

WALLA WALLA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015



BE THE CHANGE



BE THE CHANGE



At World Youth Day 2013 held in Rio, Pope Francis had the following message for young people:

‘THE LORD NEEDS YOU FOR HIS CHURCH’, ‘BE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH’, ‘GO ON THE OFFENSIVE... BUILD A BETTER WORLD OF JUSTICE, OF LOVE, OF PEACE, OF FRATERNITY, OF SOLIDARITY’. ‘DON’T LEAVE IT TO OTHERS’, ‘DON’T BE OBSERVERS OF LIFE’. ‘GET INVOLVED’. ‘BE PROTAGONISTS OF CHANGE’. ‘DO NOT BE AFRAID TO GO AND BRING CHRIST INTO EVERY AREA OF LIFE, TO THE FRINGES OF SOCIETY’ —POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis’ comments are very appropriate because he realizes that the Catholic Church needs to lead the change in order to keep our young people engaged in the Church. The Pope not only is asking the youth to change the world, he is also asking us administrators, faculty and parishioners to change the way we interact and teach the youth.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines change as- to become different; to make someone or something different or to become something else. As the Walla Walla Catholic Schools complete its accreditation at Assumption and begins the accreditation process at DeSales, the administration, faculty and school board will be looking at ways to invigorate the school to provide a stronger Catholic Identity and a more innovative method of teaching.

I want to make you aware of some interesting facts that relate to Catholic Schools. In its September 2015 newsletter, Catholic School Management published the following facts: In 1960 4,373,000 students were enrolled in Catholic elementary schools as compared to 1,359,969 today, a decrease of 68.9%. Similarly, enrollment in Catholic high schools declined 34.1%. The average Catholic elementary school tuition is \$3,673 or 68.1% of the cost per pupil and the average Catholic high school freshman tuition is \$9,622 or 81.6% of the cost per pupil. Finally, the graduation rate based on diplomas presented is 99.0% for Catholic Schools and 78.2% for public schools, and the percent attending college is 85.7% from Catholic School compared to 39.5% from public schools.

In closing Pope Francis said “Our generation will show that it can rise to the promise found in each young person when we know how to give them space. This means that we have to create the material and spiritual conditions for their full development; to give them a solid basis on which to build their lives; to guarantee their safety and their education to be everything they can be.” May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and your family and keep you safe.

Sincerely,

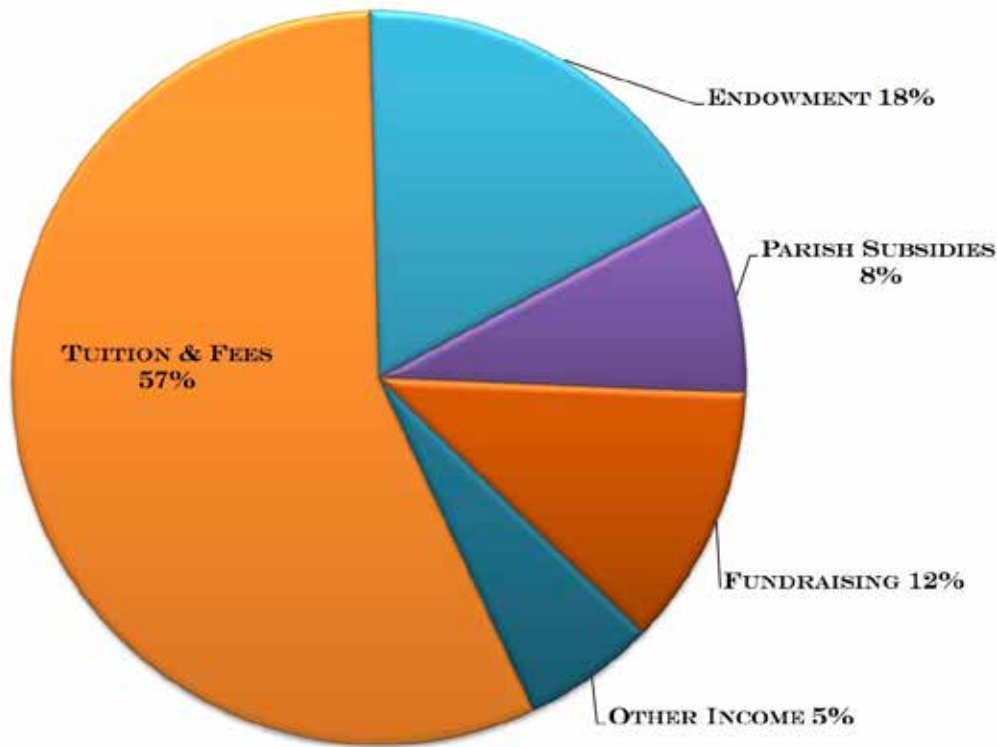
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Tompkins".

Daniel J. Tompkins, CPA
President of the Walla Walla Catholic Schools

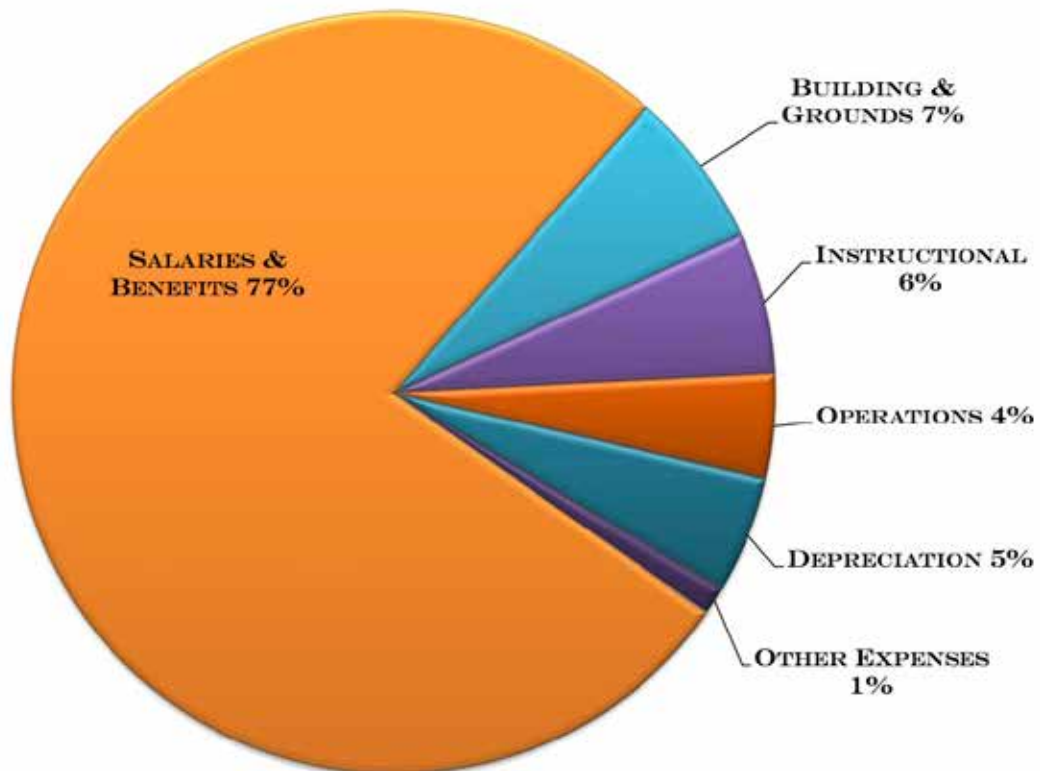


FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

REVENUE \$2,905,240.85



EXPENSES \$2,878,398.68



WALLA WALLA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ACADEMIC

- The ELC received a rating of “Quality Level of Excellence” within the Washington Early Achievers Program.
- “DeSales is the perfect place to not only grow in faith, but as a student, an athlete, and member of the community. Once you join the Walla Walla Catholic Schools community, you gain an extended family that forever remains a part of your life.” Cameron Richman, Class of 2015.
- Assumption Math Team placed first in a city wide math contest.
- SCRIP Program raised \$26,000 for WWCS operating budget.
- WWCS students combined to complete over 1500 hours of service within the community.
- Michael Caudill received the AP Scholar with Distinction recognition from the College Board by taking five AP exams and scoring commendably on all of them.
- DeSales National Honor Society partnered with the Red Cross for a blood drive: 30 pints of blood were collected, 19 first time donors, and full canteen supplied by the drive as well.
- AP exams: 35 AP exams administered in six subject areas.



MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2014-2015

- Assumption students held five food drives and collected personal items for St. Vincent de Paul and Catholic Charities.
- For the past 14 years, DeSales has graduated 100% of our students.
- The ELC was awarded a Walla Walla Valley Early Learning Center Coalition Grant to enhance our bilingual curriculum.
- Nearly 40 percent of the class of 2015 were the first generation in their family to attend college.
- DeSales students and families provided Christmas gifts for 50 area foster children.
- Assumption students collected alms for Guatemala Mission “Our Lady of the Highway Pre-school” and Colegio Nahualá.
- WWCS students at all grade levels participate in annual spiritual retreats.
- The class of 2015 received over \$725,826 in reported scholarships with 16 of the 25 students receiving at least one scholarship to college (64%).



THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

By Catherine Wolpert, Director



The Early Learning Center at Assumption continues to provide a rich environment to grow the social, cognitive and emotional foundations that provide early learning success for children in the Walla Walla Valley. We believe in ongoing efforts to improve the quality of everything we do. Our involvement in Early Achievers of Washington has moved our program to a high quality rating. We rely on evidence-based research to support the work we do in the classroom as well as collaborative efforts between long time educators and local colleagues. Individually, we all strive to be reflective in our own work to provide the best of ourselves to your children. Knowing our families and being committed to them is our top priority. We love the relationships that are established as this creates a system that ultimately supports the child at home and at school.

We continue to look forward to a year of record enrollment, bilingual curriculum, and more classes that still remain some of the smallest in the area as well as extremely affordable. We maintain a policy of inclusion that states: We support the right for every young child and his or her family, regardless of ability, to participate in a broad range of activities and contexts as full members of families, communities and societies as well as our school. Our desired result of this statement is a sense of belonging and membership, positive social relationships and friendships, and development and learning that allows each child to reach their full potential. This is the best gift we can give our families. It positively affects the community for years to come.

As part of the Walla Walla Catholic Schools we value being able to bring our faith into the classroom. Modeling Christian behaviors, sharing Bible stories and being ecumenical in our outreach continues to be the component of our work that makes our work rewarding and our programs successful. This is truly a place where each child is loved and accepted regardless of religion, family structure or race. Our commitment to our faith and mission continues to bestow blessings on all that we do here at the ELC. The essence of our work in all ways models the love Christ has for us.

Our staff has grown to include eleven of us working collaboratively on a daily basis to ensure your child is cared for and loved. Please feel free to stop by and see what is happening here!



ASSUMPTION K-8 SCHOOL

By John Lesko, Principal



**“START BY DOING WHAT’S NECESSARY; THEN DO WHAT’S POSSIBLE;
AND SUDDENLY YOU ARE DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE.”**

– ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Those simple words from St. Francis have been instrumental for our students, parents, faculty and staff, alumni and all those involved with our school community, serving as motivation in our quest for excellence in providing an Education for Life at Assumption School.

This 2014-2015 Annual Report will celebrate the multitude of accomplishments and success made possible by the work of so many that continue to add to the legacy of a rich and storied tradition here at Assumption and WWCS.

The 2014-2015 school year growth and success was marked by capital improvements, technology upgrades, and development of a School Improvement Plan as part of our Accreditation Process. The process included curriculum and program review and enhancement through the faculty and staff Professional Learning Community at Assumption. Our school efforts were reinforced through the tremendous commitment and support of our families and community.

During the 2015-2016 school year an outside visiting team of educators will evaluate and confirm our Accreditation work through the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA) Accreditation process.

As we look toward the future of Assumption School we will continue to acknowledge the importance of individual gifts and efforts which collectively will help lead to new success and excellence for our school community and allow us to state with confidence the best days of Assumption are ahead of us.

Please join me with your continued support of Assumption School as we become the agents of change in our vision of Education for Life.



DeSales High School

By Lynne Kuntz, Principal



"Be The Change" are three simple words that can take on many different meanings. At DeSales High School we are constantly looking for ways that we can "Be the Change" in regards to providing a rigorous curriculum, enlivened by faith within a Christ-centered environment.

As students with different backgrounds and cultures enter our classrooms, teachers are experimenting and trying new methods and strategies to help students succeed from the point they arrive. For example, our first Chinese International students will be graduating this spring. Since their arrival at DeSales three years ago, there have been many challenges for students and teachers alike. It has taken flexibility and patience on the part of everyone to assure these students are receiving the same challenging curriculum, faith lessons and extracurricular opportunities as other DeSales graduates. The goals of our International students are no different than anyone else. They are eager to graduate from DeSales with the best of everything we have to offer and enroll in a United States college.

Maintaining the facilities of DeSales High School also requires a constant eye towards change. Although the building is over 50 years old, it is a priority of the board of directors that we make every attempt to maintain facilities to the best of our abilities and make improvements as money becomes available. Through a grant from the Nazareth Guild, new handicapped accessible doors will be installed at the front of the school to help accommodate those with disabilities and/or families with strollers and small children. Maintaining public spaces and playing fields is also of top priority throughout the school year and summer.

Community Service is an obvious opportunity for our students to embrace "Be the Change". They are involved in activities all year where they are immersed in the community among folks of all ages. DeSales is often the first place a community member calls when seeking young adults to serve at an event. It isn't the actual work that sets our students apart, but the joy they bring to so many just by being available as instruments of God.

The choice to "Be the Change" is within each one of us. What better way to set our standards then by starting the "change movement" in our own school and faith community.



2014-2015 DeSales Athletic Highlights

By Greg Fazzari, Athletic Director

"Be the change" is a very accurate description of DeSales Athletics. Our coaches recognize that athletics provides a unique opportunity to build virtue in each athlete – wisdom, discipline, balance and justice. We definitely play to win, but our coaches recognize that winning is the product of a well-rounded formation that includes physical, moral and spiritual development. Our goal is not only to develop athletes who "become the change" with their team and in their sport, but also go on to "be the change" in the greater society.

Football

- Irish Football runs their first ever "Challenger Football Game".
- Irish has 5 players on the all-conference team.

Volleyball

- Lady-Irish host another successful "pink night" for the Irish faithful.
- Lady Irish has 3 players on the all-conference team.

Cross Country

- Isaac Mata, running for Wa-Hi, placed 9th in Regional Race and participated at State Tournament.

Basketball

- Irish girls take first in League and represent District 9 in Regional Tournament.
- Lady-Irish place 4th on All Conference team, boys place 1st on All Conference team.
- Cam Richman passes 1000 points scored in career at DeSales.

Swimming

- Luke Elmenhurst participates at State for 200 Free Style Relay and 400 Free Style Relay.

Cheerleading

- Nicole Hamada competed as individual and took first place.
- Cheerleaders took third place in cheer competition.

Golf

- Irish Girls win District title.
- Irish Boys win District title.
- Emily Baumgart, # 1 in District and #1 in State.
- Scott Kimball, #1 in District, State Tournament participant.
- Yizhi "Steven" Xiao, 3rd in District, State Tournament participant.
- Shea Kimball, 5th in District.

Softball

- Irish Ladies win the State Academic Championship.
- First in League.
- First in District.
- Participate in the State Tournament once again.
- Irish place 4th on all conference team.
- One WIAA player of the week, One Union Bulletin player of the week.

Baseball

- Irish Baseball takes # 2 in League.
- #2 in District.
- #3 in State.
- Two WIAA players of the week, one Union Bulletin player of the week.
- Cam Richman receives a full-ride scholarship to play baseball at University of Portland.

Track & Field

- Isaiah Scheel is Regional Champ in long jump, 2nd in 100 meter dash, 8th in State Tournament.
- Dominic Kjeldgaard is 3rd in Regionals, 9th in State Tournament.
- Skylar Olson places 4th in Regionals, participates in State Tournament.
- Isaac Mata, Chris Konen, Daniel Ness, Isaiah Scheel places 4th in Regional 4 x 400, 5th in State Tournament.

Summer

- Irish athletes participate in the APX program throughout the summer, with instruction from Irish-alums TJ Conley and Andy Buchkoski.



BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE PART OF THE WORLD YOU CAN SEE

By Michelle Conner, Class of 1993



I remember toiling years ago trying to find the perfect quote to accompany my senior picture. It had to be meaningful in order to make an impact and inspire underclassmen to take good notes in Mr. Michels' class. It had to be perky to go with my cheerleader personality—would you like to hear my story of performing a dance routine in the Kingdome when the DeSales Irish took home the B-11 State Title in 1991? It is fantastic! And it had to be short to fit into the space allotted, much unlike what you are reading now.

I settled on “Because I am so small, I may not achieve great things but I can achieve small things in a great way.” It is a meaningful, perky, short, completely plagiarized and mutilated version of a quote from Mother Teresa “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

When I remember my time spent in the Catholic Schools I remember the small things and the enormous impact because of them. I know how to sew on a button and mend a hem because Mrs. Michels stayed with me after school when I just couldn't grasp the concept of sewing a zipper into a pair of green and purple shorts I made in Independent Living. I love sending cards of appreciation, congratulations or simply letting someone know they are fabulous because it gives me an excuse to buy new stamps; something I have loved since Mrs. Reynolds introduced me to the art of philately in the 2nd grade at Assumption. I think of my senior year when I was experiencing times that were more difficult than the rest of my life and the teachers and staff were able to take the time to listen to me, give me the little extra help I needed or a hug and words of encouragement.

We all want to leave our mark on the pages of history. We want to be the change in the world. Unless we are on the space station, the only world we can see is the world around us. Be it in Walla Walla, Seattle, Palm Desert or Spokane—small acts can and will change the world.

Even looking at my graduating class at DeSales I can see the world being changed for the better from such a small place. I think of a classmate and dear friend who works with victims of abuse and neglect and helps them learn to live their lives in courage and strength. She is able to do this because she received the time, care and attention she needed to achieve her greatness. Someone saw potential in her and gave a scholarship to pay for her education—something small for them at the time but the impact is still making enormous change in the world. I see another classmate who has three children (born to a different mother) and through her wonderful sense of humor and faith, she and her husband are making lives that would have been nothing more than a fairy tale to them if they hadn't been adopted. Others are raising money for co-workers battling cancer, putting themselves through nursing school and caring for the sick, creating beautiful art for the rest of us to enjoy. The list goes on and on.

“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” My experience in the Walla Walla Catholic Schools showed me every day that doing what you love with great love will change the world around you. Whether it is donating your time and talents to help your community, gifting financially so others can benefit from your generosity or simply taking the time to send a note of appreciation to someone who has changed your life. Mrs. Michels, Mr. Cox, Mr. Chubb, Mrs. Richard, and Mr. Michels—go check your mailbox!

BE THE CHANGE: GENERATIONS THAT CAME BEFORE US HAD CONVICTION

By Rod Fazzari, Class of 1980



My wife and I have home-schooled our children for 20 years. And yet, there isn't a thing we wouldn't do for Walla Walla Catholic Schools. Our family collectively volunteers hundreds of hours each year to fund-raising activities for WWCS. Why? Because we see worthy Catholic causes as opportunities Our Lord gives us to be generous with our time, talents and treasure. What cause could be more worthy than a school offering a rigorous education while imparting the Catholic Faith to its students and their families?

I graduated from DeSales in 1980 and then from Eastern Washington University in 1984. While at EWU, I met and married a sweet young lady named Kimberly Storment who was earning her degree in home-economics education. We lived in Beaverton, OR, until late 1988, when a job at Key Technology brought us back to the Walla Walla area. By then we had two little boys, Bryan and Kyle, and nine months later Kimberly gave birth to Marcus – our 3rd son in four years.

Our children attended Assumption school and loved it there. When our fourth son, Peter, arrived 10 weeks premature, we found ourselves overwhelmed by the care he required. We realized we had to simplify our lives, and decided to try home-schooling. It has been the perfect educational choice for our family. While it is impossible to duplicate at home the academic rigor provided by a great school system like WWCS, home-schooling has been an excellent way for us to impart the Faith due to the abundance of time afforded each child to be with Mom, with siblings, and available for community service.

I think most people would agree that our culture is in crisis. Kimberly and I strongly believe that vibrant and authentic Catholic education, in all of its forms, is a key to the change that will come only through reclaiming our culture for Christ. We recognize that home-schooling is not the best choice for every family, which is why we are such strong proponents of WWCS. Our belief in the importance of Catholic education has also motivated us to bring Catholic Radio (English and Spanish) to Walla Walla, the Tri-Cities, Hermiston, Clarkston/Lewiston, and, soon, to Bend, Pullman, and Twisp as well.

My folks, Sam and Marie Fazzari, were models of service to the Catholic community for my four brothers and me when growing up. They cooked dozens of dinners for our parish and for WWCS, raising tens of thousands of dollars. They were each blessed with exceptional culinary skills and recognized the Lord's call to serve the local Catholic community by donating their time and talent. Their inspiring example convicted each of their sons to give generously of his time and talent to the local Catholic community.

This year marks the 21st year that the WWCS has operated kitchens at the local Fair, which my family and I have been heavily involved in from day one. We have also cooked many breakfasts and parish dinners over the years, and have made thousands of frozen pizzas, pastas and meatballs for various WWCS fund-raisers that have collectively raised several hundreds of thousands of dollars. Kimberly and I recognize these fund-raising activities as opportunities for our family to do something special together to serve the local Catholic community. Our children love being involved in these activities and eagerly look forward to them. The desire to support WWCS lasts long after they leave home. For example, our oldest son, Bryan, and his family live in Atlanta. A few years ago, the company Bryan works for offered to donate money as a part of their profit sharing to a school of each employee's choice. Without hesitation, Bryan chose ... WWCS.

The theme for this year's annual report is "Be the Change." Our parents' and grandparents' generations lived that theme by creating a Christian culture through the building of churches, hospitals, seminaries and school systems, which they bequeathed to us. In a culture that is crumbling around us, we struggle to simply maintain the structures we've inherited, much less build new ones. Why is that? I believe it is because the generations that came before us were a people of conviction. Ours, on the other hand, seems to be more a people of opinion. And mere opinions don't build grand structures or school systems.

Fortunately, the WWCS system is already built – and what a grand system it is. All we have to do is maintain and improve it so that it can continue to fulfill its role of imparting the Catholic Faith to our young people to equip them for engaging the culture and reclaiming it for Our Lord. This is easily doable for a people of conviction. Like our parents before us, Kimberly and I have done our best to channel to our children the grace God provides us for instilling such conviction. May you also do the same for your family. May God continue to bless in abundance the WWCS and all of the families that are a part of it.

THE WALLA WALLA CATHOLIC

Dear Alumni, Friends and Supporters,

For nearly thirty-eight years the Walla Walla Catholic Schools Endowment Association has been accumulating a permanent fund through wills and bequests, gifts of securities, cash, mutual funds and land, the purpose of which is to provide, in perpetuity, an ongoing and growing source of income to support the operations of the Walla Walla Catholic Schools.


In 1978, its first year, the Endowment provided \$12,707 in income for school operations. During the 2014-15 school year, \$522,811 in support was provided to the schools. Cumulatively, a total of \$5,922,255 has been distributed since the founding of the Endowment Association, with the 2015 distribution being the largest ever.

Today, tuition covers less than half of the cost of a Catholic education so no student or their family pays the full cost of an Assumption or DeSales education. Still, many students need additional financial aid.

Over the years much progress has been made and today the Endowment boasts assets near \$10,000,000, a significant accomplishment. The thirty-seven year story of the Endowment is, however, about a journey, not the destination. We should be proud of what has been accomplished, but we are still aspiring to a goal of providing the Catholic schools all the funding possible and necessary.

With the help of God and many generous donors we may someday reach that goal. In the meantime, we thank the many whose generosity has made all we do possible and ask those who have not yet helped to please consider doing so.

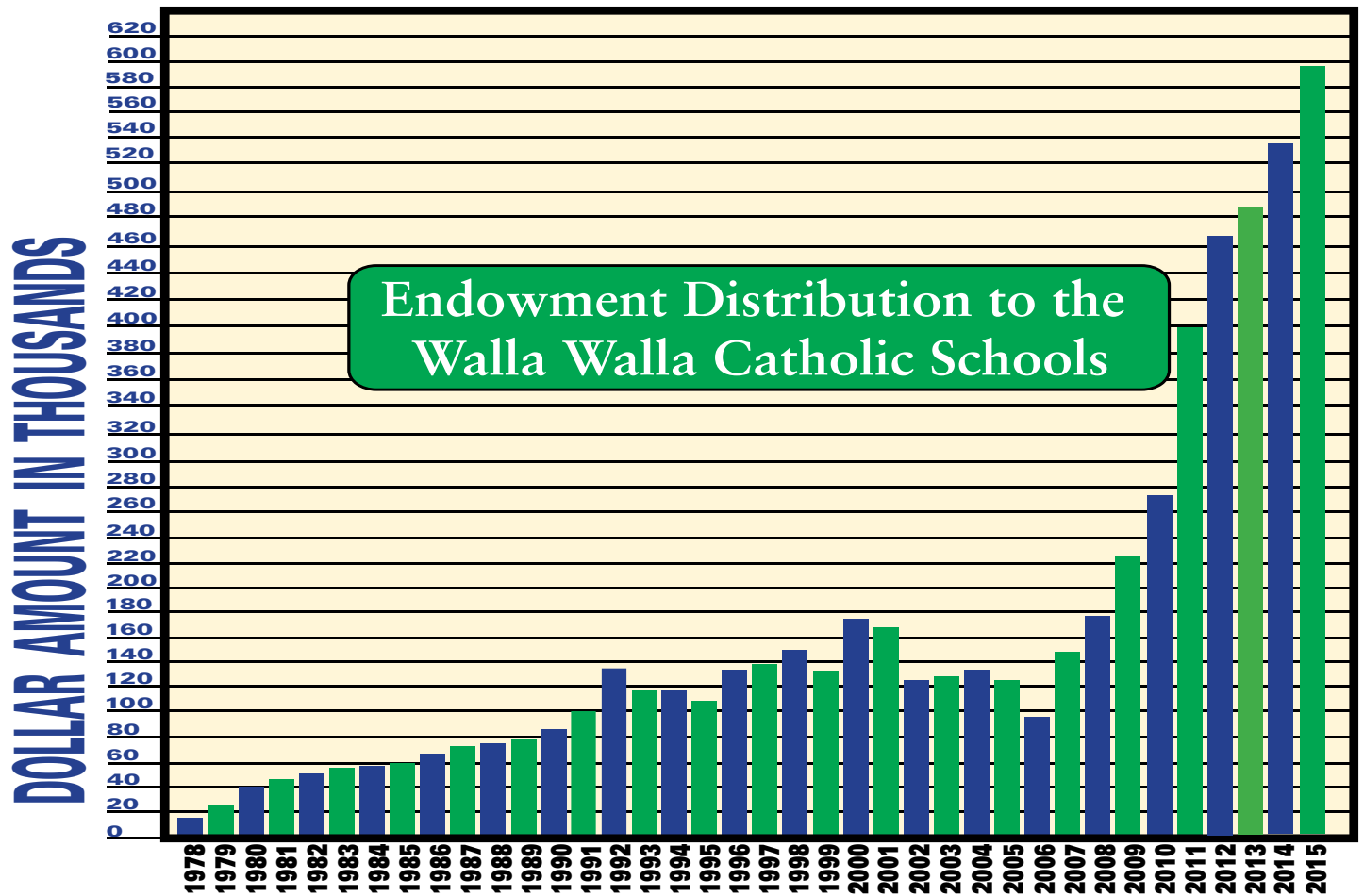
Sincerely,



Richard N. Heinzman
WWCS Endowment Association President



SCHOOLS ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION



SCHOOL YEAR ENDING	DISTRIBUTION AMOUNT	SCHOOL YEAR ENDING	DISTRIBUTION AMOUNT
1978	\$ 12,707	1997	\$ 137,171
1979	\$ 21,540	1998	\$ 146,346
1980	\$ 39,924	1999	\$ 129,114
1981	\$ 42,085	2000	\$ 170,466
1982	\$ 46,931	2001	\$ 163,424
1983	\$ 52,636	2002	\$ 121,693
1984	\$ 53,938	2003	\$ 123,336
1985	\$ 57,927	2004	\$ 131,351
1986	\$ 62,603	2005	\$ 120,130
1987	\$ 70,005	2006	\$ 96,918
1988	\$ 72,527	2007	\$ 143,620
1989	\$ 76,585	2008	\$ 176,415
1990	\$ 82,176	2009	\$ 221,070
1991	\$ 99,374	2010	\$ 270,491
1992	\$ 131,142	2011	\$ 398,785
1993	\$ 114,364	2012	\$ 462,640
1994	\$ 114,364	2013	\$ 483,717
1995	\$ 106,542	2014	\$ 517,711
1996	\$ 127,646	2015	\$ 522,811
		TOTAL	\$5,922,225

THE WALLA WALLA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Welcome to Walla Walla Catholic Schools! The Walla Walla Catholic School Board members are both enthusiastic and optimistic heading into this 2015-2016 school year. Over the summer break, additional capital improvements were made to our buildings and grounds. Generous donor and volunteer support has made it possible to install new fencing around the softball fields, new bleachers, and soon the addition of a new press box. I want to thank everyone who has played or continues to play a part in improving and beautifying our schools.

The Board of Directors continues to support a premier learning experience for all our school-aged children. WWCS teachers and staff continue to focus on providing excellent educational opportunities, coupled with faith formation, at all grade levels. The Early Learning Center continues to receive accolades at the preschool level, while Assumption is beginning its 60th year educating our Walla Walla area youth. DeSales High School continues to offer AP courses, extra-curricular activities, and community service leadership opportunities.

Students enrolled in the Walla Walla Catholic Schools become part of the WWCS community that helps each other grow academically, athletically, spiritually and socially. Thank you to all the parents, students, teachers and staff for your personal contributions to our community!

Mona Geidl
Chair, WWCS Board of Directors



In the 2014-2015 Annual Report, we celebrate the generosity of our many alumni and friends who have invested in Walla Walla Catholic Schools through their charitable giving during our last fiscal year (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015). If we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled names please advise the Office of Advancement by calling 509.525.3030.

Jim Accuntius
Charles & Michele
Acock
Dawn Adams
Eugene & JoAnn
Aliverti
Michael & Kathleen
Allasina
Ronald & Janet Allen
Tim & Tina Allington
A & N Heating and
Cooling
Marilyn Anderson
Troy & Mariko
Anderson
Andy's Market
Gerald & Nancy
Anhorn, Jr.
Gerald & Janice
Anhorn, Sr.
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Alice Armour
Scott Arnone
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J. Patrick & Peggy
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Dan & Val Baffney
Tom & Jane Baffney
Clara & Art Bald
Trust
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Barry Balof & Claire
Valente
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Rev. Mr. James &
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Patricia Sorenson
David & Connie
Cochran
Eric & Melissa
Cochran
Evelyn Cochran
Harold & Val
Cochran
Richard & Geri
Coleman
Casey Colley
Larry & Helen
Connors
Doris Cook
Raymond & Judy
Cooper
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Mark & Betze
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Gary & Gina Cox
Kim & Lisa Cox
Coffee Cravings
Gordon 'Doc' & June
Cresci
Rocco & Marcy
Criscola
James & Coleen
Crowley
Cummins Athletic
Evaline Curry
Marguerite Daltoso
Don & Gail
Danielson
Tim & Krista
Davidson
Elizabeth Davis Trust
Carol Dayton
Votendahl
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