

# **Department of Day School Education**

## **2022 Annual Report**

The 2022 year brought several swings in joys, sadness and perseverance. In early January, we mourned the sudden loss of Luther Oberhaus, who was a beloved substitute teacher and a strong supporter of our school. Weather had an impact on our annual Round Ball Classic basketball tournament and we were unable to finish it. Mrs. Stephanie Estel took over the chair position for the DDSE.

February's focus was final preparations for the March National Lutheran School Accreditation site team visit. Mr. Jack Hiegel announced his intent to retire at the end of the school year and the start of the search to replace him began.

March brought the start of the Lenten season and the NLSA Site Team visit. God was good and we came through with many positive reflections on what we do as well as a few items that need to be looked at as we strive to make improvements to our school. We moved the auction to April and did a hybrid version of both online and in-person due to COVID-19 concerns.

April had us return from spring break to the vast majority of our teachers and substitutes getting COVID-19. It was extremely challenging to keep things operational, but we got through it.

May brought about the end of the year activities. We graduated a wonderful group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders and had a great end of the year closing service.

We ended the school year with 128 students, which was more than budgeted for.

June and July had us wrapping up final report cards, ordering materials and books for the upcoming school year, filling the staffing needs, getting in-service on the chosen new math curriculum and taking some well-earned vacation.

We welcomed Mrs. Alyssa Paquin to our teaching staff in August as well as Miss Hannah Price who came aboard to help with afterschool care and in the Preschool classroom. Both have been a blessing.

The school year began with 126 students and although we have added and lost some in these past few months, we have settled in at 124, which is more than budgeted. We are back to normal with operations.

The staff is working on making a new social studies selection for the following school year. We continue to have a quarterly family activity day/night. We also have a monthly E.A.T. (Eat Around Town) night at a local eatery where the school gets a small percentage of the earnings from those who bring in a coupon.

Volleyball, Archery, and Basketball are all activities underway or have finished their season. Our student leadership group has overseen the collection of canned goods for Redeemer Lutheran Food Pantry and or classroom door decorating contest. Carols by Candle Light was excellent as very well attended.

The year ahead will bring the challenge of finding a principal as Mr. Wrucke will be retiring in the summer. Mrs. Lehenbauer also will not continue in her current part-time roll. With change comes opportunity. God has blessed us immensely for over 30 years and will continue to be our guide as we seek to be even better in sharing the love of Christ and making a difference in the lives of our families. May we forever remain "Rooted in Christ".

