

## ANNUAL SCHOOL ACCREDITATION UPDATE

St. Joseph's School is accredited through the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA). The school board, faculty, and I worked on action steps contained in our School Strategic Plan (SSP) this year. We are accountable, on an annual basis, to report progress on our plan.

Listed is what we accomplished this year  
in the objectives that guide our plan.

### Objective 1

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL WILL MEET THE ACADEMIC NEEDS OF EACH  
STUDENT

Teaching Gifted Kids in Today's Classroom (Susan Winebrenner), was the book the faculty and I used this year as the basis for our discussion on behavior strategies. Two speakers, both with experience in gifted education, presented to our faculty.

### Objective 2

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL WILL INTEGRATE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES  
TO MEET THE NEEDS OF TODAY'S LEARNERS

- Switched to the company Citon (shared between the parish and the school) for our technology services.
- New Security upgrades put into place with the new server.
- We have fiber optic cables connected to our facility in an effort to improve bandwidth.
- Thirteen new Chromebooks purchased for our computer lab in order to be compatible with our new server.
- Two new switches replaced outdated equipment.
- We have added one access point and are in process of adding two more access points in our facility.

- Technology Plan draft created for review by School Board and parents. *If you would like to review and comment on this document, please contact school principal.*

### Objective 3

#### ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL WILL PROVIDE A FORMALIZED INITIAL AND CONTINUOUS LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

A new guide was created in effort to formalize orientation year and support for new teachers. This document will guide weekly meetings with our new grade 5 teacher in 2018-2019.

Early Release time and attendance at in-services this year focused on working with our new math materials and reviewing updated national science standards and curricula. The new science materials we purchased are in alignment with the national NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards).

Faculty and principal focused on strategies to use when working with High Potential/Gifted Learners in a classroom setting. Speakers, books, implementation and follow-up discussion supported our study.

Faculty attended in-service presentation on mental health and suicide prevention as part of teacher licensure requirements.

Catechetical Formation this year included four days of diocesan in-service using the Symbolon program (Augustine Institute). This is a requirement of all teachers in the diocese of Duluth

In addition, teachers, as individuals, attended classes and in-services to support their teaching and fulfill their Minnesota teacher licensure requirements throughout 2017-2018.

Teaching Assistants (paras) met throughout the year with the principal for study in use of language to engage learners based on Responsive Classroom strategies.

## Objective 4

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

- Spring Thaw (school's largest fundraiser), brought in \$30,000 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.

#### **Scrip Program Updates**

Beginning in 2018–2019, there will be no mandatory Scrip fee/no mandatory Scrip participation. Members of the School Board and program organizers have analyzed the Scrip program over the past two years to ascertain its participation level among school and parish families, the income it generates, and school families' perceptions of the program before making this recommendation.

The Scrip fee/deposit has been replaced by a tuition adjustment to cover the cost of deleting the requirement component of the program. For those families who were able to meet their goal this year, information on the back of this sheet will discuss your options for redeeming your deposit.

#### **"SCRIP 2.0"**

Scrip will still be available to purchase from the school office and at church after Masses the first Sunday of each month. Money earned from "Scrip 2.0" will not go into the school's annual operations budget but will be put into a special account for the school to use for projects as recommended annually by St. Joseph's School Board.

## Catholic Identity Objective

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

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

- Teachers in the Diocese of Duluth attended four Catechetical Formation days using the SYMBOLON program.
- Organized by a school parent, Thursday mornings throughout the summer, families have been invited for Mass and Play. This Group will meet three times per month, attend 9 am Mass and then meet at a local park to play
- Catholic Identity Committee will be created in 18-19. Focus will be to support families in their faith.