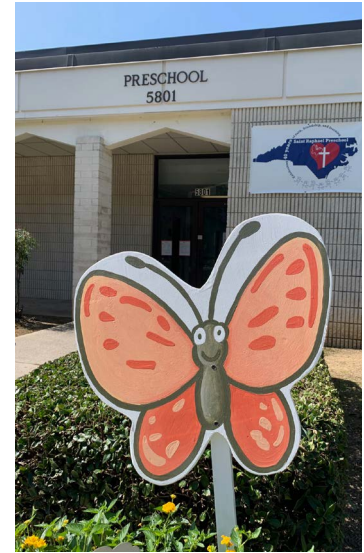
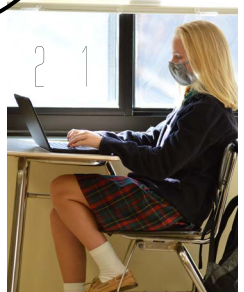


SAINT RAPHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL



Annual Report

2020 - 2021



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL & DIRECTOR



The 2020-21 school year will forever be remembered with COVID-19 at the center. Across our community, state, nation, and world, we saw the COVID-19 pandemic impact many. While that impact was great, I am proud of the Saint Raphael School Community's response. When necessary, our faculty, staff, parents, and students shifted and adapted, but COVID-19 did not define our year. Rather, our year was defined by a commitment by all to ensure that we carried out our mission.

The 2020-21 school year required an "all-hands-on-deck" mentality. Parents respected the COVID-19 protocols and participated in virtual events. Students learned both in-person and remotely, and they didn't skip a beat. Faculty and staff worked tirelessly to make sure that our students' spiritual, academic, physical, and emotional needs were nurtured. Our community kept Christ at the center. Because of the creative adaptability of school and parish staff and parent volunteers, students continued to celebrate Mass weekly. We celebrated Advent with a drive-thru parade. Our 8th grade students continued an important part of their SRCS legacy by hosting beautiful productions of the Stations of the Cross. Our traditions did not rest, but instead thrived in new ways.

A major reason for all of this fruit is the generosity of our community through the Ignatius Fund. Due in large part to the trust and commitment of parents, grandparents, and alumni, we surpassed our goal. The monies raised allowed for remote learning to happen. They allowed us to purchase essential supplies for COVID-19 mitigation and management. They provided us with the ability to make sure that all of our students, even those learning remotely, had access to high-quality learning materials. The successes of this year were because of our community. Thank you!

I invite you to join me in celebrating the successes of the 2020-21 school year. While we felt the impact of COVID-19, we moved forward. We planned with our mission first, and then adjusted for COVID-19. I am grateful for the trust and support of all of our community members.

Joseph Whitmore, M.Ed.
Saint Raphael Catholic School
Principal



Welcome to another year of faith, friendship, and learning! We are so excited to hear the joyful noise of students in our classrooms again.

With the immense support of families, we completed a healthy and successful 2020-21 school year at Saint Raphael Preschool. This was only possible because of financial donations to The Ignatius Fund. Those funds covered the increased expenses for additional facility cleaning and supplies needed to create a healthy school environment.

In past years, your donations to The Ignatius Fund financed program enhancements, such as cultural arts assemblies, STEM resources for classrooms, and facility upgrades like new paint and flooring. We hope to return to using IF funds for these enhancements in coming years, but for now our top priority continues to be protecting the health of our students and staff so they may learn and teach everyday.

Your generosity is vital to the continuation of our program. In these uncertain times, your financial support is especially needed. On behalf of the staff and students of Saint Raphael Preschool, thank you for investing in our future!

Many blessings,

Molly DeAngelo
Saint Raphael Preschool
Director

THANK YOU,

Ignatius Fund Donors!

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Anonymous
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*DISCLAIMER: Saint Raphael Catholic School's
Preschool make every effort to ensure the accuracy of
our gift records. If there is any discrepancy between our
records and yours, please contact Mary Morgan at
mmorgan@saintraphael.org or 919.865.5754.*

DAY *of* GIVING

DECEMBER 1, 2020

What a *day* in a pandemic *year*!

In a year that was marked with loss, severe change, unusual daily living, and forces beyond our control, Saint Raphael Catholic School was supported by the kindness and generosity of families, friends, faculty, and staff who believe in our mission.

As an established, social-media-driven, one-day event to raise funds for daily operations at SRCS, we were competing against myriad non-profits locally, nationally, and internationally. While we weighed the pros and cons of participating in this one-day promotion, we realized that we had to push forward because our mission, our students, and our teachers were in need of this support. There was no other option.

The International Day of Giving is traditionally on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving every year. The date may change, but never the day, the determination, nor the desire to garner funds for our Guardian family.

Our goal for 2020's day of giving was \$15,000. This came on the heels of raising \$10,000 in 10 days, the second

annual call-to-action to match funds from a generous, anonymous donor. Questions were being asked: Could we do it? Is it possible? What if we don't reach our goal? How do we motivate audiences and stakeholders? Can we do enough promotion? What are the right kinds of promotion for a one-day event to raise that much money?

We started with a simple yes. Yes, we can do it. Yes, it's possible.

Communication is key. Motivation is a must. Knowing what our desired end result was set the plan in place, and donors responded in-kind.

\$16,310 RAISED

What a difference a day can make!

SAINT RAPHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL
DAY OF GIVING: Tuesday, December 1
GO make a difference at
www.saintraphaelschool.org/donate/



VIRTUAL GIG



F E B R U A R Y 6 , 2 0 2 1

Just when we thought tradition was a constant, COVID threw us a curveball. How were we to host the biggest social event of the year AND be socially-distant? How could we raise funds and have fun without the in-person vibe and energy?

How were we going to reinvent the gala as we knew it?

Call in creativity, technology, care, enthusiasm, and charisma of countless Saint Raphael community members to bring together the business of raising funds and having fun at the same time.

Setting the tone for the gala meant changing the name; it was not a gala...it was a gig! The School of Rock Virtual Gig was born out of necessity to permeate the collective audience psyche, and to be a constant reminder that this was nothing like anything we've done before in the history of SRCS fundraising; we were going virtual and transforming the in-person model.

Virtual fundraising and classroom cohorting meant that our beloved teacher experiences had to be nixed from the bottom line. Our silent auction offerings had to be tailored to meet social-distancing requirements, and still be attractive to bidders. Local businesses were struggling with their own bud-

gets and many declined opportunities to sponsor. Entertaining attendees from afar meant it was all about the music which was perfect with the School of Rock theme. Everyone could relate to classic rock anthems which lifted spirits where we found common ground. Music was our common language, and Dan Burich, our auctioneer extraordinaire featured his rock band knowledge, history of SRCS, and moxie to drive donations.

The Fund-A-Need, to help recover expenses due to extensive COVID protocols, was a given. SRCS had a big need, the need to keep the doors open for our students; and, therefore, using the proceeds from the fund-a-need benefitted every Guardian.

Since March 2020, we've all had to navigate obstacles and create new paths to get to the finish line. Our team, no matter what circles of friends and families overlap, made the first-ever virtual gig a success!

SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS NET TOTAL: \$15,030.16
FUND-A-NEED TOTAL: \$8,715.00

Saint Raphael Catholic School pivoted (we heard that word used consistently in response to the pandemic!) when it came to engaging audiences for a springtime fundraiser. Not only did we have to cancel the Ryan O'Connell Memorial Golf Tournament in 2020, we still needed to replace the event with a new, updated, socially-distant event that reached a worldwide audience.

In this world of distancing socially, we tapped social media resources to communicate and connect with audiences. Peer-to-peer fundraising became the go-to method of telling our story, creating a user-friendly experience, and involving our families to reach far and wide into their network of potential donors.

With a sprint we think of physically running; the Superhero Sprint was a race in terms of who could finish with the most funds raised before the deadline.

Families and individuals got in the superhero spirit and created teams reflecting the mighty powers of some of their favorite comic book characters -- Superman, Captain America, Wonder Woman, to name a few! The Fantastic Six, The Incredible Lavelles, and the McNeill Defenders were some cleverly-named teams from our own SRCS families.

Teams learned the ropes of this new online fundraising format and were "off and running" in no time. Donations came in from around the country, from friends, family, colleagues, and acquaintances who loved our story, our mission, and who wanted to help.



A P R I L 1 6 - M A Y 2 , 2 0 2 1

These donors are our superheroes. They answered the call when our Guardians needed them to cover rising costs of operating expenses incurred by the response of COVID-19.



\$12,000 RAISED

The COLIN JEREMIAH Memorial Fund

MAY 2021

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart." Jeremiah 1:5

In September 2020, Mr. Whitmore and his wife, Whitney, found out they were pregnant with their third child, Colin Jeremiah Whitmore. Their two other sons, Liam (4) and Emmett (3), were very excited to hear the news!

At the 12 week ultrasound, some red flags were noted that were signs of genetic disorders. After a referral to maternal & fetal medicine and several genetic tests, doctors were still puzzled as to what could be the cause of the multitude of anomalies they were seeing. The Whitmores were referred to participate in a human genome study through the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where their son Colin's genes were mapped in their entirety. It was discovered through this process that Colin had a life-limiting, novel diagnosis.

Through the process, the Whitmores were grateful for the palliative pregnancy team so that they could spend as much time with him as possible until his natural death. Many special moments were created as a family of five.

"We felt we were given the honor to, through God's grace, create and carry a little soul worthy of sainthood. We believe that, although he wasn't created to be compatible with life on Earth, we had 7 months with a piece of heaven. Colin's story continues to touch many lives and it fills us with pride as his parents. He has allowed us to grow so much in our faith and has strengthened our hope for heaven. We embraced our time with him here. We know that he

is always with us in Spirit and that we will one day be reunited with him in heaven." - Joe and Whitney Whitmore



Thanks to the medical and scientific advantages available to them, the Whitmores are grateful for the time they had to spend with Colin. Colin Jeremiah passed away in utero at 33 weeks. Shortly after, the Whitmores decided to create a memorial fund to support the growth of STEM programs at Saint Raphael Catholic School. The Whitmores wish to promote students' advancements in science, math, and technology as they are our future scientists and the generation that will continue to promote the pro-life initiative, religious formation, and scientific endeavors of the future.

AMOUNT RAISED FOR STEAM INITIATIVES:

\$6,180



The IGNATIUS FUND

B Y T H E N U M B E R S

2020 - 2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Largest single donation: \$10,000

GOAL: \$60,000

number of grandparent donors: **47**

Smallest single donation: \$5

Number of match challenges: 2

Number of donations: **269**
up 5% from last year

Number of alumni family donations: 5

Number of donations from \$5-\$100: 180

Number of donations from \$101-\$500: 65

Number of donations from \$501-\$1000: 11
{Number of \$1000 donations: 10}

Number of donations from \$1001-\$5000: 7

Number of donations from \$5001-\$10,000: 3

Number of anonymous donors: 3

Number of families
who pledged monthly
donations: **5**

TOTAL DONATIONS RAISED:
\$85,063

up 5% from last year

CORRECTION: Largest one-time donation in the history of the Ignatius Fund: \$16,073