



**CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS**
The Archdiocese of Cincinnati



VISION IMPLEMENTATION AT-A-GLANCE UPDATE

An Overview of our progress at our 6-month mark

SEE INSIDE...

- Catechetical leaders serving with principals
- Measuring school effectiveness
- Marketing plans for individual schools
- New Principal Academy
- Catholic Boot Camp
- And more!

AT-A-GLANCE VISION UPDATE
A quick update for busy parents

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Today's young people are our nation's most important commodity. It is through the evangelization and education of our children that we assure a successful future. Our Vision for Catholic Schools, introduced formally last fall, provides for such a future. Through the introduction of the new systems of support and accountability called for in our Vision, we fulfill our mission of educating each child to their greatest potential. We ensure that our students hear, understand, and live out the call to a Christ-centered life.

Your support of our efforts has been invaluable so far. I continue to be gratified by the overwhelming support of our Vision from parents, educators, and other stakeholders throughout the Archdiocese. Our Vision is succeeding because of your belief in Catholic education.

This report offers an update on the implementation of our Vision so far. I encourage you to remain apprised of our Vision implementation, and to continue to support our unified mission. May God continue to lead our efforts to success.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati

Dear Friends of Catholic Schools,



Last August, we released "Lighting the Way: A Vision for Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati." We have worked aggressively to implement the dozens of initiatives outlined in our Vision. Our efforts have met with great success; we are generating new momentum and fulfilling the Vision's established timelines. More importantly, we have reaffirmed our commitment to a bright future for our Catholic schools.

This report offers a glimpse of the implementation of our Vision and next steps. It focuses on the most prominent initiatives. For a complete reporting of our Vision implementation, I encourage you to visit our website: http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/education/lighting_the_way.

Please continue to pray for the ongoing success of our Vision. Our children deserve the best possible Catholic schools, and we will continue to work hard to assure a bright and faith-filled future.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Rigg, Ph.D.
Director of Educational Services
Superintendent of Catholic Schools



CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Fostering a vibrant, authentic Catholic environment in each Catholic school.

- Catholic identity remains a top priority for the future of our schools.
- Our Catholic identity has been integrated in the new English/Language Arts curriculum Standards; other subjects will follow.
- High School Religion Curriculum is proceeding, implementation slated for 2014.
- Catechetical Leaders have been designated to serve alongside each of our principals.
- A committee of pastors, principals, university staff, and others are designing Catholic Identity metric.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:

Providing the best possible education to our students that will prepare them for future success.

- Work is underway on the new English/Language Arts (ELA) curriculum standards, which include the rigorous national Common Core standards.
- An academic metric is being designed to measure school effectiveness and target areas for growth.
- A schedule of strategic, targeted professional development for educators is being developed.
- A consistent Archdiocesan technology infusion plan is being designed.



MARKETING & ENROLLMENT

Sharing the success of Catholic school education.

- We have employed a professional Marketing Contractor to assist in driving Archdiocesan-level marketing for Catholic schools. This individual is also assisting individual schools in forming marketing plans
- We have designed and introduced a new Brand for our Catholic schools.
- We have become a clearinghouse for demographic data that is being leveraged to drive school enrollment.
- Our Latino Initiative has been instrumental in recruiting many new Latino families.
- We are targeting new populations of students for enrollment, including areas not served by a school, or populations that have not traditionally enrolled.



LEADERSHIP

Fostering visionary leadership for the future.

- We have piloted a successful New Principals' Academy this year, in partnership with Xavier University.
- “Catholic Boot Camp”, a multi-day religious training experience for new principals, will take place in the fall.
- Each new principal has been assigned a veteran Mentor who provides additional support.
- Introduced professional development for assistant principals at the elementary and secondary levels.
- A new Principal Hiring Process requires all parish school principals to be pre-screened by the Catholic Schools Office before they can be hired.





FINANCES

Generating new support for Catholic schools.

- We are actively making plans for an Archdiocesan capital campaign in 2015 with Catholic school tuition assistance as a primary beneficiary.
- Tuition assistance will be continually funded in future years.
- We are studying how best to structure this source to maximize the benefit for our families.
- We are working with key leaders of other funds (such as CISE) to ensure that our efforts work in tandem with other initiatives.
- In the fall of 2013, we will co-sponsor a fundraiser for tuition assistance with the George M. Hubert, Jr. Foundation to raise support for elementary schools on the west side of Cincinnati for the 2013-2014 school year.
- We have refined the Financial Metric (piloted last year) and will re-issue it this spring.
- We continue to lobby for a continuation and expansion of public funding to our Catholic schools.



GOVERNANCE

Best positioning our schools for the future.

- We have concretely defined existing governance models in the Archdiocese, and have integrated these models into Archdiocesan Educational Policy.
- We have defined a 9-step “School Change Process” to guide planning and discernment for critical changes in schools (such as openings, closures, consolidations, etc.).
- We are forming a Governance Transition Team to assist schools in making changes in governance.
- Training in governance models has been provided to principals, and will continue in future months.



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Our Vision represents a 3-5 year implementation plan, with many of the initiatives to be introduced in the first 2 years. In the immediate months ahead, we will continue to work on implementation, and will provide regular reports on progress.

We know that God is blessing our efforts, and that we will be successful. The future is bright for Catholic school education!



Detailed and complete versions of this update are available online at www.catholiccincinnati.org/education/lighting_the_way.



DETAILED VISION UPDATE

More details than at-a-glance but not the comprehensive Vision report



COMPLETE VISION UPDATE

The entire comprehensive Vision report



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