

# MNSAA SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN & UPDATES

## ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL IS ACCREDITED BY THE MINNESOTA NONPUBLIC SCHOOL ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION (MNSAA)

MNSAA is a federally and state sanctioned non-profit association whose goal is to help non-public schools to continue to provide authentic quality of education to students that adheres to a rigorous set of standards. As part of the accreditation process, schools create a seven year strategic plan which is both visionary and focused. St. Joseph's School's Strategic Plan follows below. Thank you to our School Board and Faculty & Staff who helped to create our plan.

The complete report is available for review at our school office.

Updates to our Plan that were accomplished in 2015-2016 written in blue

### MEET THE ACADEMIC NEEDS OF EACH STUDENT

- [How to Create & Use Rubrics](#) was the book the faculty and I used this year as the basis for our discussion on assessment.
- New student report cards (and reporting system) were launched this year by using an intra-school communication tool, SchoolSpeak. Efforts will continue next year to improve our use of this system which enables parents to check online how their child(ren) are doing academically.
- In the future, we will work to create a specific plan for the needs of high potential learners. *If you would like to be a part of this process, please contact the school office.*

### INTEGRATE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF TODAY'S LEARNERS

- Each teacher completed a minimum of 10 hours in technology in-service throughout the school year.
- Using a generous gift of \$5000 received this spring, we will be upgrading our SMARTBoard computers, purchase replacement SMARTBoard projectors, and adding new laptops to our inventory for student use.

- We have not completed the action step of creating a Technology Plan.

*If you would like to be a part of this process, please contact the school office.*

## ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL WILL MAINTAIN NECESSARY REVENUE AND ENROLLMENT

- Parish leadership refinanced our facility mortgage to enable us to better manage our monthly payments.
- St. Joseph's School Board focused on our school finance structure and governance. The school board conducted a parent survey, and based on the results of this survey, took two actions. They hosted a "State of the School" finance information evening and created "Three Minute Mondays", short videos with information about our school that is posted on our student information system, SchoolSpeak.
- Spring Thaw (school's largest fundraiser), brought in \$26,000 for our school's operating budget. Steering committee and school staff continues to upgrade and refine "operation manuals" to help new parents keep this event successful.
- We have not completed the action step of creating a Marketing Plan. School Board has this set to be a main focus in 2016-2017. *If you would like to be a part of this process, please contact the school office.*

## ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL WILL ARTICULATE IN WORD AND PROMOTE IN ACTION OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Faculty, principal and School Board continue to review and work to meet the National Standards for Effective Catholic Elementary Schools. Some actions are:

- Attendance at 125th Anniversary Eucharistic Procession and Mass on 9/12/2015
- Attendance at diocesan teacher retreat 6/12/16-6/14/16
- Attendance at diocesan assembly 10/4/16
- Creation of activities and prayers each month for students that focused on Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy in celebration of the Year of Mercy.

In this upcoming school year, all teachers in the Diocese of Duluth will attend four Catechetical Formation Days using the SYMBOLON program: August 25, October 20, January (date TBD), and May 26 (which will be a NO SCHOOL day for students in the Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Duluth).

## SUMMARY OF MNSAA TEAM VISIT (SPRING 2013)

### SIGNIFICANT AREAS OF STRENGTH

1. The St. Joseph's School Community was described by many as working and interacting together as a family. Relationships among students, staff and parents were credited in interviews as being at the heart of what makes this a great school.
2. The dedication of the staff and exemplary dedication of the principal are the foundation of the positive, caring and energetic atmosphere throughout the school.
3. St. Joseph's pastor is to be commended for his faithful support and active involvement in the school.
4. The new facility is obviously a positive enhancement to the school program. The design of the building is very functional, and it reinforces the bond with the parish community.
5. The team commends the school on the various types of community involvement in which it participates.

### AREAS OF CHALLENGE

1. The team recommends that the school develop a comprehensive marketing plan.
2. The team supports the school's plan to increase their hardware inventory, develop a technology plan, and provide technology in-service for staff.
3. St. Joseph's School is challenged to annually evaluate all staff members.
4. The team challenges the school to review and update the School Strategic Plan to ensure a reasonable timeline.