



CATHOLIC SCHOOL CHRONICLE

MAY 2014

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT . . .

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May is a busy month. We celebrate the Feast of the Ascension and give honor to our mothers. It is a time of graduations and transitions- from middle school to high school and from high school to college and the work place.

The end of the school year is a time of mixed emotions. We are happy that we finished up our year of work and study and look forward to summer vacation but it is also a time of saying goodbyes. For staff, some may be retiring or moving to another location. Students may be changing schools and leaving some friends behind. Change can be difficult to manage but know that there is One that doesn't change and will never leave us-God.

I wish all of you a peaceful transition to summer vacation and look forward to greeting you again as our new school year begins in early August.

DIOCESAN SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

OUR LADY OF FATIMA . . . It truly takes a village to raise a child, and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School is a faith community that works very hard to model the values of unity, truth, love and to inspire life-long learning. Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School provides a learning environment in which students receive a broad based challenging education on a daily basis. With small classrooms and an enhanced curriculum, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School maintains high expectations for all students while ensuring individual attention. The school is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School serves students in grades preschool through eighth grade. The school was founded by the St. Joseph Society of the Sacred Heart (The Josephites) in 1905. The Josephites religious congregation mission is to serve the African-American community through establishing schools and parishes to evangelize. Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School has a solid and rigorous academic program that offers athletics, music, and other extracurricular opportunities. Most importantly, the school is a vibrant faith community that participates in the life of the Catholic Church through school liturgies and other activities that promote the teachings of Jesus Christ. Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School provides the organizational structure so that students can achieve high academic standards, strong core values, and self-esteem.

One of the unique things about Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School is the large volume of volunteerism from parents, community leaders, and the parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church. The school has a number of volunteers that serve as substitute teachers, teacher aides, religion teachers, counselors, and directors of special programs. This year the school hosted a volunteer luncheon to honor the volunteers. It is Our Lady of Fatima's belief that Catholic schools exist to celebrate the faith and to serve God's people with the community.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are secrets of success for Catholic Schools according to Kathryn Ann Connelly:

1. Catholic Schools develop positive Catholic Identity
2. Catholic families want to pass on their tradition
3. Catholic schools develop the whole person
4. Children learn best in a well disciplined setting
5. Local finance and governance make schools work
6. Catholic schools are good for everyone

A NOTE FROM THE ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT. . .

We often consider being many things to the people who work alongside us—colleagues, co-workers, teammates, contributors, benefactors, and competitors, but we often forget to be one thing that every person wants: a friend. Poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “The glory of friendship is not in the outstretched hand, nor the kind smile, nor the joy of companionship; it is in the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he discovers that someone else believes in him and is willing to trust him.” Therefore, as the Diocese of Birmingham Catholic School System continues to work as a team, we want you to continue to nurture or add friendships.

Friendship is the foundation of influence. Good relationships make influence possible, and friendship is the most positive relationship you can develop on the job with your fellow colleagues, teachers, parents, etc. Friendship is the framework for success. The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people in a friendly and professional manner. Let’s make it a priority to cultivate relationships and healthy friendships today!!!

SACS ACCREDITATION

As we continue on our journey of obtaining our re-accreditation, let’s remember that the ultimate goal is for “continuous improvement” for our school system. All of our schools in our diocese are still working meticulously on Executive Summaries, Goals and Plans, and Student Performance Diagnostics. As we examine and interpret our three year data from the ITBS/IOWAs and ACRE data for the elementary levels and analyze the ACT, PLAN, and EXPLORE/EXPIRE data for high schools, pay close attention to articulating these important answers to the questions listed below about our schools’ data.

Look at **Areas of Achievement** for 2012, 2013, and 2014, and answer the following questions:

- What area(s) are above the expected levels of performance?
- Describe the area(s) that show a positive trend.
- Which area(s) indicate the overall highest performance?
- Which subgroup(s) show a trend increasing performance?
- Between which subgroups is the achievement gap closing?
- Which of the above reported findings are consistent with the findings from other data sources?

Look at **Areas in Need of Improvement for 2012, 2013, and 2014** and answer the following questions:

- What area(s) are below the expected levels of performance?
- Describe the area(s) that show a negative trend in performance.
- Which area(s) indicate the overall lowest performance?
- Which subgroup(s) show a trend toward decreasing performance?
- Between which subgroups is the achievement gap becoming greater?
- Which of the above reported findings are consistent with findings from other data sources?

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF YOUTH

In addition to other services; the Office for Youth is responsible for oversight of Youth Protection training for adults (both volunteer and staff). Here are frequently asked questions:

How can my school schedule a live Youth Protection session?

Access the on-line session request form by following links through www.bhmdiocese.org. Use the click on “Child and Youth Protection Information.” Sessions require two hours of contact time. Preference is given to schools that actively collaborate with neighboring Catholic institutions before requesting a date.

Can my people take Youth Protection training on-line?

On-line training is available for school and parish personnel at www.shieldthevulnerable.org. “Protect Children 1” and “Protect Children 2” must be completed for Youth Protection 1 credit. Users should printout their certificates at the end of on-line course work. On-line training is good for three years. There is a per-person charge for Shield the Vulnerable sessions. Currently there is no on-line substitute for “Youth Protection 2.”

Why are fifteen passenger vans not allowed for student transportation?

The issue is safety. Particular concerns include; likelihood of vehicle rollover, driver problems, and poorly maintained tires. Key ideas when operating any vehicle:

- Never overload a vehicle.
- Do not load cargo on top of vehicles.
- Everyone must buckle up for every trip.
- Have suspension and steering components inspected according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Replace or repair parts as necessary.
- Properly sized and load-rated tires.
- Before every trip, check tire inflation, and make sure there are no signs of wear or damage. Tire size and pressure is in the owner's manual and on vehicle door pillar.
- Drivers must not use cell phones or GPS devices while vehicle is in motion.

The Office for Youth is reached at 205-838-8301 or YouthMinistry@bhmdiocese.org. The director is Don Schwarzhoff.



Faith is not
believing that
God can; it is
knowing that
God Will!

RESOURCES

There are several resources available at our fingertips on the National Catholic Education Association's (NCEA) website. Read below and peruse the NCEA website at www.ncea.org for more in-depth information on Legislative Resources, Marketing and Communication Resources, and Lenten Season Resources:

[Legislative Resources on the Internet](#)

The Thomas Legislative Resources on the Internet is a good place to stay current on what is happening in Congress with regard to specific legislation.

[Marketing and Communications Resources](#)

Catholic schools are exceptional learning communities centered on strengthening the whole human person. Marketing that message to build enrollment and philanthropic support requires a compelling values proposition, a strong plan, committed leadership as well as continuing training and education.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

[NCEA](#) webinars cover trending and need-to-know topics relevant to your career in Catholic education. Each webinar is scheduled for one hour. All participants will receive the recorded webinar for reference and inclusion among other professional learning resources. Read through the upcoming schedule of webinars for the remainder of 2013. Go to www.ncea.org to register for webinars.

[National Council of Science Conference](#)

May 5th-7th 2014

Washington D.C. at Gaylord National Resort

[Evaluating Your 2013-2014 Annual Fund](#)

Friday, May 9, 2014—1 p.m. ET

Hosted in partnership with the Institute of School & Parish Development (ISPD).

[International Reading Association \(IRA\) Conference](#)

May 10th-12th 2014

New Orleans

[Positive Discipline Leads to Positive Results](#)

Wednesday, May 14, 2014

4 p.m. and 7 p.m. ET

Presented by Christopher Cosentino, NCEA Secondary Schools Department, and Kathy Smith, St. Mary's High School.

[National Advancement Summer Institute for Catholic Schools](#)

Two Great Conferences: *The National Enrollment Management Conference for Catholic Schools* and *The National Advancement Conference for Catholic Schools*

June 22nd-June 26th 2014 - Boston, Massachusetts

[Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development \(ASCD\) Teaching Excellence](#)

June 27th- 29th 2014

Dallas, Texas at Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center

UPCOMING EVENTS/DEADLINES

- May 6th –Principals’ meeting in CSO**
- May 9th –Toy Bowl Field Day**
- May 23rd-Last day of school**
- Tuesday, May 27th Kindergarten Professional Learning Community meeting from 10:00-12:00 pm at CSO**
- Tuesday, May 27th-1st Grade Professional Learning Community meeting from 1:00-3:00 pm at CSO**
- Wednesday, May 28th -2nd Grade Professional Learning Community meeting from 10:00-12:00 pm at CSO**
- Wednesday, May 28th-3rd Grade Professional Learning Community meeting from 1:00-3:00 pm at CSO**
- Wednesday, May 28th-DEADLINE to submit the following SACS Accreditation information in ASSIST:**
 - 1. **Current Executive Summaries**
 - 2. **Goals and Plans**
 - 3. **Student Performance Diagnostics/Student Performance Data Document**
- Thursday, May 29th-4th Grade Professional Learning Community meeting from 10:00-12:00 pm at CSO**



Prayer:
 Lord Jesus, help
 us to mirror
 your humility
 in our lives.
 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

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