



LAKE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL FUND

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23







## ABOUT US

Formed in 1971, the nonprofit Lake Michigan Catholic School Fund has generated direct financial support for Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School and its predecessors, complementing parish subsidies and school fundraising activities.

Independent from the diocese, parishes and schools, the Fund is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

## I PURPOSE

We exist for the sole purpose of aiding in the support of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School.

Believing that the greatest wealth of our nation consists of our youth through whom we pass on our social and cultural heritage, and believing in the importance of private schools as adjuncts to the public school system and in particular, schools with a religious orientation and atmosphere in which religion will be taught, it is the purpose of this corporation to aid in the support of Catholic schools in the Twin City area.

To date, the Fund has contributed over

**\$7.6 million**

toward the advancement of Catholic education in Southwest Michigan.



# LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present the 2022-2023 annual report for the Lake Michigan Catholic School Fund!

Since 1971, the Fund has existed to ensure that a high quality, affordable Catholic education remains available to Southwest Michigan families for generations to come. This report provides a first-hand look at your contributions in action as we recognize and celebrate those who have played an integral role in our school's success and development.

As you know, the Fund manages 22 endowment funds, each earmarked for its own special purpose. Each year, we use proceeds from the endowments to award grants that advance Catholic school education right here in our community.

And, with a faithful spirit, the Fund has made a historic commitment to Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School by pledging up to one million dollars to increase enrollment by sponsoring each new family and their students for the first year. It is our belief that Our Lady's school is second to none and should be available to all who are interested in being a part of our Laker Community.

The 2022-23 school year was extraordinary as Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School continued to build upon the 7 pillars of success outlined by our Pastor, Fr. John D. Fleckenstein. Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School's strength and continued success echo the ongoing commitment, generosity and faith of our supporters. Please continue to pray for our school and its commitment to building upon the pillars of governance, Catholic culture, academics, enrollment management, finances, development, and infrastructure.

It is with deep gratitude that we thank you – our faithful community, alumni, parents, grandparents and other friends who continue to support our mission.

On behalf of the Fund, our administration, teachers, staff, and the families we serve, thank you – you are changing lives.

Mary, Our Lady of the Lake, Pray for Us.



**John Proos**  
President

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# WHY WE GIVE

## A LEGACY OF FAITH & EDUCATION: THE MCLOUGHLIN FAMILY

Kevin and Megan McLoughlin are devoted parents at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic and have deep roots in the school's history and a commitment to its values. Their family ties to our school, coupled with their personal experiences, have made Our Lady of the Lake a cherished part of their lives.

Kevin and Megan are parents to five Lakers: Owen, a senior, Eli in 9th grade, Vivien in 6th grade, and Oscar and Charlie, both in 3rd grade. Their connection to the school, however, runs much deeper. Both Kevin and Megan are alumni of Lake Michigan Catholic. Kevin graduated in 1991, followed by two of his siblings in '93 and '95, while Megan (Fraser) graduated in 1993 and her siblings graduated in '82, '85, '88, and '95. Their family legacy is a testament to their Laker pride.

Kevin and Megan's choice to send their children to Our Lady of the Lake is rooted in the experiences they had as students. OLL has a reputation for academic excellence shown by the success and strong moral character of

its graduates. "We believe an educational experience that puts Christ in the forefront is most beneficial to our children as teachers are able to foster spiritual growth as well as help develop sound, educated citizens," explains Mrs. McLoughlin.

They recognize that Catholic education values a balance between spiritual and educational growth. "The Lakers are disciplined. We are socially responsible and active in making our community stronger," note the McLoughlins. "The small class sizes make for an individually curtailed learning experience. Teachers know their students and care deeply about their success."

For the McLoughlins, Our Lady of the Lake is more than just a school – it's a cherished family. It's a place where meaningful relationships are forged between students, teachers and families. Family values are at the forefront of the school's culture. The importance of this family dynamic was evident during a recent personal tragedy. "The outpouring of love and support from our school community was tremendous," Mrs. McLoughlin shares. "From impromptu prayer services, notes, cards, kind gestures, small gifts, compassionate words – we felt lifted up in prayer. Knowing that others shared our grief made a horrific time more bearable."

Kevin and Megan lead by example in supporting their school. Their contributions extend beyond financial support – they generously offer their time and talents to help OLL excel. Kevin serves on the OLL Advisory Board and Megan plays a vital role on the Dr. John Proos Laker Athletic Golf Classic committee, which raised \$67,500 for Laker athletics this year. They both can be found helping in the classroom, assisting with after school activities and coaching sports teams. Their dedication ensures that OLL remains a haven for students to grow academically, spiritually, and as responsible faith-filled citizens.



**"As parents we want our children to leave Our Lady as responsible, faith-filled citizens who are ready to accept the challenge of making a positive difference in their communities."**

**- Kevin and Megan McLoughlin**





## 2023 DR. JOHN PROOS LAKER ATHLETIC GOLF CLASSIC RAISES RECORD AMOUNT



## Dr. John Proos Laker Athletic Golf Classic

The 31st Annual Dr. John Proos Laker Athletic Golf Classic occurred on Friday, August 18th, at Harbor Shores Golf Club. Thirty-three teams (132 golfers) teed off in support of our student-athletes (elementary through varsity). Teams enjoyed a delicious, boxed lunch sponsored by Bread+Bar, competed in on-course games sponsored by K & M Machine Fabricating, Freedom Boat Club, and LeValley Chevrolet Buick and GMC, and wrapped up with a cocktail hour at the 19th Hole hosted by The PGA of America. The golfers all received new Our Lady of the Lake umbrellas courtesy of Jungle Jane Promotions and custom bag tags made by Irish Woodworks. **The Golf Classic raised OVER \$67,500 for all Laker Athletics and gym improvements, including a new floor, lighting, and soon-to-have new bleachers!**

This year, the school received a matching grant of \$75,000 from an anonymous donor to add to the total for gym upgrades.

Thank you to all of the participants, sponsors, and donors who helped to make it possible for our Laker athletes to play sports free of fees. Thank you to all our athletes, coaches, staff members, alumni, and families who volunteered on the event day, helping to run registration, greet guests, the putting contest, monitor the Hole In One Contest, and more! And lastly, thank you to the dedicated planning committee for a fantastic event.











# 2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS

The 2022-23 school year was special as we celebrated our first graduating class of Our Lady of the Lake.

As a private school, Our Lady of the Lake enjoys certain curricular freedoms that allow us to educate students within the framework of our Catholic culture. By making decisions locally, we can provide students with what they truly need to succeed.

Our Lady of the Lake is fully accredited by the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools (MANS) and in compliance with all state rules and regulations.

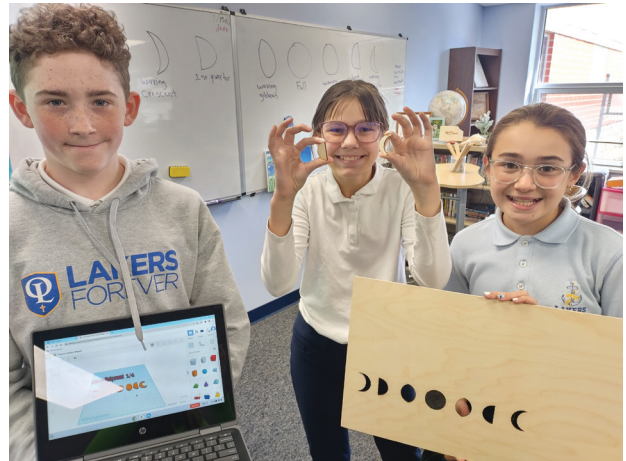


# EDUCATION

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School provides a traditional Catholic education in a culture of academic excellence. Our teachers are among the finest in the area, skilled at bringing out the best in their students and modeling Catholic culture in their classrooms. And, because of your generosity, we are able to offer robust programming, opportunities and experiences that you just can't find elsewhere.

## MAKERSPACE

The OLL Makerspace will be utilized by all students in the building, Preschool - 5th grade. Students in grades K - 5 will have Makerspace as a content class beginning next school year. Mrs. Lindsey Goshgarian, who has participated in numerous professional development opportunities and training, will be the Maker Master and teach the weekly class. Equipment will include a Glowforge Laser Cutter/Engraver, 3D printers, circuits and bots, a Lego station, software, engineering and electrical packs, and many, many hands-on tools and maker materials, all of which is housed full-time at OLL.



Research shows that hands-on learning is the BEST way to learn and gain new skills, and we believe that the best place to do that is in a Makerspace. Makerspaces matter because they: provide students with hands-on experiences, solve real-world problems, reinforce core academic content, teach technical skills through experience, give students ownership over their own learning, and encourage collaboration and problem-solving."

Thanks to the generous contributions of the LMCSF and the Liotine Family, the school was able to purchase new state-of-the-art Chromebooks. These devices have replaced older models in our middle and high school classrooms, providing students with the latest tools for conducting reliable research and using essential applications. With these new additions, we can now ensure that the knowledge gained by students in elementary school is consistently built upon throughout their academic career. These Chromebooks are a valuable addition to our existing technologies such as SMART Boards, projectors, and audio-visual equipment, making it easier for students to learn and teachers to teach.



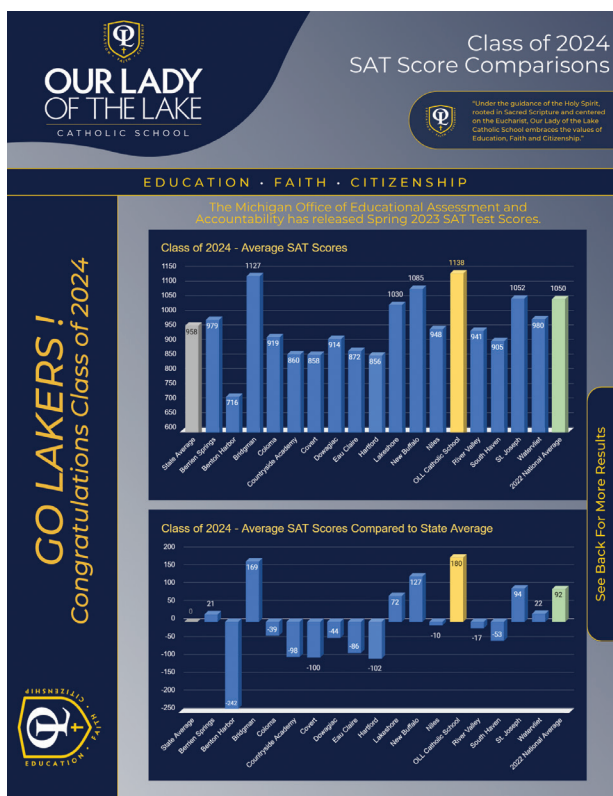
**"Education is the means by which we build a more just and compassionate society for all."**

- Pope Francis





## SAT SCORES



The AP® School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School had 70.5% of high school students in grades 10-12 enroll in an AP class and take the AP exam. 69.2% of the 2023 test takers scored a three or higher on at least one AP exam. The OLL AP pass rate (students scoring a 3 or higher) has increased by over 30% since 2019. OLL had 12 AP Scholars for this year's AP administration!

## 2023 AP OFFERINGS

- English Language and Composition
- English Literature and Composition
- European History
- Physics 1
- Psychology
- Spanish Language
- US History
- 2-D Art



## PREPARING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

"Affording our teachers the support and development that is needed to bring out the very best in our AP students is critical to the success of the program. Teachers attend summer training, networking events, online classes and work regularly with colleagues via the AP College Board platform. It is evident our students are being taught by the very best in their secondary fields. We are extremely proud of our students' accomplishments," commented Principal James White, M.Ed.

"AP represents an opportunity for students to stand out to colleges, earn college credit and placement, and potentially boost their grade point averages," said Trevor Packer, head of the AP program. "The schools have shown that they can expand access to these college-level courses and still drive high performance - they represent the best of our AP program."



Your generosity allowed the LMCSF to award \$16,000 in college scholarships to our Laker class of 2023.

# FAITH



**“Education without faith is like a ship without a compass; it may reach its destination, but it lacks the guidance and purpose that faith provides.”**

**- Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Seniors spent an hour of SILENCE before the Blessed Sacrament – praying for the fortitude to open their hearts and let God guide their Senior Year during their retreat.

For Our Lady of the Lake students, catechesis and faith formation are important parts of the education journey.

Christ should be the ultimate goal for students and staff, and to ensure that this remains the primary focus, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School continues to cultivate a robust retreat program.

The program begins in sixth grade with a class trip to Camp Friedenswald and culminates in the Senior SPRITZ Retreat during the first week of Senior year. Each subsequent retreat builds upon the lessons learned from the prior year, with

an emphasis on fostering a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through growing in an intentional community with one another.

This is achieved through activities such as small group discussions, receiving the Sacraments, praying in Adoration with Benediction, games, and service. As a Catholic School, we have the responsibility of evangelizing the faith to our students and the local community. Our primary objective is to help students and staff grow in authentic holiness that will sustain them throughout life and impact those they encounter. Therefore, continuing to enhance the retreat program at OLL is one of the best ways to achieve this goal.



Class of 2024 at this year's SPRITZ retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, MI where they engaged in team building, adoration, benediction and Mass.



# CITIZENSHIP



Citizenship is an integral part of the school day, instilling values, character and faith within the framework of our Catholic culture.

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School students aren't just great learners; they are also dedicated to making a difference in the world. Our students embarked on various service projects, each one leaving a lasting impact on both their lives and the lives of others.

Every summer, a group of dedicated students embarked on a mission trip to Batey 106 in the Dominican Republic. They constructed houses for the underprivileged and helped in educational efforts, making a profound difference in the lives of the local families. This experience instilled in them a global perspective, reminding them of the importance of generosity and compassion on a global scale.

Another project close to their hearts was visiting the Whitcomb Tower, a local retirement home. The residents at Whitcomb eagerly awaited the students' visits, where they played games, shared stories, and brightened the seniors' days. For the young volunteers, these encounters taught them the priceless gift of time, companionship, and the wisdom that comes with age.

During the holiday season, students participate in the 'Cookies for First Responders' tradition. Students, teachers, and parents gathered to bake and decorate an abundance of Christmas cookies. After finishing their creations, they

embarked on a joyous journey to the Police and Fire Station. With plates of cookies in hand, they spread holiday cheer, expressing their gratitude for the tireless work the first responders did throughout the year.

In addition to these significant projects, Our Lady of the Lake students also engaged in various local initiatives. Roadside cleanups, St. Joseph Today events, and a host of other activities connected them with their community. They adopted families from the Readiness Center for Christmas, organized book drives, and hosted Easter egg hunts for the children. Each project was an opportunity for the students to learn and grow, teaching them the values of kindness and community engagement.

Students also volunteered at events like the Steelhead Triathlon, and the Fit4Fall 5k, the Leco Race. The proceeds from these races often went to support charitable organizations like Berrien Cancer Services.

The students of Our Lady of the Lake School weren't just students; they were compassionate, active members of their community. They understood the profound impact that service could have on the lives of others and themselves. Their service hours were more than just numbers; they represented their dedication to making the world a better place, one project at a time.

# 2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

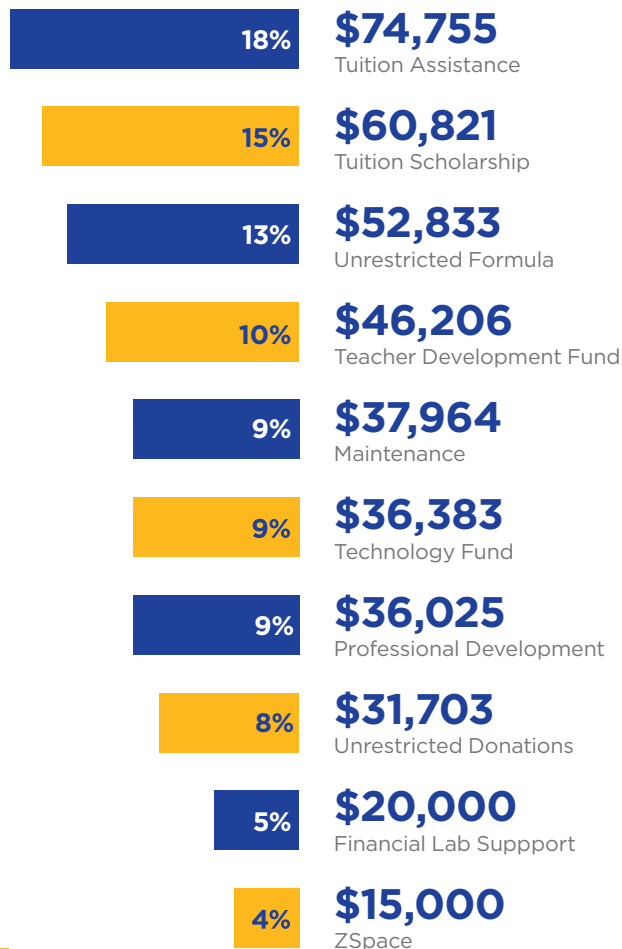
(DISTRIBUTED IN QUARTERS)

## Total 2022 Grant Awards & Contributions

# \$585,555

### Total 2022 Grant Awards

## \$412,190



### Additional 2022 Contributions

## \$173,365

(in addition to grant awards)







## MAKING QUALITY CATHOLIC EDUCATION ACHIEVABLE

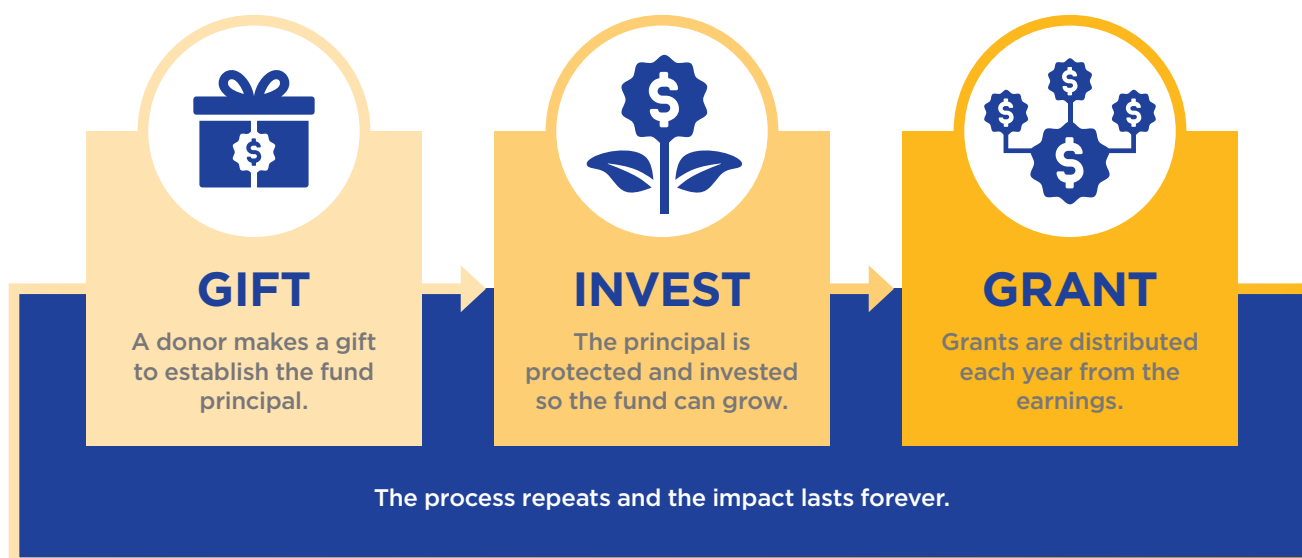
The LMCSF was proud to help make an Our Lady of the Lake Catholic education achievable for **20** families in 2022-23 by awarding **\$135,576** in tuition scholarships and assistance made possible by the investment proceeds of the following endowments:

- **Dr. John Proos Tuition Scholarship**
- **Jack and Rita Kinney Grant toward Tuition Assistance**
- **Kasmer-DeFay LMC Tuition Scholarship**
- **MC DaDan McEvoy Tuition Scholarship**
- **Monsignor Sears Tuition Assistance Fund**

“It is with deep gratitude that we thank you – our faithful community, alumni, parents, grandparents and other friends who continue to support Catholic education. We appreciate every contribution and employ every dollar to make high-quality Catholic education even more accessible.”

- John Proos  
President

## HOW THE ENDOWMENT FUND WORKS



# 2022-23 DONORS

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**“Yesterday  
is gone.  
Tomorrow  
has not yet  
come.  
We have  
only today.  
Let us  
begin.”**

**– Sister Teresa**

**OUR LADY OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



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