



Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School

2009—2010 Annual Report

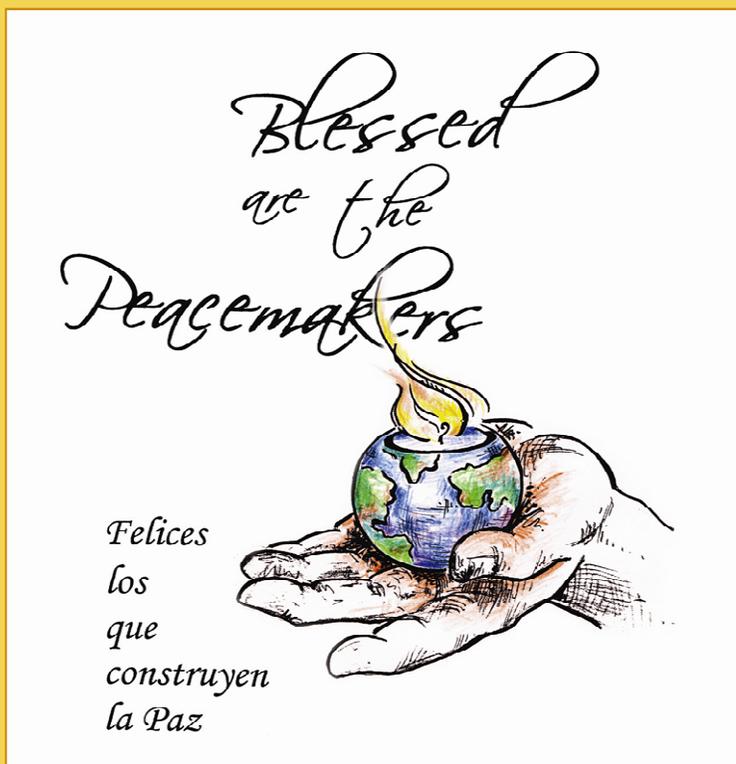


Illustration by Kate Dovey & Monique Jacobs

Faith — Knowledge — Discipline — Service

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School
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From our Leadership

“True belonging is born of relationships
not only to one another
but to a place of shared responsibilities and benefits.
We love not so much what we have acquired
as what we have made
and whom we have made it with”
— **Robert Finch**

Dear Friends:

We are thrilled to share with you our school's first Annual Report which highlights our 2009-2010 school year as well as the exciting plans for the future of our parish school. The above quote captures the essence of our ministry here at Our Lady of the Snows School as well as the powerful connection among those in our Snows community. In these pages you will discover:

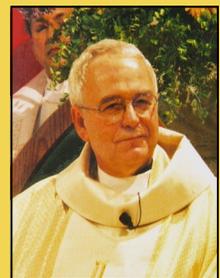
Our History
Student Life — Faith, Knowledge, Discipline, Service
Our Mission and Leadership
Our Future

In reflection, we are truly grateful — to our outstanding staff, our parents, our school leadership team, and to the entire Snows community — each of whom are vital to the success of our school. For those who pray, work and share their gifts to promote the success of our school and its Mission, we are humbly grateful. We affirm the abundant blessings of our community that teach, enrich, and inspire us and our students, and we look forward to a new year with great expectations.

Yours in Christ,



Tim Fuetsch
Principal



Fr. Tony Vercellone
Pastor



Mission Statement

We, the community of Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School, in light of the teachings of Christ, are dedicated to promoting the Gospel values, establishing academic excellence, and preparing students to be responsible citizens with a commitment to living God's Word in a diverse society.



Our Lady of the Snows School — Home of the Falcons

Our Beginning

1950's — On September 4, 1951, Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School first opened its doors under the direction of Msgr. Patrick J. Connors to meet the needs of our growing parish. With 107 students and four classrooms, our School was lead by two Dominican Sisters and one lay teacher. By 1953, four additional classrooms and a social hall were added.

Our School was blessed by the Bishop and in 1956 and the first graduation exercises were held with 21 students receiving diplomas. Many of these students are still members of our Parish community.

1960's — The library was added to the existing structure and facilities were redesigned with entrances from the outside.

1970's — The Congregation of the Brothers of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary took over administration of our School beginning in 1971 and remained involved until 1988.

1980's — Many building improvements were made during this period, including a new air conditioning/heating system.

1990's — A full-day Kindergarten program was added in the fall of 1999 in order to better prepare our students for their academic careers. Our library was refurbished, including utilizing our computer system into a laboratory setting, and our lavatories were updated and remodeled.

2000 — A New Millennium

Our school has undergone many changes and improvements since those early years. In 2007, our School was blessed with new leadership.

Principal Tim Fuetsch, with over 31 years of experience in his field, and our beloved Pastor, Father Tony Vercellone, work together in a collaborative effort to maintain our strong traditions while effectively implementing the most successful educational and spiritual tools available. Our teaching staff is among the most talented, effective and highly qualified in the area. Our curriculum meets or exceeds all State regulations and our rigorous evaluation, certification and accreditation standards ensure continued excellence.

Technological advancements with computers, SMART Boards, and ELMO's are an integral part of our classroom scene. Our library has been renovated and re-organized with a new computer system and labeling with barcodes for easy check-out and returns. Our electrical system received a major upgrade and many other improvements have been made to our building — most recently a new security system.

One of our greatest asset has always been our talented teaching staff and we are committed to their continued professional development through use of the latest methods training available.

Our Lady of the Snows School has served hundreds of students and now has 1,834 graduates, many of whom still live and work in this area, and many who have chosen to pass on the gift of a Snows education to their own children.



"All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen."
—Ralph Waldo Emerson



Catholic Identity

The root of the word "Catholic" (katha holos) means "all are welcome".

At Snows, we embrace and honor families of all faiths. Our weekly Mass celebrations bring our entire student body together for prayer, for worship and for reflection.

The most essential difference between Catholic schools and public schools is the religious education and spiritual experiences provided. Our school Philosophy, Mission Statement and Student Learning Expectations strongly reflect our identity as a Catholic school. Each morning begins with prayer at our morning assembly and the presence of sacred images are found in the classrooms and throughout our school.

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;

there are different kinds of service but the same Lord;

there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone."

(1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

"Intertwined with the satisfaction I feel is gratitude for the abundance present at Our Lady of the Snows School — an abundance of community and of diverse experiences which inspire our students to be educated & loving people."

— Elizabeth Egan

OLS Teacher — 7th Grade, English, Literature





Morning Prayer

As is our tradition, each school day began this year with the entire school — students, teachers and parents, gathering

for prayer at morning assembly. Each prayer chosen for morning assemblies reflected the liturgical season or relevant feast days of the church and included petitions from students, teachers, and parents which were written in our prayer intentions book kept by the statue of the Blessed Mother in the entry way of the school.

Weekly Wednesday Mass

Our entire student body attended Mass celebrations each week. Individual classes, including the lower grades, were selected to prepare and recite readings and prayer intentions for our weekly school Masses. Many students regularly served as altar servers and musicians. Students actively provided for those in need through offering collections, service and through prayer.

Social Justice

Through our teachings, students learned through active participation that each person has an obligation to support their parish community and to use their talents to work for social justice whenever possible.

Seasons of our Catholic Faith

Feast Days, Saint Days and Holy Days are celebrated throughout the liturgical calendar, including Advent,



Christmas, Lent and Easter. During the Lenten season this year, our 8th graders prepared Stations of the Cross for the entire school community.

Religious Studies

Our religion program addresses issues of social justice and personal responsibility. Family life studies in particular, address moral issues that are relevant to young adults.

Ethics Across the Curriculum

This program enhances our school-wide commitment to the development of well-rounded students — students who accept responsibility, make wise choices for physical, mental and moral well-being, and who incorporate ethics and moral decision making into their lives.

All-School Mass



For Catholic Schools Week, each of our area Catholic Schools joined in a school-wide service project and celebration of Mass at St. Rose of Lima. Students collected over 1,000 individual care packages of food and necessities benefitting needy families in our local area. These care packages were presented to Bishop Calvo at celebration of Mass and distributed through Catholic Community Services of Northern Nevada.

Sacramental Preparation

Second grade students attended retreats for Reconciliation and First Communion. These retreats included Bible story reflections, Act of Contrition reflection, practicing steps for receiving the Sacraments, and making bread as a symbol of First Communion.

Each class studied and prepared for Reconciliation during the Lenten season.





Standards for Excellence

This year Our Lady of the Snows School received the highest level of achievement with a full 3- and 6-year accreditation from the Western Catholic Educational Association and the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC) — joining only a handful of public and private schools to achieve such standards.



In addition, the curriculum at Snows meets or exceeds all State regulations and guidelines. At Snows, we undergo regular accreditation certification to ensure continual improvement in an already excellent Catholic educational environment. Our curriculum is guided by the standards encompassed in three sources:

- Archdiocese of Cincinnati: Teaching for the 21st Century
- Washoe County educational standards
- State of Nevada educational standard

Celebration of Each Child

Because each child learns differently, teachers at Our Lady of the Snows School have been trained to integrate all four modalities of learning — sight, sound, touch & movement — into their curriculum each day. Teachers observe, ask questions, listen and watch. This approach ensures a classroom of enthusiastic and engaged learners.

“Our Science Camp serves as a rite of passage and opportunity for maturity and growth, both for the individual students and the class as a whole.

It has evolved to be an irreplaceable part of our Junior High experience at Snows.”

**— Teresa Kennedy
OLS Teacher, 8th Grade, Religion, Science**

“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.”

—Albert Einstein



Integrating all four modalities of learning — sight, sound, touch, movement — into our curriculum.



Critical Thinking Project

Provocative questions rarely have easy answers.

Our school's dedication to bringing substantive instruction "alive" in our classrooms is enforced through this popular program, which engages our students in deep discussions so they learn and expand their thought process and analyze issues.



Some highlights:

- Barry Lane — A writer's workshop
- Anouaze Beat: Traditional African culture
- "Being Deaf" presented by motivational speaker Edina Jambor
- "Grieving" presented by Nancy Thorpe after the loss of our beloved 4-year old Tanner Bertouche
- "CJ Walker" Chautauqua performance by Juanita Westbrook
- "A Nun's Life" presented by Srs. Carmen & Carol
- "Pioneers" presented by Carolin & Sam Chapman
- "Science & Energy" presented by Phil Marshall
- "Becoming a Priest" presented by Father Tony Vercellone
- Challenger Space Program
- Engineering Day at UNR
- KidsScape: Acting & Speaking effectively
- Mock Congressional Hearing
- Shakespeare: Sierra School for Performing Arts
- Rembrandt and Raphael docent tours at the Nevada Museum of Art



Technology

The benefits of technology are profound.

At Snows, we are committed to bringing safe, cutting-edge technology into our classrooms. Teachers use multi-media technology to give more colorful, stimulating lectures. Students immerse themselves in a world of ideas and develop amazing projects with a strong connection to their subject matter.



Weeklong Science Camp

During Holy Week, our 6th graders traveled to Camp Loma Mar, surrounded by giant Redwood trees near Half Moon Bay, CA, for their annual immersion in the discovery of God's natural gifts, studies in earth science, life science and religion lessons. This is an annual rite of passage for our newest Junior High students, and opportunity for maturity and growth, both for the individual students and the class as a whole. This powerful experience affects our students for years — many of our Snows alumni eagerly volunteer their time to return as cabin counselors and later as camp staff.





The Future is Here!

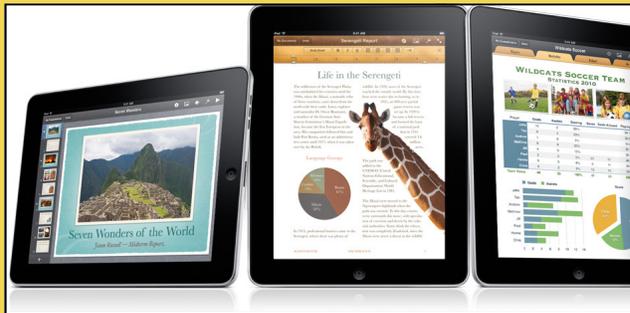
Talent meets Technology — Enhanced Education

At Snows, we bring learning to life! Our teachers continually focus on innovative, creative and safe methods of engaging our students in our broad curriculum. Our Visionary & Technology Committees completed an in-depth study of the latest and most effective technological tools available for our 21st Century Learners.

Grades K-5th — Apple iPod Touches

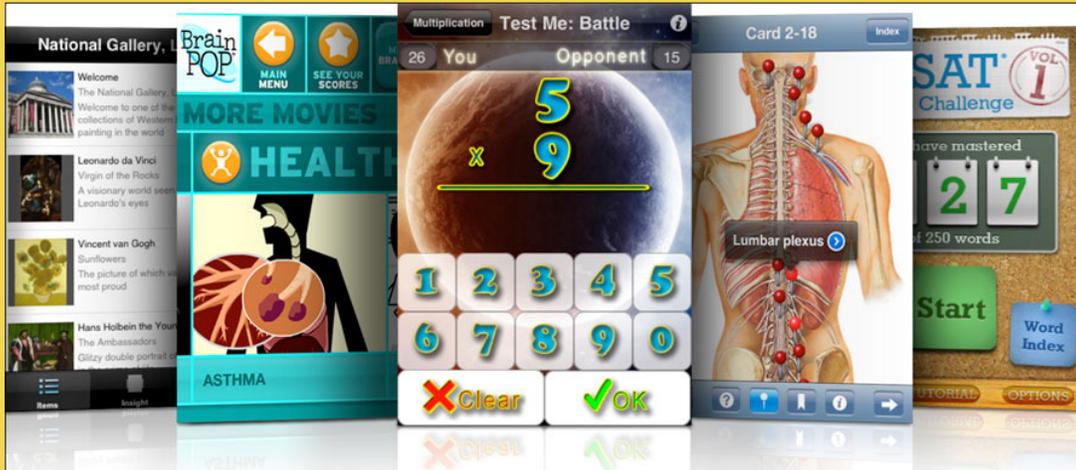
Our teachers have enthusiastically welcomed the opportunity to engage students with these “mobile learning in your pocket” and bringing the world into the classroom.

Teachers will introduce students to:



- iTunes University podcasts
- World famous museums
- Educational applications including
 - Stargazer
 - Anatomy
 - Foreign Language
 - Spelling
 - Multiplication
 - Music





High School Prep (6-8th grades) — MacBook Learning Lab

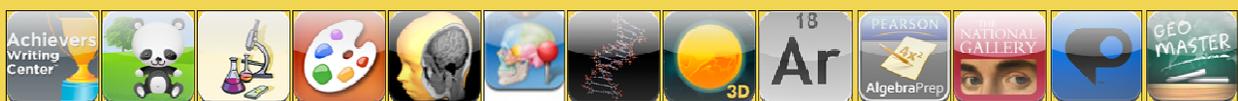
Students in our Junior High will immerse themselves in a world of ideas. Equipped with iLife software, our new MacBooks will provide teachers and students the tools to create media-rich projects such as historical documentaries, poetry photo books, foreign language podcasts, science project websites, and more.

“Learning to draw is simply learning to see. When students are allowed to experiment and learn from their mistakes in a non-threatening environment it allows them to create, reflect, and view their world in a whole new way.”

— **Suzanne Buenting**
OLS Teacher, Studio Snows

Students will have the opportunity to enjoy a rich project-based learning curriculum while they collaborate with their peers at Snows — writing scripts, creating storybooks, touring museums, attending lectures from the top universities and institutions worldwide, and a host of other activities.

Inspired to demonstrate their strengths and knowledge through creation of their own digital projects, our students will fine tune the important fundamental curriculum taught at Snows while finding stronger connection to the subject matter as they engage through the tools of their own generation.





Faith — Knowledge — Discipline — Service



Foundations for Success

Discipline at Snows is a teaching moment. In the words of William Hudson, Ed.D., “Discipline within a Catholic school is more than keeping order. Rather, it is about assisting young people to become responsible, moral and ethical individuals.” At the heart of our successful school climate is high expectations for students to recognize the dignity of others and monitor their own behaviors.

Respect — Responsibility — Honesty

Self-Control — Conscience — Fairness

Kindness — Tolerance — Empathy

Our school counselor involved the entire school in a dialogue exploring one of these virtues each month.



CYO Athletics

CYO Athletics is not just about the final score. It's about positive coaching, sportsmanship for children and their parents, learning to live together in a diverse community, maximizing talents, and fostering the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual strength in each of us. At Snows, if you want to play, you're on the team. Healthy life lessons through games and sports are afforded all who want to compete.

Volleyball — Basketball — Track & Field

In addition to our talented coaches and parent volunteers, Bishop Manogue Catholic High School provides Snows with tremendous support to our CYO Athletics program, offering free clinics, summer camps, and drills sponsored by their coaches and athletes.

“By constant self-discipline and self-control you can develop greatness of character.”

—Grenville Kleiser





Giving Back

A critical component of our school Philosophy is allowing students to make their mark beyond the classroom by taking a leadership role in serving those in need. As students serve, they truly live their faith

Buddies Program

One of our greatest traditions at Snows is our Buddies Program which pairs older students with younger ones, promoting diversity, responsibility and belonging.

Scholarships for Students

This year, our Student Council raised funds to provide scholarships for OLS students continuing their Catholic education.

Caring for our School

Students showed respect for our school by cleaning and picking up trash on the school grounds and park every Friday afternoon.

Adopt-a-Family

During Thanksgiving and Christmas, each class provided food, clothing and gifts to needy families served through Sister Carmen's ministry.

Casa de Vida

We celebrated Mother's Day with a diaper drive to help new mothers.

Holy Child Day School

We celebrated the Epiphany with a Toy Run for students at Holy Child Day School.

Catholic Community Services

We collected and assembled over 1,000 individual care packages to benefit needy families served by Catholic Community Services of Northern Nevada in celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

Sister School in Gallup, NM

St. Francis of Assisi School in Gallup, NM is one of our nation's poorest schools and was adopted by our school in 1997. To honor them this year, our 7th grade class helped them start a nutrition program with proceeds from our Rice Lunch fundraiser. 6th grade sponsored a Watermelon Feed during our Jog-a-Thon to help them with playground improvements. Each class sent school supplies, books and letters of support.

Soles for Souls

Over 300 million children in the world do not own a pair of shoes. In response, our entire student body collected and donated their gently used shoes for children in Africa.

Baby Blanket Drive for Haiti

On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti. This left over 2 million people homeless and 3 million in need of emergency care. Our students responded to this crisis by quickly organizing and coordinating a baby blanket collection to support the desperate children in Haiti.

Letters of Support

After the loss of our beloved 4-year old Tanner Bertauche, the entire school grieved together and sent letters and condolences to the Bertauche family.





School Leadership

Our school administration is highly visible and openly available to the school community as a whole, including church and school staff, as well as parents. The experience and outlook of our Pastor and Principal join together with the positive energy of our School Board and Parent Club and focus on adopting the policies which strengthen our mission as a Catholic school. Our school leaders meet regularly and communicate often.

Our Pastor — Father Tony Vercellone

Fr. Tony Vercellone oversees the entire parish and school. He is a very visible presence in the school, visiting classrooms on a regular basis. He believes our school is a pivotal part of the parish, both now and in the future. Under his leadership, our school provides a faith-filled, respectful environment where education is taken seriously.

Our Principal — Mr. Tim Fuetsch

Mr. Fuetsch, with his extensive leadership skills, has strengthened our school's mission of preparing our students spiritually, academically, physically, and emotionally. He meets regularly with our Pastor, School Board and Parish Council as well as with his teachers and staff. He provides modern, relevant resources and training for our teachers. He holds morning assemblies each day, beginning with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance and knows each of our students by name. He has an open door policy for staff, parents, and students. His extensive expertise in guiding schools at all grade levels in our local school district and his choice to share this journey with us, gives us great confidence in our path.

School Board

Lead by President Rick Reviglio, our School Board this year consisted of individuals with special knowledge of finance, legal matters, real estate, development, education, marketing, technology and other talents necessary to fulfill the goals of our school. The Board meets regularly and is actively involved in defining school policies and procedures that govern the operation of the school. In order to be more effective and to utilize the specific talents of its members, the Board has formed several working committees in areas such as Finance & Development, Communication & Marketing, Partners in Education, and our Visionary Committee which addresses the short and long term goals of our school. The board makes recommendations on school policies and procedures to our school leaders with our Pastor holding the final authority.

Parent Club

We were blessed this year with Co-Chairs Laura Sedar and Jane Festa, whose passionate service inspired each member of our Snows Parent Club. They welcomed and encouraged the involvement of all our parents. The talents and diversity of our members provide for a strong and energetic body with the single purpose of providing the best for our children. Our Parent Club consists of twenty-four active committees which incorporate over 17,000 volunteer hours per year. Our Parent Club also raises money through various committees which fund many of the special "extras" in our classrooms. This year, the frosting on the cake — new laptops for our computer lab.



Student Council

We have an active Student Council. This year, Zachary Kohls was elected Student Body President. All students in grades 1-8 are invited to participate. Students learn leadership and communication skills while organizing events which benefit the school and the outside community. This year, our Council organized a food drive, raised scholarship funds for students continuing their Catholic education, organized Spirit Days, and directed Mass collections to various community organizations. In addition, our Student Council joined our 8th grade class in presenting a special gift to our entire school — restoration of the statue of the Blessed Mother.



Financial Review

2009-2010 (July 1, 2009 — June 30, 2010)

Our Lady of the Snows School is committed to financial transparency as part of our effort to be careful stewards of the resources provided by tuition and through our generous benefactors, including students, parents, alumni, past parents, interested parishioners, citizens and other friends. Our Finance Team spends hours researching and developing both our long- and short-term financial goals. Through their careful planning, we are able to keep our tuition costs low and maximize the use of funds. We receive no federal or national church support.



Celebrations

Fall Festival

Our entire community of Our Lady of the Snows looks forward to our annual Fall Festival celebration which brings our Parish, School and Knights of Columbus together for a weekend of fun. In October last year, our Knights hosted a Dinner-Dance for our adults, then on Sunday, our families were treated to a complimentary Knights Bar-B-Que and a host of children's activities, including a bounce house, carnival games and prizes.

A Vintage Affair

Greg Higgins, our School Board Vice President, chaired fundraising extravaganza — A Vintage Affair — our most exciting event of the year. Sponsored by our School Board, this annual event is a gathering of our entire Snows community, parents, parishioners and friends. Held at the Peppermill this year, the evening's highlights included a wine tasting, dinner, and a live and silent auction featuring donations from many generous contributors throughout our Snows community. Proceeds from this event over the years have gone towards building improvements, technology upgrades, books, and classroom supplies. Proceeds of this year's event have been used toward:

- *New School Security System*
- *Continued funding of our School Endowment Fund*
- *Keeping Tuition Costs Low*
- *Scholarship Funding*

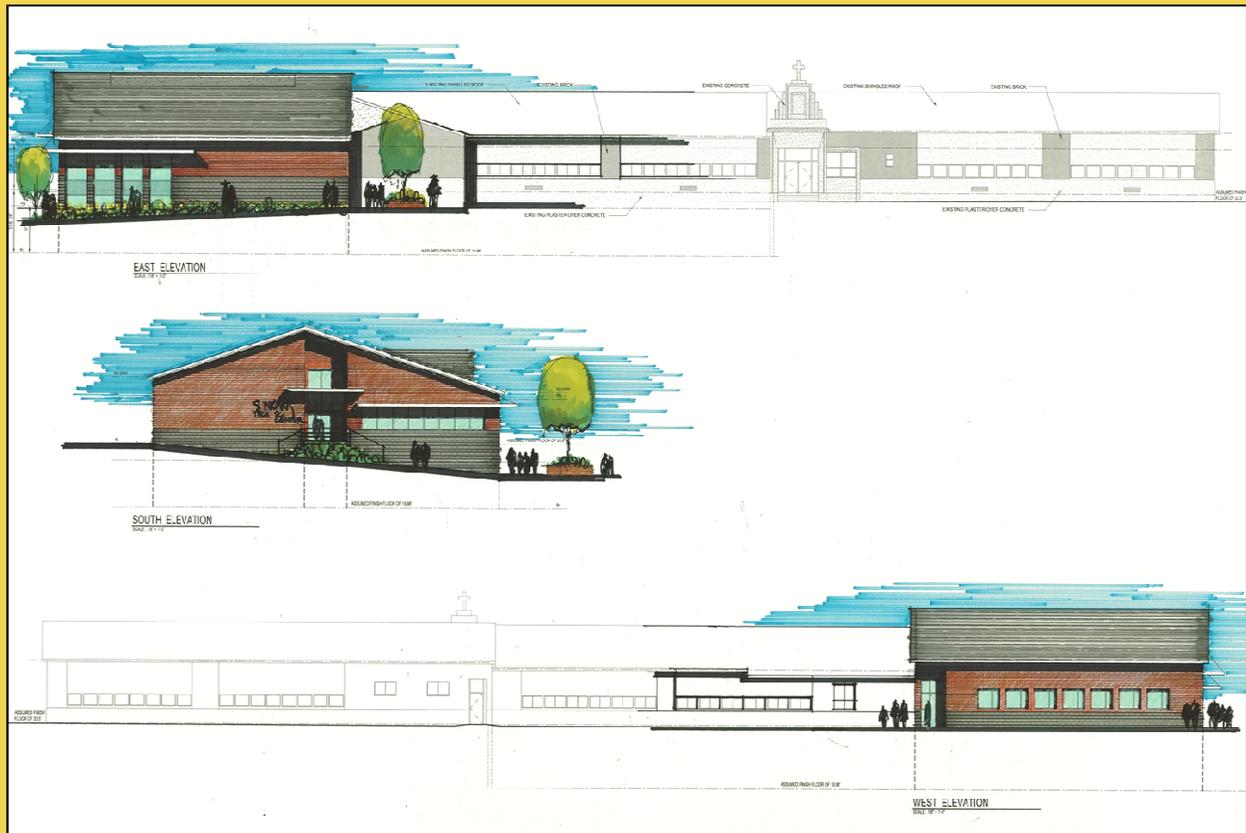
Everyone to whom much is given, of him will much be required.

—(Luke 12:48)



School Expansion Project — E.L. Wiegand Foundation Supports OLS School!

We have a rich tradition at Our Lady of the Snows School of excellence in education. Through the tremendous gift presented us this year from the E.L. Wiegand Foundation and through anticipated matching support from our generous Snows community, this excellence will flourish in the very near future. Plans are in place for our long-anticipated School Expansion Project — including a new Science and Technology Center, a science laboratory, new classrooms, a library and restroom facilities — and construction is expected to begin during the next year. The result will be unequalled educational opportunities for children attending Snows in a state of the art facility for dedicated faculty, staff and 277 motivated students and their parents.





New Technology Center

Students utilizing this new Technology Center will develop skills such as:

- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
- Project Management
- Collaboration & Teamwork
- Communication Skills
- Creativity and Innovation
- Research Skills and Literacy
- Self-Direction & Assessment



In this multi-disciplinary environment, connections will be made between technology, science, math, language arts, and social studies. We'll see our students creating robots, remarkable engineering projects, dazzling animations, and more.

Support our School Expansion Project!

Our fundraising goal: **\$3,300,000**

Remaining funds to be raised as of 11/03/2010: **\$479,335**

With your prayers
and support we will
achieve our goal!

We Believe.

Let's make it happen ... NOW!





Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School

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What our children
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Support Our Lady of the Snows
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and make a difference
in the life of a child.

We Believe.
Let's make it happen ... NOW!

