

Survey 1 results: Survey sent to all parents of children enrolled in the Catholic schools in our area.

1. How important were the following factors in your decision to send your child/children to Catholic school?	Very	Imp	S	N/A
<i>Key: Very=very important; Imp=important; S=somewhat important; N/A=not a factor in our decision</i>				
Christian morality and values are taught.	154	23	4	0
Children receive a foundation in the Catholic faith.	118	43	11	6
Catholic schools provide an excellent academic program.	141	25	1	1
Small class size is important for my child's education.	130	36	9	1
Catholic school provides a long-term foundation in Catholic faith.	108	48	11	10
Catholic school is part of our family tradition.	64	37	34	41
Sending my children to Catholic school is important to my parish identity.	41	35	46	53
The school was recommended by others.	60	43	22	53
<i>Note: Question 2 was open-ended. The responses were summarized by the committee.</i>				
2. If our school needs to partner with one or more schools to be viable, what do you think the impact would be?				
On You: Transportation negative	38			
Loss of community/identity	24			
Would switch to public school	10			
Would leave/change parish	4			
Financial- positive	19			
Financial-negative	8			
No real impact	20			
Very large impact	3			
Unsure	5			
On Child: Larger class size neg	53			
Larger class size positive	8			

Transportation negative	8			
Loss of relationships: teachers/friends	39			
More opportunities/new classes	12			
New friends positive	12			
No real impact	8			
On Parish: loss of community	27			
loss of parishioners	26			
financial positive	17			
financial negative	10			
loss of involvement/volunteers	10			
no real impact	6			
Unsure	4			
3. How do your children get to and from school?				
	bus	car	walk	Other
(note: some took more than one form)	61	128	7	1
4. What are your primary concerns about our Catholic school? (check all that apply)				
Condition of facilities	34			
Cost of upkeep to parish	43			
Rising tuition	100			
Decreasing class size	43			
Lack of diversity	20			
Address special needs	18			
Uncertainty about the future	111			
Other	22			

Question 5 was also open-ended and answers were codified by committee.				
5. As numbers decline due to demographic trends in our area, do you have any suggestions for stabilizing our Catholic school system?				
Raise tuition	2			
Raise revenue/sponsorship of students	5			
Share resources btwn schools	9			
Marketing/Outreach	29			
Merge schools	31			
Work on legislation/vouchers/grants	5			
Other	24			
Leave as is	16			
6. Which is more important to you?				
to have a viable Catholic school in the area	90			
to have a parish school even though it will close in the near term given the demographic and financial issues.	21			

Survey 2 results: Survey sent to a sample of parents of school-age children in each parish who do not send their children to Catholic school.

2. What school does your child currently attend?				
<i>23 different schooling options were represented by responders.</i>				
3. What was your reason for choosing the current school over Catholic school? (choose all that apply)				
Not interested in Catholic school for my child	12			
Tuition cost is too high	80			
quality public school is a good option	39			
prefer the social environment at the public school	19			
believe the public school offers a better academic program for my child	19			
Other	19			

4. What is your current impression of the parish's Catholic school?					
<i>Key: SD=strongly disagree; Dis=disagree; U=unsure; Agr=agree and SA=strongly agree</i>	SD	Dis	U	Agr	SA
Our parish school provides a quality academic program.		2	41	56	18
Our parish school provides a quality social environment.	2	5	42	54	16
Having a parish school is important to the mission of the parish.		11	34	51	21
Catholic school is a good environment for building character and developing Christian values.	1	4	24	54	33
Catholic school provides a long-term foundation in Catholic faith.		8	21	57	27
The tuition at our Catholic school is reasonable for parents.	16	40	55	10	1
The cost of Catholic school is reasonable for our parish.	7	18	80	9	2
Having a Catholic school is essential to the identity of our parish.	6	32	38	25	16
5. What would make Catholic school an attractive option for your family?					
Lower tuition	70				
More rigorous academics	13				
More extra-curricular activities	16				
Facility improvements	11				
Larger student body	10				
Before and after-school childcare programs	15				
Not interested in sending my children to Catholic school	37				
Other	6				
6. Would you be willing to drive if options met?					
	yes	no			
	22	73			

7. What are your primary concerns about our parish Catholic school?					
Condition of facilities	24				
Cost of upkeep and programs to the parish	40				
Rising tuition costs	65				
Declining enrollment	23				
Lack of diversity	28				
Inability to address special needs	16				
Uncertainty about the future	15				
Other	14				