



STATE OF THE SCHOOL

September 2017

Dear Church of St. Joseph Parishioners,

St. Joseph's School is the largest ministry of the Church of St. Joseph and the parish is our school's number one benefactor. For this reason, I would like to provide for you an update on the state of the school. During the past school year, the entire St. Joseph's School community has worked extremely well with the Church of St. Joseph staff and parish community to accomplish great things for our school and parish. I invite you to continue reading to learn about some of these accomplishments. We thank God for the many blessings bestowed upon our parish and school.

Strategic Plan for Improvement

St. Joseph's School is an accredited school through the Minnesota Non-public School Accrediting Association. Every seven years, our school expresses our intent to renew its accreditation. Our school's accreditation renewal is scheduled for Spring 2018.

To prepare for accreditation, our faculty completed a self-study during the 2016-17 school year. The self-study included the creation of subcommittees to review various areas of our school. The subcommittees completed a thorough review of our school's mission and our Strategic Plan for Improvement. Surveys were completed and meetings were held to solicit comments, feedback, and suggestions providing data to assist the school in creating our new strategic improvement plan. The following areas of our school were reviewed during the self-study:

- Catholic Identity
- Mission and Philosophy
- Climate for Learning
- Communication and Community Relations
- Personnel
- Leadership and Governance
- Strategic Plan for Improvement

At this time, our school continues to develop our new Strategic Plan for Improvement for the next seven years. In addition, we eagerly anticipate our onsite visit from the Accreditation Team in Spring 2018.

Marketing Plan for Enrollment Growth

St. Joseph's School has placed a considerable amount of effort to develop and execute a marketing plan directed at growing enrollment. The Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE) has been very supportive of this initiative for our school. We are specifically focused on the following areas:

- Formulate a strategic plan for marketing, public relations, and development.
- Develop a new school Marketing Plan that addresses new marketing strategies and practices.
- Develop new strategies to increase school enrollment and address retention in all grade levels.
- Develop a strategy to connect with St. Joseph's School alumni.
- Identify opportunities to communicate the school's "good news" using a variety of media.

Over the past year, the marketing plan and these strategies were implemented for our school. We are experiencing that these actions are definitely having a positive impact in increasing our student enrollment.

Parish and School Relationship

A strong relationship between the parish and the school is critical for the success of St. Joseph's School. We have taken great steps over the past year to grow this relationship including:

- Encouraging collaboration between the school and parish in the area of faith formation.
- Identifying opportunities for school families to immerse themselves in the life of the parish.
- Inviting parish families to attend school Masses, devotions, and special programs.

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Parish and School Relationship (continued)

- Kindergarten – Grade 5 students participating in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program.
- Grade 4 pen pals with senior adults within the parish.
- Inviting senior parish members to attend our annual Christmas Program.
- Eucharist adoration adorers praying for our students and faculty.
- Inviting middle school students to participate in NET Nights.
- Partnering together to provide for those in need through various service projects.

Our school community is thankful for the pastoral leadership and spiritual guidance of Fr. Creagan and Fr. Peter. We are also most grateful for the generosity of the Church of St. Joseph through its financial investment in our school. The parish's financial investment, along with tuition revenue and development income (donations, fund raising, and grants) supports the day-to-day operation of our school. In addition, we are thankful for gifts through the Generations of Faith Campaign supporting school building capital improvements and providing tuition assistance for families. I continue to meet with the parish leadership and the parish Building and Grounds Committee planning for the additional improvement projects to be completed over the next several years.

School Programming

We continuously strive to improve our school by providing programming to meet the needs of our students and families. Below are a few of the initiatives we are excited to have launched:

- Preschool fully accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- Extended day/care programming in Preschool
- Technology 1:1 learning environment in the Middle School
- Increased technology for elementary school students and teachers
- Enhanced mathematics instruction in Middle School
- Development of Virtuous Leadership within our school community
- Pioneer Pathways instrumental music program (Band)
- “Pay It Forward” – an initiative encouraging everyone’s involvement in our school through Giving, Volunteering, and Playing a Part through service to our school.

You may find additional information about these initiatives by visiting our school website: www.stjosephwsp.org.

“Good News”

On September 5, the 2017-18 school year began for the students, families, and faculty at St. Joseph’s School. Currently, we have 370 students enrolled in our school (Preschool – Grade 8), exceeding enrollment projections. Forty-six new families have joined our school community. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of students entering Kindergarten through fifth grade have returned for the new school year. This year, we have welcomed our biggest Kindergarten class in six years and have our largest Preschool enrollment ever. We are thankful to the many families who have enrolled their children in our school. Enrollment in our school is ongoing. I invite you to “come and see” our school, meet the faculty, and consider joining our school family.

In closing, we are so grateful for the prayerful and financial support of the Church of St. Joseph and our school community that makes it possible for us to fulfill our mission:

“St. Joseph’s Catholic School educates students through faith formation, academic excellence, and the development of virtue to be disciples of Christ.”

May God continue to bless our parish and school communities as we continue to partner together to provide quality faith formation, excellent academics, and fine arts for the students and families at St. Joseph’s School.

Please do not hesitate to share this information about our school with others. If you have any questions or need additional information about St. Joseph’s School, please contact me at the school office 651-457-8550 or by email at grwesely@stjosephwsp.org.

St. Joseph, pray for us! Go Jaguars!

Sincerely in Christ,

Greg Wesely

Principal