

Identify Our Weakness?

2 Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." We live in a world that focuses on strengths. Strengthfinder is a commonly discussed book in the professional world. Many of you have done one or more assessments in the past few years. However, for those who may not be as familiar, the concept is to understand your strengths and the strengths of others in order to maximize personal effectiveness and institutional strengths. Without a doubt I have seen the benefits of focusing on strengths. However, my weaknesses are just as important to identify. Although weaknesses may not be "wise" to identify in our daily professions, identifying the weaknesses inside of us is essential. We live in a world that is filled with sin, but God's grace covers all sin and takes it away. That is truly Amazing Grace! Our world has forgiveness, but it is a world that needs to know of that saving grace. As we become ever mindful of the grace given, may we too be grace driven so that others will know God's forgiveness and love!



Enrollment Update

Enrollment remains steady with 479 students to start the 2015-16 school year (2014-15 started with an enrollment of 483). The enrollment in grades 9-12 dropped from 442 to 419, however, the decrease was expected, since our 2015 graduating class was a record of 127. The middle school enrollment of 60 students is a record high! The true blessing is that more than 70% of the 6-8 enrollments are from the community or international.

Grade 6	6	Grade 9	92
Grade 7	27	Grade 10	99
Grade 8	27	Grade 11	107
		Grade 12	122

High school enrollment breakdown:

*WELS/ELS students	235	53%	(last two years: 253 and 268)
Community students	77	18%	(last year 72)
International students	112	25%	(last year 109)
*Association students	221		(last two years 230 and 243)

Middle school enrollment breakdown:

Community/international	43	72%	(last two years: 78% and 58%)
Association	17	28%	(Last year 22%)

We are thankful for the many opportunities we have to share the love of Christ with nearly 480 students and their families. May the Lord use us as his seed planters to grow his kingdom.

Tuition Assistance Update

St. Croix continues to work in partnering with families to provide Christian education for their students. 219 students in Grades 6-12 (an increase of nearly 20%) received \$912,000 of need-based tuition assistance. The average award is approximately \$4,200 (\$3,200 in grades 6-8 and \$4,400 in grades 9-12). We are thankful to God that we are able to help nearly 45% of our school families to make Christian education accessible. Our retention rate remains exceptionally high at 96% and is a marker of academic excellence. It is also indicative of a school climate that matches our schools mission statement. What a blessing!

Student Make-Up

The student body at St. Croix Lutheran remains incredibly diverse. American students come from 3 different states (Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Nebraska), and the 122 international students (112 high school, 10 middle school) come from 15 different countries. The overall percentage of international enrollment among the grades 6-12 student body is 24%. We thank God for blessing us with many students with whom to share the love of Jesus this school year. The international enrollment by country is as follows:

China	40 & 4 MS	Hong Kong	2 & 1 MS
India	1	Vietnam	26 & 3 MS
St. Maarten	2	Germany	1
Japan	14 & 1 MS	Taiwan	1
South Korea	13 & 1 MS	Portugal	1
Thailand	3	Australia	1
Tanzania	1	Brazil	6

1 American Student from England

New Courses

Computer Science and Software Engineering

Statistics

AP Physics 2

Intro to Bible Knowledge 2

New Faculty/Staff

Faculty

Dave Tess – Math (Algebra 2, Advanced Math, Computer Science and Software Engineering)

Drew Kock – Assistant 6-12 Activities Director, Social Studies (6-8), Art (6-8), Bible Study (6-8)

Garrett Schoch – Dorm Supervisor, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1

Lorna Kapanke – English and LRC Director

Faculty and Staff in New or Revised Roles

Ryan Hulse – 6-12 Activities Director

Jon Leach – Campus Pastor Role now includes Congregational Communications component and addition to A-Team

Lisa Streckert – Adds PM Front Desk and President Admin Assistant

Betty Hochmuth – Adds Attendance Secretary role

Erin Hulse – Additional English Sections

Jason Fry – Religion Adjunct (WELS Staff Minister)

New Staff

Jim Fox – Maintenance (Full-Time)

Natalie Thiel – AM Front Desk

Bev and Perry Abel – Dorm Parents

Strong to Serve Update

Dorm Project update - There are still a few “punch list” items to complete along with a couple exterior projects. One significant exterior project involves a drainage issue. Since mid-late June, we have been flooding our neighbor’s back yards and in one specific instance or two their basements. A “fix” has been installed. This component involved drainage clean-up of the rip wrap, construction of a berm, and the installation of a diverter on the end of the underground reservoir. We hope that damage costs will be covered by our contractor’s or architects insurance company, but that remains a process.

The dormitory building has been a blessing and will continue to be a blessing to this ministry for decades. On behalf of the students, thank you for your support and direction in providing a wonderful place for them to live.

Strategic Planning

Three initiatives are receiving significant focus. They include Junior Boarding School Program, Community Marketing Study, and International /Dorm Friends Program. Below are updates on the work being done.

Junior Boarding School – This program is designed for students in grades 6-9. The purpose is to provide a more structured program and family atmosphere for those who may be away from home for the first time or less mature. Hannah Schmiede visited three schools in the New York to learn how they have successfully addressed these needs.

Community Marketing Study – Dr. Jeff Lemke has begun working with a couple of research firms in an attempt to gain information about our targeted community groups. The purpose is to use marketing funds in strategic areas.

International / Dorm Friends – Sue Galler has begun publicizing this new program designed to get students out of the dorms for a weekend and allow them to experience an American home. The first date will be October 23-25.

MNSAA Accreditation

SCL is finishing its self-study for MNSAA accreditation. A self-study takes place every six to seven years and it concludes with a site visit. The site visit was originally set for October; however, with the transition that has taken place, we have pushed it back to February. Ellen Kuznicki and Lucas Boehm have taken the lead on the project.

International English Summer Camp Recap (Dr. Jeff Lemke)

The English Program accommodated 66 students for the full three weeks and an additional 40 for the final week (106 total, 119 beds with chaperone and staff). Dorm 1 was used for meals and the new dorm for sleeping and socializing. English, math, science, and social science lessons were lead by SCL Instructors and a strong contingency of Bloomington Lutheran teachers. 20 new St. Croix students utilized the three-week Bridge Program; 16 during the full three weeks. The Bridge Program included school readiness instruction as well as content sections in geography/health, activities, and Bible knowledge. Both programs had students from China, Korea, Brazil, Vietnam, and Japan. Three alumni and one student were hired full time during the program. Next year, the three week Summer English Language Experience will shift back in the calendar and start on July 18. The Bridge Program will return to a two-week program. The goal is for the three week program to reach an average of 120 (plus or minus 20) students annually. This may involve a rotating morning and afternoon, class and activity schedule next year.