small net profit which will be invested for future needs.

FEDERAL FUNDING

We received ~$26,000 in Title funding which is not included in the budget below. It provided for science curriculum, STAR Testing, Accelerated Reader, technology devices, and other supplemental materials.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Due to generous donors, we were able to award $301,230 to 103 students.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

25-26 Revenue

Tuition: Registration, tuition, fees, tuition assistance donations

$1,804,517

Donations & Fundraising: Gala, PTO, O'Blarney Raffle, grants, monetary donations, class/program fundraisers

$602,581

After Care & Cafeteria:

$228,646

Other: investment interest

$20,525

TOTAL REVENUE:

$2,656,269

25-26 Expenses

Instructional Expenses: textbooks, materials, supplies, technolgy, etc.

$32,751

Operational Expenses: salaries, benefits, insurance, office supplies, recognition, cafeteria, after care, advertising, etc.

$2,063,941

Activities: PTO, Gala, O'Blarney Raffle, field trips, retreats, programs & productions, etc.

$182,048

Operations & Maintenance: utilites, cleaning services, repairs, furniture, etc.

$169,498

TOTAL EXEPENSES:

$2,448,238

MONEY MAKERS

- $1,383 Book Fairs
- $1,673 *I Give Catholic*
- $18,667 O'Blarney Raffle
- $2,971 Jog-A-Thon
- $4,921 Bake Sales
- $26,010 Band Fundraising/Donations

Managed by Gala Committee

- $50,077 Gala - used to refurbish the MPR, purchase a floor scrubber, provide for teacher bonus, tuition assistance, and curriculum support

Managed by PTO - funds used for teacher/program support and refreshed elementary restrooms

- $25,000 Fun Run
- $1,541 Fall Fest
- $3,599 Butter Braids
- $1,250 Christmas Craft Fair/Santa Breakfast
- $1,281 Used Uniform Sales
- $1,943 School Store
- $1,165 Dady/Daughter Dance
- $629 Mommy/Son Dance
- $386 Paint & Pasta
- $237 Panda Express Spirit Night
- $644 Chipotle Spirit Night
- $123 Twisted Sugar Spirit Night
- $245 Papa Johns Spirit Night

SPECIAL THANK YOUS

The generous support from these people/organizations is hugely beneficial to our school.

Ikard Foundation
Aprendamos Family of Services
Southern NM Catholic Education Foundation
Jim & Nancy Higdon
Dr. Christopher Thomas
Knights of Columbus
Catholic Daughters of America
Holy Cross Parish
San Albino Parish
St. Albert the Great Parish
United in Misitry
McCann Foundation
ACE
PTO
Gala Committee/Supporters

WAYS TO ASSIST

- While fundraising efforts can become overwhelming, your support in what ever way works for your family helps to fill the gaps
- Consider donating directly to our tuition assistance fund
- Support the efforts of the Southern NM Catholic Education Foundation which solely supports LCCS through an endowement
- Request tution support from the parish in which you are registered
- Share the good things our school does with those in your social circle and encourage families with school aged children to inquire about enrollment
- Invite friends and family to the annual Gala
- Sell O'Blarney Raffle Tickets
- Look for employer donation matching programs
- Volunteer to assist with school events
- Pray for the continued success of our school

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

- 12 priests and Bishop Baldacchino celebrated our student Masses and 6 additional priests assisted with confessions
- 6 NMSU Speech and Language Pathologist students screened our students
- 5 NMSU students and community members worked with our band students
- 14 organizations hosted booths at Science Knight (Night)
- 3 tutors assisted some of our students with math
- 3 families regularly assisted with lunch and recess monitoring
- 2 police officers regularly kept watch during weekly masses
- 130 books were gifted to K - 3rd grade students by the Knights of Columbus Council 13969 Reading Alliance and 5 volunteers spent an afternoon reading to them
- Annually, families are expected to complete 50 hours of service - many do much more

FAITH FORMATION

SACRAMENTS

- 24 third graders, 1 sixth grader, and 1 second grader celebrated their First Holy Communion with their peers at Holy Cross. Three 3rd graders participated at their home parish celebrations
- 3 students participated in OCIC and they received Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil with the Holy Cross Catholic Church
- 22 students received the sacrament of Confirmation
- 15 students serve the Diocese as Altar Servers
- We are proud to announce that ALL students in grades K-8 assisted in presenting liturgical celebrations

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS and ACTIVITIES

- Daily religion class for grades 6-8
- Religion class 4 times per week in grades PreK-5
- Daily opening and closing prayer
- Weekly Mass
- Fall & Spring Reconciliation
- Blessing of the Animals
- All Saints Parade
- October & May Rosaries
- Dia de Los Muertos Altar
- 7th grade LoneTree Retreat
- Jesus Lunch
- Living Saint Museum
- Advent Ceremonies
- Las Posadas
- 8th grade Confirmation retreat
- Stations of the Cross
- Washing of the Feet
- A- Mountain Good Friday Pilgrimage
- Divine Mercy
- 1st Communion Retreat
- May Crowning

ACCREDITATION

LCCS is accredited by the Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA). The accreditation process includes a self study, a visiting team review, and an action plan for ongoing improvement. In the spring of 2025 LCCS was awarded a 6 year accreditation (to be renewed during the 2030-2031 school year. The action plan includes:

- Develop a system to analyze and use data to inform instruction by creating a student educational portfolios (began during the 2025-2026 school year).
- Update and provide Faculty and Staff Handbook (completed summer 2025).
- Revise Student Learning Expectations (completed spring 2025).
- Provide faith formation for the parent community.
- Provide more professional development for teachers and staff.

PEOPLE OF SERVICE & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Served as the Children's Choir for the Diocesan Blue Mass for 1st responders.
- Prepared personal letters to Veterans
- Hosted Veterans Day Celebration
- Collected filled gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child
- Collected 1150 lbs of food for Casa de Peregrinos
- Donated funds to Our Lady's Youth Center
- Prepared and delivered sandwiches to Camp Hope
- Students attended a City Council Meeting to accept a Mayoral Proclamation
- Supported the Knights of Columbus through selling Enchilada Dinner Tickets
- Collected Rice Bowl donations for Catholic Relief Services
- Paraded and assisted in the Blessing of the Fields led by Bishop Baldacchino at the Farm & Ranch Museum

STUDENT LEARNING

8th GRADE PSAT

Annually, LCCS 8th grade students take the PSAT 8/9. This test is a precurser to the College Board SAT.

The 3 year total average of **ALL** testers score on this assessment is a 792, Reading and Writing a 398 and Math 393. LCCS students performed higher than the national average.

		Total	Reading & Writing	Math
Average		**866**	**448**	**428**
Number of Students by Quartile	99-75%	12	13	10
	74-50%	8	9	7
	49-25%	8	8	8
	24-1%	2	0	5

STAR ASSESSMENTS

For the first time, LCCS is sharing schoolwide STAR Assessment results with our community as one measure of student achievement and academic growth. While STAR provides valuable data on student progress in reading and math, it is only one of several tools used to assess learning. Classroom performance, teacher observations, projects, faith-based learning experiences, and other assessments play an important role in demonstrating student mastery of skills and standards. Together, these measures provide a more complete picture of our students' growth and success. STAR is a nationally normed assessment and was administered 3 times during the 25-26 school year. These scores are from the final STAR test administered in May.

STAR READING/STAR EARLY LITERACY

Kindergarten scores are from *STAR Early Literacy* which includes early numeracy.

		K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
National Percentile		**60**	**64**	**66**	**56**	**68**	**67**	**63**	**62**
Grade Level Equivalent		**1.5**	**2.7**	**4**	**4.7**	**6.5**	**7.7**	**8.7**	**9.6**
Number of Students by Quartile	99-75%	11	11	12	10	11	10	15	15
	74-50%	7	14	4	10	15	8	7	12
	49-25%	3	5	4	5	9	5	11	10
	24-1%	8	4	4	6	1	1	5	3

STAR MATH

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
National Percentile		**37**	**53**	**42**	**67**	**56**	**45**	**60**
Grade Level Equivalent		**1.8**	**3.1**	**3.8**	**6.9**	**7.3**	**7.5**	**10.1**
Number of Students by Quartile	99-75%	3	6	1	13	6	5	14
	74-50%	8	10	9	11	6	15	15
	49-25%	12	2	11	9	7	6	6
	24-1%	11	6	8	3	5	12	5

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

PROGRAM	PARTICIPANTS	THINGS TO NOTE
Honor Roll	4th Quarter 52 4th & 5th 92 MS	Regonized 4 times per year Gold = all As Silver = As & Bs
High School Credit Courses	13 Algebra 1	Regular cuurriculum
	19 Health	Offered privately
National Jr. Honor Society	24	
Spelling Bee	24	Obi Ezeh Ifeanyi Ossia MS
Accelerated Reader (AR)	3251.4 pts earned	4th grade earning the most
Civics Bee	3	1st time participating, 3 entered Cillian Flynn qualified for Regionals
Chess Club	16	
Angel Tickets	114 distributed	Recognition linked with SLEs
Pumpkin Decorating	18	Elem Winner: Ezra Fresquez MS Winner Christopher Uribe
Cub Scouts	20	Now a Family Pack
Drama Club	35 students	Christmas Pageant & Spring Show
Praise Band	30	Led Student Masses & Blue Mass
Knights of Columbus Challenges & Contests	Soccer 12	Winners Bradlee Gonzalez & Brycen Hufker
	Free Throw 19	Winners Samantha Ojinaga, State 2nd Paul Skillman, JP Achaval & Josh Ojinaga
Volley Ball	21	El Paso Catholic School League
Basketball	100	Inter School League K-8 girls & boys

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Sock Hops
- MS Dances
- Red Ribbon Week
- Field Trips
- Fall Fest
- Math & Science Knight
- Book Fair
- Mother's Day Program
- Science Fair
- Pumpkin Decorating Contest
- Grade level programs
- A Mountain Walk
- Jog-a-thon
- Field Day
- 8th Grade Tie Ceremonies
- K & 8th Grade Graduation

All City 5th Grade Track Meet	24	2nd 440m Gabby Laboy 4th 100m Anela Torres 5th High Jump Massi Benigi, Zoe Guerra, & Gianna Zenteno 2nd 4x100 Relay Evelyn Aguilar, Phenelope Reyes, Anela Torres, & Gabby Laboy
Band	36 Recorders	Presented 7+ Concerts 13 qualified for the All City Honor Band MPA • All 1s Symphonic Band - Top in the City • All 1s Concert Band Solo & Ensemble Festival Results • 2 Solo Superior Ratings with Honor Distinction • 20 Solo Superior Ratings • 7 Solo Excellent Ratings • 5 Ensembles Superior Ratings
	23 Beginning Band	
	22 Concert Band	
	29 Symphonic Band	