

Walla Walla Catholic Schools

Annual Report

2021-2022

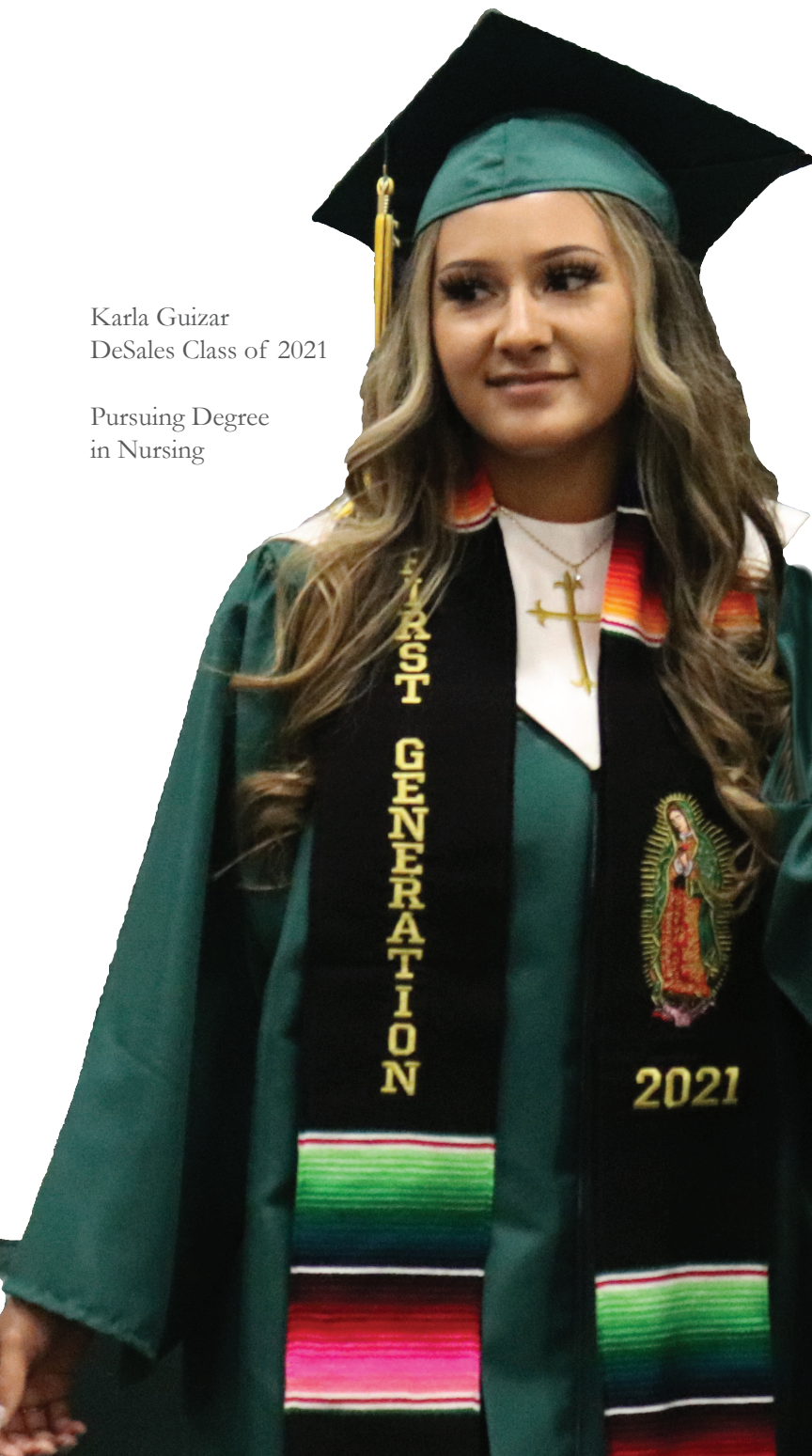


WALLA WALLA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS is a Catholic faith-based educational community where students are encouraged to think critically, seek knowledge and expand understanding with a global perspective. Students learn to integrate their thoughts and beliefs in ways to develop educational excellence, nurture relationships and inspire leadership and service.

*Walla Walla Catholic Schools is
Education for Life.*

Karla Guizar
DeSales Class of 2021

Pursuing Degree
in Nursing



2020-21 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jerry Anhorn, Jr.
Deacon Jim Barrow
Edward Chvatal
Darren Goble
Ruthann Haider
Kristal Hassler
Ryan Kregger
Fr. Matthew J. Nicks
Cober Plucker
Marleen Ramsey
Andrea Renholds
Joyce Sanks
Fr. Curtis Seidel
Elly Sherry
Brenda Shields

OUR MISSION

With Christ as our foundation, and in partnership with families, Walla Walla Catholic Schools forms the whole student: mind, body, and soul. We are committed to academic excellence and the development of faith and reason. Our students grow to be disciples of Jesus Christ—strong in virtue, exceptional in learning, and generous in service.

Dear Walla Walla Catholic Schools Community,

“**T**he harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2). With these words Our Lord sent the seventy disciples ahead of him to proclaim that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. They were instructed to “Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals,” and were told they were being sent “like lambs in the midst of wolves.” What a strange experience it must have been for those disciples. They did not yet fully understand who Jesus was or the nature of His mission. Yet, they knew enough and had experienced enough to trust our Lord.

In many ways, the 2020-21 school year was a test of our own trust in Christ. It seemed that as soon as plans were made for the year, circumstances would change requiring us to make new plans. For example, the teachers and staff at both schools worked hard throughout the summer of 2020 to prepare for an in-person opening to the school year, only to have it all thrown into chaos as the state released new metrics for remote and hybrid learning. Yet, in the midst of the significant challenges during the past year, God was especially present to our schools, particularly through the cooperation and support of our community.

When the seventy were sent out with no purse, bag, or sandals, they were forced to rely upon the generosity of those whom they encountered along the way. In a similar way, we at the Walla Walla Catholic Schools rely on the generosity and support of others. Support has been given from our community in the form of prayer, offers of assistance, flexibility, adaptability, financial generosity, and more. All of this allowed the WWCS to provide continuous in-person full day instruction for the entirety of last year at our primary grades and the majority of the year for all other grade levels, all while maintaining a healthy and safe school environment for our students and staff.

As the Gospel of Luke continues, “the seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!’” (Luke 10:17). During this last year, it feels like all of us have been fighting with various metaphorical demons, and perhaps even literal ones. While the fight continues, I am grateful for the ways in which the efforts of our Walla Walla Catholic Schools have assisted our students, staff, and families in that battle.

Thank you for laboring in the field with us, for being companions on this journey, and for being a part of this incredible Walla Walla Catholic Schools community.



Fr. Curtis Seidel
President



John Lesko
Principal

2020-2021 Highlights Even with the many challenges and restrictions of COVID-19 last year, we were still able to have an incredible 2020-21 school year at the Walla Walla Catholic Schools. Some events had to be modified, some events had to be cancelled completely. Not everything went according to plan. However, the strength and support of our school community has never been more obvious than over the past year. What a blessing to be a part of the Walla Walla Catholic Schools!

Sausagefest Family Movie Night

Instead of our traditional SausageFest experience, the dedicated SausageFest team planned a fun alternative event: Family Movie Night! Mike and Lorie Spiess generously donated their Drive-In movie facility to the WWCS for the event. Families ordered delicious German and Italian sausages, enjoyed live music, and watched a family friendly movie together!

School Play: The Jungle Book

After starting their rehearsals online in October, our drama department eventually went on to perform for families and friends on stage and in person in February! Their incredible production of “The Jungle Book” delighted audiences with family friendly humor and fantastic costumes!



Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week provided us with an opportunity to reflect on the many blessings that have been provided throughout the last 156 years of Catholic education in Walla Walla. It included fun dress-up days and special activities for students throughout the week, as well as a holy hour for all families to gather together in prayer.

Frozen Pizza and Pasta Fundraisers

Because the Walla Walla Fair & Frontier Days was cancelled last year, we missed out on the opportunity to serve our famous pastas and delicious pizzas out at the WWCS Fair Booth. However, our Booster Club organized a frozen pizza fundraiser and a frozen pasta fundraiser so that folks could still get their fair food favorites!

HOPE 2021: Together We Have HOPE

Last year, HOPE included an incredible social and dinner at the Country Club, an online auction, and for the first time ever, a golf tournament! Families and friends were able to come together and enjoy these events all while supporting the Walla Walla Catholic Schools!

Class of 2021 Graduation

After a year and a half filled with the challenges of going to school in the midst of a pandemic, it was so awesome to be able to provide a full in-person graduation ceremony for our awesome class of 2021. We loved getting to celebrate with these special students and their families, to see each of them get to this point, and we are excited to see what they do next!

Irish Athletics

The 2020-21 school year presented many challenges for our athletics program. Each season was impacted by the various restrictions and protocols as a result of COVID-19, and the length of each season was extremely limited because of the modified schedules. Even with these challenges though, we were thrilled to be able to offer opportunities for our student athletes to play every season last year. We started with football, fall cheer, and volleyball, then we moved into track, golf, baseball, and softball, then we finished the year with basketball and winter cheer.

Even though the WIAA didn't allow for competitions until the late spring, we were able to get started with individualized workouts in socially-distanced pods. Throughout the year, we worked within the guidelines to provide as many athletic opportunities as possible for our student athletes, and to prepare them for competitions once they became available. While many other schools were unable to participate in any athletics at all last year, our schools got to play every sport. Because of the dedication and support of our coaches and the willingness of our athletes to put in the work, we were proudly ahead of the curve with our athletics programs during the 2020-21 school year. This was a huge accomplishment for the Walla Walla Catholic Schools, and was a great benefit for the physical, mental, and social health of our students.



Nick Hazeltine
WWCS Athletic Director



A Message from the School Board Chair

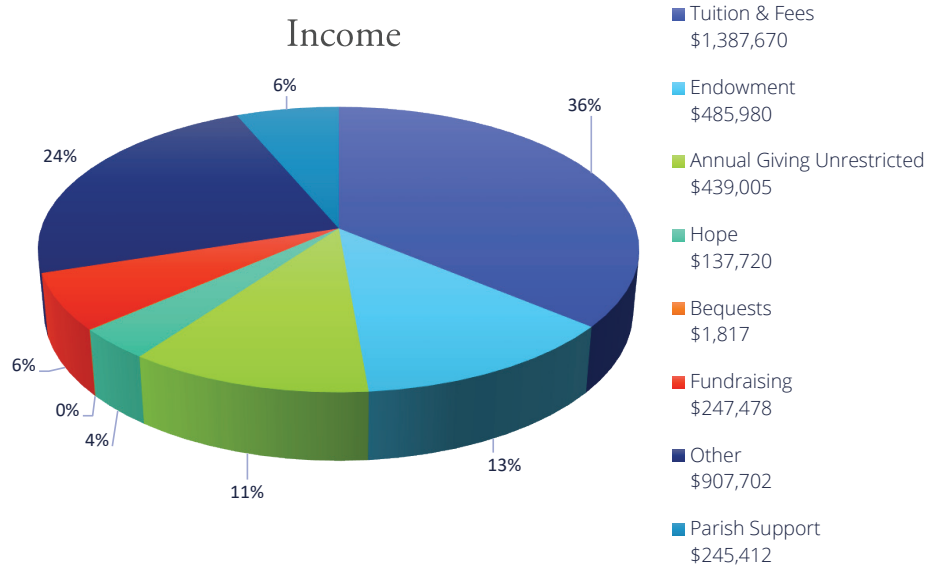
As the year winds down, I am reminded of all we have to be thankful for at the Walla Walla Catholic Schools. New students to befriend in our classrooms, skilled teachers to enrich our lives, and dedicated staff to care for our buildings. May we all reach out to a less familiar face in the crowd so as to form new connections across our wonderful community. I pray that each of us can experience the peace that Christ brings in this season, and I look forward to growing into an even stronger community during the year to come.

Andrea Renholds
WWCS Board Chair

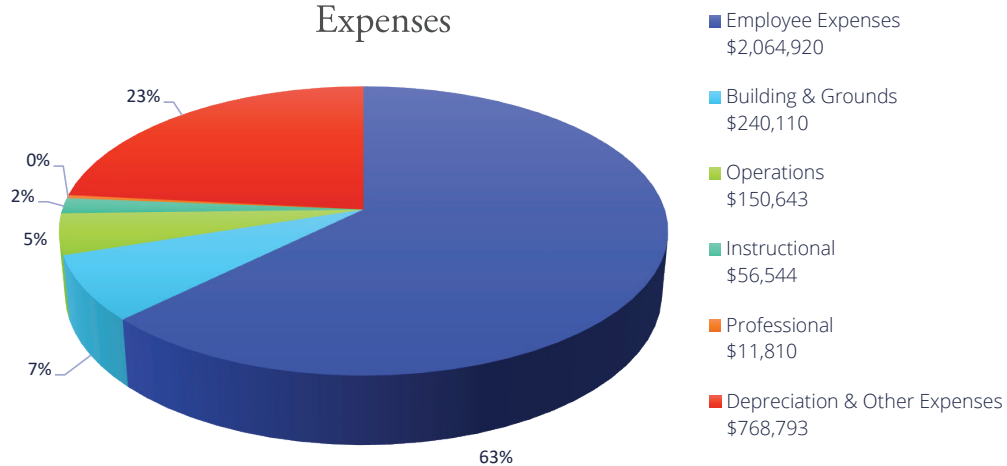


Financials

Income



Expenses



We are Faithful: 72% of our families are Catholic, 28% are of other faiths.

We are Successful: 100% graduation rate for our senior class.

We are Scholarly: 88% of our graduating class were accepted into four-year universities.

We are Dedicated: An average of 16.5 years teaching in the Walla Walla Catholic School system.

We are Involved: 90% of our students are involved in some sort of extracurricular activity through the schools.

We are Supportive: 59% percent of our families received financial aid to help with tuition costs.

Endowment

The Walla Walla Catholic Schools' Endowment Association was established on November 16, 1977 as a separate entity from Walla Walla Catholic Schools. The Endowment's primary purpose is to provide regular and growing income to support ongoing Catholic education in the Walla Walla valley. Donations made to the Endowment Association provide a perpetual benefit to present and future students.

In 2020-2021 WWCS received \$485,980 from the WWCS Endowment association to help fund staff salaries, operating expenses and student scholarships.

WWCS Endowment Board of Directors

David Elmenhurst, President
Ed Leahy, Secretary
Mike Gorton, Treasurer
Dick Heinzman
Robyn Huether
Sandy Kimball
Dave Konen

WWCS Heritage Society

The Walla Walla Catholic Schools' Heritage Society was established in 2019 as a way to honor the generosity and farsightedness of individuals who are providing for future generations of children by leaving in their will a legacy gift to the Walla Walla Catholic Schools and or the Walla Walla Catholic Schools Endowment Association. Membership is open to anyone who has made this type of provision, no matter the size of the gift, through a vehicle such as a will, trust, annuity, retirement plan or insurance policy.

Join our Heritage Society and become a member. Your Legacy is our future.

If you would like to join or have questions, please contact our Director of Advancement, Jamie Van Wormer at (509) 525-3030 or email jvanwormer@thewwcs.com



Frank & Marilyn Gaffrey
Heritage Society Members

"Paying it forward" is our motivation to support Walla Walla Catholic Schools. I would not have been able to attend St. Patrick's and DeSales if it had not been for generosity of former parishioners and patrons assisting with tuition for me and my four siblings. Attending WWCS helped me to develop character and leadership skills, and provided a strong academic foundation, as well as support for my athletics pursuits. I feel strongly that WWCS greatly helped me to become my best self, and that is why it is so important for us to help provide that opportunity for future students.

Go Irish!

Frank Gaffrey
DeSales Class of 1963



The Spirit of Generosity

Cafeteria & Theatre Stage Renovation

Over the summer months, the cafeteria at DeSales was refreshed and renovated. This included getting the floors refinished, filling the space with beautiful new tables and chairs for our students, and getting a fresh coat of paint on all the interior walls, doors, and cabinetry. In addition to all of this, the stage in the cafeteria was also reconstructed. The stage floor has been replaced with new wood resulting in a nice, smooth surface, and the backstage area was cleaned out and organized. This new stage will be home to many years of school drama productions in the future.

These updates were made possible due to a generous donation from George and Sandi Elmenhurst. Their passion and love for Catholic education is evident, and we are so grateful for their investment in our schools and in the lives of our students. Thank you!

New Outdoor Patio

This past year, DeSales High School had an outdoor patio built to host school lunches, class instruction and alumni events. The students were able to benefit by getting outdoors and using this space during the pandemic. A big thank you to Koncrete Industries, Eagon Excavating & Construction Services, Three Sons Concrete, and Catherine and Hank Worden for donating their time, material and effort to this wonderful project. We are blessed to have such an amazing community!

Refreshed Exterior Paint

Due to many donations, we were able to give our buildings a new look and paint the exterior at both DeSales and Assumption Schools. Thank you to our community and benefactors for making this happen.



Dear Walla Walla Catholic Schools Families & Friends,

This past year was definitely a challenging time for all, but our students were still able to have a successful year thanks to your generous support. Our community stepped up when Walla Walla Catholic Schools needed it the most.

Last year we exceeded our Annual Giving goal, which included the All-In WA gift match from Blue Mountain Community Foundation. Thank you for believing in us and supporting us as we continue to work hard to provide a rigorous academic and faith-based learning environment. We have an amazing WWCS community and are very blessed to have such caring and dedicated families, community, faculty and staff.

THANK YOU to the many families and contributors who participated in the last year's Annual Giving Campaign.

There are many ways you can make a difference.

Your gifts to the Walla Walla Catholic Schools' Annual Fund positively impact students in many ways:

- Advances academic excellence
- Accelerates education through innovation and technology
- Invests in students through tuition assistance
- Elevates performing and visual arts programs
- Supports vibrant student life and faith development



Thank you for your generosity!

Friends & Family Giving Circle

Please join the WWCS Friends and Family Giving Circle. The Giving Circle is open to anyone who makes a gift of \$250 or more to Walla Walla Catholic Schools. As a member, you will be providing valuable support and have additional opportunities to make connections within our school community.

For more information, please contact Jamie Van Wormer at (509) 525-3030 or email jvanwormer@thewwcs.com

**Donate online at
thewwcs.com/annual-fund
or call 509-525-3030**



"When we moved here, we were searching for a faith-based school with a strong sports program and a meaningful community. We found this and more at Walla Walla Catholic Schools. The teachers have grounded our kids in their faith with an emphasis on virtues, learning, and service. Our kids have received a terrific education and engaged in valuable stewardship opportunities. We've all made good friends, participating in endless extracurricular activities, social events, games, and spiritual gatherings. We are very proud to be a part of the WWCS community."

Steve & Vanessa Kimble
Friends & Family Giving Circle

Our Pillars

Pillar 1: Faith and Identity

As a vital part of the teaching mission of the Church, Walla Walla Catholic Schools work to foster and strengthen personal relationships with Jesus Christ and to be a communal witness to the Gospel. Our schools are intentional about cultivating the Christian formation of our students and the wider school community. This is accomplished through the promotion of Christian beliefs and values in all of our classrooms and in all subjects, and through a supportive community that engenders kindness, generosity, and service.

Pillar 2: Academic Excellence

The Walla Walla Catholic Schools are committed to providing a strong, well-rounded Catholic education that motivates students to realize and achieve their full academic potential. Supported by close relationships with faculty, staff, and parents, students are challenged by a vibrant Catholic curriculum. Students at all academic levels will be provided with a foundation for lifelong learning, productive community engagement, and a fulfilling vocation.

Pillar 3: Student Life

We are committed to forming the whole student: body, mind, and soul. We help students to use their God-given talents to instill and develop a breadth of interests beyond academics, both in and out of the classroom. Through strong electives, various student clubs and extracurricular activities, as well as a competitive athletics program, we seek to foster that growth in a supportive, Christ-centered environment.

Pillar 4: Enrollment and Community Building

Our vision for enrollment at the Walla Walla Catholic Schools is to become the first choice for Catholic and non-Catholic families in our community looking for a Christ-centered education in the Walla Walla Valley. We continue to be committed to finding innovative ways to offer financial aid to all families in need. Our ideal enrollment level will maximize opportunities for education and activities, while maintaining the benefits of small class sizes and a strong community.

Pillar 5: Sustainable Stewardship

Walla Walla Catholic Schools must have vital infrastructure in place to fulfill our mission effectively and to operate with excellence. Our schools have been blessed by the generosity and stewardship of past and present generations as evidenced by our facilities, quality faculty and staff, technology, and financial viability. We will continue to manage, increase, and be good stewards of our resources while putting the Walla Walla Catholic Schools in position for a successful and sustainable future. This will ensure that the mission of our schools will continue to positively impact local families generation after generation.



Riley Elia



Koy Fruci



Samantha Garcia



Karla Guizar



Katelyn Hassler



Katie Hermann



Xitlali Herrera



Lucas Hicks

DeSales High School Class of 2021

Go out in joy as you celebrate your achievement here.
Go out with confidence, know that the God of love will lead your way.
Go out in unity, take your gifts and give them to the world.
Go out with strength, clothed and equipped with all you've learned.
Go out with wisdom, as God renews your mind each day.
Go out in love with kindness and blessings to give away.
Go out and take your studies to bless God's beautiful world.
Go out with freedom, there's so much more to see, enjoy and learn.



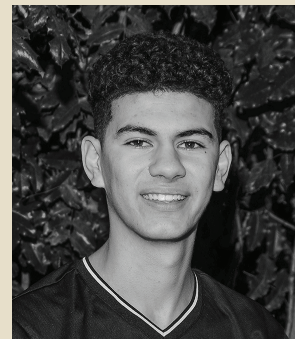
Sandra Holtzinger



Patrick Jones



Avery Klein



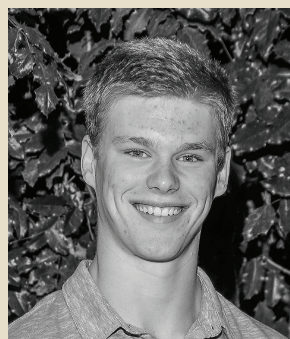
Andrew Lyford



Celeste Montero



Victoria Moon



Drake Scott



Lucia Skaarup



Walla Walla Catholic Schools
919 E Sumach St
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1349

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
WALLA WALLA WA
PERMIT NO. 54

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WWCS PRESENTS...
HOPE 2022

Enchanted
NIGHT OF HOPE

SAVE THE DATE
4-30-2022