



CATHOLIC SCHOOL CHRONICLE

SEPTEMBER 2014

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT . . .

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

DIOCESAN SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

SACS

ACCREDITATION

MESSAGE FROM—OFFICE OF LAY MINISTRY

RESOURCES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

1 I just received my September copy of the *Magnificat* and was looking at the liturgical calendar for the month. On September 8th, we celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. *When the most holy Virgin was born, the whole world was made radiant; blessed is the branch and blessed the stem which bore such holy fruit.* (Liturgy of the Hours) September 15th is the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. Mary was present at the Cross when Jesus died. Her strength in such suffering offers us the courage to face our hardships knowing that Mary will provide us with support in our time of need.

2 On September 19th, principals, teachers and staff will gather together at John Carroll Catholic High School for our annual Fall In service Conference. There will be three themes for the conference: integrating technology into the curriculum, meeting the needs of a diverse student population and differentiated instruction. Our annual conference will begin with mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Baker S.T.D. The keynote speaker is someone most of you have heard before- Dr. Sara Wannemuehler. After lunch, participants will have the opportunity to attend workshops of their choice.

3 I hope everyone had a great opening of our school year and look forward to greeting you in person as I make my rounds of our schools. May God bless each and every one of you for the gifts you bring to our schools.

DIOCESAN SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT . . .

DID YOU KNOW?

According to *Connected Principal*, there are a few things teachers want from their principals. Some are listed below:

~Practical Support (i.e. need help ordering equipment, getting permission for special events, requesting a larger budget, prep time with team member, etc.)

~Technology (i.e. need additional professional development, would like administration access to download educational programs, etc.)

~Communication (i.e. open and clear communication through weekly memos, open door policy, etc.)

~Leadership Qualities (flexible but stable, fair, honest, open to suggestions, etc.)

www.connectedprincipals.com

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School opened its doors in 1984 with 206 students. This year we celebrate our 30th anniversary with over 340 students. We look forward to welcoming back students and staff who have helped make OLV a two time recipient of the coveted U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award. Our celebration will begin with mass on October 19th followed by refreshments and an open house. We hope our alumni will join our current families as we celebrate 30 Years of Excellence.

We are excited to welcome Ms. Katie Zielinski as our new principal. Ms. Zielinski has 21 years of experience in education and holds an Ed.S in Educational Leadership from the University of Montevallo. She looks forward to working with the faculty and staff, students, parents and parishioners of OLV as we continue to provide for the spiritual and academic growth of our student body.

Our Lady of the Valley school is dedicated to providing a spiritual environment where students grow in their Catholic faith. Students are actively involved in daily prayer and all aspects of the weekly liturgy. We also provide award winning programs which allow our students to compete in local, state, and national competition. Our Science Olympiad teams have swept the top three places in state competition for 12 consecutive years with teams advancing to national competition. The OLV Junior Thespian Troupe is one of only nine troupes in Alabama and has represented the state at the National Festival for the last nine years.

OLV students are also active in both Toy Bowl and John Carroll Middle School athletics. We have been the Track and Field champions in four of the last five years and our middle school students have been selected for John Carroll Middle School athletic teams including football, basketball, volleyball, track and dance team.

Our Lady of the Valley is committed to the next thirty years of providing excellence in education to our students and their families.

A NOTE FROM THE ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT . . .

By now, I know you have discovered that we are exploring John Maxwell's educational work, research, and books for our continued growth. This month, we will gain more knowledge on how to lead wherever we are in our schools, district office, or other organizations whether if we are the boss, our boss's peers, our peers, our peers' subordinates, or our subordinates. If we want to gain influence and credibility with people working alongside us, we must learn to understand, practice and complete the leadership qualities listed below:

Caring; we have to show people we care by taking an interest in them.

Learning; get to know people; discover people's talents; appreciate their differences.

Appreciating; respect people; strive to see others' unique experiences and skills as a resource and try to learn from them.

Contributing; add value to people; don't keep your best stuff to yourself; fill in the gaps, invest in their growth; take them along.

Verbalizing; affirm people; take a moment to think about teachers, principals, or mentors you've had in your life. Who were your favorites? Why did you choose them? If you want to influence others, become their best cheerleader.

Leading; influencing people; after taking the previous five steps-caring, learning, appreciating, contributing, and verbalizing, we are finally ready to lead others. The things you've done up to now have served to build your relationship with them, give you credibility, and display that your motives are good.

Succeeding; win with people; great leaders don't use people so that they can win. They lead people so they all can win together.

We can be a leader others want to follow whether they are beside, above, or below us in our organization hierarchy.

John Maxwell; The 360 Degree Leader

SACS ACCREDITATION . . .

The Diocese of Birmingham is advancing towards our re-accreditation and using our findings to improve our system. Although our schools have successfully completed their requirements for our re-accreditation, each school in our diocese is reviewing their areas of notable achievement and areas that need to be strengthened. This data will be used to improve our schools in the following areas for the 2014-2015 academic school year: Vision and Purpose, Governance and Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Resources and Support Systems, and Using Assessment for Continuous Improvement. After final approval, our schools will upload their final documents and/or requirements into their Portfolio tab in ASSIST.

On the systems level, our Self Assessment (Standards) Committees are still collaboratively working with our stakeholders to examine SACS/AdvancED standards and indicators, rate our diocese on each standard and indicator, provide evidence or artifacts for the ratings noted, and ascertain the system's areas of strength and areas in need of improvement. The diocesan office is also analyzing the AdvancED survey data from our schools' parents, students, and staff. This data could reveal to us which area(s) indicate the overall highest level of satisfaction or approval amongst our schools and show any trends toward increasing stakeholder satisfaction or approval. It will also show which area(s) indicate the overall lowest level of satisfaction or approval amongst our schools and show any trends toward decreasing stakeholder satisfaction. Finally, our Catholic schools' office will have to share any implications for our stakeholder perceptions which were derived from the surveys. All of our findings will be compiled in the *System's Stakeholder Feedback Diagnostic* and *Stakeholder Data Document* in ASSIST.

MESSAGE FROM OFFICE OF LAY MINISTRY . . .

The Office of Lay Ministry serves as a resource for the development, enrichment, and formation of Catholic adults in the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama. Theological education, ministry training and enrichment, and spiritual formation based on Gospel values and teachings of the Catholic Church are provided for adults. Opportunities are available for adults seeking to enrich their knowledge and understanding of Catholic tradition, deepen their spiritual lives, and live their Catholic faith more fully in their parish, home, workplace, and in society. Services are offered in a local parish setting, regional setting, or on an individual basis. These services are for Pastors, Parish Priests, Parish Directors, Parish Staffs, Parish Pastoral Councils, Various Parish Groups, School Faculties, DREs-CREs, Catechists, RCIA Classes/Teams, Adult Education Classes, Family/Marriage Groups, and Bible Study Groups.

Feel free to contact Sr. Marie Leonard, Lay Ministry Director, at srleonard@bhmdiocese.org or call 205-838-8300.



RESOURCES

Do you have time for some professional reading? Consider adding these books to your reading lists:

Russell J., & Quay, S. (2003). *Changing lives through the principalship; A reflective guide for school leaders*. Alexandria, VA: National Association of Elementary School Principals. This book is designed to support principals as they create healthy schools that make a difference in the lives of students, teachers, and staff. The guide centers on eight conditions that have been found to foster school environments in which all members of the community are inspired and confident in their ability to succeed.

Robb, E. (2007). *The principal's leadership sourcebook; Practices, tools, and strategies for building a thriving school community*. What does every thriving school have in common? A principal who has highly developed leadership skills. In this straight forward, yet inspiring resource, principal Evan Robb shares his no fail strategies for strengthening these skills. He tells you how to implement, develop workable projects, and much more. Robb's practical approach, with an eye to critical details, provides an effective framework to guide both new and veteran principals.

*"If your actions
inspire others to
dream more,
learn more, do
more and become
more, you are a
leader."
-John Quincy Adams*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NCEA Webinars (see www.ncea.org)

Catholic Culture in the Elementary Classroom; The Faith Filled Classroom

Thursday, September 4, 2014

4 pm and 7 pm ET

Presented by Jim King, NCEA Elementary Schools Department

A Closer Look at the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools: Mission and Catholic Identity

Wednesday, September 10, 2014 - 4 and 7 pm ET

Presented by Dr. Lorraine Ozar, Center for Catholic School Effectiveness, Loyola University Chicago

Creating Parent Partnerships

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 - 4 and 7 pm ET

Presented by Dr. Patricia M. McCormack, IHM Office of Formative Support

Enrollment Trends and Opportunities for Catholic Schools

Tuesday, September 23, 2014 - 2 pm ET

Presented by Paul Neal and David Urban, Charter Oak Research. Panelist participation with Dr. Regina Haney and Christopher Cosentino, NCEA

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) Conference on Educational Leadership

October 31-November 2, 2014

Orlando, Florida at Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center

Annual Conference for Middle Level Education (AMLE)

www.amle.org/annual

November 6-8, 2014

Nashville, Tennessee

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Regional Conference & Expo www.nctm.org/houston

November 19-21, 2014

Houston, Texas

UPCOMING EVENTS/DEADLINES

- September 1st - Labor Day-No School
- September 3rd - Fall In-service Attendee List Due to CSO
- September 8th - Fee for the in-service Due to CSO
- September 10th - SACS Steering Committee Meeting
- September 10th - Principals' Advisory Committee Meeting
- September 19th - Fall In-service



Prayer:
 Lord, let your
 joy and strength
 beautify my life,
 now and always.
 Amen

OUR VISION AND MISSION

OUR VISION:

Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Birmingham provide an excellent educational experience in the Catholic tradition enabling all students to develop their God-given talents.

OUR MISSION:

The mission of the Diocese of Birmingham Catholic School System is to educate our students to seek God in Truth and for loving service by teaching the message of the Gospel, forming a community of faith, providing the whole child with a Catholic and Christ-centered environment, and inspiring all to reach their full academic and spiritual potential.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

SUPERINTENDENT:	FRAN LAWLOR	flawlor@bhmdiocese.org
ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT:	DR. NIYAH GRIFFIN	ngriffin@bhmdiocese.org
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION:	REV. JOHN MCDONALD	directorofeducation@bhmdiocese.org
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:	CHRISTINE SALBERG	csalberg@bhmdiocese.org

**P.O. Box 12047, 35202
 2121 3rd Avenue North, 35203
 Birmingham, Alabama
 205.838.8303—Fax 205.838.8330
 www.bhmcatholicsschools.com**