



---

# Shelby County Catholic School

## Annual Report

2024 - 2025

Shelby County Catholic School; 2005 College Place; Harlan, IA 51537

[www.shelbycountycatholic.org](http://www.shelbycountycatholic.org)

---



### **Mission Statement**

At Shelby County Catholic Schools, we are a small school with a big heart, dedicated to nurturing the mind, body, and spirit of every child. Rooted in Catholic faith and guided by Gospel values, we partner with families to provide a safe, loving, and academically excellent environment where each student is known, valued, and inspired to become a faithful servant, a lifelong learner, and a compassionate leader in the world.



---

Dear Friends and Families of Shelby County Catholic School,

As we reflect on this past year, I want to take a moment to share my gratitude and offer an update on the state of Shelby County Catholic School.

We remain, at our core, a **small school with a big heart**—a place where students are known by name, families are valued as partners, and Christ is truly at the center of all we do. This year, we have been affirmed time and again for our strong Catholic identity, the kindness and character of our students, and the academic foundation we provide. These affirmations speak not only to our school, but to the collective commitment of our families, staff, and students.

Academically, we continue to strengthen our instructional practices by grounding our work in research-based approaches while remaining firmly rooted in our faith. Our focus on literacy, professional growth, and curriculum alignment reflects our belief that faith and excellence go hand in hand. We are proud of the progress our students are making and remain committed to continuous improvement that benefits every learner.

Just as important as academics is the culture we nurture each day. Our goal is to create a community that reflects Christ—through respect, compassion, accountability, and care for one another. The way our students treat each other, the way our staff collaborates, and the way we partner with families all speak to the strength of this culture.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated faculty and staff, who give generously of their time, talents, and hearts. They do far more than teach—they form, guide, encourage, and model what it means to live a life rooted in faith and service. We are deeply grateful for their commitment.

As we look ahead, we do so with hope and purpose. We will continue to build on our strengths, thoughtfully address areas for growth, and remain faithful to our mission of forming students academically, spiritually, and socially. The future of Shelby County Catholic School is bright because it is built on a strong foundation of faith, partnership, and shared commitment.

Thank you for trusting us with your children, for supporting our mission, and for being an essential part of this community. It is an honor to serve alongside you.

May God continue to bless our school and each of your families.

With gratitude,  
**Steven Sauvain**  
Shelby County Catholic School

---

# Our History

---



St. Boniface, Westphalia  
1884 - 1978



St. Joseph, Earling  
1886 - 2004



St. Michael, Harlan  
1954 - 2004

Shelby County Catholic  
School – serving all six  
parishes in Shelby County  
2004 - Present



St. Mary, Portsmouth  
1894 - 1978



St. Paul, Defiance  
1913 - 1978



St. Mary, Panama  
1911- 2004

Now *faith* is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.  
*Hebrews 11:1*

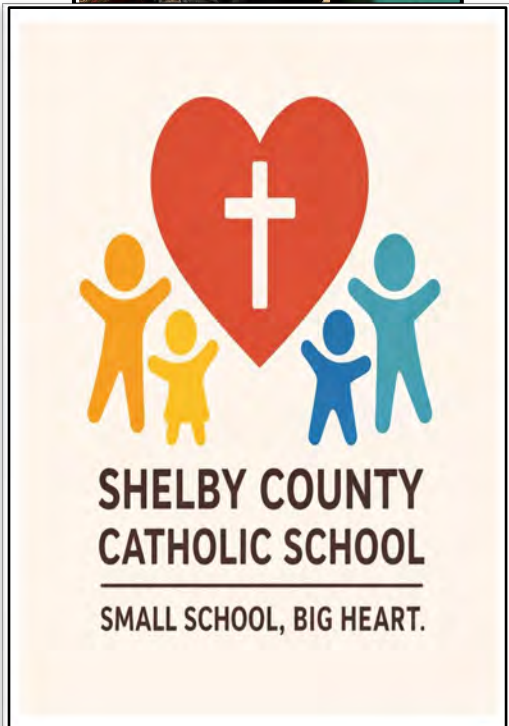


At Shelby County Catholic School, our students grow spiritually as they encounter Christ each and every day. Through a Catholic, faith-based education, we strive to prepare our students to become disciples of Christ in an ever-changing and challenging world. Teachers incorporate faith into their classrooms and across the curriculum, and students participate in various faith-based activities.

Our school provides opportunities for students to experience and express their faith through music, art, and prayer. Each child, regardless of his or her religious background or tradition, has the opportunity to participate in prayer and worship. Younger and older students are joined into faith teams to participate in prayer, community-building activities, and service projects.

The school has created a partnership with our parishes by creating a prayer partner program. Each student is partnered with a parishioner from one of our six parishes. Prayer partners pray for each other, write letters to each other, celebrate Mass together, attend school activities together, and support each other in faith.

Our sacramental preparation program prepares our second graders to receive First Reconciliation and First Communion. We work closely with each of our six parishes to coordinate these sacramental celebrations. Our parish priests provide reconciliation opportunities for our older students while also visiting classrooms and supporting our teachers in teaching about Sacred Scripture and the traditions of the Church.



*"What return can I make to the Lord for all the Lord has given me?" Psalm 16:12*

# 2024-25 Academic Highlights



At Shelby County Catholic School, we value the individual child and believe all children can learn in the proper environment and with the proper learning supports. We provide a calm, caring, and supportive environment that addresses not only academic learning, but also the spiritual, physical, and social-emotional learning of each child.

Our teachers use classroom assessments and curriculum-based screening measures that are aligned to the Iowa Core reading, writing, math, and science standards. These assessment tools are used by teachers to identify students' needs and provide individualized student support. This support may be provided within the classroom in small groups and/or during one-on-one work between the student and teacher. Support may also be provided by a classroom interventionist who provides specialized, research-based interventions to address each student's needs. This individualized attention and hard work pays off as our end-of-the-year assessments show incredible growth in reading and math.



Our third, fourth, and fifth graders completed the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) in April 2025. The ISASP is aligned with the Iowa Core Learning Standards. Third and fourth grade students are assessed in English Language Arts (reading and writing), and math. Fifth grade students are assessed in English Language Arts, math, and science. The results below show the percentage of our students who are proficient in each area.

\*Proficiency scores were obtained from the ISASP District Achievement Level Summary Report.

Grade	SCCS Students Proficient	State of Iowa Students Proficient
3	85%	68%
4	92%	75%
5	100%	69%

**English Language Arts**

Grade	SCCS Students Proficient	State of Iowa Students Proficient
3	84%	71%
4	92%	74%
5	100%	71%

**Math**

Grade	SCCS Students Proficient	State of Iowa Students Proficient
5	91%	64%

**Science**

\*3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade do not take the ISASP Science Assessment



## Curriculum & Activities

- Accelerated Math
- Small Reading Groups
- Enrichment Activities
- Computer Science
- STEM
- Agriculture Literacy
- Health & Wellness Activities
- Music
- Art
- Wildcat Teams
- Band (partnered with our public school)
- Catholic Daughters Essay Contest
- Soil Conservation Contest
- Fire Safety Contest
- Service Projects



## Service Projects

- \*Prayer Partner Program
- \*Collections for the Food Pantry
- \*Prayer Cards & Letters to Shut-ins
- \*Children's Books for Hospitals
- \*Socks for Shelters
- \*Pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House



## Wellness Activities

Shelby County Catholic School strives to educate the whole child by providing a healthy environment where a child can grow academically, spiritually, physically, and social emotionally. To help our students grow physically and choose healthy lifestyles, physical activities and good nutrition are promoted in our lunch program, our classrooms, and our physical education classes. Students attend physical education classes twice a week and are also given daily brain breaks in the classroom and daily recess where they can play with their friends and participate in physical activities on the playground. We also promote social-emotional health by providing opportunities such as mindfulness activities and yoga.

Our Wellness Committee meets four times a year to set goals, to measure progress towards the goals, and to promote healthy activities both at school and outside of school.

In keeping with our Nutrition and Physical Activity Wellness Policy, our Wellness Committee has set the following goals:

- **Nutrition Education & Promotion:** Offer nutrition education at every grade level.
- **Physical Activity:** Students and staff will participate in physical activities both during and outside the school day.
- **School-Based Activities that Promote Student Wellness:** Teach and provide opportunities for students and staff to practice mindfulness and social-emotional learning.

Progress towards these goals are monitored by our Wellness Committee.



*Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. John 1:2*

## The Cost of Educating Shelby County Catholic School Students

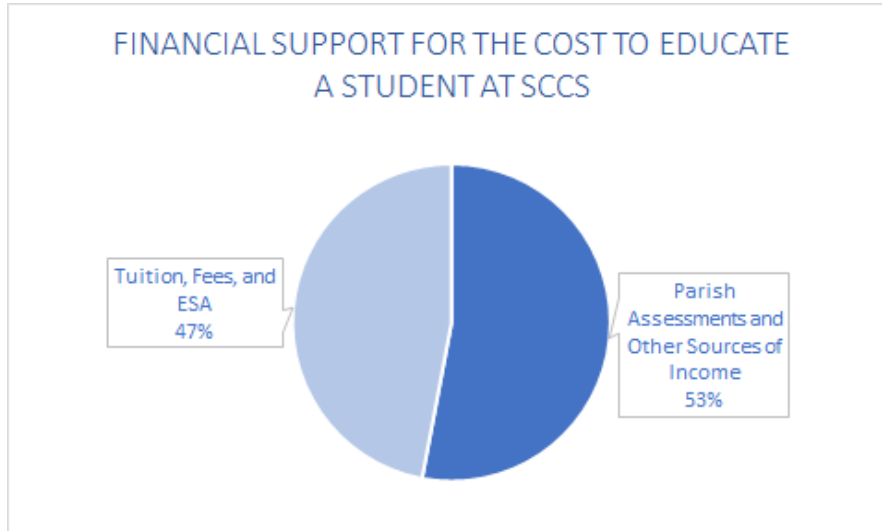
We recognize the financial sacrifice our families make to ensure their children receive a faith-based, quality education at SCCS. The tuition our families pay only covers a portion of the cost to educate a student at our school. The remaining amount is supported by parish assessments, fundraising, private donations, tuition assistance resources, and grants.

In 2024-2025, Students received \$6086 in funds from CTO and the Ignite fund and \$264,9030 from ESA funds.

Cost to Educate a Student at SCCS: \$11,163.78

This cost is supported by: \* Tuition/Fees = \$5250

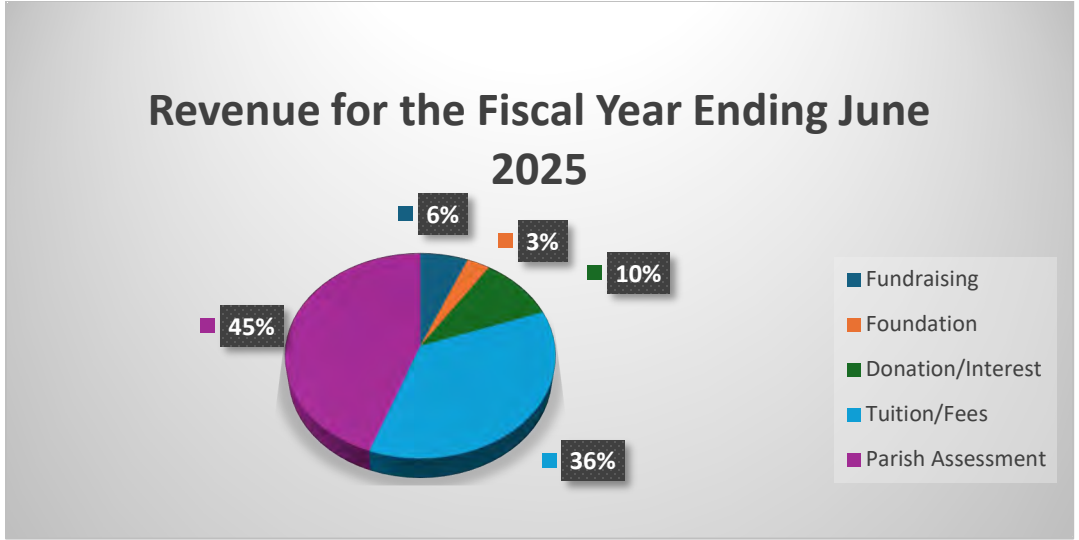
\* Parish Assessments and other Income sources =\$5913.78



Sources: U.S. Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2022-2023. The Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing (NCEA).

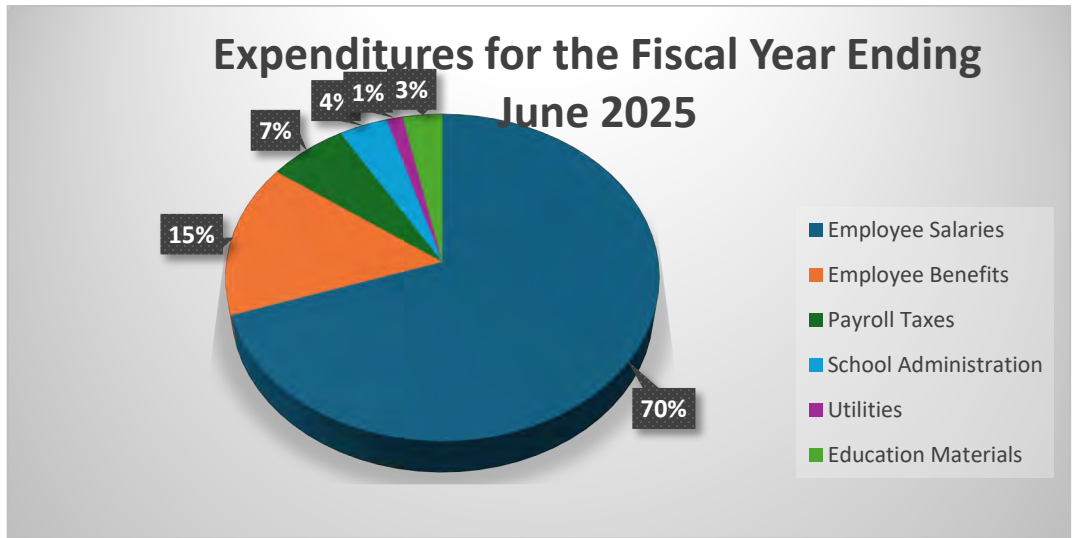
Shelby County Catholic School Financial Data  
Year Ending June 2025

Income:



Fundraising	\$69,133.86	6%	Tuition/Fees	\$787,273.81	36%
Foundation	\$33,500.00	3%	Parish Assessments	\$492,077.49	45%
Donations/Interest	\$112,546.65	10%	Total Revenue	\$1,1108,285.81	

Expenses:



Employee Salaries	\$787,273.81	70%	Employee Benefits	\$171,110.82	15%
Payroll Taxes	\$73,006.20	7%	School Administration	\$44,811.54	4%
Utilities	\$14,909.48	1%	Education Materials	\$36,430.22	3%
			Total Expenditures	\$1,127,542.07	