



3964 Castleman Ave.
Saint Louis, MO 63110
(314) 776-7837
school@stmargaretstl.org

August 5, 2024

St. Margaret of Scotland Families:

Please take the time to review the results of our 2023-2024 end-of-year survey. This survey is given at the end of each school year to help us gauge our successes and growth opportunities. Thank you to all who participated in this survey; your passion for the school community is evident.

I will let the results of the survey speak for themselves, but I am very happy with the growth we were able to achieve in just one year. I am also excited to address some of the growth opportunities that were evident based on the survey results.

This is an important year for St. Margaret of Scotland. We are working on strategic planning through the school improvement process. Tools like this survey give us the ability to plan a vision for St. Margaret of Scotland for the next decade.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I am forever grateful for your continued support in our mission of creating a diverse, inclusive community where our kids can meet Jesus Christ every day.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Holley".

Patrick Holley

In the end, it's the beginning that counts.

2024 SMOS Parent Survey Results Summary

Once again, thank you to all of the parents who took the time to complete the SMOS Parent Survey 2023-2024, at the end of last school year. It is important to continue doing so, as the information we glean from these surveys is invaluable for the Administration and School Board to gauge levels of satisfaction with the School, and more importantly, identify areas for improvement and growth.

Some facts about this year's survey population:

- 304 students are represented (out of a total of 442).
- 15% of those students are students of color (47 / 304).
- 70 middle school students were represented, making up 23% of the sample.

Three main points come through the data as key takeaways from this survey:

1. In short, the results highlight that we had a very good year at St. Margaret of Scotland School.

The end-of-year survey results show that St. Margaret of Scotland School is in a place of strength and a period of positive growth. Generally, families were very happy with the direction the school is going, with significant increases in the level of satisfaction in several key areas noted. Compared to one year ago, overall ratings either maintained or improved in all survey categories - with no categories experiencing a decrease. The numbers for those who would recommend SMOS improved remarkably, although the community continues to have high expectations, with some areas still identified as growth opportunities.

Standout positives included satisfaction with the responsiveness and accessibility of teachers, spiritual awareness and faith practice, caringness of teaching staff, respect shown to students by adults, child's needs being met, confidence in the leadership team, and feeling connected to a caring community at St. Margaret of Scotland. In addition to academics, things like Music Arts, Catholic Faith Formation, and the Library continue to impress school families.

2. Many survey items showed significant improvement from the previous year, with two key areas of growth identified last year, Safety and Middle School Academic Rigor, showing great advancement.

Regarding school safety, survey results show that school parents have confidence in the administration's ability to navigate safety challenges – and improved so much from the previous year, that they went from one of the lowest items in the group to the highest item. An updated safety plan, keyless lock entry, additional video cameras, new fencing, and other capital improvements have all added to overall satisfaction in this area. Additionally, the positive handling of a serious safety concern in the neighborhood early in the school year left parents feeling informed and comforted with the fact that the appropriate actions had been taken.

Regarding Middle School academics, Middle School families reported improved satisfaction across all areas measured in the survey from the previous year, from the overall educational experience to socioemotional context, among other things. Though there is still room for improvement, some of the reasons for improvement seem to be the new Middle School electives system (in which students have options to work on longer-term individual or small group projects), consistent homework in math, the writing in ELA (during which they analyzed text for evidence to form an argument), and the cumulative final exams offered in some courses. Improvements were also reflected in the "recommend middle school" ratings (good progress here, but still lower than the other two grade levels).

Other areas of strength this school year include Math (which is no longer considered a 'not-as-strong' item), Instructional Support (children being challenged by school curriculum), Enrichment, Faith, and Diversity Experiences & Programming. Foreign Language and Communication Modalities (in particular the texts, school newsletter, and website) both improved remarkably, but remain areas for more growth and further enhancements.

While open-ended data collected shows that not every family reports a positive experience in all areas (some report more challenges or disappointment than others), overall increase in satisfaction from the previous year is notable. For example, this quote demonstrates and echoes many received in this year's results: "Academically this year has been such an amazing year, and the middle-school staff family feels really dynamic and stellar."

3. Notwithstanding across-the-board improvements, several areas of growth have been identified for next year, including continued attention to issues, Foreign Language, Learning Lab, and Communications.

Several items of note within each of the survey categories highlighted areas where there is still room to grow at SMOS:

- Many of the issues topics that were addressed and showed marked improvement require continued attention and development to keep forward momentum going.
- Families would like to see an upgrade to the Foreign Language program, especially Spanish instruction across all grade levels.
- Advancement of the Learning Lab and Learning Consultant position, both for those with learning needs/challenges and also for those needing extra challenges.
- The inconsistency of responses regarding teacher communication (some rank high, others not as much) gives ample opportunity for refinement in this area.

One Final Note

Two sets of regression analyses were conducted - one that tested the difference in the student-level experience for Middle School students compared to everyone else, and one that tested the difference in the experience for youth of color compared to everyone else. The analysis showed:

- The experience for students of color, again, for the fourth year in a row, was reported as no different than other students.
- The experience for Middle School students was reported as lower again this year across every category; however, the size of the difference was smaller than the previous year (2023 EOY). The difference ranged from one-third of a point to three-quarters of a point difference. See Figure 1.

WHAT'S NEXT? Besides continuing to take the survey, be sure to share these results - talk about them with other school parents, and if you are inspired to get involved, please reach out to the School Board at schoolboard@stmargaretstl.org.

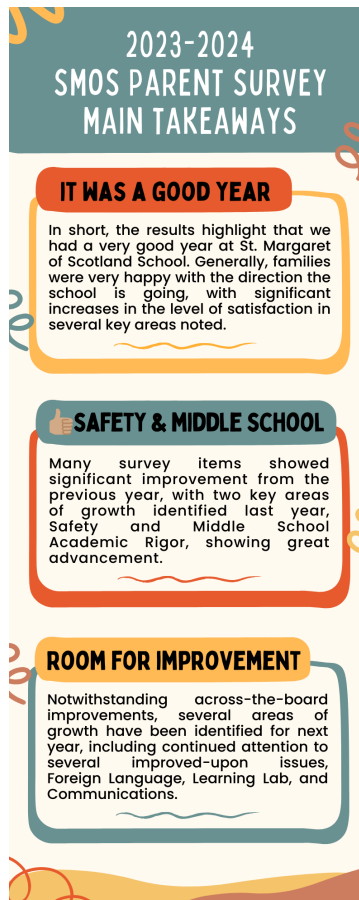
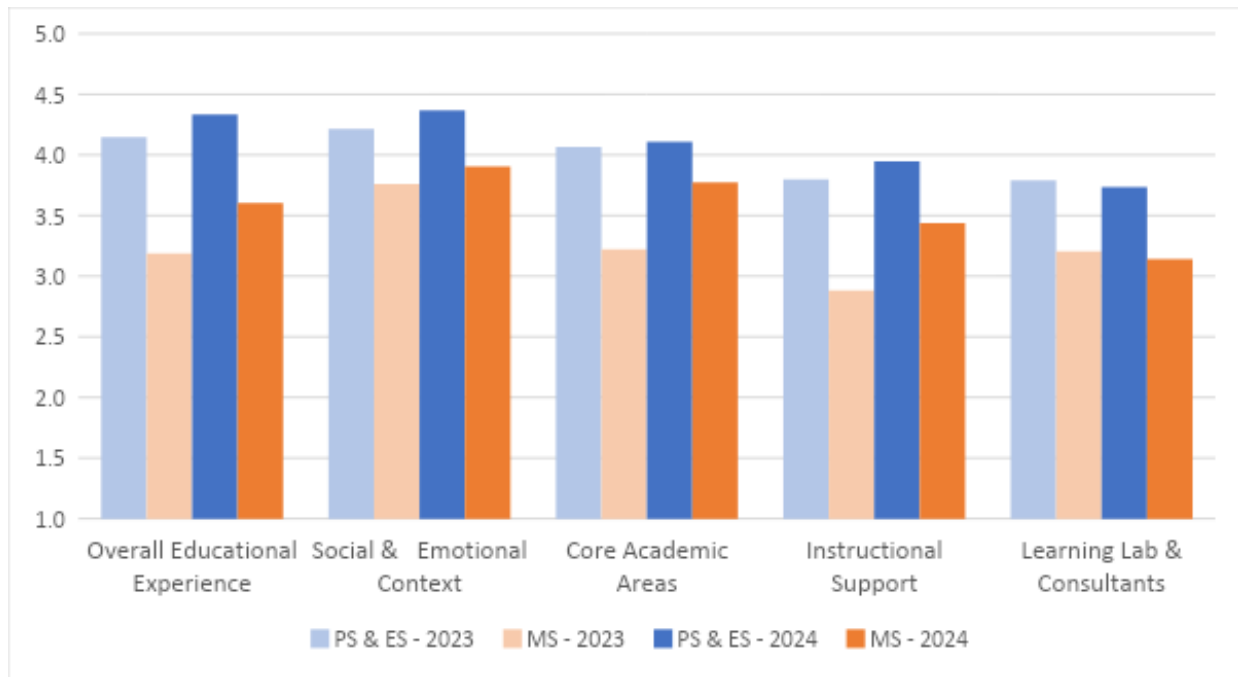
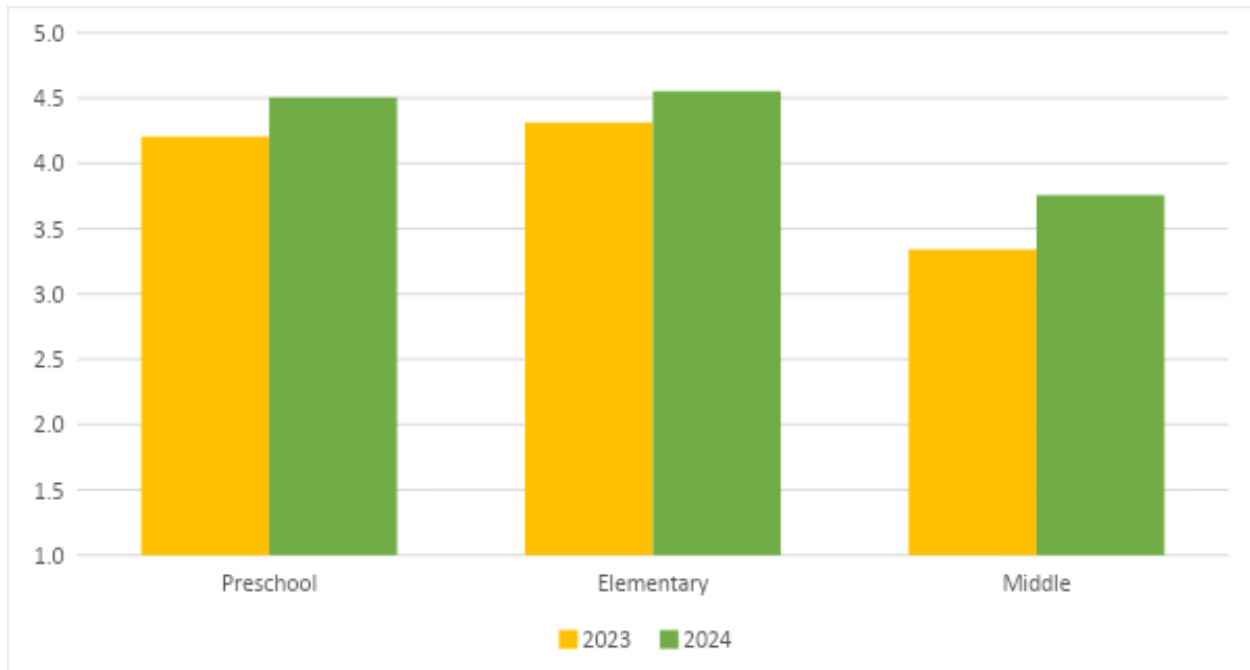


Figure 1: Learning Experience for Middle School vs. Everyone Else



Overall, parents reported greater satisfaction last year compared to the previous year. This difference was especially remarkable for parents of middle school students; the dark orange bars represent satisfaction ratings from last year; and the light orange bars represent levels compared to the previous year (2022-2023).

Figure 2: Recommend Saint Margaret of Scotland School



Overall, parents reported being more likely to recommend SMOS as a school to other families; the increase compared to last year (2022-2023) was a remarkable improvement for the middle school.