

# St. Mel School Report Card

## Mission

St. Mel School is an educational ministry of St. Mel Parish that promotes academic excellence within a Catholic, faith-filled environment. Our school proudly serves the families of St. Mel Parish and its surrounding communities by providing a standards-based curriculum for grades Transitional Kindergarten (TK)-8. A St. Mel education empowers students to become active, responsible Catholic adults whose lives reflect the Gospel values. The academic community of St. Mel School is bonded by our love for God, and our shared responsibility to express Gospel values in word and deed. A St. Mel education prepares children for success in their personal lives and in their educational pursuits. We facilitate children in becoming their best selves for the greater glory of God.



## Faith Formation

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1959 with an emphasis on "service to others," the primary focus of St. Mel School is to help children build strong relationships with God through Catholic education. Christian values are integrated into the life and culture of the community to help support the spiritual, emotional, and social development of each child. As one of our core academic subjects, religion is offered on a daily basis. These classes enhance student understanding of Catholic faith teachings, doctrines, and biblical history within the context of their daily lives, and is a core aspect of our Catholic identity. Throughout the school year, students attend Monday Morning Assemblies to honor our Students of the Week based on the weekly Student Learning Expectation, and pray daily together at 8:00 a.m. and at 12:00 p.m. To build community, our children attend weekly Mass with their "Faith Families". Our students in grades 2 – 8 prepare the school-wide Mass on a weekly rotation. They are responsible for the readings, responsorial psalm, prayers of the faithful, altar serving, offertory gift bearers, and sing in the choir. We prepare students to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in grade 2 and the Sacrament of Confirmation in grade 8. We recognize the value and dignity of all people and acknowledge our responsibility to be good stewards of the gifts God has given us. Through participation in Christian service at school and in our community, our children discover that even at a young age, they can follow the teachings of Jesus and help those in need.



# St. Mel School Report Card

## Academics and Enrichment

**Academics:** St. Mel School develops children within a faith-filled, liturgical environment that emphasizes excellence in academics. Our Diocesan academic standards routinely exceed CA Common Core benchmarks, and prepare students for the rigors of high school. St. Mel fosters character traits essential for success: self-confidence, self-mastery, and persistence in the face of new challenges. Our caring, dedicated faculty are knowledgeable about their subject matter, and passionate about serving children through education.

**Technology:** Our computerized Accelerated Reader Program determines appropriate student reading levels. Using this Program students can set goals, track their growth, and select books that challenge them. Our Accelerated Math Program readies the majority of our graduates for placement in Geometry or Accelerated Algebra as freshmen. Additionally, all St. Mel students utilize *Math Facts in a Flash*, a web-based program designed to increase fluency in math concepts through practice.

**Assessments:** Our teachers monitor goal setting, overall literacy, comprehension and reading ability, with the support of the STAR Reading assessments and can compare students' achievement to that of students across the nation. Our Language Arts Program encompasses the Six Traits of Writing and Writer's Workshop to teach students how to write.

**Resources:** Our Educational Achievement Specialist provides instruction and services based on the needs of students recommended by their teachers, parents or school district.

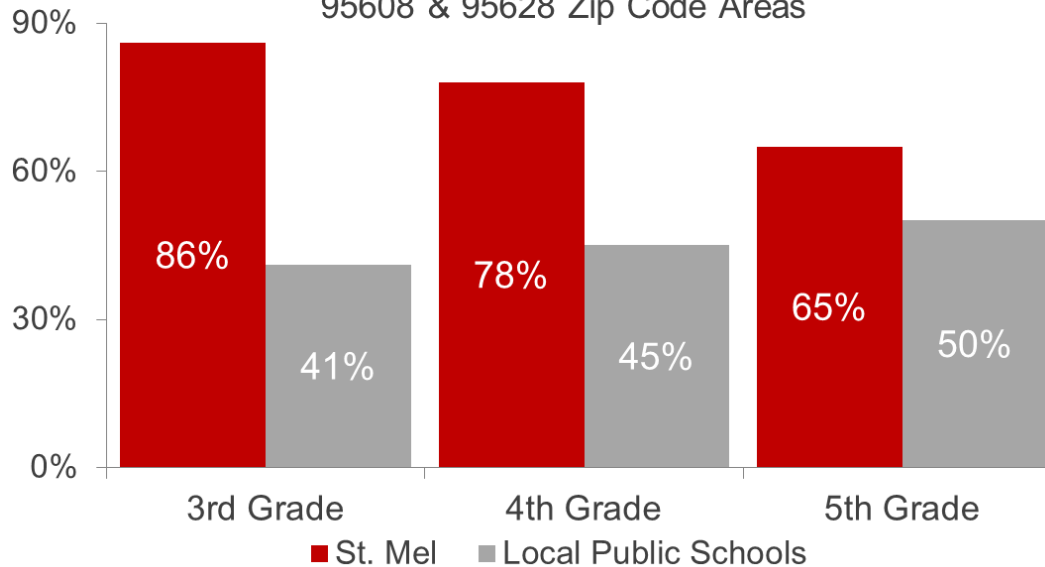
**Enrichment:** St. Mel School welcomes children to participate in a variety of enrichment activities, including basketball, Choir, Service Club, Track & Field, Student Council, Flag Football, Chess, Baton, Volleyball, Yearbook, and Diocesan-wide events such as Academic Decathlon, Mental Math Bowl, Religion Decathlon, and the Speech Contest. These opportunities enable children to spend time with friends, build valuable teamwork skills, and gain exposure to environments that cultivate character development.



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## Student Academic Performance <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(2)</sup>

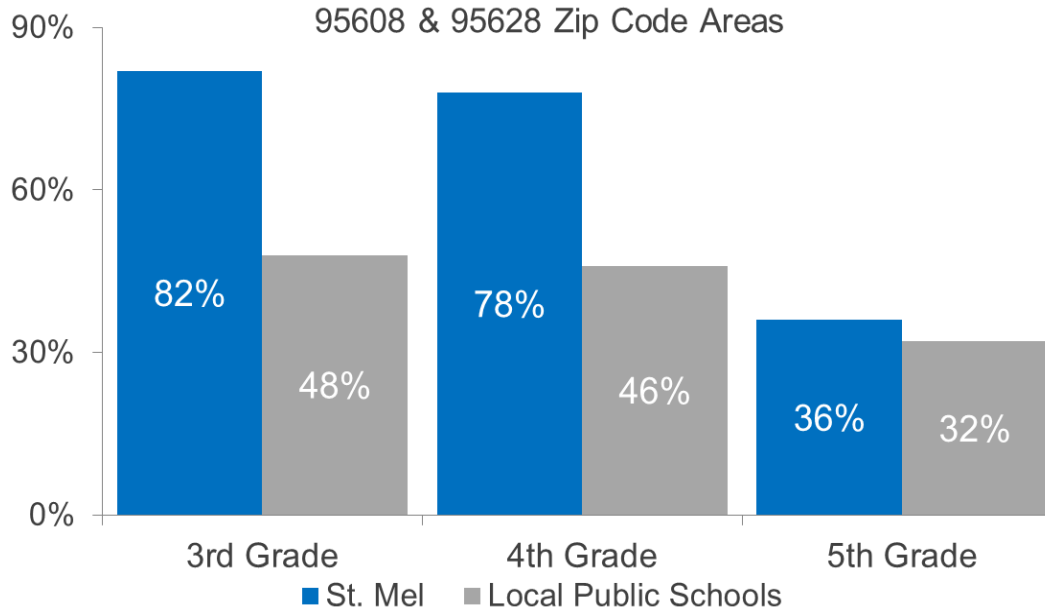
2017 Average Reading Proficiency of Elementary School Students in the 95608 & 95628 Zip Code Areas



### **BRIGHT BEGINNINGS**

From the very start, our teachers create an encouraging educational experience that fosters a positive work ethic, self-confidence, and a love for learning: the roots of successful scholarship

2017 Average Math Proficiency of Elementary School Students in the 95608 & 95628 Zip Code Areas



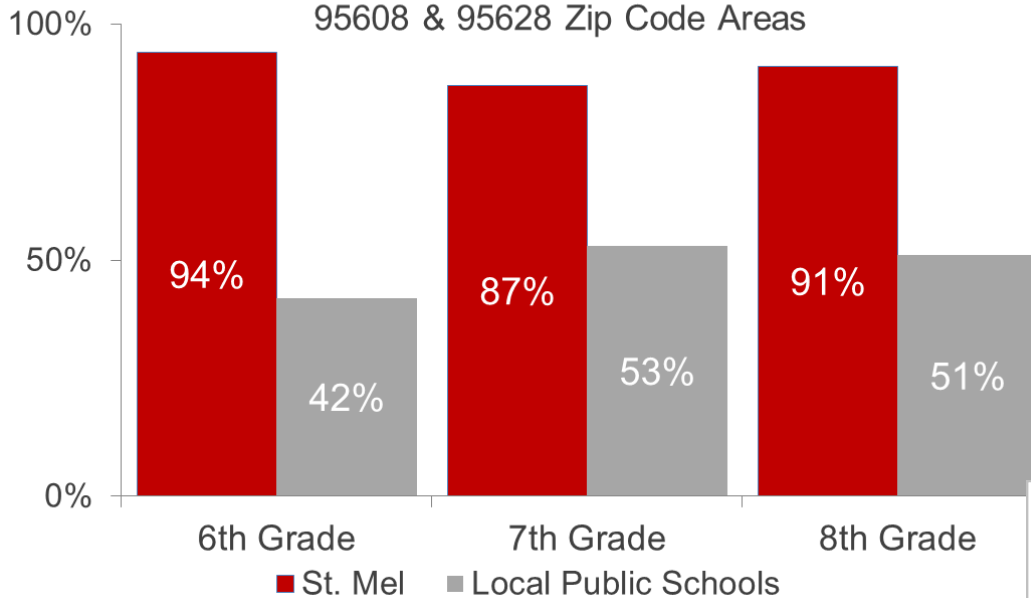
### **WE STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE**

The comprehensive and well-rounded curriculum at St. Mel School provides students with healthy challenges that strengthen their academic abilities and give them a competitive edge over their grade-level peers in surrounding public schools



# St. Mel School Report Card

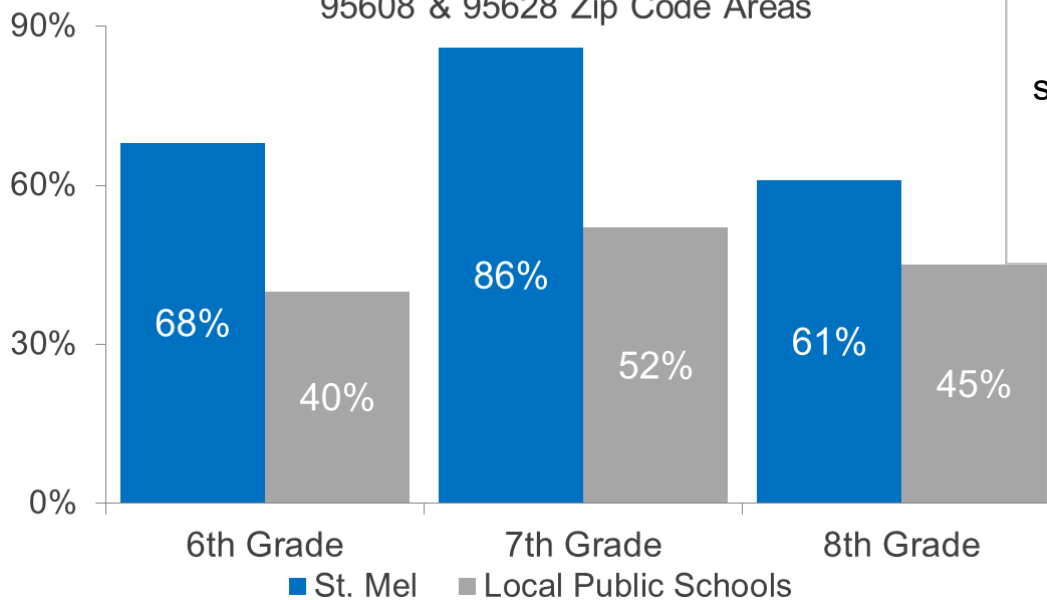
2017 Average Reading Proficiency of  
Middle School Students in the  
95608 & 95628 Zip Code Areas



## **FUTURE FOCUS**

Our culture of holistic development has a profound impact on the lives of our students, as it equips them with the mental acuity and strength of character to navigate the rigors of high school, college, career, and life in the real world as a contributive member of society

2017 Average Math Proficiency of  
Middle School Students in the  
95608 & 95628 Zip Code Areas



\*The graphs above compare the student test scores of St. Mel School to those of its neighboring public schools. St. Mel students are given STAR Math and STAR Reading Assessments from Renaissance Learning, whereas California public school students are required to take the Smarter Balanced exam under the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) system. The comparison of these separate tests is made possible by the application of psychometric equivalencies, which standardize the criteria used to evaluate and score these different academic assessments. The tables below display grade-level learning data based on both Renaissance STAR and CAASPP student testing results.

- (1) Based on 2016-2017 St. Mel School STAR Reading and STAR Math testing data obtained from © 2017 Renaissance Learning, Inc. All rights reserved.
- (2) Based on 2016 CAASPP Smarter Balanced test results of select public schools in San Juan Unified School District. Testing results are publicly available online via the California Department of Education: <http://caaspp.cde.ca.gov/>.



# St. Mel School Report Card

## St. Mel School Financials

<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget
<b>Sources of Income:</b>			
TK - 8 Tuition and Registration Fees, Net of Tuition Assistance and Uncollected Accounts	\$ 1,147.4	\$ 1,158.5	\$ 1,125.7
Extended Day, Net	(15.5)	(1.9)	(20.4)
Summer School, Net	6.5	(3.0)	3.1
Extracurricular Sports, Net	1.7	0.8	1.5
Donations and Gifts	32.7	37.7	15.0
Food Services, Net	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.7)
Parent Club and Fundraising, Net	203.7	189.3	155.0
Parish Support	122.7	19.2	-
Investment Earnings (Losses), Net	(28.7)	223.5	44.9
Other Income	10.6	9.5	86.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,480.4</b>	<b>\$ 1,632.9</b>	<b>\$ 1,410.1</b>
<b>Cost to Educate:</b>			
Instructional	\$ 974.0	\$ 1,017.8	\$ 1,127.9
Administrative	340.2	344.9	368.6
Facility Maintenance and Operations	109.5	116.2	108.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,423.7</b>	<b>\$ 1,478.9</b>	<b>\$ 1,604.6</b>
<b>Other Expenses:</b>			
Capital Expenditures	\$ 59.9	\$ 56.0	\$ -
<b>Net Gain (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (3.2)</b>	<b>\$ 98.0</b>	<b>\$ (194.5)</b>

<b>TK - 8 Enrollment</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>Cost to Educate per Student</b>	<b>\$ 5,177</b>	<b>\$ 5,560</b>	<b>\$ 6,172</b>
<b>Tuition for First Child (Parishioner Rate)</b>	<b>4,790</b>	<b>4,950</b>	<b>5,200</b>
<b>Estimated Deficit per Student</b>	<b>\$ (387)</b>	<b>\$ (610)</b>	<b>\$ (972)</b>
<b>Minimum Fundraising Needs (Dollars in Thousands)</b>	<b>\$ 106.5</b>	<b>\$ 162.2</b>	<b>\$ 252.6</b>

Financial information for the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years is presented above. Note the significant difference between the **Cost to Educate per Student** and the **First Child Parishioner Tuition Rate**. **The disparity between these figures is striking for the 2017-18 school year where the deficit is estimated to be \$972 per student.**

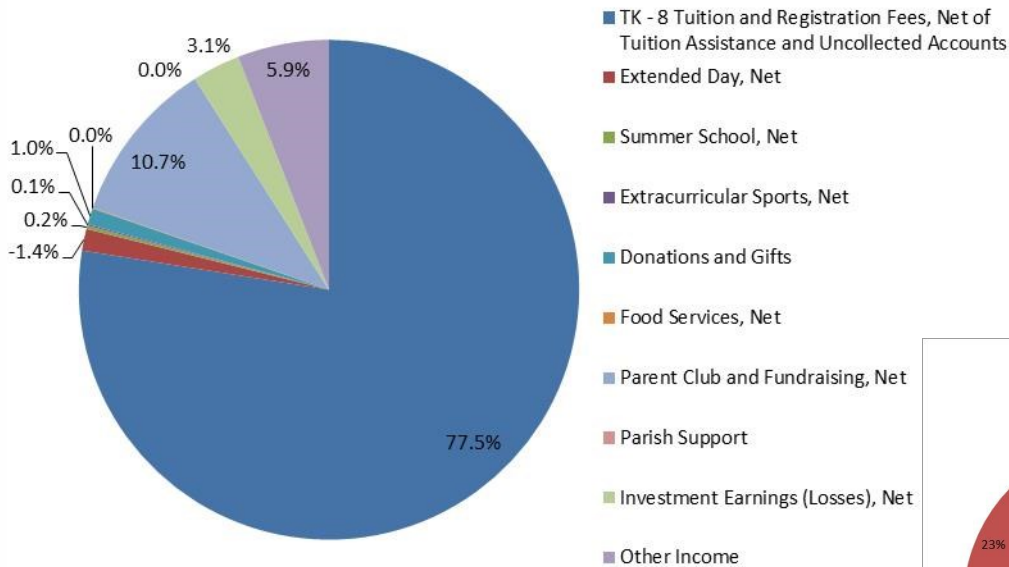
When comparing the **Estimated Deficit per Student** to **K-8 Enrollment** for each period, the data depicts a high correlation between student enrollment, estimated deficit values per student and fundraising needs. These correlational relationships illustrate that **strong enrollment numbers are necessary to mitigate the gaps between student tuition and education costs.**



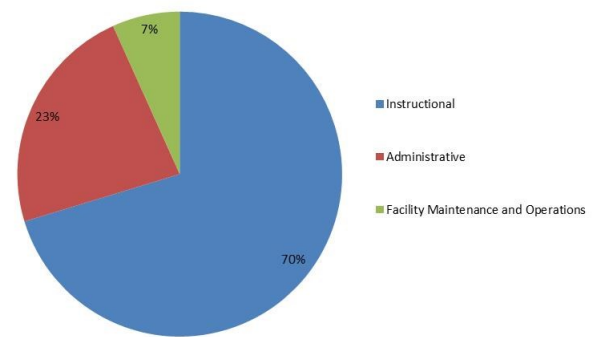
# St. Mel School Report Card

## Fundraising

**Sources of Income 2017-18 Budget  
Total \$1.4 Million**



**\$6,172 Cost to Educate Student vs.  
Parishioner Tuition Rate of \$5,200<sup>(1)</sup>**



## Community Involvement and Fundraising

Because St. Mel School tuition is less than the cost to educate, we count on your continued fundraising support to provide the best learning experience for our children. Our most popular events are the Annual School Benefit Auction and our Jog-a-thon. We look forward to these occasions every year, as they are wonderful opportunities for the community to fundraise while celebrating fellowship and supporting the mission of St. Mel to educate minds and inspire spirits. Proceeds from these, and all other fundraising opportunities, help pay for expenses that tuition does not cover.

It is also expected that families will be involved on a voluntary basis to provide services that benefit the school. Family participation in our Scrip and volunteer programs is invaluable because it helps us lower operating costs and enhance the educational experience of our children. We extend families the option of need-based financial aid. On average, our families received approximately \$100,000 annually in tuition assistance over the last 10 years. St. Mel School appreciates and honors the sacrifices of all families who believe in the value of a Catholic School education, and trust us as their partner in the educational process.



# *St. Mel School Report Card*

## *Closing Remarks*

St. Mel School seeks to educate the “whole child” in a Catholic setting by providing a well-rounded education that integrates Christian practice and Catholic identity with academic excellence. Our philosophy is to nurture a child’s natural love of learning and spiritual growth. Children at St. Mel School learn in a caring and purposeful environment where they not only enhance their knowledge, but also their self-worth. Our Student Learning Expectations, (SLE’s), completes the foundation in the formation of our students as disciples of Christ. We are grateful for the active involvement of school parents, grandparents, parishioners and the community members. It is through their on-going support and generously sharing their time, talent, and treasure, and their faith in us as educators, that helps keep the mission of Catholic parochial education alive and strong. Thank you for partnering with us to teach your child the importance of faith, knowledge and service. A Catholic education is an investment in your child, the future, the world and our Catholic faith. It will reap dividends!

