



## **Executive Summary**

**Saint George Catholic School**

**Diocese of Baton Rouge**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Description of the School.....	2
School's Purpose.....	4
Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement.....	5
Additional Information .....	6

## **Introduction**

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

## **Description of the School**

**Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?**

Founded in 1960, St. George Catholic School, located in South Baton Rouge currently serves 1058 students in grades DK-8. As a parochial school, St. George Catholic School is sponsored by St. George Catholic Church within the Diocese of Baton Rouge. The school and church continuously work together to meet the needs of a growing Catholic community. The original school building was built in 1960 and remains today as "Guardian Angels Hall" housing Kindergarten and first grade. A second building was built in 1966 and is now the home of the second and third graders. As the community and school continued to grow, St. George Church parish added a community center in 1996 and the school added another building to house the Middle School students. The present cafeteria/classrooms located in St. Luke's hall which was once the home of the parish gym were converted in 2004 when the new gym was built and one year later a fourth and fifth grade hall was constructed. At the same time the school administrative building that was built in 1979 was renovated and updated. Lastly in 2010 and 2011, St. George Parish built a new Parish office and the school renovated the old offices into a band room, choir room, offices and a conference room. Today, St. George continues to grow and change with the needs of the parish and community by building a new church that can hold more students and parishioners.

The enrollment and demographics of St. George Catholic School mirror our parish and the area of south Baton Rouge as far as ethnicity and socio-economic status. Enrollment has remained steady with an upturn in the last two years. This is reflective of the growing economy of the surrounding area and increase in population in the area and is supported by the demographic study done by the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

The school employs 55 teachers. 33 teachers are Basic certified and have attained MAT I, 4 teachers are Intermediate certified and have attained Mat II and 28 teachers are continuously working to achieve Basic certification. Additionally, our CRE is working towards earning her theology degree.

St. George Catholic School has been recognized with the following awards and honors in the past three years. In 2014-15 St. George Quiz Bowl 7/8 and 5/6 teams each earned 2nd place in the diocesan meet, special talent placed 2nd at District Day, poster placed 1st at District Day and group talent placed 3rd at District Day. St. George Catholic School has also had a student place 1st in Algebra at the Southeast LA District Rally for three years in a row and 2nd place in 2014 and 2013. The Middle School Team made up of 7th ADV and Algebra students placed 2nd at the Catholic High Math Tournament in 2015 and the 8th grade Math Team placed 1st in 2014. Additionally, St. George Catholic School jazz band has received highest marks at Loyola Jazz Ensemble Festival. The arts department has also broadened its opportunities for students by offering Drama Kids and an annual school musical production. The athletic program recognized the girls CSAL basketball team for a 74 and 1 record over three years and the swim team for three state champs consecutively. St. George students have solved over 2.7 million math problems and over 17,000 hours on IXL while also earning over 115,000 AR points this year.

In the past year St. George Catholic School has purchased 6 I-pad carts and 5 new computer carts in order for every student in every building to have access to technology. Each teacher has been supplied a laptop and the two computer labs were outfitted with new computers. Smartboards were placed in every classroom and the campus was made completely wireless. These upgrades have been funded through fair proceeds and the auction "fund a need". Additionally, the safety and security of the campus was enhanced by the purchase of two way radios, additional fencing, electronic door locks and additional security cameras. The intercom, fire alarm and burglar alarm were all upgraded in order to better serve the students and our growing campus.

Located on a spacious oak-filled campus, St. George Catholic School provides a loving, disciplined and secure environment for the growth of the whole child. St. George Catholic School has evolved and grown to meet the ever-changing needs of its students and families by keeping abreast of educational and technological advances. St. George has 5 classroom buildings, a gymnasium, a music building, an administrative

## Executive Summary

Saint George Catholic School

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building, a cafeteria building and an Activity center, along with the Parish Church and the church office. Within these buildings students from grades DK-8th are educated and provided access to a Library, two computer labs and a science lab.

The St. George school community enjoys the support of the St. George church parish. It is an active and vibrant community with a visible and engaged pastor. The church community supports the school community and has recently held a capital campaign in which 15 million dollar was pledged for a new church and early childhood center. Within the wider community, St. George has partnered with CC's, Smoothie King, Raising Canes, Target, Baton Rouge Sheriff department through the DARE program and Rotolo's restaurant. Large community support through our parish fair and auction is noted by the large number of supporters who donate services, items and food.

However, it is an ongoing challenge to maintain an affordable tuition rate for all families and attract and retain the best teachers. Although we were blessed this year to have an overabundance of Kindergarten applicants having space to serve all parishioners who want to attend school at SGS is a concern and challenge.

In order to address these challenges St. George Catholic School will work to engage the whole community in the auction and the fair in order to raise enough money to Maintain a reasonable tuition rate and provide for those in need. The leadership team will continue to be mindful of the budget in an effort to keep expenses low and reasonable. In order to retain and attract teachers, the leadership team will work on providing a supportive, happy and friendly environment while doing their best to keep salaries and benefits competitive.

## **School's Purpose**

**Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.**

The St. George Catholic School mission statement is as follows: St. George Catholic School is a Christ-centered, family-oriented community, with a history and tradition of excellence. Gospel values are integrated with academics within a progressive curriculum, promoting faith development through liturgy, prayer, and service.

As part of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, St. George Catholic School embraces the vision of "Evangelizing hearts, educating minds, and embracing the future."

St. George Catholic School is Christ centered. It is the largest ministry of our parish. Monthly service projects, weekly mass, and daily religion lessons evangelize the hearts of our students.

Family oriented activities including our parish fair, parish auction, active home and school association, men's club and athletic board engage families in the purpose and mission of St. George Catholic School.

St. George Catholic School has a tradition of excellence. High TerraNova scores and report card grades reflect our commitment to educating minds. 100% of St. George 8th graders are accepted to the high school of their choice and St. George alumni were the Catholic High School valedictorian, St. Joseph Academy co-valedictorian and salutatorian for 2015. Many graduates have become prominent leaders in the Baton Rouge community.

Gospel values are integrated into a progressive curriculum in order for St. George Catholic School to embrace the future. Teachers integrate technology into daily activities through projects and presentations. Students participate in religion fair and science fair. The curriculum is updated and reviewed through online curriculum mapping and teachers stay abreast of new teaching strategies through numerous professional development opportunities.

Additionally St. George Catholic School promotes faith development through liturgy, prayer and service. Each day starts and ends day with prayer together as an entire school community, class mass is held for each grade level in addition to weekly liturgy. St. George Catholic School also offers students the opportunity to participate in reconciliation, stations of cross, living rosary and monthly service projects.

## **Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement**

**Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.**

St. George Catholic School has been recognized with the following awards and honors in the past three years. In 2014-15 St. George Quiz Bowl 7/8 and 5/6 teams each earned 2nd place in the diocesan meet, special talent placed 2nd at District Day, poster placed 1st at District Day and group talent placed 3rd at District Day. St. George Catholic School has also had a student place 1st in Algebra at the Southeast LA District Rally for three years in a row and 2nd place in 2014 and 2013. The Middle School Team made up of 7th ADV and Algebra students placed 2nd at the Catholic High Math Tournament in 2015 and the 8th grade Math Team placed 1st in 2014. Additionally, St. George Catholic School jazz band has received highest marks at Loyola Jazz Ensemble Festival. The arts department has also broadened its opportunities for students by offering Drama Kids and an annual school musical production. The athletic program recognized the girls CSAL basketball team for a 74 and 1 record over three years and the swim team for three state champs consecutively. St. George students have solved over 2.7 million math problems and over 17,000 hours on IXL while also earning over 115,000 AR points this year.

B. St. George Catholic School would like to earn the recognition of a Blue Ribbon school. We would like to achieve this goal by increasing Math standardized test scores across all grade levels, specifically 3rd-5th. We would also like to have all of our Quiz Bowl teams perform at the top level and finish within the top three.

## **Additional Information**

**Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.**

There is no additional information needed.