



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



# CATHOLIC SCHOOL CHRONICLE

FEBRUARY 2014

## FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT . . .

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National Catholic Schools Week took place January 26, 2014 to February 1, 2014. The theme for this year summarizes our mission: **Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.** During this week, our schools showcased their mission in different ways. Those in the northern part of our diocese were able to keep to their schedule of special events. For southern schools, the storm forced them to close for most of the week. In some cases, it was necessary to keep students in the schools overnight when their parents were unable to pick them up. Principals, teachers and staff stayed to keep the children warm, safe, well-fed and entertained. They demonstrated our mission by their service to others. The storm forced the cancellation of the Catholic Schools Week mass that was to be celebrated by Bishop Robert Baker. At the February 4<sup>th</sup> principals meeting, the posters for the sixth grade classes were distributed along with certificates of service for the adults and medals for the winners of the Catholic Schools Week Contest. I want to thank Christine Salberg, administrative assistant, and Mary Jane Dorn, principal of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School, for their help in preparing for the Catholic Schools Week mass even though we didn't actually have it.

The next few weeks will be busy as we prepare for Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014, and the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent.

May God bless and keep you and your families in His care.

## DIOCESAN SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School in Anniston, Alabama includes three sections: the Primary School, the Academy, and the Preparatory School. All three sections focus on the intellectual and spiritual growth of students, encouraging them to excel in both the classroom and community. By working together, they develop a strong Christian bond between the students, teachers, and families. The Primary School serves students from age 3 up to fifth grade. Their curriculum includes math, science, literacy skills, art, music, technology, physical education, foreign language, and religious instructions at all levels.

Sacred Heart Academy focuses on students from sixth through eighth grades. The teachers help them develop academic skills and prepare them for the transition from elementary to the upper-level preparatory school, while continuing to build upon their spiritual foundation.

The Preparatory School encompasses grades nine through twelve and focuses on preparing their students for a successful college career while guiding them during this important time in their spiritual growth. Seniors have a dual enrollment with Jacksonville State University and participate in English 101/102 and Mathematics 113/114 (College Algebra) for a reduced fee. Electives also include Spanish I/II, Yearbook, Choral and Drama, Archaeology, Stage, Design, and more as student interest and resources arise. There are also several athletics available including volleyball, girls' and boys' basketball, baseball, cheerleading and girls' soccer. The students also participate in service projects which allow them to serve the community. Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School is lead by Principal Charlie Maniscalco.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Students in Catholic schools and other private schools demonstrate higher achievement than students from similar backgrounds in public school.
- Latino and African American students who attend Catholic schools are more likely to graduate from high school and more likely to graduate from college than their public school peers.
- Catholic schools tend to produce graduates who are more civically engaged, more tolerant of diverse views, and more committed to service as adults.

[www.nd.edu](http://www.nd.edu)  
University of Notre Dame

A NOTE FROM THE ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT. . .

“Everything rises and falls on leadership, says Dr. John Maxwell, but knowing how to lead is only half the battle.” To go to the highest level of leadership, you must develop character qualities from the inside out. Examine John Maxwell’s 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader to see what traits you have as a leader.

- 1) Character 7) Discernment 13) Positive Attitude 19) Servanthood
2) Charisma 8) Focus 14) Problem Solving 20) Teachability
3) Commitment 9) Generosity 15) Relationships 21) Vision
4) Communication 10) Initiative 16) Responsibility
5) Competence 11) Listening 17) Security
6) Courage 12) Passion 18) Self-Discipline

SACS ACCREDITATION

The Diocese of Birmingham Catholic School System is working diligently on the AdvancED Self Assessments to identify areas of strength and weakness. The next phase of our accreditation process is completing the AdvancED 5 Assurances and later our diocesan Assurances. Each school in our diocese is required to answer (YES) or (NO) to each of the following:

- 1. AdvancED Policies and Procedures- The institution has read, understands, and complies with the AdvancED Policies and Procedures.
2. Substantive Changes- The institution has reported all substantive changes in the institution that affect the scope and/or have an impact on the institution's ability to meet the AdvancED standards and policies.
3. Security and Crisis Management Plan- The institution implements a written security and crisis management plan which includes emergency evacuation procedures and appropriate training for stakeholders.
4. Financial Transactions- The institution monitors all financial transactions through a recognized, regularly audited accounting system.
5. Improvement Plan- The institution engages in a continuous improvement process and implements an improvement plan.

As principals, your schools can provide professional comments concerning the Assurances and upload documentation in the AdvancED's Adaptive System of School Improvement Support Tools (ASSIST).

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS FOCUS

An administrative assistant, secretary or receptionist, no matter the title, is a vital position within our Catholic Schools. They are the “First Impression” of not only our schools but our churches and even our faith. The Diocese of Birmingham Catholic Schools System is so very blessed to have the best “First Impressions”!

The Catholic Schools Office has developed various avenues for all of the assistants/secretaries/receptionists to stay connected, to support one another and to communicate with the central office. We hold meetings. We have a link on the Catholic School’s website and most recently, we initiated a “Blog”. On this blog, they can secure reminders, changes in policies or upcoming events. Our blog is an open dialogue for assistants/secretaries/receptionists in our schools.

The Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama Catholic School System is without a doubt very proud to be associated with a great group of people. For the month of February, there are no deadlines or reports due to the Catholic Schools Office.

~Christine Salberg, csalberg@bhmdiocese.org / 205-838-8303.



Inspirational Quote:

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



## RESOURCES

Every principal has a shelf full of professional books, but which is the one book that principals turn to time again for inspiration and ideas, for motivation or solace? *Education World* wanted to learn what principals have to say about current crop of professional literature and about old favorites, so they asked them, "If you could have one book on your shelf, which would you choose?" Here is the number one book most principals selected:

### **The Collaborative Administrator: Working Together as a Professional Learning Community**

Author: Richard DuFour Foreword by Robert Eaker

Publisher: Solution Tree

Principal's Comments: In a culture of shared leadership, the administrator's role is more important than ever. How can administrators overcome the practical obstacles of creating a professional learning community (PLC)? **The Collaborative Administrator** delivers strategies and heartfelt inspiration from educators who have faced challenges and found answers. **The Collaborative Administrator** is a treasure trove of what to do's and how to do's from highly successful administrators who not only possess a deep, rich understanding of professional learning community concepts and practices, but equally important, have actually done it!!!!



We are  
your servants,  
So make us  
brave enough to  
speak your  
message.

Acts 4:29

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## 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 and is hosted twice to fit your scheduling needs. All participants will receive the recorded webinar for reference and inclusion among other professional learning resources. See ([www.ncea.org](http://www.ncea.org))

### **Implementing the Common Core State standards in Catholic Secondary Schools:**

Monday, February 3, 2014

4:00pm and 7:00pm ET

Presented by Kathy Mears, NCEA Elementary Schools Department, and Sue Nelson, Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

### **Rigor/Relevance Framework: The Bridge for Catholic School Community and the CCSS (3):**

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

4:00pm and 7:00pm ET

Presented by Kathy Mears, NCEA Elementary Schools Department, and Sue Nelson, Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

### **National Council for Teaching Mathematics (NCTM) Research Conference:**

April 7-9, 2014 in New Orleans

Strengthen your teaching skills and explore the latest in Mathematics

More than 700 sessions and workshops

### **National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) Convention and Expo:**

April 22-24, 2014Pittsburg, PA

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**UPCOMING EVENTS/DEADLINES**

- February 4th 2014-Principals’ Meeting at St. Francis Xavier School from 9:30-3:00; Bring the following items to the principals’ meeting:
  - A. Performance Data for Elementary Schools (ITBS scores, ACRE scores )**
  - B. Performance Data for High Schools (ACT,SAT,PSAT,PLAN, and EXPLORE Scores)**
  - C. Current School Improvement Plans**
- February 17th 2014-Religion In-Service in the North and South from 8:30-1:00
- February 19th 2014-Religion Bowl located at Our Lady of the Valley School
- February 26th 2014– Principals’ Advisory Meeting in Cullman from 1:00-3:00



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your servants,  
So make us  
brave enough to  
speak your  
message.

Acts 4:29

**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.

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