School Profile

**Name of School: St. John's Lutheran School**

27 1st Street NW

Norwood Young America, MN 55397

**Congregation:**

Name: St. John's Lutheran Church

101 SE 2nd Avenue

Norwood Young America, MN 55397

**Name the agency currently accrediting your school and the expiration date:**

National Lutheran School Accreditation / August 31, 2013

**School Administrator and Contact Information** *(Telephone number and e-mail address):*

*David M. Polzin*

*davidp@sjsnya.org*

*952-467-3461 (school) / 612-801-5675 (cell)*

**Attachments**

\* Attach a list of all members of your school’s planning committee, indicating whether they are teachers, parents, outside consultants, etc. Explain the participatory process used by this committee to assess needs and formulate goals.

\* Attach a copy of your most recent LCMS school statistic report.

\* Attach a copy of all checklists, surveys, test results and other needs assessment data that helped you discern and prioritize your school’s needs.

\* Attach information (sample committee notes, outlines, etc.) that illustrate your preliminary work in defining your SIP goals and/or delineation of achievements required to attain them.

**Community**

**Describe significant community information/factors/changes that are affecting your school, its student population, and their needs. Pay particular attention to changes that have occurred since your last accreditation.**

Norwood Young America is a town 40 minutes west of Minneapolis, located on Hwy 212. The town has a population of approximately 2500. There is continued speculation that the town, because of its proximity to Minneapolis, will grow, although the recent economic situation has slowed this projection. Highway 212 has been expanded further west, making the trip quicker and easier.

A new school charter school, Cologne Academy opened three years ago. Although St. John’s wasn’t majorly impacted by this opening, the school has been a big draw for parents in the surrounding area and could have an effect on future enrollment.

**Enrollment**

1. Total current school enrollment by age/grade.

Preschool 3 – 11 Gr. 4 - 16

Preschool 4 - 18 Gr. 5 - 14

K - 8 Gr. 6 - 12

Gr 1 - 14 Gr 7 - 5

Gr 2 - 14 Gr 8 - 5

Gr 3 - 6

1. Review your responses on the statistics report to the number of students per grade, number of special education students, students’ church membership and students’ race, then discuss any features of your current enrollment that reveal significant or unusual information. Note significant ways in which enrollment or enrollment patterns have changed since your last NLSA accreditation, and if possible, explain why.

Significant: St. John’s is a school made up of, for the most part, members of St. John’s. 66% of our preschool children and 89% of our K-8 students are members. Every student that attends St. John’s claims church membership somewhere. Only 5 of the 122 students shown on the report are non-Lutheran.

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| --- | --- |
| 06-07 | 158 |
| 07-08 | 148 |
| 08-09 | 135 |
| 09-10 | 137 |
| 10-11 | 137 |
| 11-12 | 133 |
| 12-13 | 123 |

If the trend to have the high percentage of students come from St. John’s continues, it is all the more important that our school is placed before members in any possible manner that promotes our school. If our hope is to become more open to the community, the importance of promoting our school to the community in a variety of ways is evident. Both hopes are true, therefore, we have work to do both congregationally and community.

1. Describe expected enrollment trends over the next five years and explain the reasons for your projections.

2013-14 - 127 (graduating 5 8th graders / addition of 10 Kindergarten)

2014-15 - 132 (graduating 5 8th graders / addition of 10 Kindergarten)

2015-16 130 (graduating 12 8th graders / addition of 10 Kindergarten)

2016-17 128 (graduating 14 8th graders / addition of 13\* Kindergarten)

2017-18 126 (graduating 16 8th graders / addition of 15\* Kindergarten)

* The increase in kindergarten students beginning in the 2016-17 school year will be the result of increased preschool numbers. We are planning a building project for the summer of 2013 which will be geared to improving our preschool, kindergarten, and extended care programs. Currently, we offer before and after school care, but will be seriously considering the addition of an all-day child care program. The anticipated result of this program will be an increase in the number of preschool students that attend St. John’s, which we anticipate will have an effect on the number of kindergarten students that enroll. Currently 40% of our preschool children will continue in our kindergarten program.
* The enrollment numbers shown above do not include additional preschool children.

1. Provide school enrollment date by grade level and a narrative analysis of enrollment trends for the period.

Preschool 3 12 Gr 4 16

Preschool 4 17 Gr 5 13

K 8 Gr 6 13

Gr 1 14 Gr 7 5

Gr 2 14 Gr 8 5

Gr 3 6

Enrollment at St. John’s is on a slow decline. Looking at the numbers in certain grades like grade 7-8, this trend may appear to be on the mend; graduating classes smaller than you are bringing into kindergarten. Unfortunately, it will be short-lived IF we cannot hit a minimum enrollment of 14-15 in kindergarten and hold them. This is the challenge before us.

5. Comment on the number of eligible congregation children enrolled and the number of children not able to be enrolled due to space limitations. Discuss any significant or unusual features about this information, how it has changed since your last NLSA accreditation, and how you expect it to change over the next five years.

St. John’s historically has had an average of 60% of eligible members attend their school. Within the congregation there are some very staunch supporters of Christian education and those that are in full support of our area’s public system (Central Schools). Generally speaking, the kids follow where their parents attended.

For whatever reasons, plans for the town’s growth have not materialized as quickly as anticipated. If and when this expansion does happen, it could be to St. John’s advantage (as well as other area private, charter, and parochial schools) that these new people come in with no loyalty to any school system.

This assumption also places a strong emphasis on the fact that any school that is ready to accept these people by having their programs in order and “saleable” may see growth. Those that are not moving into the future may fall further behind.