

St. Michael Catholic School Survey Results

Printed January 28, 2009

1. My family is:
Catholic 109 Catholic and non-Catholic 15 Total: 124

2. Attend Mass:
Daily 10 Weekly 109 Occasionally 6

4. What should be the single greatest strength of Saint Michael School?
 1. Academics – 7
 2. Academics and Catholic teaching
 3. To provide quality education in a safe learning environment
 4. Strong academics with faith based values-2
 5. Helping to instill God’s creative, joyful love intrinsically to children growing up in a world of violence and dissension.
 6. As a school, it should be learning the Catholic faith as well as secular subjects.
 7. A very good background in elementary education & middle school
 8. Support groups
 9. Family oriented, unity-1
 10. A wholesome Catholic environment offering strong academic preparation
 11. Catholic education for our children and to bring the parish closer together.
 12. Integrating exceptional teaching of academics with the teaching of our Catholic faith. You just don’t learn it – you live it out!
 13. Teaching and role modeling our faith.
 14. Incorporating religion into every activity – 2.
 15. Well educated and well rounded students moving on to the next higher level year after year.
 16. Catholic identity followed by academic excellence.
 17. Focus on quality Catholic school education
 18. Teaching our Catholic faith and preparing children academically for high school
 19. Not sure another Catholic school is needed.
 20. Great emphasis on being Catholic for life
 21. Religion, Catholic teaching, Mass daily
 22. Teach academics and character/reputation - 3
 23. Instructing the children in their Catholic faith.
 24. Committed families working together to teach our children about the Catholic faith.
 25. Cooperating with families to produce excellent students who understand and appreciate authentic/orthodox Catholic teaching.
 26. Faithfulness and obedience to church teaching

27. Creating a strong Catholic education and a strong academic focus.
28. A school that is balanced/church teaching/family/technology/fine arts/sports
29. Catholic education/Quality Catholic Ed. - 9
30. Good education and Catholic upbringing
31. The strongest academic program possible
32. Quality of education
33. A disciplined learning environment.
34. Education – math, science, reading. My children have classmates at Norris that have come from local Catholic schools and I have been extremely disappointed at how far behind these children are particularly in the math program. These children are at least one to two grades behind consistently.
35. A well respected academic program that prepares students for the next level.
36. Christian community and academic excellence – 2.
37. That students are academically prepared for high school & college and spiritually prepared to live a Catholic life in an ever growing unchristian society – ready to pass on their faith to those around them.
38. Academics/religious instruction
39. Providing an excellent education and well rounded students.
40. A consistent level of fairness.
41. Strong academics/good teachers – probably means we need to be one of, if not the top paying Catholic schools in Lincoln.
42. Education, great teachers, teaching of the Catholic faith.
43. Loaded question – from our experience, we have to ‘feel good’ about taking and leaving our kids at school. Bullying occurs as young as kindergarten and it can affect their work and interaction in school. Being proactive and helping children not feel helpless due to bullying. Staff and parents working as a team and communicating.
44. That our Catholic faith is a part of every aspect of the student’s day and that the school and the families and parents work together to create an excellent faith-based education.
45. Sense of community – involvement from teachers, parents, students and staff-3
46. To have religion be a part of every day. Having said that academics have to be top notch too.
47. Catholic spirit
48. Teaching doctrine of Catholic religion
49. Exceptional Catholic education
50. The greatest strength should be a strong emphasis on teaching our children their faith.
51. The best student to teacher ratio especially for younger students.
52. A well rounded religious and academic education for any child in our community.

- 53. Good school/good teachers.
- 54. Strong academics with a Catholic based mission
- 55. Education
- 56. To develop our children into loving, caring productive adults who are able to function well in society and family.
- 57. Quality teachers
- 58. Faithfulness to Church teaching
- 59. Faithfulness to Church teaching
- 60. Educating the whole being of the child
- 61. Faith based academic environment
- 62. Teaching children how to love God and not be shy or ashamed of their faith, along with a solid education.
- 63. Teachers.
- 64. Family, commitment, unity. Love of Christ.
- 65. Catholic teachings and academics.
- 66. A quality Catholic education.
- 67. Low cost available to all.

5. How many children in your household will be of grade school age the school year of 2011-2012? (Preschool- eighth grade).

None	57
One	21
Two	26
Three	7
Four	3
Five	0
Six	0

6. In what grades would your children be in 2011? Please list each child only once.

Preschool	12
Kindergarten	7
First	17
Second	8
Third	11
Fourth	11
Fifth	9
Sixth	11
Seventh	11
Eighth	7

7. How many children in your household are currently 5 years old or younger?

One	25 (plus one due in 5 weeks)
Two	15
Three	2
Four	0

8. What are their current ages?

Under one	13 (and one due in March 2009)
One	10
Two	4
Three	12
Four	11
Five	11

9. Please indicate if you have children attending any of the following:

Private/Catholic preschool	8
Public preschool	7
Private/Catholic elementary/middle school	13
Public elementary/middle school	7
Home school	1

10. If St. Michael School opened grades kindergarten through fourth grade in the fall of 2011, how many children in your household would attend?

Kindergarten	10
First	15
Second	7
Third	8
Fourth	8

11. If your children currently attend a public school, what, if any, are your concerns with sending them to St. Michael Catholic School when it opens?

No concerns	4
Quality of education	13
Quality of extracurricular activities	2
Class size	4
Expense	6
Location of school	2
Sending my children to a school they are not familiar with	5
Other	

- No child of mine will attend any Catholic school in Lincoln until the Bishop conforms to the rest of the country concerning inappropriate conduct of clergy. Nothing personal against anyone. It is wrong that our Bishop refuses to conform. **1**
- Don't want my kids to go through "working out the bugs" since we just opened.
- Eventually want our kids in public schools.
- Academically competitive with public school. Too small, remote. Moved to Lincoln mid summer and struggled with decision to go to parochial vs. public. Current child attended Catholic school prior to move and was satisfied; repeated kindergarten this year with public school in Lincoln.
- They will almost be out of grade school. If we have another child, I would really like to send him/her to St. Michael. (We are praying for another child.)
- We would be less than extremely likely, because we would have to change our daughter's school after one or two years.
- My child will be out of high school.
- Worried about a new school that is not established.

1. Out of fairness to Bishop Bruskewitz and the Diocese of Lincoln, a few observations are in order.

A.) Just after his ordination as Bishop of Lincoln in 1992, one of Bishop Bruskewitz's first priorities was to draft a diocesan policy addressing sexual abuse by clerics and other employees of the Church. It was one of the first in the United States and remains in force today. This policy was implemented July 28, 1992.

B.) To say that the Bishop 'does not conform to the rest of the country concerning inappropriate conduct of clergy,' is simply inaccurate. The policies of the Diocese of Lincoln parallel "the rest of the country" in almost every area in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

I asked one of my writers for the Southern Nebraska register to critique the Diocese of Lincoln's policy and to compare it to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. This three page expose appeared in the June 29, 2007 issue of the *Southern Nebraska Register* entitled: "The Diocese of Lincoln and the USCCB: On the Same Page." With the exception of two areas, which the Diocese of Lincoln feels are better addressed by parents, the Diocese of Lincoln is in complete conformity with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

12. If your children currently attend another Catholic school how likely are you to transfer your children to St. Michael School when it opens?

Extremely likely	14
Somewhat likely	5
Somewhat unlikely	7
Extremely unlikely	3

13. If you answered B, C, or D, in question 12 please explain why you would be less than extremely likely to transfer to St. Michael School.

- Our children would have siblings attending a different school. Transportation difficult between schools, friends and teachers would be different.
- He would be in sixth grade and we feel it is important to finish out his education at St. Joe's, particularly because of it being middle school when the change would occur.
- I work for LPS
- Location and switching schools for our daughter who would be in third grade in 2011. I work on north side of Lincoln.
- I would love to send them all but if the school will only open through fourth grade I will not want to have one at St. Michael, two at St. Joseph and one at Pius. Too much driving and very complicated for schedules, etc. I'd either send none or three if the school had all eight grades.
- Location, cost, availability of before and after programs. If the school offers transportation. There will be no hesitation in sending the kids to a new school.
- The most important question is not in this survey. Does St. Michael need a Catholic school? In our opinion no.
- Would depend on who would be required to transfer. I would like to have my daughter to have the opportunity to have some of the friend groups she currently has especially after fifth grade.
- Because our daughter would be in 7th grade at St. Joseph and it would be very difficult to get kids to two different schools and myself to work by 8 a.m.
- Would not want to take her away from the school she and her siblings have all attended – or take her away from her friends.
- Would have a fourth and sixth grader. It depends when other grades would begin: 6-8. Would the fourth grader be able to go to 5 – 8th grade there (St. Michael) the following year? Might be better for 6th grader to finish where she is now? Wondering tuition costs?
- Twins would be in 7th grade so it would not affect us if K-4th opens in 2011. However, if this did affect us, I would encourage the transfer but input from my kids would factor in.
- Have heard that boundaries would be considered when St. Michael School opens. Those who are in St. Michael boundaries would have to transfer there. If I could

have all our kids go to the same Catholic school so there is one stop in the morning, I would prefer to do that.

- My children love St. Peter's. I think it might be difficult to pull my 4th grader away from all his friends.
- Our children already have established friends at St. Joseph's. Additionally taking our children to 3 schools (St. Michael, St. Joseph's and Pius) would be difficult.
- Our daughter has already changed schools once and this has seemed to be difficult for her, unless of course the tuition would affect our decision.
- Separating child from friends.
- Separating child from friends and school they are comfortable with.
- Don't want to have kids in different schools.
- Less likely to change daughter after 1-2 years at another school.

14. Please list and explain any comments, concerns or suggestions you may have regarding the future of St. Michael Catholic School.

- It would be nice to have all of the grades open at one time. SmartBoards, computer Lab.
- We need a church first then maybe a school. Not sure Lincoln needs another Catholic grade school.
- Children should get o school 230 days a year but be allowed to miss up to 15 days a year.
- Catholic education is most important job parish has.
- We will need strong teachers who are paid appropriately.
- Affordable tuition.
- Don't want to have children are two different schools.
- Don't want kids at different schools.
- Poor teachers.
- Lack of parental involvement.
- Too large of class sizes.
- Experience of staff and new facility.
- New school will it be all ready.
- Need to have band.
- Need to have room in school for lockers for junior high students.
- Would like to have the Christ the King Sisters.
- Build the church first and then the school sometimes there is no money left for the church after the school is completed.
- How do we bring into St. Michael all those families going to other parishes or churches of other faiths?
- I only wish I could have been able to have a Catholic school – as a child and young adult. As the saying goes, "It is priceless."
- Can we afford one class for all grades through eighth grade? Or is that phase one or two?
- Will St. Michael's have a preschool? I am under the impression it will not. I hope a preschool will be on sight.

- Many of the families in our part of town are double income families requiring before and after school programs or bus service provided by school.
- The Norris schools is (sic) among the best in the state. Our school tax for Norris on an eighty year old home is \$1,700 a year. There is no need for another school in the district.
- We recommend considering whether it is wise to persue (sic) this project at this time. For example how many parishioners might default on home loans and move away or not be able to contribute pledges made. You can't rely on a few people to cover those deficits. Let the economy stabilize before proceeding. Pray that it is a success.
- Times of school; quality of education
- All teachers must be certified, dedicated and genuine love for children. Main goal is quality of education & about God. Parental involvement
- Concern: Having two children attending two different schools and having to drive up and down 84th Street several times a day.
- Don't neglect or place other parish activities above school needs – many families do not have children of child age.
- I just hope that we don't outgrow the school within a few years and have to keep adding on.
- Need to charge a tuition rate that fairly allows for just salaries to the teaching staff. Male teachers are very important! Do not be overly focused on brick and mortar of the school. Up to date technology, books, supplies, & school equipment should have equal
- Importance.
- We need more growth to support this project and full cooperation of all parents in the parish. However, this project will further unite the parish.
- Cost of tuition, taking two children to two different grade schools and cost of building structure.
- Our eight year old will probably not be of the right age to attend St. Michael's when it opens; however the two we are expecting will attend St. Michael's
- "Saints" be used as school's nickname. Colors Columbia Blue/Silver
- My biggest concern would be the financial burden on the families. I would hope that we don't build "so big and fancy" that the tuition becomes too much for families. I would rather see a less expensive project that allows affordability for all families.
- If our children were all young we would definitely transfer them to St. Michael School.
- Very anxious to get our school up and running for all of the young families
- Would really like to see a daycare and a before and after hours program involved.
- We have several good Catholic schools in Lincoln that we can use as models for Saint Michael. Our kids attend St. Joseph and it would be great if St. Michael could have the same "perks." (I.e. technology) as St. Joe, However, the most important thing is the Catholic education, good teachers, discipline, and respect for authority.
- It is long overdue – just wish our kids could have been part of the new school. It is an exciting time for our parish.
- No concerns. We are excited!
- Growth of the parish family should justify the \$'s spent. Risk of long term massive debt must be avoided or it will tear at the basics of our community.

- I think a church is a much more expressing need. I question the need of the school. Will it be supported? In a perfect world I would like to send my children to a Catholic school but I question the quality of education compared to Norris.
- The quality of education and the children’s safety are top priority. We want our children to have opportunities to learn in all aspects of their lives.
- Will you be adding on one class every year?
- Experience of teachers and that they are paid a fair amount.
- Promote respect for all and balance in life.
- I would like the parents to pay for their children’s tuition. If they cannot make the payments, the parishioners in the church that do not have children in school should vote to see if their want to help pay their tuition.

15. In justice, what would you consider a fair amount for tuition?

\$225	1
\$400	1
\$500	5
\$600	13
\$700	2
\$750	3
\$800	3
\$1000	8
\$1125	1
\$1200	1
\$1500	5
\$1800	1
\$1900	1
\$2000	3
\$2100	1
\$2500	1
\$2800	1
\$3500	1
\$500-\$1000	1
The actual cost	1
Based on income	5
Under \$1000	1
Don’t Know	3
St. Joe/St. Peter	4
Like others	2

16. Would you support a family rate of family cap?

Yes 83

No	11
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17. Would you use electronic transfer of funds as a way of paying tuition?

Yes	56
No	21

18. How well informed do you feel about the planning of St. Michael School?

Very well informed	35
Well informed	61
Not well informed	8
Somewhat	1

19. How often would you like to hear from the school and in what form?

Weekly	29
Monthly	19
Quarterly	11
Bi-weekly	1
Every other month	1
Email	44
Hardcopy	7