

Dear St. Ann Families,

As we embark on another school year, we want to take the opportunity to highlight our mission, vision, and core beliefs as we move forward into the 2016-2017 school year and beyond. We want to make sure that you are aware of and understand our core beliefs and how your role is an integral part in working alongside us in educating faith-filled, life-long learners.

To that end, we have written a new mission statement, developed in collaboration with staff, School Council, and the parish, that articulates *who we are* and *what we believe*. It is as follows:

St. Ann Catholic School passionately provides a Christ-inspired education where Catholic Teachings and Academic Excellence prepare the whole child for a life of joyful discipleship.

We are continually working toward aligning our practices with our mission statement and rely on the following three core beliefs to drive our decisions and plans for our school: Living Our Faith, Achieving Academic Excellence, and Promoting Community.

We are **Living Our Faith** through:

- Weekly mass, daily prayer, special opportunities for praying the rosary, and participation in Stations of the Cross
- Continuation and growth of the Faith Families program
- Staff and student community service opportunities
- Expanding the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program
- Implementing a new virtues program
- Studying Theology of the Body- our new curriculum for 7/8th graders
- Staff participation in the archdiocesan School of Faith program to help teachers deepen their own faith in order to share their love of Christ with their students
- Practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy
- Recognition of the Jubilee Year of Mercy through readings and reflections

We strive for **Academic Excellence** through:

- Using a “push in” model for the Excel Center in order to reach all students
- Developing Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). It is an ongoing process in which we work collaboratively in recurring cycles of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students we serve
- Implementation of common plan time across grade levels to allow teachers to share materials, collaborate, and analyze data and common assessments
- Aligning curriculum with the scope and sequence laid out by the archdiocese to ensure that all material is covered and students are well prepared for each progressive grade level
- Providing instructional feedback to teachers and teacher mentoring from the administration
- Implementation of the Fountas & Pinnell (F&P) reading assessment to identify specific areas for growth and lead targeted interventions. Primary grades’ reading scores showed marked improvements following these interventions
- Using data from MAP, Kansas, Dibels, and F & P assessments to drive our instruction

- Implementation of a Professional Development Committee focused on finding and providing more expansive opportunities for teacher training, leading to more up-to-date educational practices and focusing on areas specific to the needs of our school
- Incorporating a 1:1 laptop initiative for 8th graders
- Reviving our library program through a certified, experienced librarian
- Expanding extra-curricular opportunities
- Seeking additional community resources for students with special needs

We are **Promoting Community** through:

- Cultivating a community of kindness through our words, actions, deeds, and examples
- Our Positive Behavioral Support and Virtue programs focusing on building social skills and eliminating bullying
- Providing easy access through our **NEW APP** to simplify and promote better communication between the school and home
- Building a community garden used as part of the 2nd grade curriculum and open to all classes for opportunities to learn and cultivate their knowledge
- Solidifying our relationship with our sister school, Resurrection, who recognized St. Ann with their Legacy Award for our ongoing support last year
- Providing students with a variety of opportunities to reach out to and support the greater community through new Acts of Kindness (AoK) initiatives
- Strengthening our community ties through service at Brighton Gardens, and working with the elderly members of the parish, etc
- Participating in and supporting many CYO sports available to St. Ann students

Strategic Plan:

A high priority for St. Ann's administrative team this year is working along with the School Council and staff to develop a new three-year strategic plan. We will be using feedback from the parent survey, current assessment data as well as best researched-based educational practices to drive our decision-making in this process. Our goal is to have the strategic plan act as a living document, continually helping us redefine our focus and drive our decision-making.

The strategic plan must be committed to the following:

- Providing a safe learning environment
- Celebrating a Christ-centered environment that fosters a sense of responsibility, respect for others, and virtue-based behavior
- Fostering the joy of learning and the confidence to excel
- Maintaining a community of faculty, administrators, and staff who embody a love of Christ, children, teaching and learning
- Encouraging parental partnership and support of the school mission, activities, and teachers
- Small class sizes and support systems that meet the needs of all students
- Fidelity to strategic resource management in the school and parish
- Ensuring our school stays focused and accountable to its mission and goals

While we are a school rich in tradition, known for our academic rigor and strong Catholic faith, we know that we can always grow and strive to be better. We always need to be forward thinking and continually challenging ourselves to rise to the next level.

The current strategic plan is in its final year. We are in the process of developing our new strategic plan and we will begin transitioning to our new plan in January. We are using the three primary recommendations given to us by the AdvancED Accreditation team on their last visit, along with feedback from the parent survey to implement a plan that acts as a living document, helping us to continue to redefine our strategic goals and focus on best practices to help us meet these goals.

AdvancED Accreditation:

Following our last AdvancEd Accreditation team visit, the following improvement priority areas were identified:

1. Developing and maintaining our school profile
 - Developing a school profile assists the school in an annual evaluation of the community demographics, student achievement, and staff statistics. This profile will be helpful in analyzing any significant changes in the school and community that may require changes in programming. This has been completed.
2. Aligning instructional program materials with Archdiocesan Curriculum, ensuring that program materials have a scope and sequence, as well as curriculum bound assessments that ensure fidelity to curriculum and instruction
 - We are in the process of developing a scope and sequence that is aligned with Archdiocesan Curriculum to ensure academic rigor in our classrooms.
3. Providing common plan time in each grade level
 - Creating common lesson plan time for teachers will help teachers create integrated lesson plans, analyze student data within the context of the curriculum, and adjust lessons accordingly. Having time during the day for teachers to meet, assists in creating a collaborative environment. This schedule adjustment gives teachers time to align their lesson plans with the Archdiocesan Curriculum and create curriculum maps to give direction to the team. This has been implemented.

It is an exciting time to be a member of our St. Ann Catholic School family. We are nourishing student faith, forming Catholic Scholars, and cultivating a Christ-centered learning environment where kindness can flourish. We are a positive, faith-filled, and loving community where students achieve academic excellence, respect themselves and others, and are of service to the greater community while growing in their personal relationship with Jesus and the Catholic faith.

We are...St. Ann!

All the best and God Bless,

Mike