



CATHOLIC SCHOOL CHRONICLE

OCTOBER 2014

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT . . .

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

DIOCESAN SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

SACS

ACCREDITATION

MESSAGE FROM—OFFICE OF BLACK MINISTRY

RESOURCES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Research conducted by the U.S. Department of Education and other agencies confirm the impact that Catholic schools have had in the successful education of children throughout the country.

1. Catholic schools have made a major impact on closing the gap for poor, inner city, minority students and have lower dropout rates, than both public and private schools.

2. Ninety-nine percent of Catholic high school students graduate, and 97 percent go on to post-secondary education.

3. Catholic school students also score well on standardized test, surpassing federal and state agency standards.

1 October is a busy month. On Tuesday, October 7th, our liturgy is a memorial to our Lady of the Rosary. To pray the rosary is to turn our problems to the mercy of Jesus and His mother, Mary. "It could be said that each mystery of the rosary, carefully meditated, sheds light on the mystery of man." (Saint John Paul II.) Each of the mysteries- Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious-calls to mind a phase of the life of Jesus. We think about His birth and early life, ministry, suffering and death and resurrection. Abundant graces come to the faithful who pray the rosary.

2 Our principals and Catholic School Office staff will be on retreat October 8-10th at Saint Bernard Retreat Center. It will be our time for prayer, study and spiritual reflection. Please keep us in your prayers.

2 During the last week in October, several of us will attend the Chief Administrators of Catholic Education (CACE) conference in New Mexico. We engage in activities that are spiritual and educational. This is an opportunity for those in leadership positions to come together to share ideas and propose solutions to the issues that we face.

DIOCESAN SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT . . .

4 Fourteen years ago, *Prince of Peace Catholic School* opened its doors with a preschool-second grade program serving 45 students under the leadership of Principal Connie Angstadt. Today our school offers a preschool-eighth grade stimulating academic curriculum serving 450 students. Children begin in our cognitively creative preschool for three and four-year olds. While children will only recognize what an incredibly fun time they have every day, they are actually learning through our fun and stimulating activities including chapel, technology, creative movement, music, art, and foreign language instruction.

Students progress into an enriching elementary experience. Core academics are taught in a hybrid of traditional and innovative approaches. Students transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn," and their critical thinking develops. Teachers take great pleasure in weaving faith into the curriculum and fostering positive values into student thinking. Math skills increase rapidly, but our Mountain Math ensures that the lessons of past years do not go by the wayside as students continue to review previously acquired skills on a weekly basis. Science investigations and FOSS science kits allow students to delve more deeply into new realms of understanding.

Finally, students complete our program in an exceptionally integrated middle school. Intense planning uniquely links educational concepts in themed and chronological interest areas across the curriculum. Upon entering 6th grade, students not only take part in a ceremonial Bridge Crossing where they become "American Scholars," but they also are initiated into our House Program where all of the qualities of a knight (our mascot) and of a well-rounded student are promoted. The House Program is a competitive and fun team approach to tackling all of the social and emotional challenges typically associated with middle school. Students are assigned to one of four houses (St. Francis, St. James, St. Paul and St. Thomas) in which they remain until graduation. This program provides students with a social outlet of allowing friendships to move beyond grade levels; positive peer pressure encourages students to uphold high academic and moral standards, and weekly competitions promote leadership and critical thinking opportunities.

Our ultimate goal is to create enthusiastic graduates who are passionate life-long learners and able to transition effortlessly into high school and succeed there. Allow Prince of Peace to light the way for your child's bright future.

A NOTE FROM THE ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT. . .

Whether you're an aspiring, new, or veteran principal, leadership is a word you will continually hear from the Catholic schools' office, other administrators, teachers, and parents. In fact, men and women receive promotions when their leadership is strong and lose jobs when it is lacking.

Leadership is a complex concept. Many books have been written on it, and most people would agree that it is the key ingredient of success in any profession. The question our office would like you to consider is this: What are the core elements of outstanding school leadership? There are 6 core elements that are important to the success of school principals and administrators according to Evan Robb. These elements should permeate your leadership style because each element defines who you are and what you believe in. These beliefs enable you to reach out to students, staff, parents, and your community. Examine the 6 core elements of effective leadership and see what resonates with you:

1. Caring: It is crucial to care about and for others. Place their needs above your own.
2. Empathy: A close cousin of caring. Empathy allows you to step into another person's shoes and understand issues from his perspective.
3. Communication- The ability to communicate your message and concerns in a kind and considerate way can inspire members of your school community to do the same.
4. Passion: Be passionate about your job, vocation, or ministry; share your enthusiasm.
5. Trust: Without trust, you cannot lead. Trust takes time to build and can be destroyed easily. Jot down promises you make or teachers' request so you can ensure that you follow through.
6. Vision: Continually work with your staff and community to develop a shared vision that will rally everyone around ways to improve student achievement, teachers' instruction and professional growth, and community relations.

SACS ACCREDITATION . . .

The Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama is moving along in our system's re-accreditation. Our Self (Standards) Assessment committees have worked extremely hard examining our individual schools' Self Assessments/ diagnostics which assisted with rating our system as a whole in the following areas: *Purpose and Direction, Governance and Leadership, Teaching and Assessing Learning, Resources and Support Systems, and Using Results for Continuous Improvement*. These committees provided evidence or artifacts that supported the ratings and derived with our system's strengths and areas that needed improvement.

Our Catholic schools' office successfully completed the System's AdvancED Assurances and provided evidence to show that we were in compliance with AdvancED policies and procedures. As a system, we replied "YES" to the following Assurances:

AdvancED Policies and Procedures- The institution has read, understands, and complies with the AdvancED Policies and Procedures.

Substantive Changes: The institution has reported all substantive changes in the institution.

Security and Crisis Management Plan- The institution implements a written security and crisis management plan.

Financial Transactions- The institution monitors all financial transactions through a recognized audited system.

Improvement Plan-This institution engages in continuous improvement process and implements a plan.

We are in the last stages of analyzing the AdvancED surveys from parents, students, and staff across the diocese. This survey data will disclose our overall highest and lowest level of satisfaction amongst our schools as well as assist us with identifying trends.

MESSAGE FROM OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY . . .

The Office of Black Catholic Ministry for the diocese of Birmingham in Alabama was established by Most Reverend Joseph G. Vath in 1983. The OBM represents African American Catholics in the Diocese of Birmingham. The Office of Black Catholic is located within the Chancery Office. The OBM is dedicated to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ in an Africentric and spirit-filled manner, through education, advocacy, evangelization, and the promotion of racial harmony on diocesan, regional, and national levels.

The OBM is a Consortium of ordained ministers, religious, and parish administrators. It has an advisory board that consists of lay representatives from African American Parishes. The administrative duties are performed by the director of the OBM. Its spiritual guidance comes from Very Rev Vernon Huguley, Vicar of Black Catholic Ministry. The shepherd of the office is Most Reverend Robert J. Baker.

The goals of the OBM are to increase the visibility and involvement of African American Catholics in the Diocese of Birmingham through evangelization, which includes faith formation, education and leadership development; and to develop, nurture, and share our cultural values and gifts in the Catholic Church and Community.

Contact Mr. James Watts, OBM Director at jwatts@bhmdiocese.org for more information.



“Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.

—Jack Welch

RESOURCES

Professional Resources for School Administrators

<http://eduscapes.com/tap/topic79.htm>

What resources are available for administrators? How can I get up-to-date information? Where can I go to discuss issues with other administrators? Administrators face unique issues and problems. The Internet is an excellent resource to keep up-to-date in a rapidly changing field. Peruse the following resource links:

Starting Points for Administrators

Technology Standards for Administrators

Professional Organizations

News and Journals

Data, Statistics, Research, and Education Information

School Project Ideas

Student Behavior Problems

Good Articles for School Leaders

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NCEA Webinars (see www.ncea.org)

[Emerging Trends and Changes From a Risk Management Perspective](#)

Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 4 and 7 p.m.

Presented by Karen Randazzo, RCM&D and Christopher Cosentino, NCEA Secondary Schools Department

[A Closer Look at the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools: Operational Vitality](#)

Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 4 and 7 p.m.

Presented by Dr. Lorraine Ozar, Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic School Effectiveness, Loyola University Chicago and Dr. Patricia Weitzel-O'Neill, the Barbara and Patrick Roche Center for Catholic Education, Boston College

[On Mission to Form Saints](#)

Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 4 and 7 p.m.

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

[Missionary Initiation](#)

Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 1 and 7 p.m.

Presented by Dr. Lori Dahlhoff, NCEA Religious Education Department and Marilyn Santos, Missionary Childhood Association

[Creating a Culture for Shared Leadership](#)

Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 2 p.m.

Presented by Sue Nelson, Archdiocese of Milwaukee

[The Essential Role of the Pastor in Catholic Schools](#)

Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 2 p.m.

Presented by Jim King, NCEA Elementary Schools Department and Very Rev. John D. Fleckenstein, Diocese of Kalamazoo

[BLENDED: Using Disruptive Innovation to Improve Schools](#)

Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at 2 p.m. ET

Presented by Heather Staker, Clayton Christensen Institute. and hosted in partnership with Edified; Your Partner for Curriculum Solutions

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

October 31st-November 2, 2014

Orlando, Florida at Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center

UPCOMING EVENTS/DEADLINES



- October 1, 2014 - NCEA Report due to CSO
- October 8, 2014 - Principals' Meeting at St. Bernard
- October 8-10, 2014 - Principals' Retreat at St. Bernard
- October 15, 2014 - Youth Protection Implementation Report due to CSO
- October 26-October 29, 2014 - CACE Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico

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**