



# **Executive Summary**

**Saint Aloysius School**

**Diocese of Trenton**

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## **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?**

Saint Aloysius School has an enrollment of approximately 325 students. We are located in Jackson, New Jersey which is a middle class suburb located in Ocean County. Over the last ten years our enrollment has fluctuated between 320 - 390 students. At one point Jackson Township was one of the fastest growing communities however the rate of people moving down from North Jersey has slowed considerably and the movement of people out of Jackson to areas further south has started to rise.

One of our unique features is that Saint Aloysius is a "young" school having been built just 20 years ago in comparison with area Catholic schools that have a longer history. Our infrastructure allows for more flexibility as considerations for growth were made as we were being built.

## **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.**

Through prayer, service, and academic excellence, Saint Aloysius School forms, informs and transforms our school community.

In addition to our school mission, we will focus on the following goals:

1. To acquire a Catholic Christian character by living out the tenets of our faith
2. To develop responsibility, respect, integrity and refinement within the entire community of children, parents, and adults of Saint Aloysius School
3. To foster a spirit of Christian service among all members of the Saint Aloysius School Community
4. To focus on problem solving through experimentation within the disciplines of mathematics and science
5. To develop appropriate writing skills in an on-going effort to strengthen communication proficiency

As a Catholic elementary school, Saint Aloysius creates a Christian environment through prayer, service and academic excellence. Based on the teachings of Christ and His Church, we are dedicated to form, inform and transform our school community.

We encourage our school and our parish families to unite in our mission to assist our children in their faith journey, to help them achieve a personal relationship with God, and to become active disciples by sharing the Good News contained in the Gospel.

Academically, we invite our students to become enthusiastic learners by immersing them in various styles of learning. Understanding that children bring their God-given talents to the classrooms, we pose the question "How are you smart?" not "How smart are you?" We achieve this by providing a curriculum that promotes hands-on experiences, creative and critical thinking skills, independent and cooperative learning.

Through a non-threatening environment, we strive to build a lifelong commitment to learning in an ever-changing society. In order to prepare them for situations outside of the classroom, the students will "learn how to learn" by practicing responsibility, respect and tolerance through their words and actions.

In cooperation of our effort, the administration, faculty and support staff of Saint Aloysius School believe in the unique intelligence of every child. Recognizing we are all learners on a lifelong journey, we commit ourselves to the growth, success, and Christian happiness of all whose lives we touch.

## **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.**

Over the last three years we have made improvements in the area of math throughout the school. Use of spiral math, math journals and PLC sessions have improved our teaching methods and the results have been noted in our improved Terra Nova scores.

Also, we have made improvements in awareness of social justice issues by forming a Social Justice group for students. The students, under the guidance of staff moderators, explore social issues and ways in which we can make the world a better place, and bring awareness of these issues to all the students.

Over the next three years we will focus on better integration of technology into our classes, increase our marketing efforts and we will continue to look for ways to make our faith a faith of action.

## **Additional Information**

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

Saint Aloysius School is a young school that has enjoyed the ability to change with the changes within our community. In our earlier years as the town of Jackson grew our school continued to grow adding a grade each year. Within our town more senior living residences have been built and we have adapted by offering more activities in which we invite seniors to participate such as a special mass for grandparents, sending cards to grandparents at various holidays, hosting a junior/senior day where seniors are invited to compete with our students in some physical and academic competitions and encouraging our seniors to volunteer with P.T.A. events. We have successfully marketed our school to be known as one with strong educational expectations as well as the expectation of living our faith. We pride ourselves on being a family.