



ST. RITA
SCHOOL

State of the School 2024-2025

St. Rita School Mission

St. Rita School inspires students in pre-kindergarten through grade eight to achieve academic excellence in a safe, nurturing, and faith-filled Catholic environment. We prepare students to be morally responsible, innovative thinkers who, in today's technology-guided global community, live and share the love of Christ.

Adopted 2016

School Creed

- **As a St. Rita student, I am taught to be responsible and respectful, a good steward and above all, to Love.**
- **At St. Rita School I receive a Christ-centered education that helps me to grow in peace, courtesy, honesty and faith.**
- **By following the St. Rita Way, I help create a culture of life and love for me and all members of my St. Rita School family.**

Portrait of a St. Rita Graduate

- St. Rita graduates are Christ-centered, lifelong learners. They ask “Why?” and “How?” and “What if?” They show respect for authority, achieve with humility, and take responsibility for their actions. They know the value of community, the necessity of service, and the importance of living with integrity. They are prepared to adapt to a constantly changing world, but they are aware of the constants that never change: trust in God, concern for others, and doing what’s right because it’s the right thing to do.

School Officers

- Fr. Christopher Tiano, Pastor
- Mrs. Patricia O'Neil Tiezzi, Principal
- Dr. Beth Smith, School Board Chair
- Mrs. Maria Cammarota, Finance Committee Chair
- Mrs. Katie Archangelo, HSA President

Theme for 2024-2025

Hold on to Love-The



- Our theme for this school year is:
 - **“Hold On To Love” The St. Rita Way”.**
 - We need to share God’s love
 - 1 John 4:7-12
- “Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is Love”.**
- We need to share God’s love and kindness by living His way at St. Rita School.

Enrollment

- 2020-2021 Enrollment - 347 students
- 2021-2022 Enrollment -337 students
- 2022-2023-Enrollment-359 students
- 2023-2024-Enrollment-358 students
- 2024-2025-Enrollment 342 students
- Class sizes range from 13-22 students
- One class of PreK3 (18) and Third Grade (22).
Two classes of every other grade.
- New families -60
- 74 new students out of 91 acceptances (88%)
- 98 Inquiries—100 applications made (down 4%)

Demographic Information

- **Catholic** – 78% (down 4%)
- **Non-Catholic/Unaffiliated** – 22% (up 4%)
- **Racial Diversity** -
 - Asian- 3%
 - Hispanic-17%
 - African American-16%
 - Non-Hispanic White- 64%

Staffing

- FT Principal
- PT Assistant Principal (4/5th time)-Sr. Anne
- Dean of Student Life
- 2 PT Administrative Assistants
- PT Enrollment and Marketing Director
- PT Advancement Director
- Full- time Nurse –provided by the Town of Hamden
- 3 PT PreK aides and 1 PT volunteer Kindergarten Aide
- 21 Full-time classroom teachers
- FT Middle School Religion teacher, FT MS Spanish Teacher
- PT Curriculum and Instruction Specialist/MS ELA Teacher
- FT School Counselor/Athletic Director
- PT specials teachers for Library, Music, Art, PE and 2 for Spanish (Grades PreK-2 and 3-5)
- PT Instructional Interventionist for lower grades
- PT ASCJ Sr. Barbara-Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Faculty & Staff

PreK- Mrs. Tiffany Palowski Mrs. Sue DeLucia, Mrs. Stephanie Dimesky, Mrs. Megan Marottolo, Mrs. Kristen Geltman, and Mrs. Antonietta Testa

Kindergarten- Mrs. Eilen Riley, Mrs. Jenay Alvarez, Mrs. Andrea Affinto,

Grade 1- Mrs. Erin Bonini and Miss Maggie Silbo

Grade 2- Mrs. Denise Gertz and Mrs. Kaitlin Perrotti

Grade 3- Mrs. Erika DiRenzo

Grade 4- Mr. Tyler Ferrara and Ms Lori Gill

Grade 5- Mrs. Dolores Fortuna and Mrs. Donna Soliwoda

Middle School Team- Mr. Donald Fay, Mrs. Marie Rourke, Mrs. Leni Grossomanides , Mrs. Cindy Brennan, Miss Alessandra Paglia, Miss Taylor Long, and Mrs. Suzanne Hamling

Support Staff- Sr. Anne D'Alessio, Mrs. Joanna Robinson, Ms. Laura McKay, Mr. Michael Halloran, Mrs. Joanne Bruno, Mrs. Hilary Nawarocki, Mrs. Lisa Palma, Mr. Stephen Schmidt, Mr. Tyler Coffey, Ms. Erin Carmody, Sr. Barbara Matazzaro

Specialists- Mrs Kiersten Hughey, Miss Polina Mann, Ms. Deb Keyes, Mrs. Sheila Schreck , Mr. Peter Tehan, Mrs. Shirley Modena

INITIATIVES FOR 2024-2025

- Faith Formation
- FACTS Conversion
- NWEA Map
- Safety and Security
- Advancement Efforts
- Facilities Study

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Chorus
- Band
- Theater
- Coding Club
- Lego Club
- Robotics
- Student Council
- NJHS
- Italian Club
- Yearbook
- Golf Club
- Ski Club
- Soccer including intramural
- Basketball –grades 3-8
- Softball/Baseball
- K of C Spelling Bee
- Invention Convention
- K of C Christmas Tree Festival
- Christmas pageant/concert
- Respect Life Club
- McGivney Crew
- Endow Club
- Composting/Recycling
- Computer Student Ambassadors Club
- Knitting Club

Programs/Projects

- Demolished the vacant property adjacent to school.
- Facilities Study will be undertaken to determine future projects.
- Head Teachers appointed at PreK, Grades K-2, Grades 3-5 and MS to facilitate PLC's.
- Curriculum and Instructional Specialist will oversee PD and work with teachers on best practices.
- Full Immersion and Conversion to FACTS Platform for SIS, Tuition /Financial Aid, Fundraising, Lunch, Before Care/AfterCare, Gradebook, Lesson Planning .

Initial Draft Future Capital Needs 2024-2034

- Parking Lot redesign and repaving
- Security Enhancements- exterior doors, cameras and alarms
- Renovation of all 4 student bathrooms and make ADA compliant
- Install elevator to make school ADA compliant
- Roof Replacement and possible addition of solar
- Boiler replacement and possible conversion to gas
- Underground oil tank replacement/removal
- Continue to replace classrooms floors and paint-PreK and K
- Continue to replace A/C units
- Gym renovation-floors, windows, painting, lunch tables installed, A/C
- Build new regulation size gymnasium
- Perimeter fencing replaced
- Whitney Avenue hillside cleaned and landscaped
- Library water issue corrected and library floor replaced
- Any other projects identified in Facilities study

Budgetary Matters

- Balanced Budget –ended 2023-2024 year in a sound financial position
- Compilation Completed-auditor noted SR was “a very fiscally sound school”
- New teachers hired at or above the diocesan scale- \$42K minimum
- Teacher bonuses given at Christmas 2023 (\$1K-\$2K)
- Teacher salaries increased by 5% plus the bonuses were built in.

Goals

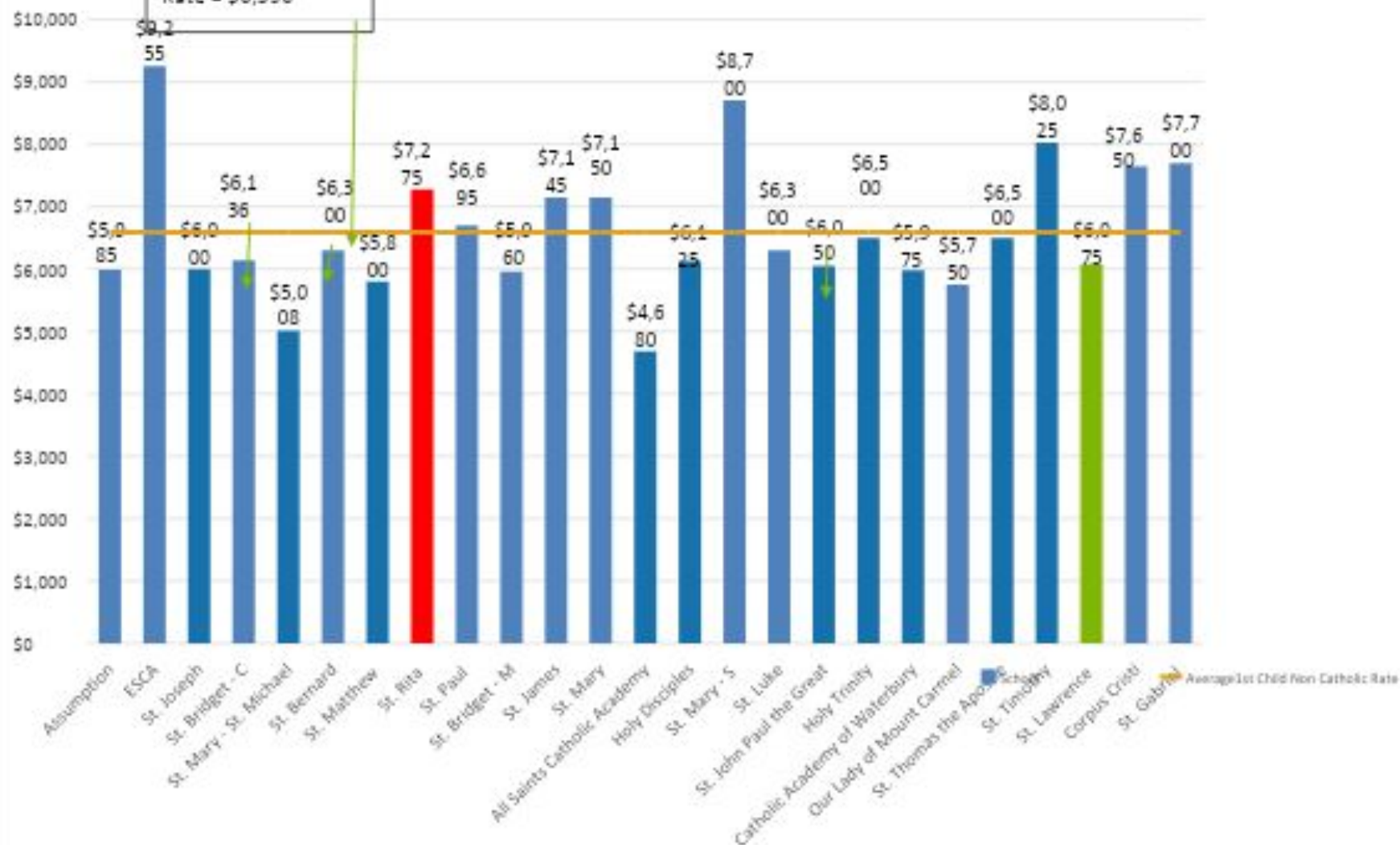
- **Catholic Identity**- To provide meaningful faith formation experiences for our faculty, students and parents using the Divine Renovation parish renewal program.
- **Enrollment/Marketing/Advancement**-To reach out to alumni via events and direct solicitation.
- **Academic Achievement**-To utilize the PLC's/PD's to improve instructional strategies in order to raise NWEA MAP scores by 10%.



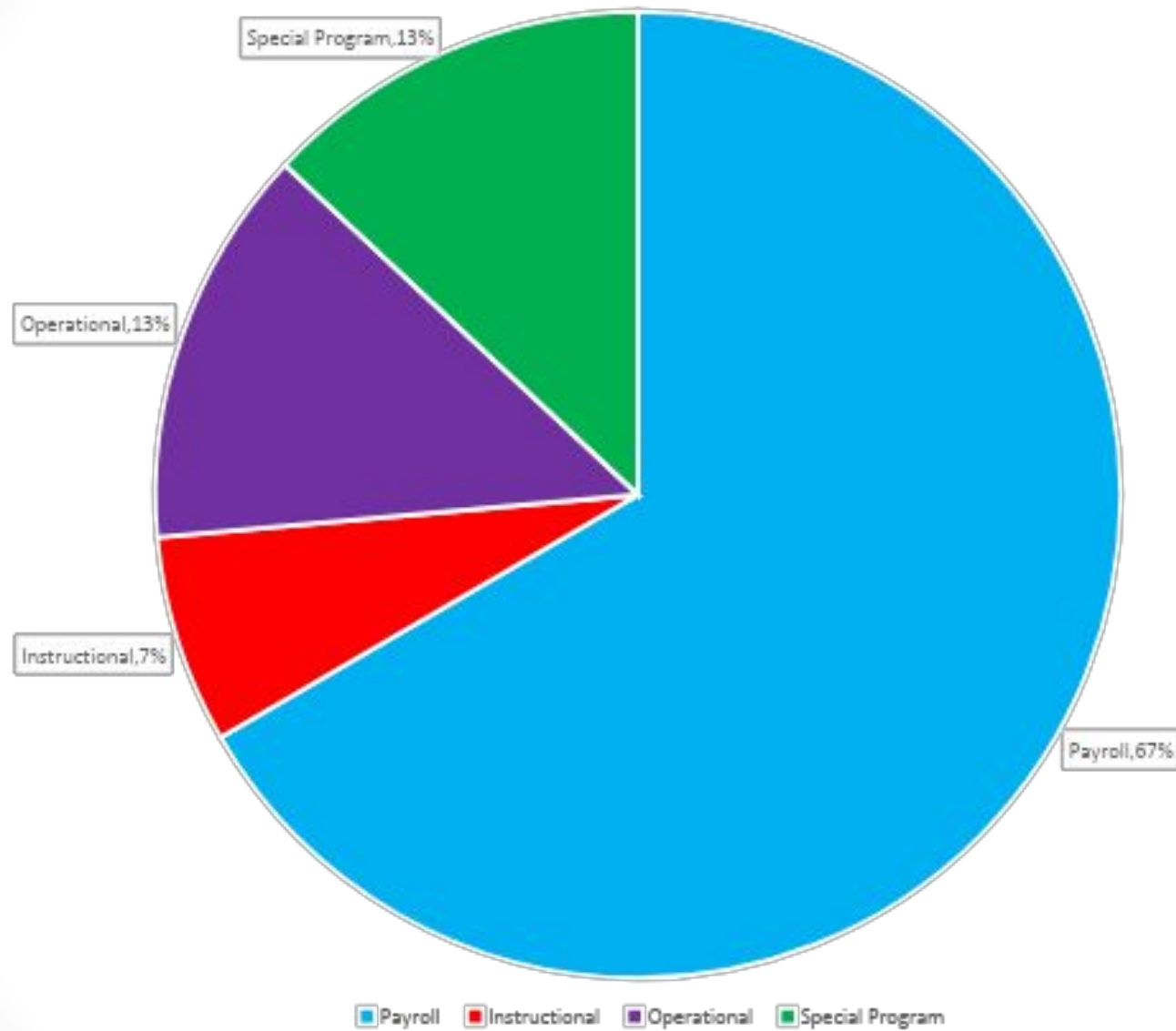
Elementary 1st Child Non Catholic Tuition Rate School Year 2024 - 2025

Green Columns same rate for
Catholic and Non Catholic

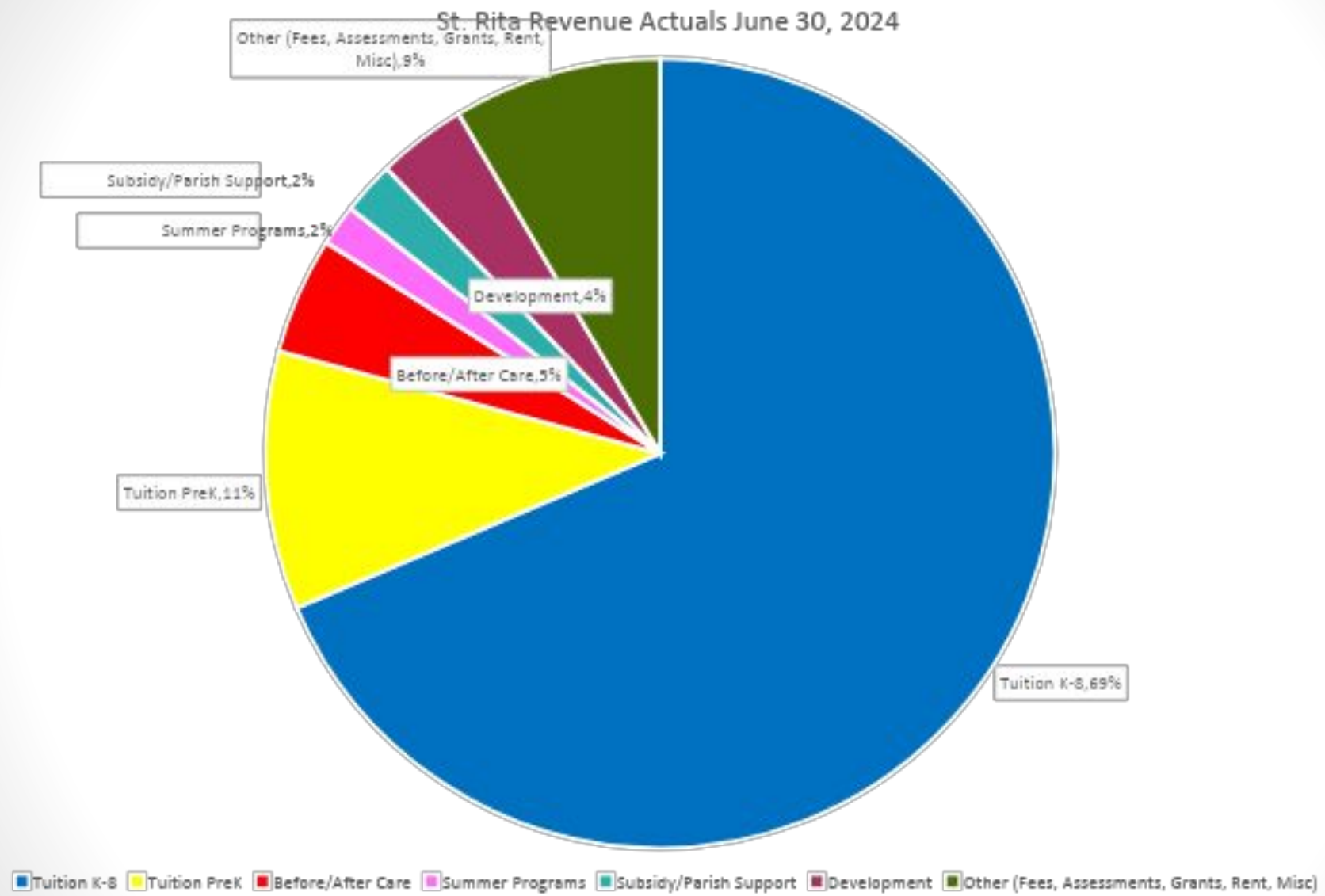
Average Non
Catholic Tuition
Rate = \$6,590



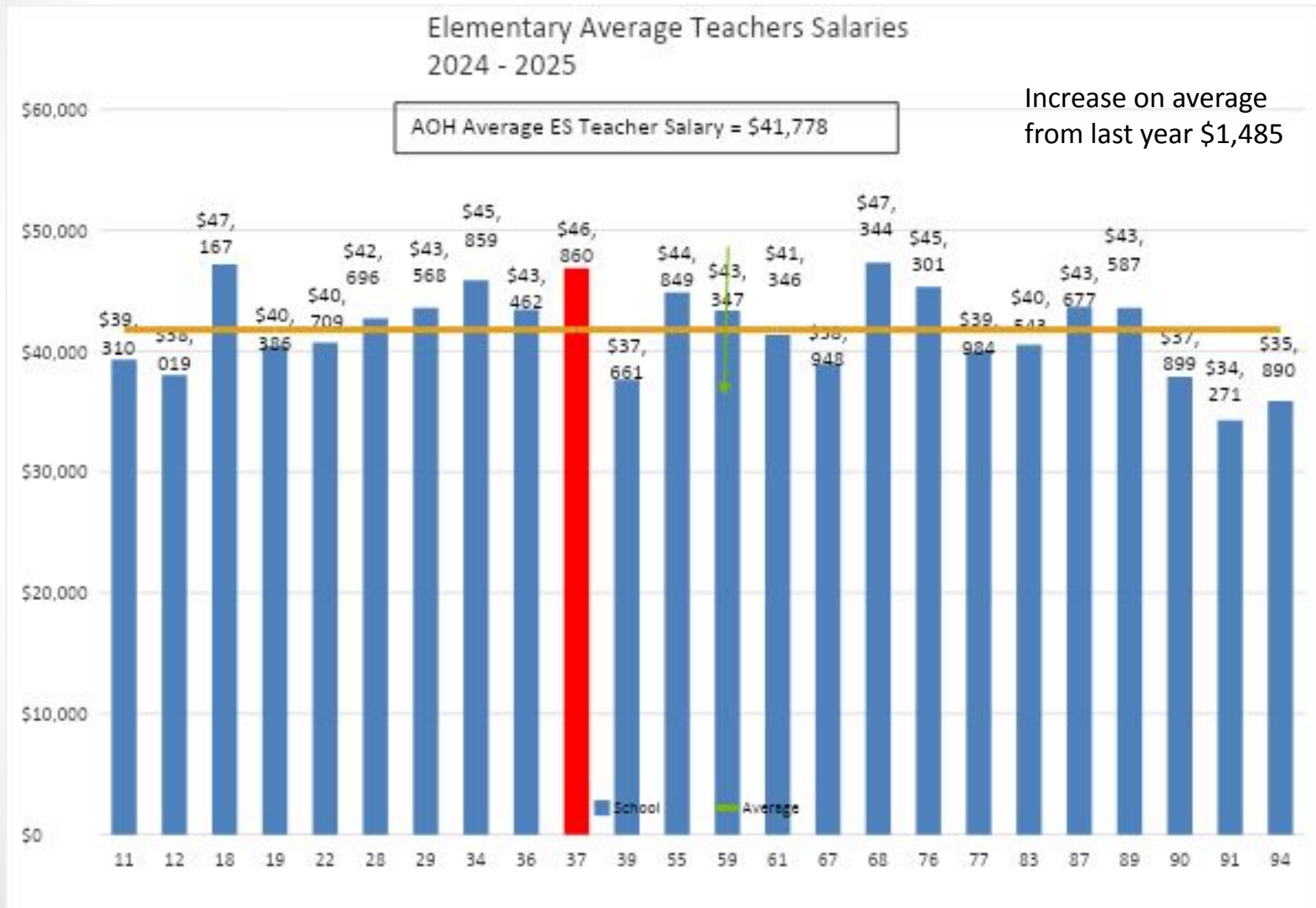
St. Rita Expense Actuals June 30, 2024



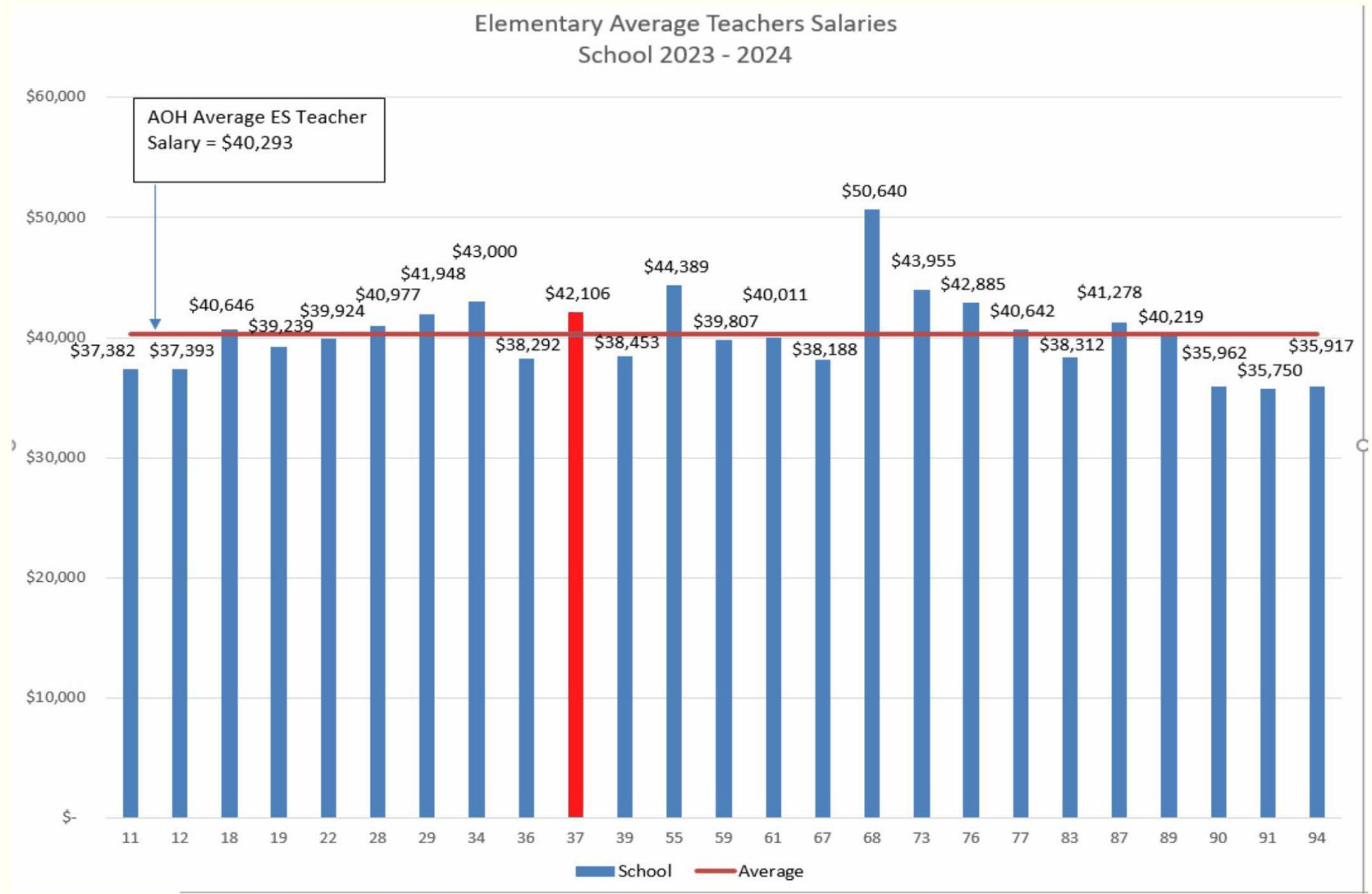
St. Rita Revenue Actuals June 30, 2024



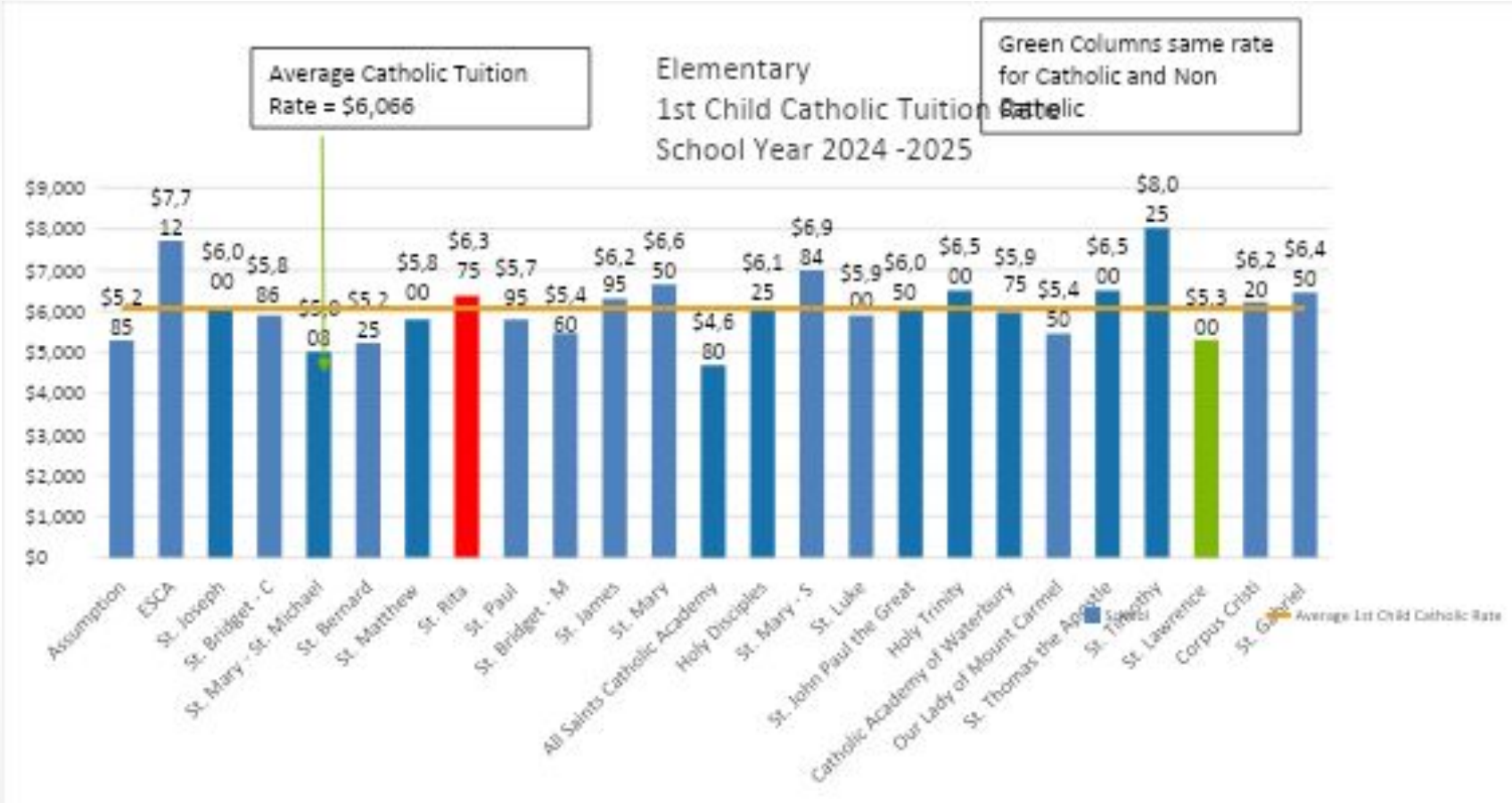
- Average Teacher Salary – from the 24/25 Adjusted Budget



■ Average Teacher Salary – from the 23/24 Adjusted Budget



- Average Elementary Catholic Tuition Rates – from the 24/25 Adjusted Budget



Elementary Per Pupil Cost 2023- 2024

Per June 30, 2024 Compilation

- Average Per Pupil Cost 23/24

CT Cost to Educate = \$24,453

