



2025 ANNUAL REPORT





Jakari Mitchell '14

Account Manager at Bosch

MBA in marketing from Loyola University

1. How did St. Catherine - St. Lucy (SCSL) shape and influence your life?
SCSL was the first place where I truly learned the value of friendship and lifelong connections. The friends and peers I made during my time there remain some of my closest relationships to this day, and I credit that entirely to SCSL. My curiosity about people, my desire to truly get to know those I meet, and my drive to network and build meaningful connections are all traits I developed during my time at SCSL. These qualities have become a core part of who I am—and they continue to guide me as I navigate my professional journey.

2. What teacher had the biggest impact on you and why?

This is a difficult question for me because I had so many amazing teachers during my time at SCSL. To me, the word impact means to make a lasting impression—and the teachers who immediately come to mind as "lasting impact" mentors are both Ms. Leamy and Ms. Young. Although she'd be the first to admit I was a bit of a troublemaker, **Ms. Leamy always saw the leader I had the potential to become.** She recognized my kind heart and my strong desire to see others succeed. She constantly reminded me how important and necessary people like me are in the world. Ms. Young saw my sense of humor, my love for literature, and the unique perspectives I brought to class. **She encouraged me to think outside the box and never silenced my curiosity.** She welcomed my questions—especially "why?"—and supported me when I voiced my opinions on things that mattered to me and those around me.

3. What advice would you give a current SCSL 8th grader that is headed to high school next year?

Give yourself grace, and remember that adjusting to a new environment, new friends, and a new lifestyle is completely normal. It's okay to feel overwhelmed at times. What's most important is knowing that it's perfectly okay—and even encouraged—to ask for help when you need it. We've all been in your shoes, and we're here with the tools, experience, and support to help you succeed.

4. Why did your parents choose to send you to SCSL?

I grew up just 10 minutes down the street from SCSL in the Austin neighborhood. **While there were many schools even closer to home, my parents recognized the value of a private education and the importance of a safe environment.** I love my community, but it hasn't always been the safest place. My parents chose SCSL because, from the moment they walked through the doors, they knew my brothers and I would receive a strong education, form lifelong friendships, and be safe.

5. Are there any personal skills or qualities that you developed at SCSL that you still use in your daily life or at your job?

I first learned the importance of asking questions and seeking clarity when I was at SCSL. It may seem like a simple lesson, but you'd be surprised how many people in the professional world hesitate to ask for clarification out of fear of appearing incompetent. **The truth is, real leaders ask questions—and real leaders would rather you speak up to ensure understanding than stay silent and completely miss the mark.**

Being the first in my family to earn a college degree has taught me that there's no single path to success, and that things won't always go according to plan—which is why it's so important not to feel discouraged when they don't. I'm incredibly proud of how far I've come in my journey, and I'm excited for whatever comes next, wherever that may be.

A Tribute to a Friend



In Memory of our friend
Frances “Fran” Sullivan
1935-2025

Frances Sullivan, one of the kindest and most generous friends of St. Catherine–St. Lucy School, passed away in January of this year.

Principal Sharon Leamy reflected on Fran's remarkable impact:

"Fran was an incredible woman and so very good to us. She made it a point to visit every year, to check in and catch up. Fran loved our school, and we feel her loss deeply."

A sixty-year resident of Oak Park, Fran shared a lifelong passion for peace and social justice with her husband of 49 years, Monroe Sullivan. Her commitment to making the world better was not just spoken—it was lived. Whether mentoring students, attending school events, or giving generously to support our mission, Fran's kindness and compassion left a mark on everyone she met.

She especially cherished her time with students, offering guidance, encouragement, and a listening ear. Many of those she mentored stayed in touch long after graduation—a testament to the depth of her care and belief in their potential.

Generations of students have benefitted from Fran's love for our school, and her spirit continues to echo in our classrooms, our laughter, and our dreams for a brighter future.

"My mom loved tutoring at St Catherine St Lucy School. She was inspired by the students she worked with and so humbled by the gratitude they and their parents showed her. She was proud of the school's high standards and loved the school spirit that she felt whenever she visited."

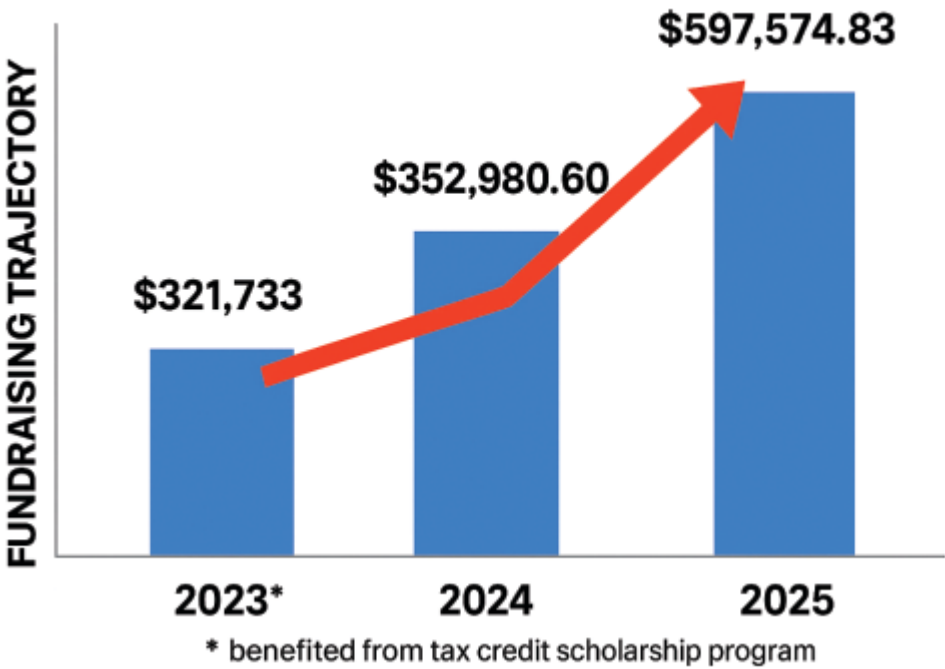
While we deeply miss Fran, her legacy calls us to action. Just as she invested her time, her heart, and her resources in the children of St. Catherine–St. Lucy, we invite others to do the same. By supporting our mission—through mentorship, service, or giving—you help ensure that Fran's spirit of generosity lives on in every student who walks through our doors.

Let us continue the work Fran began, carrying forward her unwavering belief in the power of faith, education, and love to transform lives. e was inspired by the students she worked with and so humbled by the gratitude they and their parents

Fundraising Growth

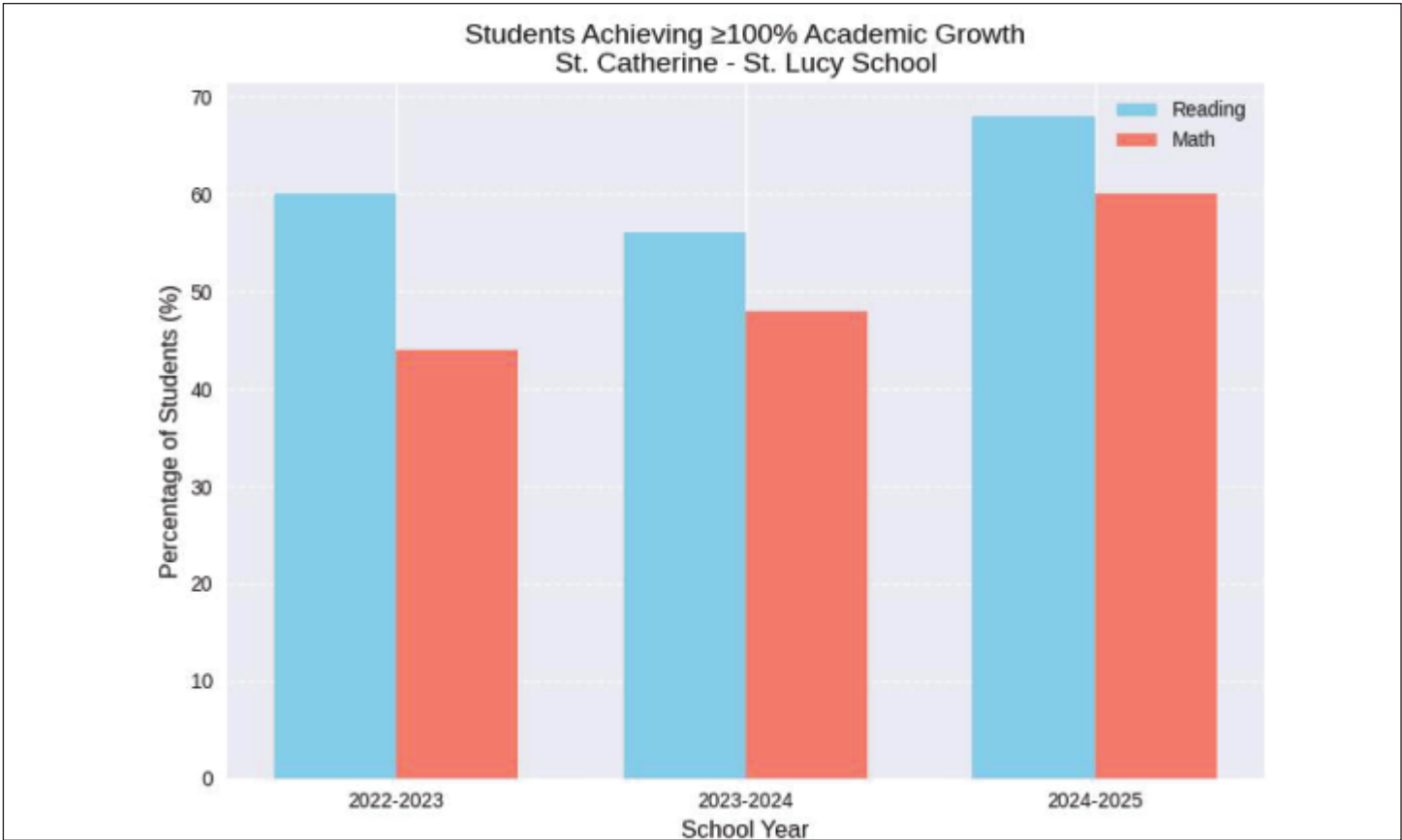
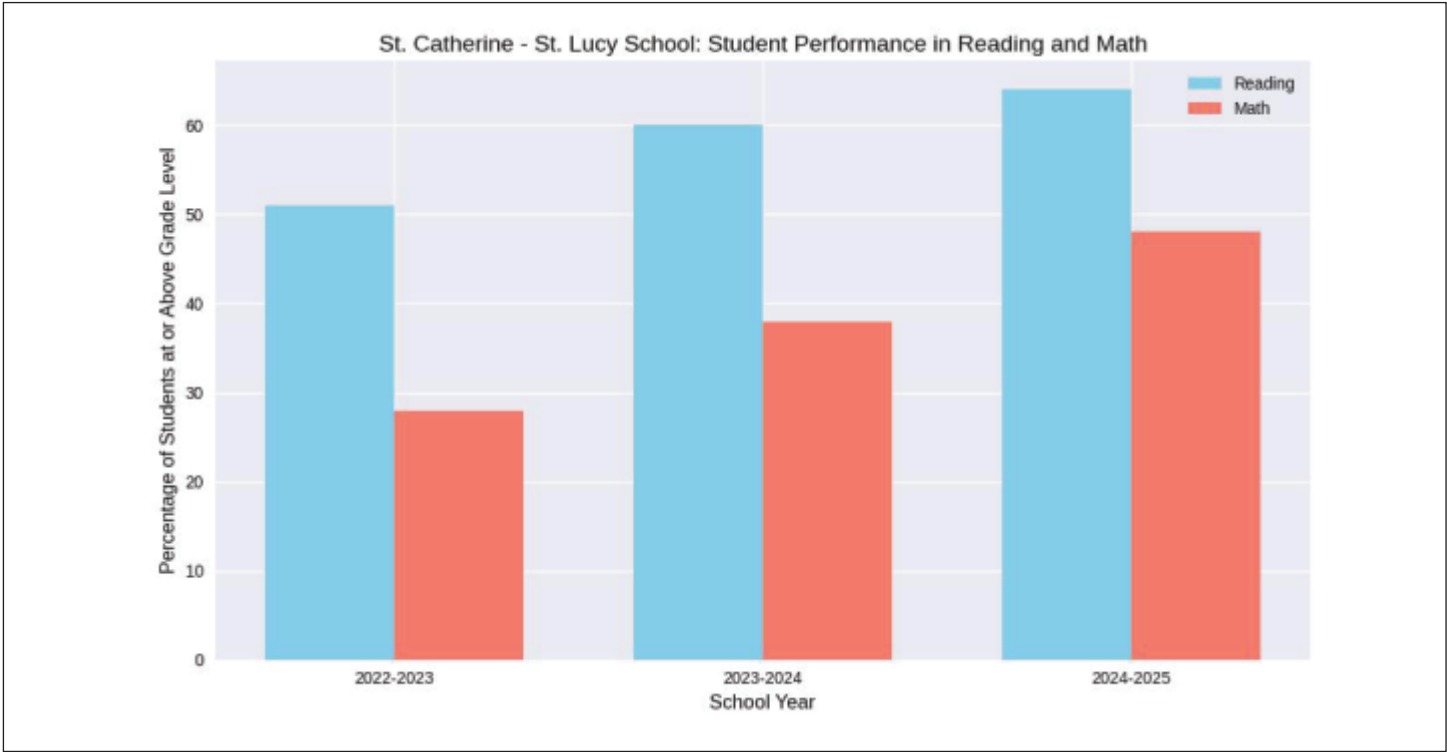
Over the past year, St. Catherine–St. Lucy School has made tremendous progress in fundraising under the leadership of our first school president, Staunton Peck, whose focus on building meaningful relationships with alumni, donors, and volunteers has strengthened our community and advanced our mission. This momentum is creating a foundation for lasting financial stability and greater opportunity for our students.

Yet, there is still important work ahead — with nearly a \$400,000 budget gap to close before the 2028–29 fiscal year to ensure every student receives the support they need and deserve.



Academic Growth

Over the past few years, we’ve seen steady growth in math and reading—even as national scores in these subjects decline. This remarkable progress reflects not only Principal Sharon Leamy’s leadership and our faculty’s dedication, but also the investments and support from our community that make learning possible every day. **Donor partnerships help ensure that every student in our classrooms has the resources, guidance, and opportunities to succeed.**



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