

Executive Report

November 2023



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We're well into a new school year and our theme, "Rooted in Love" (Ephesians 3:17-19), reminds us of God's unwavering love for us, our Savior's sacrifice (rooted in love), and how we, out of thankfulness, should reflect the love of Jesus in our lives. This is a principle that resonates throughout our campus; in classrooms, athletics, the arts, among teachers and staff, as well as students. The unwavering love of Christ underpins everything we do at St. Croix Lutheran Academy. As challenges and opportunities face us throughout the year, we know our loving God works everything for our good.

NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

We were blessed with the addition of seven new faculty and staff members to start the school year. Greg Brisolaro, Isaac McClosky, Kostia Skorenkyi, and Hannah Willems serve as dorm supervisors. Hannah Willems and Amanda Weddle were assigned by MLC and teach in the middle school. Heidi Paulsen accepted our call to teach high school math. Kris Marshall joined the staff as Process Improvement Manager. She will use her many skills to assist with strategic marketing, operational efficiency, leadership coaching, and more.

We are currently hiring for several staff positions in Accounting, Admissions and Mission Advancement. Please visit www.StCroixLutheran.org/jobs to learn more.

RETIREMENTS AND DEPARTURES

Three of our faculty will retire at the end of this school year and another will transition into a new role outside of SCLA.

Ellen Pieper began her ministry at St. Croix in 1979 and has served here ever since. She has taught many different courses but currently teaches Social Studies and coaches basketball and golf.

Pastor Dave Huebner has served St. Croix since 1988. He is sometimes described as the "Swiss army knife" of the faculty, given his ability to teach religion, math, languages, and more. He also serves as the varsity girls soccer coach and Guidance Director.

Paul Weihing has served at St. Croix since 2003. He is probably best known for starting the applied technology program at SCLA and his organization and coaching of the trap team.



CELEBRATE

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Years of God's Grace



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HOMECOMING

Our recent homecoming festivities were a success, bringing together more than 100 alumni and their families. We served nearly 250 under the tent near the baseball field. Papa John's provided the pizza, paid for by the family of alumni Jim and Lisa Frantzen.

THE SOCIAL INSTITUTE (TSI)

This school year, SCLA began using The Social Institute (TSI), a new online platform geared toward helping our 6-12 students navigate the social media world. The goal of the program is to help students use technology in a positive way to fuel healthy online use and future success. The program covers relevant topics such as self-esteem, distractions, anxiety, and cyberbullying. Each lesson generates positive interactions between teacher and students and among peers while discussing timely issues facing teens today all in light of God's Word.

Additionally, the program provides SCLA staff with helpful data and insights into our students' social media use and their overall mental health. For example, we learned that SCLA students' most-used app is YouTube (82% use it regularly), and their most-used social media app is Snapchat (67%). Our Dean of Student Life, Adam Frey, had this to say about TSI: "the platform is professional and easy to use for our staff and interactive for our students. And the data we receive from each lesson helps us have a pulse of our school culture. We are able to have intentional conversations with our students about both challenges and opportunities before them."

RETIREMENTS AND DEPARTURES

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He also teaches religion and served as Dean of Students through 2021 when he transitioned the role to Current Dean of Student Life, Adam Frey.

Lorna Kapanke and her husband, Jason, will be moving to the LaCrosse area this summer. They will move onto the Kapanke family farmstead and start a new chapter in their lives. Lorna helped so many students with her work in the Learning Resource Center. She also organized the New Friends ministry at SCLA, bringing people with special needs together with our students for an afternoon of games, fun, and friendship. We will miss their many contributions to our ministry going forward and wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

As we step into the future, we acknowledge the challenges ahead, particularly in filling four faculty positions. However, our faith remains steadfast in Christ alone. We trust in His promises, believing that He works all things for the good of those who love Him. This faith empowers us to face challenges with courage and determination. The interest from prospective families for our middle school and high school programs continues to grow, underscoring the impact of our holistic approach to education.

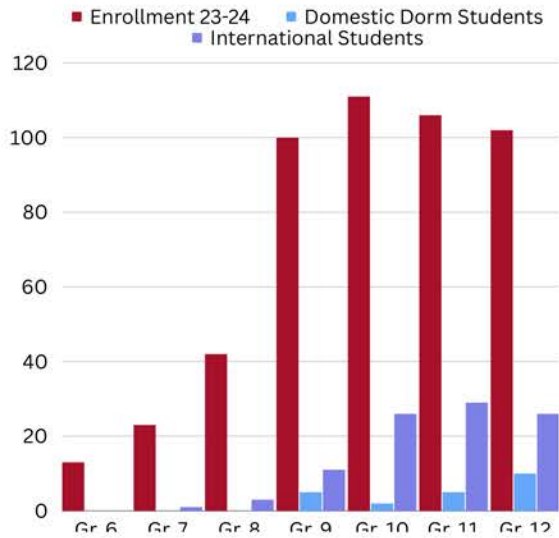
The year ahead is exciting! We know our God already has a plan for new faculty and staff, and will continue to bless us as He sees fit.

May we all remain Rooted in Love, trusting our God's promises to provide for us, work out our challenges for our good, and keep us rooted to Him. And as Thanksgiving approaches, we offer our thanks to a loving God that blesses us beyond measure.

ENROLLMENT

We were blessed with record enrollment this fall. There are 497 students enrolled in grades 6-12 and we expect to add a few more at semester break. The fastest growing segment is among community students in the high school. We're thankful for the opportunity to minister to more students.

In addition to growth locally, we are seeing our international recruiting efforts yield more results. The process for our Asian students to receive their visas is speeding up. Lord willing, we will see another net increase in our international student body and have more opportunity to share Jesus.



FALL APPEAL

For this year's Give to the Max, we are excited to offer the opportunity to support our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program. Guided by our commitment to providing cutting-edge education and preparing our students for the challenges of the future, we have enhanced our STEM initiatives to foster innovation, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills among our bright young minds.

SCLA has offered our STEM courses for eleven years, and we have seen a steady increase in STEM enrollment. This year, the Engineering Essentials class has 44 students, the highest-ever enrollment in the class.

Our Principles of Engineering class is being re-designed for next year and the updated course will include engineering kits to program robots with specific skills.



MATTRESS FUNDRAISER

Need a new mattress? SCLA is hosting the third annual mattress fundraiser on Saturday, November 11 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Funds offset the cost of a new outdoor scoreboard in dire need of replacement.



SCLA DRAMA DEPARTMENT

SCLA Children's Theatre presented The Thirty-Three Little Pigs by Brian D. Taylor to a packed house of association grade school students on Friday, October 13 and to the public on Saturday, October 14. Directed by April Marquardt.

Tickets for the winter musical Rodgers and Hemmerstein's Cinderella: Broadway Version will be on sale soon. The show is scheduled for February 16-18, 2024 in the SCLA auditorium. Directed by Mike Marquardt.

STUDENT-LED BIBLE STUDIES

With a heart for Christ and passion for ministry, senior Ella Oberer organized male and female student-led Bible Studies which will begin during advisory the week of November 6. Ella shares, "I started the Bible studies to be a safe space for all students and faculty to talk about hard topics that are in their hearts with a focus on Christ." The studies begin with prayer, a passage, and include topical discussion.

COLLEGE SIGNING DAY

College signing day is Wednesday, November 8 (except football which is February 7). The event will be held after school and parents are invited to attend. We currently have two college signees - Laure Hauge for girls basketball at the University of St. Thomas and Wyatt Hunt for boys lacrosse at North Central College (Illinois).



SCLA JOB OPENINGS

Learn more about the following openings and apply online at StCroixLutheran.org/jobs or email your resume and cover letter to Lori Kowitz LKowitz@StCroixLutheran.org

Admissions and Events Coordinator

Year-round, onsite, full-time position.

Donor Relations Consultant

Year-round, onsite, full-time position.

Financial and Mission Advancement Assistant

Year-round, onsite, full-time position.


UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 10 Veterans Day Tribute
StCroixLutheran.org/Veterans
- Nov 11 Festival of Seasons and
Mattress Fundraiser
9:00a-3:00p
- Nov 14 Fall Showcase
for prospective families
StCroixLutheran.org/showcase

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