



SANTA CRUZ

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

**Forming Children in Christ's Message of Service, Compassion,
Courage and Spirit**

2023 – 2028 Strategic Plan: Executive Summary
Santa Cruz Catholic School
Buda, Texas

Mission

"The mission of Santa Cruz Catholic School is to educate students to be lifelong learners and the next generation of Catholic leaders, following Christ's message of Service, Compassion, Courage and Spirit."

Santa Cruz Catholic School serves the Buda/Kyle/South Austin community, providing excellence in education for students from PreK3 through 8th grade. Through our comprehensive curriculum, experienced and outstanding teachers, and parental and community involvement, Santa Cruz provides its diverse population with faith-centered instruction that inspires young hearts and minds. Our school holds accreditation through the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department (TCCB-ED). TCCB-ED is a department of the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops and receives its accrediting authority from the Texas Educational Private School Accrediting Commission. Santa Cruz Catholic School and the Diocese of Austin utilize the **Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)** state standards, which have been adopted by the Texas State Board of Education.

"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." - Pope Francis

Strategic Planning Committee Members

Leadership	School Advisory Board	Cardinal Family & School Alliance Executive Committee
Rev. Jesse Martinez--Pastor Jessica Chaffee – Principal Rev. Sam Bass – Parochial Vicar	Thelma Martinez Michael Deitering Dr. Jennielle Strother Melissa Hernandez Sandra Boehnke Chris LaRocque Raymond McMurrey Robin Perry	Jennifer Gomez--President Bryanne Mayo – V. President Erick Luna--Treasurer Trisha LaRocque--Secretary

Faculty and Staff			
Kathleen Murray David Hanson Leticia Gonzales Jeanette Villanueva Kelly Gosey Liz Cabrera Angela Colmenero Ashley Dutton	Brenda Hull Melissa Scott Marissa Manzanales Sheena Luna Liz Culp Elizabeth Olivieri Amaris Hutsler Heather Ames	Tanya Trevino Maribel Robles Mark Duhon Rita Wolfenstein Sandra Guerra Sharon Crelia Belinda Ellis	Amy Wierzowski Lilliana Silva Sandra Santana Eric Av Terry Koenig Christian Gonzalez Alex Hanson Romulo Osorio

Other Contributors			
Paula Jo Lemonds	Cindy Gee	Laura Duhon	

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2023-2028 Strategic Plan Executive Summary: Goals and Objectives

Mission and Catholic Identity: Students at Santa Cruz will become lifelong learners and the next generation of Catholic leaders following Christ's message of service, compassion, courage, and Spirit.

- Students will participate purposefully in the liturgy.
- Imbue students in Catholic culture through art, prayer, and focused lessons.
- Students will live the life of the Church through participation in Mass, Prayer, Retreats, and Service Projects.
- Students are formed as salts and lights of the Gospel through integrated religion curriculum, prayer, and devotionals.
- Students will become an anchor of hope to peers through exposure to social justice curriculum, retreat opportunities, and service projects.

Academics: As reflected in the mission of Santa Cruz Catholic School, the whole person will be developed by teaching important lessons and lifelong habits that will prepare students for their future.

- Staff Development – Evidence based best practices, assessment data, and specifically identified needs will be guiding principle for staff development.
- Programing – Students at Santa Cruz Catholic School will have the opportunity to participate in advanced academic offerings during the school day, as appropriate by grade level.
- Math – Students at Santa Cruz Catholic School will develop advanced knowledge and skills by participating in robust, vertically aligned math program designed to give all students the knowledge and skills to excel.
- World Language – The World Language program at Santa Cruz will utilize rigorous best practices to support language acquisition.

- Language Arts – Students at Santa Cruz Catholic School will develop comprehensive reading and writing skills that are measurable in each grade level.
- Science – Students at Santa Cruz Catholic School will receive balanced exposure to science standards through hands-on experiences and practical applications.
- Social Studies – Students at Santa Cruz Catholic School will demonstrate awareness and appreciation of the world and society.
- Fine Arts – Students at Santa Cruz Catholic School will have increased opportunities to explore a variety of fine arts.
- Library – Santa Cruz School Library will provide resource and media support to Santa Cruz Catholic School’s instructional program.

Student Services: As reflected in the Catholic mission of Santa Cruz Catholic School, the whole person will be developed by supporting students beyond the general classroom.

- Guidance and Counseling – Operates at Santa Cruz Catholic School to meet the emotional, and spiritual wellbeing of students.
- New Family/ Student support – Establish protocols for assisting new families and students of Santa Cruz Catholic School to successfully transition into the life of the school.
- Student services will support student’s access to Santa Cruz Catholic School
- Santa Cruz Catholic School will have opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities staffed by qualified instructors.

Facilities: The facilities of Santa Cruz Catholic School provide students and faculty with contemporary space that supports learning and working in a safe, secure, and effective environment

- Infrastructure – Develop a comprehensive plan for continuous improvement and ongoing maintenance for the school facilities and grounds
- Security – Assess current status with security and establish an improvement plan to evolve dynamically to respond to trends.
- Athletic Facilities – Establish strategic outlook for facilities improvements that would enhance student athletics.
- Library – Enhance existing library space to include sufficient resources to support initiatives in academics.
- Labs – Redevelop the current middle school science lab to align with strategic initiatives in academics.

Technology: Technology at Santa Cruz Catholic School will be used as a tool in forming children in the Truth of Christ

- Infrastructure – Technology infrastructure will improve to support usage.
- Technology Usage – Students and staff will utilize technology as a tool for navigating the academic environment in keeping with contemporary usage.
- Technology Curriculum – Students will graduate from Santa Cruz Catholic School with proficient and practical knowledge in current technology.

Finance: Maintain a sustainable financial plan that aligns resources with priorities to support the mission and vision of Santa Cruz Catholic School

- Budgeting-- Santa Cruz Catholic School will develop a financial plan that includes both current and projected budgets and is the result of a collaborative process that aligns with the priorities that support the mission.
- Financial Plans – Author financial plans with involvement and collaboration from committees, advisory boards, and other experts in the field.
- Communication – Create communication cadence and understanding of budget reports.

Advancement: Developing/Enrollment/Marketing: Santa Cruz will become a self-sustaining Catholic School in which students receive a high-quality education in a state-of-the-art facility

- Develop a comprehensive development plan that outlines strategies and goals by funding sources.
- Student enrollment will reflect research-based student to teacher ratio to maximize classroom learning while exercising good stewardship of resources.
- Communication is organized, consistent, easily accessible to parents, alumni, donors, and other stakeholders.

Governance: The goal of the governance is to establish frameworks and guidelines for parents, students, faculty, and staff for sustainable operation and continual improvement of the school

- The Santa Cruz Catholic School Leadership Team realizes and implements the school's mission and vision through oversight.
- Conduct an annual review of the Strategic Plan to measure progress.