



Evansville, Indiana

Model for Active Discipleship in Education

M.A.D.E.

2021-2022

Mission Statement

Annunciation Catholic School is a ministry of our parish committed to serving our parish family and community through Catholic education. Our mission is to fully develop each student **spiritually, academically, emotionally, and physically** according to our Catholic faith in a safe and nurturing environment.

Purpose

This document outlines how we pursue this mission according to the four dimensions of every student: spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical. In each dimension we also want to highlight that as a school community we are engaging the **student**, the **family** and the **staff**.

We firmly believe that by encouraging our students to follow the path of discipleship, we will help them to become fully themselves. As the Second Vatican Council reminds us: “Christ...fully reveals man to man himself and makes his supreme calling clear (GS, 22)”

Spiritual Dimension

First Mission [Student]

Assist each child with developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

School Council Shepherd(s): All School Council Members

Annunciation Catholic School recognizes that as a ministry of the parish its primary role is to help our young people to come to know and follow Jesus Christ. It is our first mission to ensure that every child who passes through our school will be shown the presence of Christ and will be encouraged to know Him more fully.

Objective 1: Offer spiritual formation opportunities for our students

Action Step 1: Consider what is already being done in school (Mass, Adoration, Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, etc.)

Action Step 2: Choose one per semester to focus on and enhance

Action Step 3: Catechize teachers and students on the meaning of that particular act of devotion

Objective 2: Have the Pastor and Evangelization Coordinator get to know each student personally

Action Step 1: Have Pastor and Evangelization Coordinator spend time with students at lunch and recess

Action Step 2: Speak to the students about their relationship with God.

Action Step 3: Visit classrooms to pray and sing with students

Second Mission [Family]:

Accompany and form parents to be the primary educators of their children

School Council Shepherd(s): Maria McClure, Beth Durham, Anna Creek

Annunciation Catholic School echoes the teaching of the Catholic Church that tells us that parents are the primary educators of their children. Knowing that we assist parents in this role and rather than serving as a substitute, we want to help parents fulfill the role that is proper to them.

Objective 1: Empower parents to be the primary educator of their children, by offering tools and support to them in that mission.

Action step 1: Clearly and consistently communicate events and happening such as advent/lent activities, Bible studies and faith formation opportunities through family folders and other means of communication such as school reach reminders and texts/emails from the school principals. Other families in our parish who are not associated with our schools, such as home school families and children who attend public school will also be a focus. We will try other methods of communication such as the bulletin and newsletter to reach those families.

Action Step 2: Implement the *Family of Faith Program* from Sophia Institute with kickoff in April and start in September.

Objective 2: (Future objective) Assist couples to strengthen their marriages for the intent of enriching the families in our parish.

Action step 1: Focus on marriages in our parish and assisting couples to strengthen their own marriage with programs such as *Eight Dates: Essential Conversations for a Lifetime of Love* by John Gottman Ph.D. (Author), Julie Schwartz Gottman Ph.D. (Author), Doug Abrams (Author), Rachel Carlton Abrams M.D. (Author).

Third Mission [Staff]:

Provide staff with opportunities to develop their relationship with Christ

School Council Shepherd(s): Matt Moore & David Memmer

Annunciation Catholic School acknowledges that one cannot give what one does not have. For this reason, we see great value in helping each staff member to keep moving forward in their relationship with Christ. This may take on different forms and expressions, but it will only serve to enrich our school community.

Objective 1: Provide annual retreat for teachers for their personal spiritual growth

Action Step 1: Look for a date in late July or early August to spend a day on retreat

Action Step 2: Decide on a location for the retreat, such as a New Harmony (Holy Angels Community Center)

Action Step 3: Prepare the retreat in early June to meet the needs of our staff

Objective 2: Provide a resource each year to the staff that will assist their growth in faith

Action Step 1: Periodically ask the staff what questions or struggles they are having with their faith.

Action Step 2: During the Spring semester look for resources that might address these needs.

Intellectual Dimension

First Mission [Student]:

Challenge every student to use their intellectual abilities to their fullest

School Council Shepherd(s): Laurie Basham & Chris Belcher

Every student at Annunciation Catholic School learns differently. Each student is uniquely gifted and deserves the personal attention of our teachers in order to bring to the surface the fullness of the gifts they have been given by God.

OBJECTIVE 1: Teachers will use data from assessments to support the growth of each student

Action Step 1: Teachers will use this data to drive instruction and differentiate their lessons

Action Step 2: Individual learning goals will be set for students

OBJECTIVE 2: Teachers will help students to celebrate successes

Action Step 1:

Second Mission [Family]:

Challenge every parent to spend time in study with their child(ren)

School Council Shepherd(s): Glary Hernandez & Chris Belcher

Research shows us that children learn better when their parents are engaged in their studies. We want to foster a stronger relationship between student and parent that will help every child to know they are loved and to strive to grow in their intellectual abilities.

OBJECTIVE 1: Establish a vision for student life at home that provides expectations and encouragement

Action Step 1: In conjunction with PTO and staff, develop and provide materials to parents that help parents to understand the curriculum being taught and how to assist in homework in order to build parental confidence in aiding children to accomplish academic success.

Action Step 2: Host family nights to encourage interaction among families to share ideas and support one another.

Action Step 3: Create family mentor program to have upper grade parents mentor new parents

Third Mission [Staff]:

Provide tailored professional development opportunities

School Council Shepherd(s): Laurie Schopmeyer

Like our students, every teacher in our school has certain skills and abilities that make them unique. We want to maximize these gifts to their fullest potential as well as provide support and training to foster lifelong learning as educators.

OBJECTIVE 1: Ask teachers to seek opportunities for professional development

Action Step 1: Write a letter to the principal indicating their request

Action Step 1: Principal gives teachers constant reminders to seek professional development

OBJECTIVE 2: Teachers will use Title I, Title II, and additional budget funds for Professional Development in the areas from objective 1.

Action Step 1:

Emotional Dimension

First Mission [Student]:

Foster a spirit among all students and graduates that they will always belong to our school

School Council Shepherd(s): Maria McClure

Annunciation Catholic School is a place where lifelong learning is encouraged. Current and past students are challenged to use their gifts at the service of this home and to return to share their gifts in the future.

OBJECTIVE 1: Invite alumni to return and share their experience with current students

Action Step 1: Utilize MHS “late start Wednesdays” as an opportunity to invite recent graduates to visit the school and share what is happening to them now (at MHS, what they see as valuable at CTK / HS looking back, Faith testimony, etc.)

Action Step 2: Seek opportunities for other alumni to do the same, perhaps during Catholic schools week or in conjunction with other highlighted events

Action Step 3: Invite alumni who are unable to attend events to write a testimony letter to be shared with students, either individually or Collectively

OBJECTIVE 2: Work toward developing an alumni association so that students can remain connected to the mission of the school

Action Step 1: Compile list of current 8th graders

Action Step 2: Build database of former students on Google Sheets, beginning with current high school students and going beyond as far as able through the help of school records and word of mouth

Action Step 3: Maintain database with yearly updates

Action Step 4: Stay in contact with alumni through periodic alumni newsletters and events, such as invitations to Catholic Schools Week Mass (spiritual), end of school year activities (emotional), summer social (physical - give back to / support / revisit our school), and/or other appropriate events as they arise.

OBJECTIVE 3: Pastor will write farewell letters to each individual graduating eighth grader highlighting strengths and talents we see in them and imploring them to continue using those gifts for the glory of God.

Action Step 1: 8th grade teachers will gather feedback from the staff on each 8th grade student.

Action Step 2: Pastor will spend time writing a personalized, hand-written note to each student.

Second Mission [Family & Staff]:

Utilize hospitality to help all feel welcome

School Council Shepherd(s): Chris Belcher, Maria McClure, Beth Durham

Annunciation Catholic School is home to a diverse population. We are committed to developing an environment where all students, parents, visitors and staff can feel at home. It is our great hope that by experiencing our school as a home, all will become the people God has made them to be.

OBJECTIVE 1 [Family]: Provide opportunities for parents to connect with other parents

Action Step 1: Make personal contact with every parent to get involved with the PTA/PTO. Make a conscious decision to be intentional in our interactions with school families. Always be mindful that we are all potential stewards.

Action Step 2: Communicate clearly about upcoming events and invite parent participation

Action Step 3: Have parents write testimonies to be shared with other parents. The first testimony will be written by February 1 and other parents will be asked to share their testimony.

Action Step 4: Connect each new family with a current school family (“Guardian Angel” family) to begin building connections and act as a resource for questions.

OBJECTIVE 2 [Staff]: Celebrate the accomplishments of our students

Action Step 1: Determine criteria for highlighting an “Angel of the Quarter” from each campus in our parish bulletin.

Action Step 2: Students as well as faculty will submit nominations. Submissions should include testimony as to why their nominee deserves recognition. This will encourage students to identify and recognize the gifts of others.

Action Step 3: School Personnel will decide the recipient and use the student testimonies as a reference.

Action Step 4: School Council will write a congratulatory card to the recipient using the student and faculty testimonies.

Action Step 5: Revamp Honor's Night to make it more elaborate and more of a celebration of student growth.

Physical Dimension

First Mission:

Develop a unified culture between our campuses

School Council Shepherd(s): David Memmer, Matt Moore, Laurie Basham, & Kaylan Coffman

Our goal of creating a unified culture for our two campuses helps us to acknowledge the richness and the gift of each person, uniquely created by God. This common bond is fundamentally rooted in our common belonging to Christ.

OBJECTIVE 1 [Student]: During joint school Masses, provide time the rest of the day for students to be together, to learn together and to play together

Action Step 1: Set aside staff meetings for teachers from both campuses to plan together how to use the additional time.

Action Step 2: Beginning in Spring 2020, provide extra time after Mass for students to work with their corresponding grade level.

Action Step 3: In the future, the first and last of the Angel Masses will incorporate eating together and playing together while the weather is nice.

OBJECTIVE 2 [Student]: Develop a grouping of students called "Choirs of Angels." Use these choirs to foster deeper unity within each campus and between both campuses.

Action Step 1: Establish the division of these choirs.

Action Step 2: Provide details of how these choirs will work together from each campus.

Action Step 3: Implement in Fall 2020

OBJECTIVE 3 [Family]: Provide opportunities for parents from both campuses to come together to work for a common project or goal

Action Step 1: Host Youth First presentations on strengthening families at Christ the King Campus in Spring 2020.

OBJECTIVE 4 [Staff]: Provide time and opportunities for grade-level teachers to share resources and ideas for teaching

Action Step 1: Principals will provide staff meeting time for teachers to share ideas within and across grade levels.

Second Mission:

Improve the physical Environment of our school campuses

School Council Shepherd(s): Jen Schaefer

Annunciation Catholic School seeks to foster an environment that feels like a home to our students. We provide a place that is steeped in beauty, not just in religious art, but an environment that awakens in our students a desire to seek what is beautiful.

OBJECTIVE 1: Improve the aesthetics of our school to reflect our Catholic identity

Action Step 1: Identify areas that are uninspiring

Action Step 2: Search for secular and religious artwork that awakens the students' sense of beauty.

Action Step 3: Discuss with art teachers at each campus how student-created artwork might be displayed in a meaningful way OR other ideas to increase students' ownership / ensure student buy-in

Third Mission:

Maintain a comprehensive plan for technology that provides for adequate tools and is aware of their impact on our students' development

School Council Shepherd(s): Matt Moore & David Memmer

Annunciation Catholic School strives to provide access to appropriate technological tools that respect the development of the child's person and give them access to new learning opportunities.

OBJECTIVE 1: Ensure that a plan for needed technological equipment exists and is followed

Action Step 1: Establish an inventory of existing technology equipment

Action Step 1: Identify items and a timeline for when items should be upgraded or replaced

OBJECTIVE 2: Develop a list of best practices that keeps teachers cognizant of the impact of technology on children

Action Step 1: Develop and imbed a curriculum relevant to each age group about digital citizenship

Action Step 2: Provide information to teachers and parents with scientifically supported recommendations about screen time and use of digital devices

Additional Mission (wording & location TBD – Physical Dimension?)

Create and implement multiple strategies to effectively market our school to increase enrollment.

School Council Shepherd(s): Chris Belcher & Anna Creek

Annunciation Catholic School strives to extend our mission of discipleship to all children in our community. Effective marketing is key to our goal of reaching others.

OBJECTIVE 1: Combine our PTO and PTA groups to create a unified parental group to provide a “unified front” and assistance with marketing and events.

Action Step 1: Begin conversations of recreating this group in January 2022.

Action Step 2: Implement “neighborhood events” that are not necessarily tied with the school (such as outdoor movie nights) to begin re-engaging with the local community.

OBJECTIVE 2: Develop a list of marketing strategies, talking points, and ideas.

Action Step 1: As a council, brainstorm a list of areas in which we excel and/or stand out, to use in various marketing efforts.

Action Step 2: Collaborate with principals and/or marketing experts on best practices for effective marketing strategies (ex: CTK campus video for voucher window, parent testimonial videos, etc.)