



ST. RITA  
SCHOOL

**State of the School Presentation  
2021-2022**

# St. Rita School Mission

***St. Rita School inspires students in pre-kindergarten through grade eight to achieve academic excellence in a safe, nurturing, and faith-filled Catholic environment. We prepare students to be morally responsible, innovative thinkers who, in today's technology-guided global community, live and share the love of Christ.***

***Adopted 2016***

# School Creed

- **As a St. Rita student, I am taught to show love and respect for life. I am taught the proper use of things, order and cleanliness. I show respect for all of God's creation in my thoughts and actions.**
- **At St. Rita School I receive a God-centered education which enables me to grow peacefully. In my school I learn to ask without demanding, to say "thank you", to control my impulses and greed, and to ask forgiveness when I have caused harm.**
- **These simple gestures of courtesy help to create a culture of shared life and respect for me and all members of my St. Rita School family.**

# School Officers

- Msgr. Joseph DiSciacca, Pastor
- Mrs. Patricia O'Neil Tiezzi, Principal
- Mr. Ben Amarone, School Board Chair
- Mr. Chris Ponzio, Finance Committee Chair
- Mrs. Kristen Amarone, HSA President

# Theme for 2021-2022: “Let the SON Shine In”



- Our theme for this school year is:
- **“Let the SON Shine In”.**
- It’s up to each of us to demonstrate to our teachers and classmates encouragement, kindness, compassion and hope each and every day.
- We need to let Jesus shine through us!

# Enrollment

- 2020-2021 Enrollment - 347 students.
- Preliminary budget projection - 360 students.
- 2021-2022 Enrollment - 337 students.
- Class sizes range from 15-27 students.
- One class of PreK3, Kindergarten and grade 8.  
Two classes of every other grade.
- Decrease in retention - moving (town and state), low kindergarten population, conversion rate from PreK, competition from neighboring schools.
- Nov. 7 Open House attracted 30 new families.

# Demographic Information

- **Catholic** – 80%
- **Non-Catholic/Unaffiliated** – 20%
  
- **Racial Diversity** -
  - Asian- 3%
  - Hispanic-15%
  - African American-12%
  - Non-Hispanic White- 70%

# Staffing

- FT Principal
- PT Assistant Principal (4/5 time)
- Dean of Student Life/8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher
- 2 PT Administrative Assistants
- PT Enrollment and Marketing Director
- Full- time Nurse – provided by the Town of Hamden
- 3 PT PreK aides and 2 PT Kindergarten Aides (one is a volunteer)
- 21 Full-time classroom teachers
- PT Middle School Religion teacher
- PT specials teachers for PE, Library, Music, and Art
- BC/AC program director - PT
- Athletic Director - PT
- Unfunded positions - PT Advancement, Counselor, Remedial



# Faculty & Staff

**PreK** - Mrs. Bess McGrath, Mrs. Sue DeLucia, Mrs. Stephanie Dimesky, Mrs. Megan Marottolo, Mrs. Kim Lewis, and Mrs. Antonietta Testa

**Kindergarten** - Mrs. Theresa McKeon, Mrs. Andrea Affinto, Mr. Richard Lewis

**Grade 1** - Mrs. Nicole Truhart and Mrs. Jenay Alvarez

**Grade 2** - Mrs. Erin Bonini and Mrs. Denise Gertz

**Grade 3** - Miss Erika Salsbury and Ms. Kim DelVecchio

**Grade 4** - Mrs. Jen Testa and Ms. Lori Gill

**Grade 5** - Mrs. Dolores Fortuna and Mrs. Donna Soliwoda

**Middle School Team** - Mr. Matt Banas, Mrs. Marie Rourke, Mrs. Leni Grossomanides, Mrs. Linda Doucette, Mrs. Cindy Brennan, Miss Alessandra Paglia and Mrs. Suzanne Hamling

**Support Staff** - Sr. Anne D'Alessio, Mrs. Angie Barnett, Mr. Michael Halloran, Mrs. Joanne Bruno, Mrs. Lisa Palma, Mrs. Tiffany Palowski, Miss Polina Mann, Mr. Kendall Shanklin, Mrs. Sheila Schreck, Mrs. Betsy Bathrick, Mr. Stephen Schmidt, and Ms. Erin Carmody.

# INITIATIVES FOR 2021-2022

- Health and Safety Initiatives
- Faith Formation
- Curriculum Alignment
- Technology Upgrade/Balance

# Extra-Curricular Activities

- Chorus
- Band
- Drama
- Coding Club
- Lego Club - New
- Robotics
- Student Council
- NJHS
- Italian Club
- Yearbook
- Golf Club - New
- Ski Club - New
- Soccer - including intramural
- Basketball – grades 3-8
- Softball/Baseball
- Lax clinic-New
- Volleyball - New
- Paleo Knowledge Bowl
- K of C Spelling Bee
- Invention Convention
- K of C Christmas Tree Festival
- Christmas pageant/concert
- Broadcasting Club-New

# Programs/Projects

- New Tablets for Grade 1 students
- SuperKids Program expanded to Grade 2
- PreK Spanish Classes reintroduced
- Composting
- Floors replaced in 3 classrooms
- Painted 3 classroom
- Replacement of 2 A/C units
- Outdoor WiFi access point installed
- Stair Tread replacement
- Replacement of Fire Panel
- Replacement of Heating System Control Panel
- LED Lighting Installed
- New Phone System/Intercom Installed
- Installation of the Mary Prayer Garden
- New Signage

# NEASC 2 Year Interim

- NEASC Commission meet on November 8-9 2021
- Interim report was accepted without reservation
- Commission commends “the school’s efforts to remain forward-thinking in the face of the day-to-day challenges presented by the pandemic”
- School is also commended “for providing all students, regardless of their home parish, a safe and welcoming home for learning and deepening their Catholic faith.”
- Several notable achievements include: technology plan, Dean of Student Life, makerspace, new phone system and strategic plan
- 5 year interim report is due in April 2024.

# Archdiocesan Support

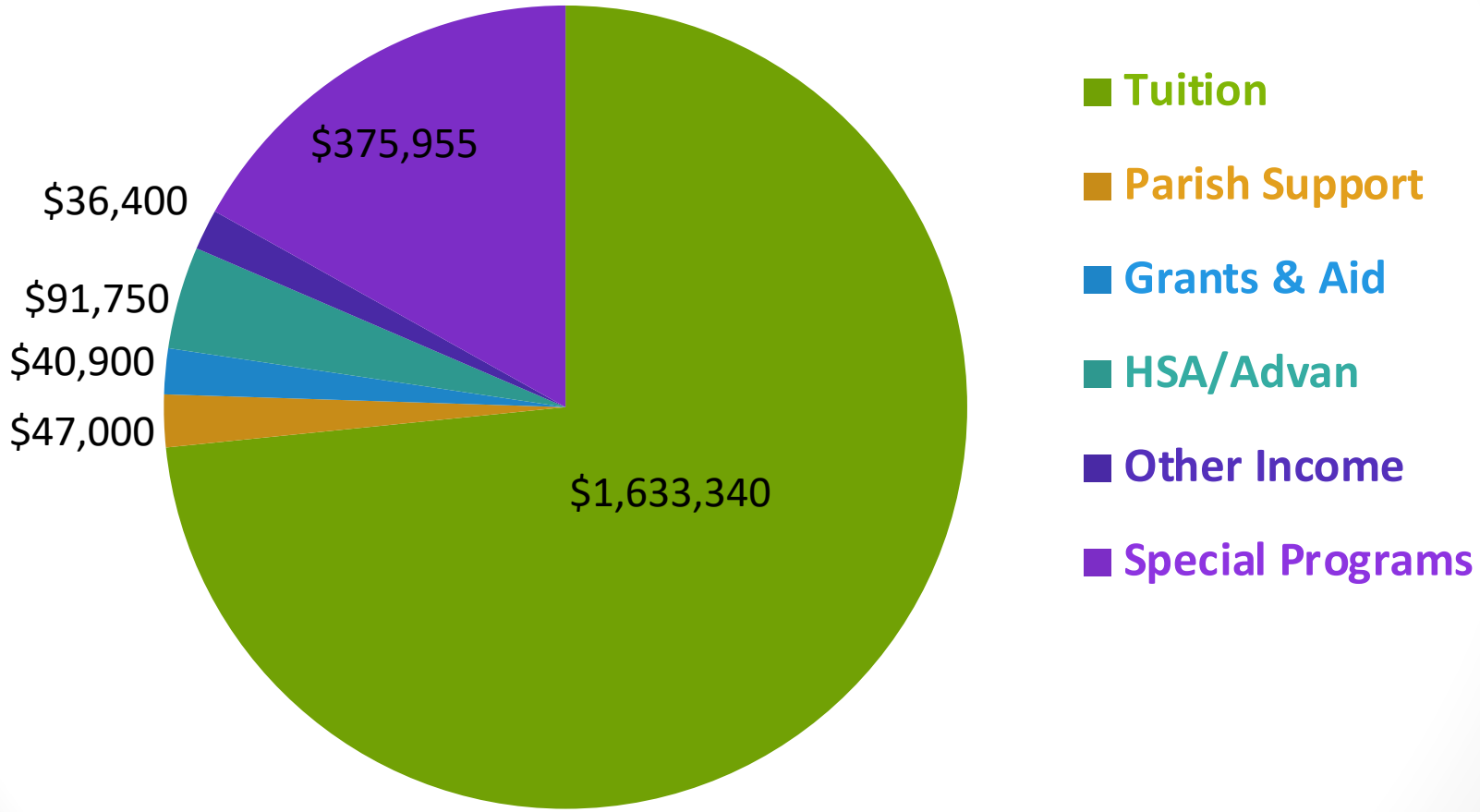
Archdiocese of Hartford Support	Dollar Amount
Archbishop's Annual Appeal	\$20,000
FACS-Foundation for Catholic Schools	\$0
CEO Foundation-2 students	\$4200



# Financials

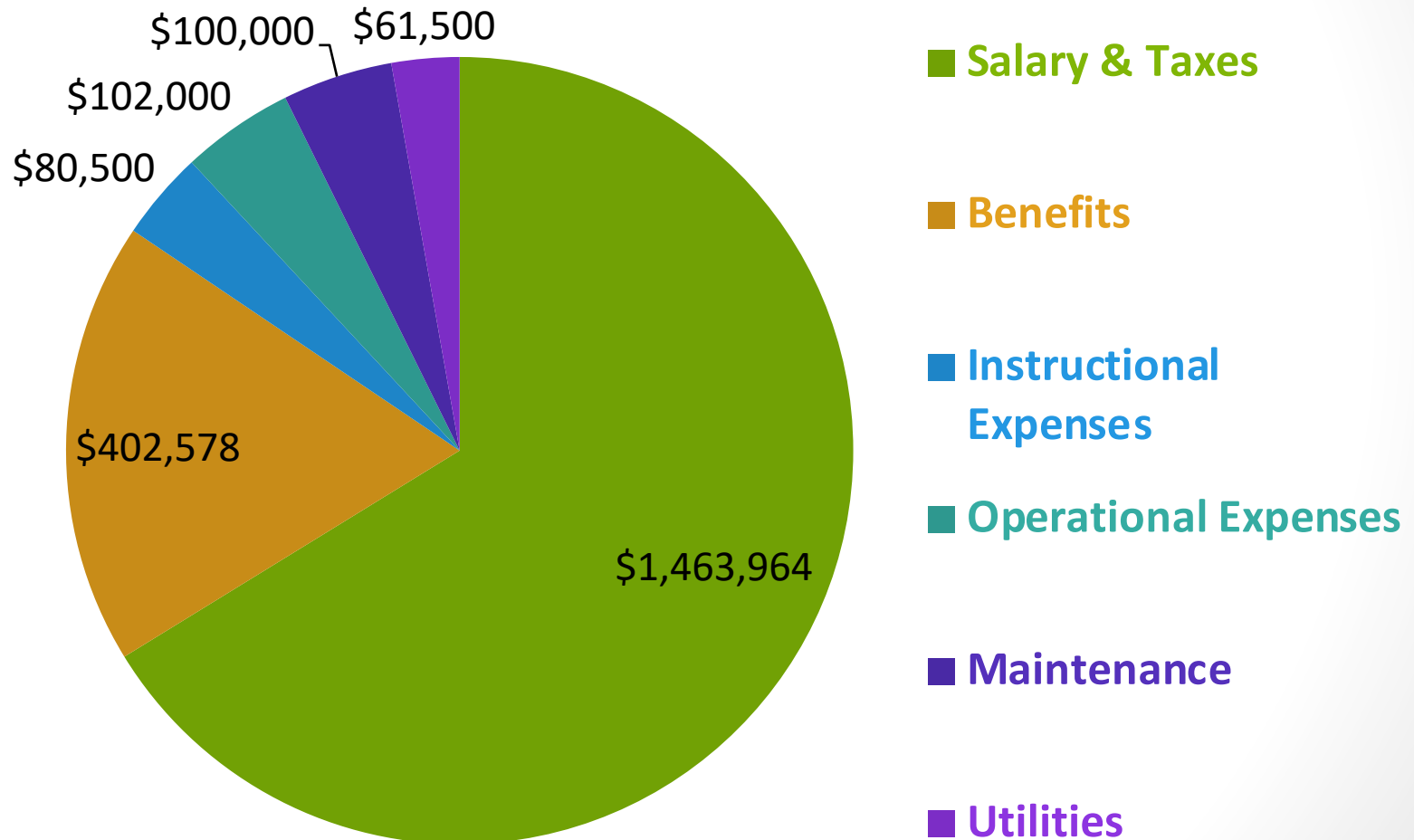
	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-21
Parish Subsidy – last three years	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
Delinquent Tuition	\$10,120	\$2182	\$<1000
Tuition Collection Rate	99%	99%	99%

# Financial Breakdown Income-2021-2022





# Financial Breakdown Expenses 2021-2022



# Projected Capital Needs/Expenses 2021-2025

Need	Estimated Costs
Parking-Repair and repave	\$200K
Security Enhancements	\$75K
Roof Replacement/Solar	\$500K
Bathrooms	\$40K each X 4
Replace Classroom Floors	\$50 K
Replace A/C units-1	\$15-18K each X 15
Install Elevator	\$200K
Gym Renovation	\$100K
Out of Town Busing	\$50K-\$60K per bus
Purchase Adjacent Property	\$200K
Sinks in 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Classrooms	\$3K per X 6

# Budgetary Matters

- Balanced Budget based on current enrollment
- Staff Reduction/Realignment to plug budget gaps
- Fundraising Assessment folded into tuition costs
- Title \$ will be used to hire staff for remedial and counseling , and purchasing updated technology devices

# Goals

- **Catholic Identity** - How does St. Rita School interface with the new parish and Pastor? Build greater participation for our students, faculty, parents at Masses and prayer services.
- **Enrollment/Marketing/Advancement** - Increase marketing efforts to St. Paul VI Parish; increase enrollment by retaining current students and recruiting new students; celebrate the school's 65th birthday.
- **Academic Achievement**-Better utilization of outdoor classroom and makerspace; move students from “technology consumers to technology creators”.

