

Strategic Planning, 2010 Goals and Objectives

Statement 1: (applies to Goals 1, 2, 3 noted in Red) The community of Saint Mary's recognizes the focus of religious education as central to Catholic Education. Faith development, morality, ethics and good citizenship are core components of the student's experience built upon an understanding of Gospel values, Christian teaching and Catholic tradition. Saint Mary's school will:

Statement 2: (applies to Goals 4, 5, 9 noted in Green) The community of Saint Mary's values academic excellence and supports a rigorous academic program designed to challenge all students to levels of achievement that build skills, abilities and knowledge. Saint Mary's will:

Statement 3: (applies to Goals 6, 7 noted in Blue) The community of Saint Mary's seeks opportunities to expand a Christ-centered environment to extracurricular activities and events that broaden the students' social, physical and emotional development. After school programs in athletics, the arts and music provide enriching opportunities for growth and recreation. Saint Mary's school will:

Statement 4: (applies to Goals 8, 10, 11 noted in Black) The community of Saint Mary's recognizes a strong relationship with parents, parishioners, faculty, staff and students that thrives on a sense of trust, that flourishes when ideas and opinions are shared, and requires active participation of all. Technology enabled communications, combined with more traditional channels of information, opens ever more opportunities to collaborate and inform in the interest of student achievement. Saint Mary's school is committed to productive partnerships with stakeholders and will:

Goal 1: *Involve students in the life of the Church, including participation in Liturgy, Christian service to others, and religious ritual.*

Objective 1a: Continue to offer each grade level the opportunity to attend Liturgy on a weekly basis.

Objective 1b: Facilitate the development of service projects by grade level.

Objective 1c: Increase opportunities for students to learn about religious rituals such as canonization and veneration of Saints, praying the Rosary, and Stations of the Cross.

Goal 2: *Implement a religious education class in grades 6-8 (middle school) that is engaging and calls students to live a life that is Christ-centered. The middle school religion classes will focus on the development of a comprehensive knowledge of Christian beliefs, history and primary documents (Bible, Catechism, Vatican documents) that supports an understanding of Gospel values, faith development and character development.*

Objective 2a: Increase the number of opportunities for families, the school and the church to work together to nurture faith in our middle school students.

Objective 2b: Improve the emphasis of the middle school religion program, considering Catholic practices and traditions, history of the Church, faith, and service.

Objective 2c: Improve the ability of service to be more of a community effort than individual effort.

Objective 2d: Improve the evaluation process to appropriately measure faith development, curiosity, participation and spiritual growth.

Objective 2e: Increase the number of activities and resources to make faith development more meaningful to students.



Goal 3: Support parish Sacramental Preparation with activities and events that reinforce the celebration of the sacraments for Catholic students while building upon an understanding of faith and the grace of sacraments for non-Catholic students.

Objective 3a: Strengthen the connection with the parish First Reconciliation and Eucharist Programs

Objective 3b: Strengthen connection with families participating in Sacramental Preparation, because it is a partnership between church and parents as the first and primary catechists of their children.

Objective 3c: Increase the number of activities and events offered to our Catholic and non-Catholic students.

Goal 4 Offer instructional opportunities that contribute to each student's successful mastery of academic skills. Differentiated instruction will support each student's learning specific to their current level of cognitive development and skill.

Objective 4a: Evaluate the students level of cognitive development and skill and communicate the evaluation with the parents

Objective 4b: Develop a differentiated instruction plan where appropriate.

Objective 4c: Monitor progress under the plan and share findings with parents at least once every 10 weeks.

Goal 5: Provide science instruction in grades 1 – 5 that is built upon strategies of inquiry, hands-on learning and laboratory experiences.

Objective 5a: Enhance student interest and ability in the physical and natural sciences

Objective 5b: Develop a deeper understanding of scientific methods and evidenced-based reasoning.

Objective 5c: Strengthen student understanding of the relationships among the sciences, society, and the environment.

Goal 6 Offer a variety of arts (visual, performing and music) after school activities that engage students of all ages. Opportunities will be available to demonstrate artistic talents and develop creative skills.

Objective 6a: Develop and offer a Drama Club which features the casting an annual musical/dramatic production

Objective 6b: Increase membership in the band program and build toward a more developed concert performance in the Winter and Spring

Objective 6c: Develop and offer an Art Club which provides members additional exposure to different forms and media (drafting, painting, sculpting, photography)

Goal 7: Offer instructional and competitive athletic programs that instill good sportsmanship, physical education and team experiences beginning in grade 5 that prepare students for the competitive high school teams.

Objective 7a: Add one new sport to St. Mary's team portfolio. (Suggest Spring Track – Lourdes, Bridgets and St. Edwards have track teams)

Objective 7b: Offer developmental basketball clinic for lower school (Recognize goal focuses on 5th grade, but skill building can start earlier. Program can run for 10 Saturdays, separate sessions for 1st – 2nd graders combined and 3rd –4th graders)

Objective 7c: Develop and offer Physical Fitness Club



Goal 8: Provide access to information necessary to make informed decisions when transitioning from targeted grades. Pre-Kindergarten, Fifth grade and Eighth grade are years associated with milestone transitions to new educational models each requiring specific information germane to an upcoming transition. Ready access to information, access to families and students who have recently made the transition, and opportunities to ask questions is essential to making the transitions in these grades informed and less stressful.

Objective 8a: Develop channels for publicizing the strength of St. Mary's pre-Kindergarten program as the logical first step into St. Mary's School.

Objective 8b: Find meaningful ways to introduce 5th graders and their parents to St. Mary's Middle School program, including opportunities to tour facilities, meet with teachers and current students, and "shadow" in the Middle School for a day.

Objective 8c: Connect with local high school advisors and St. Mary's alumni, and discover additional ways the School can help students transition into high school.

Goal 9: Provide opportunities for students to accelerate their learning accomplishments based on the students' abilities and interests.

Objective 9a: Identify sources where students can broaden and deepen their academic development and recognize achievements by including results on the student's report card.

Objective 9b: Sponsor after school academic clubs by seeking parental volunteers and providing facilities.

Objective 9c: Develop a mentoring program where 7th and 8th grade students academically mentor 5th and 6th grade students.

Goal 10: Provide a communication channel between non-school related parishioners and the school. Vested in providing the resources to keep the school a viable ministry of the church, parishioners welcome an understanding of school activities, student accolades, and news related to the school.

Objective 10a: Make school information more prominent in Parish bulletin, and make copies of school flyers available after all Masses.

Objective 10b: Encourage parishioners to provide e-mail addresses and begin receiving weekly school e-mails.

Objective 10c: Identify a broader range of current school extracurricular activities that might include non-school parishioners as well.

Objective 10d: Increase the presence of St. Mary's students at all appropriate parish events

Goal 11: Actively communicate student progress to parents and guardians on an on-going basis, emphasizing a partnership between student, parent and teacher to recognize opportunities for strengthening student success.

Objective 11a: Improve on-demand access to student, class, and school-level information.

Objective 11b: Identify and utilize the most effective communication channels for various types of information.

Objective 11c: Strengthen the ability of the students to act as a reliable, accountable conduit of information.

