School History

Since the arrival of the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus in 1922, the education of the children of Blessed Sacrament Parish and surrounding communities has been a priority. Bishop Hickey's strong commitment to Catholic education inspired him to direct Dr. William Doran, second pastor of Blessed Sacrament to "build a school." The cornerstone of Blessed Sacrament School was laid in October 1924, and on September 14, 1925, the doors of the school opened for the first time. Carved in stone above the front entrance were the Latin words "Spes Messis in Semine" (The hope of the harvest is in the seed.)

Mother Brigit Keating and her faculty of ten sisters worked with the original 454 students in grades one to five and taught religious education classes to 792 public school children. With each successive year, another grade was added until the first ninth grade graduation was held in 1930. A pre-primary opened in 1939 as enrollment and faculty doubled.

The second half of the twentieth century brought about multiple changes to Blessed Sacrament School. Under Msgr. John McGuire, a mother's club was organized, and the school building was renovated. The first lay teachers were hired in the 1960's. As Msgr. William McKitchen undertook the burden of renovating the church, grade nine was dropped in 1965 as enrollment dwindled. By 1972, with enrollment down to 250, Fr. Condon found it necessary to charge tuition for the first time as well as to subsidize the school with parish funds. Innovative methods such as the Work Unit System and fundraising were initiated. A nursery school for three and four year olds, which opened in 1981, plus the initiation of the After School Care Program not only helped the school financially but also provided a service to the community. Fr. Charles Maher was able to do extensive repairs in the school building; a computer lab was set up; the endowment fund was established; and student population increased as boys and girls from diverse backgrounds had been recruited from cities and towns throughout the state.

The new millennium brought with it the celebration of the 75th anniversary of Blessed Sacrament School. Under Fr. Maher's guidance, a magnificent celebration took place on June 25, 2000. At this time, Mrs. Jacquelene Colicci, principal, oversaw the development of the middle school, including instituting a block schedule. During his term as pastor, Fr. Anthony Verdelotti oversaw improvements in the renovation of Blessed Sacrament Church as well as the school building.

Mrs. June Spencer, who was principal between 2002 and 2012, was the driving force behind the formation of the science lab, installation of safety equipment and connecting the computer lab and all classrooms to the Internet. She also headed a dedicated group of volunteers who completely restored the library. In June 2005, Blessed Sacrament Parish announced Fr. David Gaffney as its new pastor. Fr. Gaffney's devotion to Catholic education was evident as one of his first goals as pastor was to visit the school and interact with the students and teachers. With his background as an educator, his expertise in marketing and development, and his interaction with the students and faculty, Blessed Sacrament School continued to flourish.

A new era began in 2012 when Fr. Charles Grondin was announced as the new pastor. His immediate challenge was finding a new principal and he hired Mrs. Janet Rufful to lead the school into a new era in education. Mrs. Rufful spearheaded a conversion from a tradition-based curriculum to one that emphasizes a differentiated approach that better meets the needs of today's students. Teachers were challenged to create interactive and challenging lessons that address the multiple intelligences, as well as Christian values. Indeed, Blessed Sacrament School continues the tradition of Catholic education begun by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus. It continually strives to build a Christian community where Roman Catholic values are the foundation upon which knowledge of God and the world are built.