

St. Christopher Catholic Parish

435 E. National Rd., Vandalia, Ohio 45377



July 2019

A Letter From Our Pastor

On March 15th, I asked Paul Beyerle (pastoral council member with an extensive background in public and parochial education) to lead a Task Force to determine the contributing factors of the declining enrollment at St. Christopher School in the last five years and identify the factors over which we might have some control. Paul enthusiastically accepted and assembled a qualified and passionate team: Joe and Cecilia Castellano, Kevin Moeller, Jr., Marianne Hartke, Sasha Blaine, and Ken and Kathy Enneking.

Many hours of hard work went into researching demographic data, creating a survey, compiling survey results, and formulating a working document. The findings of the Task Force resulted in an Executive Summary that is included in this bulletin, and in a Comprehensive Report that can be read on the St. Christopher Parish, School, and Childcare Center websites.

I extend my gratitude to Paul, the members of the Task Force, those who completed the survey, and all who support St. Christopher School.

You might now ask, "So where do we go from here?" I am not 100% sure. As the demographic trends seem to signify, the school will probably remain smaller than it was in the recent past. Could the school increase back to 2 grades per class? Yes, if more people grasp the value of Catholic education and come to share our passion for Catholic Schools.

Some things we can influence or control, many we cannot. May God give us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Fr. John

Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray. Proverbs 22:6

Executive Summary of School Task Force Report

Introduction

This Executive Summary of the Task Force Report is a distillation of the survey results, analysis of those results, and a summary of the key findings and recommendations contained in the comprehensive report. It has been organized in the format of a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis. It is not meant to be a substitute for a reading of the comprehensive report which provides the context, detail, survey results and analysis of those results. The comprehensive report can be read on the St. Christopher Parish, School, and Childcare Center websites.

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Strengths

- An overwhelming majority of respondents believes the school is an important ministry of the parish.
- A majority of respondents said they attend Mass on a regular basis.
- Religious education, especially sacramental preparation and a commitment to Catholic values, and academic preparation are seen as definite strengths of the school.
- All day kindergarten and smaller class sizes were noted as positives.
- Key survey data from the current 8th grade class indicate that the vast majority feel they are prepared for high school, understand what it means to be a Catholic, will be attending a Catholic high school, and feel that they have been part of a school family. The overall rating of St. Christopher School was a 7.6 on a ten point scale.

Weaknesses

- Some respondents expressed concern with the effectiveness of the school administration, particularly in the area of communication.
- While two-thirds of respondents considered acceptance of classmates, school discipline, and standards of behavior as strengths, some noted weaknesses in these areas.
- Some respondents raised bullying concerns.
- A number of respondents said that the quality of a public school alternative was a reason for not enrolling their child in our school. Yet the most recent state report card gave a grade of C to the Vandalia district with some schools receiving a grade of D. Clearly this highlights the need to rethink our marketing strategy given this perception about the quality of our program in relationship to area schools.

Opportunities

- Cost, while a factor in some cases, does not appear to be a significant factor for both St. Christopher and St. John parishioners.
- Most of St. Christopher respondents are aware of the tuition assistance program. In addition, a number of parishioners expressed a willingness to contribute to funding scholarships for students.
- Almost 80% of St. John parents have not considered St. Christopher as a school alternative. Most indicated as their reason a quality school alternative (Tipp City received a grade of B from the state). A focused marketing strategy, with an emphasis on academic excellence and Catholic values, provides an opportunity to target parents of St. John students.
- Most St. John parents are not aware of the St. Christopher tuition assistance program.
- A comprehensive Strategic Planning initiative should be undertaken for the school. One of the key strategic objectives of this plan should be to develop a comprehensive and integrated marketing plan for the school with a focus on communicating the academic excellence of the school and commitment to educating the whole student in and understanding of Catholic values (the Value Proposition as noted in the full report).

Threats

- Given the Archdiocesan data noted in the report, the declining trend of grade school enrollment at St. Christopher the past five years, and the economic and demographic trends for the Vandalia area, there is no reason to expect a turnaround in enrollment without a significant effort on the part of both school and parish leadership to address the issues identified in this report. Hence, our recommendation for the development of a school strategic plan including a robust marketing effort.
- The increase in class size as a result of rightsizing the number of teachers to the number of students may now turn a positive into a negative as noted in this report.
- The number of infant baptisms in the parish has declined significantly, leading to fewer school-aged children in the parish.

Task Force Comprehensive Report

The St. Christopher Parish School Task Force convened for the first time on Wednesday, April 3, 2019. Fr. John commissioned us with discovering key factors that have caused the St. Christopher school enrollment to drop. Since 2014 to 2018 the school has seen a decline of 75 students from 365 to 290, a 20.5% decrease in enrollment.

Father John's Action

In consultation with Mary Kincaid (school principal) and Bob Ahlers (business manager) it was decided to restructure the school. It was decided for the 2019-20 school year that there would be one class per grade with a limit of 28 students per class. However, the decision was made to maintain two kindergarten classes. The restructuring resulted in some teachers not having their contracts renewed. Due to the dwindling number of students, "right sizing" the number of faculty to the number of students was necessary. It was a cost savings move to lessen the financial burden on the parish. This decision prevented the parish from a likely subsidy to the school of \$425,000 or more (nearly half of Sunday contributions). In order to keep tuition affordable and also not financially endanger the parish, an approximate minimum student number of 23 per class is needed. With this in mind, each grade needs 45 students to support two classes. The chart below indicates the necessity of Fr. John's decision in rightsizing the school.

2018-19 Class sizes and # of teachers:

	K	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
# of students	39	33	28	26	33	30	31	30	41
# of teachers	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Teacher/Student Ratio	19.5	16.5	14	13	16.5	15	15.5	15	20.5

The Financial Picture

For the 2017- 18 school year, St. Christopher had an enrollment of 314 students. This school year (2018-19) the enrollment was 291 students. Due to contractual obligations, the number of teaching staff remained the same. This drop of 23 students was a loss of \$77,625 in tuition, plus additional dollars were lost in state funding.

Budget for 2017-18

Income: \$1,285,168 (tuition, book fee, state subsidy, fundraising)

Expenses: \$1,618,601 (90.5% of the budget or \$1,465,298 is paid in salaries and benefits)

Loss: \$333,432 This is the subsidy that the parish provided to the school. It DOES NOT include dollars spent on building or capital improvements, such as roofing, HVAC and carpeting.

Tuition for the 2017-18 school year was \$3300. This covers 64% of the total cost to educate a St. Christopher student which is \$5154. This does not include the dollars spent on any capital improvements to the school facilities.

The projected parish subsidy for the 2018-19 school year was \$380,000.

The goal for the 2019-20 school year is to have the parish subsidize the school at \$250,000.

Task Force Comprehensive Report (cont.)

Major Task

The energy of the Task Force was directed to determining reasons and obstacles on why there has been a substantial decline in the enrollment of St. Christopher School.

Process

The Task Force collected data to assist in making certain determinations about the enrollment issue. The following was accomplished:

1. Collected demographic information on the City of Vandalia
2. Studied enrollment trends of the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the 18 Catholic elementaries of the Dayton Deanery.
3. Had a meeting with Dan Meixner, president of Chaminade-Julienne High School to discuss their successful marketing practices.
4. Conversation with Vince Woodall, Assistant Director of School Finance for the Archdiocese
5. Studied the recent baptismal records and number of children in the parish under the age of seven.
6. Surveyed several target groups---graduating St. Christopher 8th graders, school families, GIFT families, Childcare Center families, St. Christopher parishioners and St. John parishioners. Key questions in the surveys were pointed to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the school and the Ultimate Question: Would you recommend St. Christopher School to a friend or a family member?
7. Received data on the success of St. Christopher students who graduated from Chaminade- Julienne HS.
8. Reviewed recent St. Christopher student scores on the IOWA Assessments

Results

Point One: Demographic trends in Vandalia indicate the following:

Population of Vandalia has decreased between 2010 to 2017 from 15,246 residents to 15,090

Number of children ages 5 through 14 has decreased by 275 children from 2010 to 2017

Income has remained flat in Vandalia from 2010 to 2017. Median income has dropped from \$53,732 to \$52,740

In 2010 there were 1.1 children per household, in 2017 .8 children per household

Point Two: Enrollment trends of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati:

From 2003 to 2018 enrollment numbers of secondary students has dropped from 15,682 to 12,841 (18% decrease, or a 1.125% decrease per year over 16 years)

From 2003 to 2018 enrollment numbers of elementary students has dropped from 39,480 to 26,607 (32.6% decrease, or a 2.03% decrease per year over 16 years)

In 2003 the Archdiocese educated 55,162 students grades K-12. In 2018 the Archdiocese educated 40,146 students grades K-12. This is a 27 % decrease, or 1.68% decrease per year over 16 years.

Point Three: Enrollment trends of 18 elementary Catholic schools in the Dayton Deanery

From 2012-13 school year to the 2018-19 year enrollment has dropped from 6,490 students to 5,805 students (10.5% decrease, or 1.5% decrease per year)

Similar elementary Catholic schools in the suburbs have suffered enrollment decreases like St. Christopher School:

Ascension- Kettering - 21.65% decrease in the last 5 years

St. Albert the Great- Kettering -24.23% decrease in the last 5 years

Task Force Comprehensive Report (cont.)

Bishop Leibold- Miamisburg/Miami Twp. - 20.31% decrease in the last 5 years

St. Christopher- Vandalia - 19.89% decrease in the last 5 years

St. Luke- Beavercreek -15.50% decrease in the last 5 years

St. Peter- Huber Heights - 10.24% decrease in the last 5 years

Similar elementary schools that have seen a minimal decrease or even growth in the last 5 years:

St. Brigid- Xenia 15.82% increase in the last 5 years

St. Charles- Kettering 7.87% increase in the last 5 years

Incarnation- Centerville .84% increase in the last 5 years

Dayton Catholic elementary schools that have seen growth or minimal decrease over the last five years that have a strong dependence on the EdChoice Vouchers:

St. Anthony- Dayton 3.16% increase in the last 5 years

97% EdChoice

78% poverty level

St. Helen- Riverside 17.17% increase in the last 5 years

51.5% EdChoice

38% poverty level

Immaculate Conception- Dayton 40.98% increase in the last 5 years

98% EdChoice

89% poverty level

Our Lady of the Rosary- Dayton -5.45% decrease in the last 5 years

98.8% EdChoice

87% poverty level

Holy Angels- Dayton -4.95% decrease in the last 5 years

71.8% EdChoice

23% poverty level

Implications and Concerns---failing public school buildings that are designated as eligible for EdChoice vouchers have enabled the inner city Catholic schools to survive. These schools are typically high poverty (exceptions Holy Angels and St. Helen's) and may have a low number of Catholic students. Vandalia Public Schools now has a designated EdChoice voucher school in Demmit Elementary. This may be an opportunity to grow St. Christopher School, but while the mission of the school would remain the same the school culture could be threatened due to a lower number of Catholic students, greater economic diversity and a less academically prepared student body.

Point Four: Key discussion points shared with us from Dan Meixner, the president of Chaminade-Julienne Catholic School and Vince Woodall, Assistant Director of School Finance for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati

From Mr. Meixner:

Must tailor your message to your stakeholders of excellence in academics, faith and community.

Be authentic in your presentation to who you are and why Catholic education is a worthwhile investment.

You know the impediments to enrolling students in your school---cost, families made decision to go to the local public high school, a quality public school district. The VALUE

PROPOSITION must be created in comparing a Catholic education with a Public School education.

From Mr. Woodall:

Multiple reasons for the decrease in enrollment in Archdiocesan Catholic schools—

poor school leadership and governance

the priest scandal

affordability

early family decision not to attend a Catholic High School

family priorities on pursuing a Catholic education have changed

failure to look for or open new opportunities

Need “quality over quantity.” Families want excellence in their school.

“Right sizing” a school is difficult in getting an enrollment and tuition amount that does not hurt the parish budget.

Task Force Comprehensive Report (cont.)

Point Five: Baptismal records and data on number of St. Christopher children registered in the parish

From 2015 to the present, 108 baptisms have occurred at St. Christopher. That is about 22 per year. If 60% of the baptized children each year enrolled in kindergarten at St. Christopher this would be 13 students. Currently there are 309 children listed on the parishioner data base who are six or younger. If they were evenly spread across each age level (which they are not) this would show 44 students eligible for kindergarten each school year from the parish rolls. If 60% of this 44 would enroll in kindergarten the number of students in a kindergarten class would be 26.

The St. Christopher Parish data base indicates 676 children (grades K- 8) are part of the parish community. 233 children (34%) are not receiving religious education either through the parish school or the GIFT program. There is a strong need for evangelization within our own parish to reach these children and their families.

In order to grow the school to two classrooms per grade, a larger percentage of our registered parishioners needs to be enrolled. There just does not seem to be a large enough pool of students to select from to see enrollment growth, unless we capture a greater number of those listed as members, but not participating in parish religious education activities.

Point Six: GIFT enrollment at St. Christopher and St. John in Tipp City

152 students, grades 1-8, are enrolled in the St. Christopher GIFT program.

161 students, grades 1-8 are enrolled in the St. John GIFT program.

There is an opportunity to market these families to increase enrollment. Creating the VALUE PROPOSITION for these families is essential in order to influence them. A strong marketing campaign directed to these families emphasizing academic excellence, faith building, community and affordability (notification of financial assistance) is critical.

Point Seven: Key survey data from St. Christopher 8th grade class

36 of the 40 students that comprised the 8th grade class of 2018-19 responded

14 of the 36 respondents indicated they attend Sunday Mass on a regular basis--38.8%

28 out of the 36 will be attending a Catholic High School next year--78%.

32 out of the 36 stated they are prepared for high school--89%

28 out of the 36 feel part of a school family--78%

34 out of 36 understand what it means to be Catholic--94%

21 of the 36 started school as kindergartners at St. Christopher--58%; 5 students enrolled at St. Christopher in the 6th grade (middle school age)

In rating their overall experience at St. Christopher on a 1-10 scale, the average was 7.6.

It is positive news that so many 8th graders believe they are prepared for high school. It is a testament to the academic reputation of the school. It also appears they are well-educated in the Catholic faith, even though there is low participation in Sunday Mass. Inclusivity and sense of community are felt by most of the students, but there are some who feel isolated. Family commitment to a Catholic education should be noted. 78% of the 8th grade will continue their Catholic education at a Catholic high school. They understand the VALUE PROPOSITION.

Point Eight: Key survey data from St. John Catholic Church in Tipp City

91 parishioners responded to our survey. Only 25 were in the age bracket that would normally be associated with school-aged parents. 51% had attended a Catholic school.

81% have not considered St. Christopher as an educational option. Why?

12% (10 survey takers) Tuition is unaffordable

51% (41 survey takers) Public school provides a quality education

24% (20 survey takers) Transportation is a problem

Task Force Comprehensive Report (cont.)

75% were unaware that St. Christopher tuition rates apply to St. John parishioners.

Noted Response: “No one from St. Christopher has ever presented any information or invitation to come visit at St. John’s the past 8 years that we have been parishioners.” “We attended St. Paul’s prior to here and no one ever reached out when we lived in Englewood.” (It should be noted that in the last 2 years, St. Christopher School has presented information at St. John, and St. Christopher School cannot actively pursue students from St. Paul in Englewood because they are part of a parish cluster that supports Precious Blood School.—Fr. John)

There are opportunities in both the Tipp City and Englewood communities for St. Christopher to be the Elementary Catholic School of the North. Thinking more regionally, instead of locally and expanding the marketing message to these areas is critical if school growth is to occur. Reaching out beyond the St. Christopher boundaries and sharing our message of academic excellence, faith and community is the key. (This conversation would have to happen first at the Archdiocesan level.—Fr. John) It appears that St. John families are not very familiar with our school.

Point Nine: Key survey data from St. Christopher parishioners

574 people responded to the survey. We received a strong sample size from age 20 to 49, approximately 50%. The over 60 population was the largest single group to respond.

A majority of those that responded, 55% had attended a Catholic elementary school and 28% had attended Catholic high school.

76% of the respondents attend Mass regularly (94% of the respondents used survey monkey and completed the questions online and not after Mass using paper).

89% believe that the school is an important ministry of the parish. 8% had no opinion.

55% had a child currently or at one time attend the school and 68% are aware of the availability of tuition assistance money.

33.5% indicated they would be willing to donate to a scholarship fund at the school. The dollar amount calculated is in excess of \$55,000.

The respondents feel strongly about the parish school and designate it is an IMPORTANT MINISTRY of the parish. Key question: If the parish school is viewed as such an important ministry, why is there a large decline in enrollment?

Point Ten: Key survey data from the school families (172 respondents)

Religious education and academic preparation is seen as a definite strength of the school- 91.8% and 94.7%. Also considered strengths were: sacramental preparation, commitment to teaching Catholic values and establishing Catholic identity in the school- 80.8%, 88.3% and 87.2%.

Student acceptance of classmates, school discipline, and standards of behavior were considered strengths by 66.6% of the respondents. Approximately 25% see these areas as weaknesses.

48.8% see school administration as a strength, 34.8% a weakness, and 16.2% had no opinion.

The survey results in regards to the religious education and academic preparation a student receives at St. Christopher School are positives that must be articulated in all marketing attempts. School discipline and “bullying” issues are always a slippery slope. It would be advised that disciplining procedures be reviewed and team building activities be developed especially for the middle and grades 5- 8.

Point Eleven: Key survey data from the GIFT families (55 respondents)

Areas viewed as strengths include the religious education (90.9%), sacramental preparation (87.27%), quality of teachers (80%), administration (85%), and commitment to Catholic values of the GIFT program.

61.82% see program discipline and high standards of behavior as a strength, while 30.91% had no opinion.

76.36% rated student acceptance of classmates as an area of strength, while 18.18% had no opinion.

In asking the question, “Why is St. Christopher not your school of choice?”, 21 (37.74%) respondents said tuition was unaffordable, 42 (77.36%) responded their public school district provided a quality education, 14 (26.42%) have never considered attending a Catholic high school, and for 10 (18.87%) the school is not

Task Force Comprehensive Report (cont.)

conveniently located.

Implications indicate that St. Christopher needs to do a better job on developing the VALUE PROPOSITION with these families. Are the public school districts providing as good of an education? Also, a large number are unaware of tuition assistance.

Point Twelve: Key survey data regarding the St. Christopher Center for Children (74 respondents)

Several strong areas were indicated by the respondents: religious education (81%), quality of teachers (91.89%), administration (90.54%), family atmosphere (94.59%), discipline and high standards of behavior (90.54%). There are no notable areas of weakness indicated on the survey.

46 respondents (62%) indicated they were looking at St. Christopher School (grades K-8) for their child's education. Another 6 (8%) indicated that kindergarten only at St. Christopher is an option for them. Another 14 (18.8%) are undecided. These are opportunities for St. Christopher school growth.

The St. Christopher Center for Children is the critical conduit in maintaining the pipeline of students into the parish school. It is so important that these families receive all of the key data on why St. Christopher School is the best choice for the academic and religious education of their child. This is a target audience that must continue to be nurtured while at the Center for Children. The excellence exhibited by the Center for Children is an example of the continued excellence that St. Christopher School provides. The VALUE PROPOSITION must be clearly defined and then marketed to these families.

Point Thirteen: Star Rating of St. Christopher School

How would you rate your overall impression of St. Christopher School? (490 respondents)

5 stars--41.8%	(205 respondents)	
4stars--38.3%	(188)	
3 stars--16.7%	(82)	
2 stars--3.4%	(17)	4.2% average STAR rating
1 star- 1.4%	(7)	

Point Fourteen: Ultimate Question Rating: 1 (very unlikely) to 10 (very likely)

The ultimate question is this: Would you recommend St. Christopher School, the GIFT program or the Center for Children to your family and friends?

St. Christopher School- 8.03 net promoter rating (Total of 172 respondents)	52.3% gave a 9 or 10 (90 respondents) 20.9% gave a 6 or below (36)***
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GIFT- 8.27 net promoter rating (Total of 55 respondents)	55% gave a 9 or 10 (29 respondents) 7% gave a 6 or below (4)
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Center for Children- 8.8 net promoter rating (Total of 67 respondents)	67% gave a 9 or 10 (45 respondents) 4% gave a 6 or below (3)
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A 9 to 10 score on the Ultimate Question is considered a Promoter---customers are enthusiastic and loyal who continually promote the organization).

A 7 to 8 score is considered Passive---customers are happy but can easily be tempted to leave. There is a need to improve your product or service.

A score 6 or below is considered a Detractor---customers are unhappy and feel mistreated. They potentially will keep others away from your product or service.

Task Force Comprehensive Report (cont.)

*** This point needs to be studied and reviewed. 36 respondents who are detractors could potentially pull their students from the school. It is critical that the school understand why a stakeholder would give you a particular score. We do have 143 written responses on the question, “What would you like to see at St. Christopher?” that are available from this survey. It is imperative for the school faculty, school administration and the pastor to review and study the concerns as part of an improvement plan. Additionally, a detailed exit interview needs to be developed when a family leaves the school.

Point Fifteen: Academic excellence matters; there is the need to review the successes/failures of your local public school district

Almost 2/3rds of jobs in 2020 will require a post high school education. Workers with a BA will earn \$800,000 more over their lifetime than those with just some college.

Workers with an associate degree earn \$200,000 more.

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce

In order for a community to have the “intellectual capital” to have a thriving economy, 60% of a high school graduating class needs to have its graduates earn a two or four year degree six years after high school graduation.

Interesting website to study data on local Montgomery County Public Schools:

<https://learntoearn Dayton.org>

Local Data on surrounding public school districts:

	% of 2011 HS grads who received a 2 or 4 year degree from college by 2017	% of 2012 HS grads who received a 2 or 4 year degree from college by 2018
Vandalia- Butler	44%	50%
Northmont	43%	40%
Huber Heights	31%	31%
Northridge	14%	13%
Tipp City	data not available on Learn to Earn- Dayton website	

	Percentage of HS grads who go to college	
	Class of 2015	Class of 2016
Vandalia- Butler	86%	77%
Northmont	74%	78%
Huber Heights	31%	31%
Northridge	14%	13%
Tipp City	data not available on Learn to Earn- Dayton website	

Key Point- getting into college (2 or 4 year program) is important, but obtaining a degree is essential.
How valuable is a St. Christopher education in attaining a degree?

Other key data found on this website in viewing the success of local public school districts is the % of students demonstrating readiness for kindergarten, % of students that are reading proficient in grade 3, and % of students proficient in 8th grade math.

The Ohio Department of Education provides data that cannot be compared to private school results very easily, but you are able to gain a perspective on a school district’s expectations, the academic quality of the student body, and their achievement levels on the whole. Does a school truly strive for excellence and are students challenged? It is very important for parents to study the academic culture of the school, the behavior and attitude of the student body and determine what is the best environment for their kid to succeed. As a

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Catholic school we must sell the value of our academic programs, our sense of values, and worth and the pride of our school community.

Ohio Department of Education Data: <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/>

Review this data on the surrounding school districts and key components on their success; grades for individual buildings are also available

District Grade	Achievement Component (how well students performed on state testing)	
Vandalia- Butler	C	D
Northmont	B	C
Huber Heights	D	D
Northridge	D	F
Tipp City	B	C

	Preparations for all future opportunities	Advance Placement participation	ACT participation	ACT remediation free**
Vandalia- Butler	D	34.9%	63.1%	34.9%
Northmont	D	20.4%	66.7%	28.7%
Huber Heights	F	13.8%	48.1%	16.1%
Northridge	F	.4%	44.8%	7.9%
Tipp City	C	39.5%	74.9%	47.6%

** scored an 18 or above on the English
 scored a 22 or above on the Math
 scored a 21 or above on the Reading

St. Christopher Students and data on their success at Chaminade-Julienne:

Average ACT score of a St. Christopher student at CJ: 2013- 26 2014- 25 2015- 27 2016- 27
 2017- 28 2018- 25 2019- 24

Class of 2019 100% of St. Christopher students applied to at least one college.

Class of 2013 56% of St. Christopher students had completed a college degree within a 6 year window.

Key Point: St. Christopher School must be proactive in promoting the successes of its graduates, not only academic successes, but testimonials of service and acts of faith. Receiving data from Chaminade-Julienne High School and Vandalia-Butler can go a long way in establishing the VALUE PROPOSITION of a St. Christopher education.

Point Sixteen: St. Christopher students do well on the national percentile rankings on the IOWA Assessments and score exceedingly well on the grade 3 reading assessments.

1. The IOWA Assessments are a norm referenced achievement test that allows one to see how students rank compared to other students nationally who have taken the test. A percentile ranking of 50% means you are right in the middle; half the students scored better than you and half the students scored below you.

2. Normal Curve Equivalent: Percentile ranking of 1-22 is LOW 22-39 LOW AVERAGE 40- 59 AVERAGE 60-76 HIGH AVERAGE 77 -99 HIGH

3. Grade Equivalent (GE) is a comparison of your child's performance compared to an age group whose average scores are in the same range. A GE score is both a growth score and a status score. This measurement indicates the grade level at which the typical student earns this score. A GE score two grade levels above your current grade level does not necessarily mean the student is achieving at that grade level or

Task Force Comprehensive Report (cont.)

even capable of accomplishing the work of that grade level.

4. A Core Composite of scores grades 3 through 8 would include testing in vocabulary, word analysis, reading comprehension, listening, social studies, science, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, usage and expression mathematical concepts, problem solving, data interpretation and computation.

St. Christopher Core Composite scores are shown as a national percentile rank:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Grade Equivalent Score in 2019
Class of 19'	80 (2nd grade)	72	68	71	65	69	70	13.0 Grade 8
Class of 20' 7		80 (2nd)	75	75	71	74	69	11.8 Grade
Class of 21' 6			72 (2nd)	68	66	62	62	7.8 Grade
Class of 22' 5				65 (2nd)	65	64	67	7.0 Grade

Takeaways:

- 1) St. Christopher students score on a national percentile ranking in the HIGH AVERAGE range.
- 2) St. Christopher students' GE scores improve each year, so remaining at St. Christopher will ensure academic growth.

Key 3rd grade data:

- 1) 100% of EdChoice 3rd graders passed the 3rd Grade Guarantee Form F and/or AIR Test
- 2) 26 out of 27 3rd graders passed this test.
- 3) Of the 26 who passed they as a group were ranked higher than 83% on the national percentile ranking.